Teen Abortion Bill
Parental Permission Required

By CAROLE CUNNINGHAM

The Tennessee Senate last week passed a bill that would prohibit doctors from performing abortions on minors without the notarized, written consent of both parents. 

The committee is chaired by Metro health director Fredia Wadley, who has termed it a "good news" recent findings that AIDS still seems to primarily affect gay men.

The bill was approved Tuesday by the House committee, which has traditionally killed anti-abortion legislation.

By JEFF ELLIS

Employers who screen applicants' blood for the presence of the AIDS virus, then use it as an excuse for not hiring the applicant, were officially "frowned upon" last week by the state advisory committee on AIDS.

Hospitals and other health care facilities should not test a patient's blood for the AIDS virus without the patient's consent. "Any informed consent obtained for an HIV test should include the information that the results of the test shall be kept confidential," the committee suggested.

"...As it is in Heaven": Divinity Faculty and Civil Rights Leader Conference

Second in a three-part series
By STUART BIVIN

Second in a three-part series
By STUART BIVIN

Black, Women and lesbian and gay students at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School (VDS) celebrated last week a decision by the school's faculty to meet two of the group's demands.

The faculty agreed to meet first with the minority coalition and then with the Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian, a renowned civil rights

educator, Director of the Basic Black Action Strategies and Information Center in Atlanta, and executive staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The students had earlier asked the faculty to address concerns about racism, sexism and homophobia in the school's curriculum and classrooms.

VDS faculty responded by attempting to meet black student leaders separate from and without other members of the student coalition.

The black students, members of the school's Black Seminarians, refused to divide the coalition and joined women and lesbian and gay students in demanding that the faculty deal with the coalition as a whole.

"Wherever anyone is oppressed, that's where our work is. The same mentality that leads people to do violence to someone because she is a lesbian or he is a gay man is
A CT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House

14 Thursday
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8 pm.

15 Friday
Transcendental Meditation Program, Towne House Tea Room. 7 pm.

16 Saturday
American Society of Interior Designers, Metropolitan Community Church and Community Forum, "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk." 8:30 pm.

17 Sunday

18 Monday
Metropolitan Community Church - Share, "Getting Beyond AIDS:" 7:30 pm.

19 Tuesday
Vanderbilt Lambda Association Meeting. 5:30 pm.

20 Wednesday
ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7 pm.

21 Thursday
ACT UP Nashville Protest against government inaction on AIDS issues, outside the Cordell Hull Building, 5th and Union. 8 pm.

22-23 Friday/Saturday
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance Yard sale, 1401 Cedar Ln. 8 am - 6 pm.

24 Sunday
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park. 1 pm.

37204-0422, or phone 292-9623 and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsorship, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification.

APRIL

13 Wednesday
Vanderbilt Lambda Volleyball. 5 pm.

14 Thursday
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8 pm.

15 Friday
New Attitude Income Tax Night. 4 pm - 2 am.

16 Saturday
American Society of Interior Designers, Metropolitan Community Church and Community Forum, "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk." 8:30 pm.

17 Sunday

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24 Sunday
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park. 1 pm.

25 Monday
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8 pm.

26 Tuesday
Vanderbilt Lambda Association Meeting. 5:30 pm.

27 Wednesday
ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7 pm.

28 Thursday
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8 pm.

29 Saturday
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8 pm.

30 Sunday
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park. 1 pm.

MAY

1 Sunday
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park. 1 pm.

13 Monday
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park. 1 pm.

14 Tuesday
Vanderbilt Lambda Association Meeting. 5:30 pm.

15 Wednesday
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4 pm.

16 Thursday
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4 pm.

17 Friday
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4 pm.

18 Saturday
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4 pm.

19 Sunday
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4 pm.
...As it is in Heaven

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the mentality that leads people to think it's all right to do violence to someone because he is black," said Moses Dillard, a student leader and president-elect of the school's student government.

Dillard said that Penny Campbell, the only openly lesbian member of the student coalition, has received anonymous letters expressing support for her work, but no public support thus far from other gay and lesbian students.

"Many students are still dealing with fear," Dillard said. "Although this [VDS] is a fairly liberal institution, these folks must still return to a church and a world that are not." No VDS faculty member has yet publicly acknowledged being lesbian or gay.

During the first meeting, the faculty agreed to meet with Vivian. The civil rights leader visited the school Friday to discuss methods for confrontation of racism and bigotry. About 40 students attended an open meeting with Vivian before he met privately with the faculty.

Coalition for Gay Rights is granted recognition as an official student organization at the school.

Fast forward: April, 1988. Gay and lesbian students at APSU, after their much-heralded court victory over the State Board of Regents, appear to have retreated into the closet and the Student Coalition for Gay Rights has been disbanded, according to Glenn Carter, associate professor of sociology at Austin Peay and the faculty adviser to the Coalition at its inception.

"The victory we won in federal court changed a State Board of Regents ruling that student organizations in state colleges and universities had to be 'recognized' by the school. Now they simply have to register as an organization on campus," Carter explained.

However, he pointed out, the Coalition has not registered with the university for several years now because "no one wants to be involved with it anymore."

"A group like this depends on its leadership and when our leaders graduated, those who were left weren't leaders," Carter said. "The Coalition just floundered around, waiting for new leaders. This it just folded."

The Coalition's two primary leaders graduated just after the federal court ruling.

One, a man, moved to Nashville after graduation, Carter said, and has since lost touch with the professor. Another, a woman, was killed in an automobile accident while a graduate student in Indiana.

"It seems our gay and lesbian students are content now to remain in the closet," Carter said.

The court battle in 1979 followed months of heated discussions among APSU students, faculty and administration. The Student Coalition for Gay Rights had won the support of the student government association, but was denied recognition by the administration on the grounds that sanctioning the group could lead to increased homosexual activity on the campus.

State Board of Regents chancellor Roy Nicks upheld the school administration's ruling, citing evidence that indicated the group's recognition could have led to increased criminal behavior and endangerment of students with sexual orientation problems.

The Coalition's attorneys refused the evidence submitted by the Board of Regents. Carter said attorneys presented findings that showed no increase in homosexual or criminal activity on campuses which had already approved such groups.

"We intended from the beginning to go to court," Carter said in a July, 1979, interview. He questioned the credibility of several witnesses in the hearings, suggesting that the state's star witness was a religious fundamentalist and "not an authority on sexuality."

After the Coalition was denied recognition by then-vice president for student affairs, Charles Boehms, the decision was upheld by then-APSU President Robert Riggs who said in 1979, "I don't believe a gay rights coalition would enhance the educational environment."

Following Riggs' denial, the group appealed to the State Board of Regents. It was in early 1980 that federal District Judge Thomas Wiseman issued the historic ruling giving official recognition to the Coalition, only a few months before the group's leaders graduated, Carter said.

Since then, he said, "there's never been a move to rekindle the organization."
Women Marines Under Fire
Corps Looking for a Few More Lesbians

Five women Marines have been charged with various counts including committing "indecent acts" as officers for the Law Center at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C., continue an investigation of lesbianism in the Corps.

Two other women who were to have hearings with an administrative board have asked for discharges from the Marines.

Of the more than 20,000 recruits undergoing basic training at Parris Island each year, approximately one-fourth are women. Parris Island is the only base which provides basic training for women.

The Naval Investigative Service currently has ten women under investigation and the surveillance is expected to expand shortly to involve an even larger number of women suspected of lesbianism, according to Marine sources.

Some 90 women and 219 men have been dismissed for homosexuality during the past three federal fiscal years, according to figures supplied by the Department of Defense. More than 40% of those discharged are women, who represent only 5% of the Marine Corps' strength.

Defense Department data also shows that 662 cases of homosexuality have been investigated during the three year period. About a third of those cases involve women.

NGRA Goes After Tennessee Company

National Gay Rights Advocates February 1 filed suit against a Florida and Tennessee company which refused to allow a gay couple to participate in a vacation sweepstakes.

Filed in the United States District Court in San Francisco, the suit was filed against Vacation America, a company doing business in the two Southern states.

Ed Patrick, 33, of Sebastopol, Calif., last August received a post card from Vacation America congratulating him for winning a Sweepstakes Clearhouse vacation. After Patrick's acceptance of the prize, Vacation America sent him a receipt along with a statement of "Terms and Conditions" of the sweepstakes.

Among those terms was that the trip was only open to "married or co-habiting heterosexual couples and unrelated women arriving together." Patrick's companion was to have been his lover of seven years.

NGRA is a nonprofit, public interest law firm involved in litigation to advance the civil rights of lesbians and gay men throughout the country. The San Francisco and West Hollywood-based NGRA is headed by Jean O'Leary, executive director.

In addition to Patrick v. Vacation America, NGRA has filed four other new lawsuits.

CARES Raises $11,000 in March

Nashville CARES raised "almost $11,000," during March, according to Jacki Moss, who chairs the AIDS service organization's public relations committee.

Nashville mayor Bill Boner proclaimed March Nashville CARES Month in Metro, and the group organized fundraisers in local gay and mainstream dubs and businesses.

Cats Who Care, a Broadway revue staged by cast members of the touring company of the musical Cats, raised over $5,000 for Nashville CARES, according to Thom Carpenter, a CARES volunteer and Warehouse 28 employee who helped coordinate the event.
Reunion: A Family Comes to Terms With AIDS

First in a five-part series
By JEFF ELLIS

When I was two years old, my mother almost died of cancer. Although my only memories of that time center on trips to the Memphis Zoo after visiting her in the hospital, it had a profound effect on my life. It created a very deep bond between us - the woman who almost died and the toddler she was forced to leave in the care of her oldest daughter while she awaited the doctor's verdict if she would live or die.

When I was five years old, my sister gave birth to my nephew Jamie. He was my parents' first grandchild and although my memories about that event have clouded with time, I do remember being jealous.

My mother is now 68 years old, though you could hardly tell it by her youthful, vibrant personality and demeanor.

My nephew celebrated his 25th birthday a few weeks ago - a birthday the doctors told us might never come.

My nephew has AIDS. It's killing him, we're told. And like my mother's cancer, it is changing our lives. Especially Mama's.

Jamie's condition was first diagnosed 18 months ago. Some months earlier, we had feared he had AIDS because of mysterious pains he suffered in his legs, ankles and feet. But when the symptoms went away, we thought our amateur doctoring had been wrong. We heaved a collective sigh of relief.

Jamie and his lover, Lee, moved to New York and were ecstatic about living in the most exciting, sophisticated city in the world. For Jamie, it was a dream come true, a chance to fulfill his fantasies - a rather heady experience for someone who grew up in a rural west Tennessee town of less than 1,500.

Jamie went to work in an art gallery and became a fixture of the downtown scene. You doubt me? Go to New York and mention Jamie. They'll know who you're talking about.

Like Cher, his childhood role model, my nephew is known all over the country by his one-word moniker. And, quite frankly he'd have it no other way.

But it was in New York, Jamie's own version of Shangri La, that he was diagnosed as having Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Within hours of hearing the doctor deliver the news, he asked me.

"What should I do?" he asked. "Who should I tell? Should I call Mother? What will Mama Ellis think?"

To be sure, I did not want to think of this. This couldn't happen to anyone in my family, I was certain. Although Jamie, his younger brother Scott and I were all gay, I thought we were smarter than AIDS. It couldn't get us.

"What would Mama think?" I asked myself. There was no way in hell that I could tell her that her firstborn grandchild had been sentenced to death. That's what the news meant to me 18 months ago - imminent death.

Although I tried to calm Jamie's fears by igniting hope, I was filled with a sense of dread - dread of the day when our secret would have to be told to the world and to our family.

And to Mama.

Next week: The Boys Move to Memphis...
Cheers for Queers

Gay and lesbian political activism is not new. It is, however, improved. Since the October March on Washington, gay men and lesbians across the country have found anew the resources and personal strength to get out into the trenches and fight for our personal and legal rights.

And an integral part of the fight is, like it or not, about AIDS - funding for research, funding for services, funding for education, promotion of the civil rights of those with AIDS, and those who are perceived to have AIDS.

Because AIDS first came to public notice as it struck gay men in this country, the disease has been labelled a "gay disease."

Anyone with any sense knows that's ridiculous on its face. AIDS is caused by a virus that doesn't recognize sexuality. Viruses don't recognize sexuality. People do.

And that's why we have a "gay disease." Homophobia and ignorance have prevented local, state and federal governments from helping fight the disease. Because government has done little or nothing, a lot of people out there have had to do a lot of work fighting AIDS and its effects. Volunteerism in our community has provided services, money for research and important work urging courts and legislatures to protect everyone's civil rights.

All of this work is valuable. And almost all of it has come from our community, from lesbians and from gay men, because no one else cared, no one else had the commitment that comes from seeing friends and loved ones die, and no one else had as much to lose as we did.

Now AIDS is beginning to become more commonplace in other communities, and the whole world is starting to come to grips with the fear that we have had to deal with for the last six years. AIDS is big business and big news, and suddenly everyone wants to be an expert.

Now, support from the mainstream community is wonderful, and it's about time it was forthcoming. Too many lives have been lost while politicians quibbled and waffled.

But with all this mainstream interest, let's not forget who has cared all along in a stampede for mass approval. The gay and lesbian community have, until now, provided almost all the services and lobbying, and a large proportion of the money - can you count the dollars raised by drag queens? - for the battle against AIDS.

We think a round of applause and a doff of the hat are due those who have labored long. We're glad they're gay, and proud to be like them.

Box 40422

Dear Dare:

In your first press issue, you reported that several people went to Mayor Boner's office concerning gay issues in Nashville.

Dare seems much more informed than I as to the issues discussed and I appreciate your reporting on the activities in our community. I did, however, notice an omission in the article. It failed to identify the affiliation of those people who approached the Mayor's office. They were there as concerned members of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

The only reason I felt the need to point this out is that the Alliance has formerly been criticized as not being an active, effective group, and I feel it important to let others know we are both.

The Alliance has been growing up since its strong reformation after the March on Washington, and we are taking on Nashville and Tennessee's legislation and litigation of our rights.

Nashville is going to have to face the fact that its gay population is not going to stay in the closet any more. We are agoraphobic, tax-paying, property-owning, actively voting consumer group that will have to be heard and dealt with.

The Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance plans to be a strong leader in that fight for recognition. I would appreciate you letting people know who we are when we make our presence known and confront the straight society. Thank you,

Terry Kelvin

Nashville

Max and Mona™

Mona, if you schedule another Madonna lookalike I'll open a vein!

"My one o'clock should go to Hollywood, the walk would do her good."

Who's next?

"Kareem, we're going to have to share around that little red dot on your forehead again."

Tell her I fell on my scissors..." - to be continued
Desert Fabuloso / Desert Fabu-so-so

The Book

When Santa Fe real estate whiz John Aaron disappears one summer afternoon, the city's habitues insist it is the most interesting thing he had done in years. But when John returns with one Bradley Roberson III in tow, everyone agrees their initial reaction was wrong. Bringing Bradley to "the city different" was John's coup de grace. Thus, the stage is set for Lisa Lovenheim's Desert Fabuloso.

John's sudden flight from Santa Fe takes him to Miami for his father's funeral. To escape the rather gloomy atmosphere of south Florida, he flies to New York. And once there, his life is changed. He meets Bradley, the son of a Wall Street family and by some accounts a different world. John's sudden disappearance is not without repercussions: "I stood up six people. Do you know how that translates into the number of parties to which I will not be invited this year? Where I live, the penal code commands an exponential ratio of crimes to penalties."

The two return to Santa Fe, where amid the sun-dappled adobes, they live, love, laugh and fight. But John's sudden disappearance is not without its consequences. "Sylvia opened Bradley's back door, releasing into the night air a stench of hopelessness which made her stop in her tracks."

Clothing and interior design are important throughout the final scenes. We get clues of Bradley's recovery in a scene where he is dressed only in "a little strap of red that covered his privates." He is reborn, stripped of the symbols of superficiality.

He Likes It Not

Lisa Lovenheim's gay-themed novel Desert Fabuloso is unsatisfying. Reading it, I found myself asking myself that question since I first picked it up. I have to admit that the cover (featuring a sensitive-looking type leaning against the entryway of an adobe house, gazing across the way at Lord knows what, probably Georgia O'Keeffe's digs) done in what decorators refer to as the season's fashions colors is the real reason I picked it up. As far as I can tell, the people in Santa Fe don't work much - unless they're bartering real estate or exploiting native American artisans. Oh yeah, they go to the opera. Opera is real big in Santa Fe. We see our heroes, John and Bradley and their respective dates and their fat friend Marissa, in the audience at La Bohème. It's not my favorite opera. Maybe that's why I didn't like that part.

The parts I did like were when Desert Fabuloso described her House Beautiful interiors. I got a lot of good decorating ideas from this book. Let's face it, the Southwestern look may someday be big in Nashville and I'll get a raise. Actually, I wanted to like all parts of this book. But, oops! I didn't. But you might.

However, if not, don't come running to me, asking for your money back. Perhaps you should read Gone With the Wind. The story moves better, you'll like the characters and they wear pretty clothes, including some made from draperies, thus satisfying your decorating urges. Besides, I always did think Scarlett O'Hara was really a drag queen.

Desert Fabuloso by Lisa Lovenheim. 269 pp. PLUME CONTEMPORARY FICTION. $7.95, PAPER.

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