Back to School

Tennessee's Most Widely-Known AIDS Patient Gets Moral Support From Students and Parents

By JEFF ELLIS
News Editor

Twelve-year-old Dewayne Mowery, who last fall was forced out of Lake City Elementary School because he has AIDS, is now attending Clinton Junior High School.

Dewayne, a hemophiliac who was infected by AIDS-tainted blood products, entered the Clinton school April 18. Greeted by a handful of parents and other adults protesting his enrollment, Dewayne was warmly welcomed by other students who staged a counter-protest.

Students at the junior high school painted 50 signs of their own to counter the hateful remarks of the protesters. "Dewayne is one of us," an 8th-grade student said. "Don't be ignorant."

By the end of the first week, the protesters were gone and the rash of absences which were blamed on Dewayne's enrollment had dwindled. Authorities give much of the credit for diffusing the potentially dangerous situation to the students. Last fall, when Dewayne entered the Lake City school, he fell victim to the harsh words of parents and students, who yelled at the Mowerys as they left the building.

During her testimony before the President's AIDS Commission here in March, Norma Mowery, Dewayne's mother, told of people driving by their home with signs saying, "Kill him! Kill him! Kill him!"

"We worry about him all the time," she told the commission members. "He does not like school anymore. He has no chance to make friends. One of the reasons you go to school is to make friends."

After the Mowerys took their son out of the Lake City school, he began attending the Anderson County Gifted Center four days a week, alone in a classroom designed for 20 or more children.

Currently, Dewayne is in a special education class with 15 other students. He does not change classes, nor does he visit the school's cafeteria.

"A poster, found in the school's lobby, expresses the attitude of the school's students and faculty: 'We've listened, we've learned, we've welcomed.'"

Helms Attacks AIDS Bill

By STUART BIVIN
Editor

U.S. Senators Jesse Helms (R.-N.C.) and Ted Kennedy (D.-Mass.) are locked in a bitter struggle over legislation designed to provide over $1 billion in AIDS-related funding.

Senate Bill 1220, according to Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, is an attempt to provide federal funding for a broad range of weapons in the war against AIDS.

The very breadth of the funding is what has caused the pitched battle from Helms and other conservatives. Last year, Helms led in the amendment of AIDS-funding legislation to prohibit Federal funds from being used for education targeted at the gay community - materials which he claimed "encourag[ed] the homosexual lifestyle."

Hyde said that the pro-funding forces, under Kennedy's leadership, have enough votes to ensure passage of the bill without such restrictions, although she said it is likely that some of the amendments proposed by the Helms camp may pass as compromise measures.

One of those is forced HIV testing of Federal prisoners convicted of sex- or drug-related crimes.

"The best argument we have against the [prisoner-testing] amendment is that no corrections-department officials support it. The Feds simply have no way to deal with testing on such a scale, or to deal with prisoners who test positive," Hyde said.

Another attempt by Helms forces to scuttle the bill is an amendment prohibiting clean-needle exchanges for users of illegal intravenous drugs.

Hyde is certain that the Kennedy group will give in on some issues, specifically the civil rights of Federal prisoners, in order to assure passage of the bill.

"The backers [of S.B. 1220] will let the prisoners go," according to Hyde.

Once the Senate bill is passed, it will go to conference committee along with a similar House bill to iron out differences. Hyde predicts further trade-offs there.

"The bad news is that the District of Columbia AIDS-insurance ordinance will be vetoed [by Congress]," she said.

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Continued on Page 3
## Dates

### May

**4 Wednesday**

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

**5 Thursday**

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5 pm.

Vanderbilt AIDS Project Safe Ball, fundraiser, Urban Lounge: $12. 7:30 pm.

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

Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Phone 385-4776 or 352-5822 for details. 8 pm.

**6 Friday**

Nashville Ballet Cinderella, Fine Arts Theatre, UT-Chattanooga, $13 and $15. 8 pm.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Belmont United Methodist Church. 7:30 pm.

Nashville Lambda Association End-of-year party. 5:30 pm. Phone $322-6026 for info.

**7 Saturday**

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4 pm.

Vanderbilt Ballet Cinderella, Fine Arts Theatre, UT-Chattanooga, matinee $10 and $13, evening $12 and $15. 2 pm and 8 pm.

The Conductors Benefit Show for Conductors FWA Fund, Crazy Cowboy. Donations taken. 10-30 pm.

**8 Sunday**

Mothers' Day. Crazy Cowboy 7th Anniversary, buffet. 5pm-8pm.

**9 Monday**

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30 pm.

### Listings

#### Restaurants and Clubs

**Nashville**

- The Cabaret
  - 1711 Hayes St
  - 320-7082

- The Clutch
  - 255 Franklin Rd
  - 297-4571

- Cher's Call
  - 407 1st Av South
  - 256-9134

- Crazy Cowboy II
  - 2511 Franklin Rd
  - 269-9518

- The Gas Lamp
  - 167 1/2 8th Av North
  - 254-1278

- The Jungle
  - 700 4th Av South
  - 256-9681

- New Attitude
  - 200 Church St
  - 250-5714

- Ralph's Roadside Hill Tavern
  - 706 6th Av South
  - 256-9172

- Vortex Vixens
  - 111 8th Av North
  - 244-7258

- Warehouse 28
  - 2209 Franklin Rd
  - 355-9669

- World's End
  - 1715 Church St
  - 329-3480

**Clarksville**

- The Office
  - 150 Franklin St
  - 645-1157

**Chattanooga**

- Alan Gold's
  - 1100 McCallie Av

**Organization**

- American Old Lesbians Union
  - 227-3958

- Good Content
  - Box 12060, Nashville 37212
  - 365-1510

- Nashville CARES
  - Box 12061, Nashville 37204
  - 352-4226

- Women's Alliance
  - 200 Church St
  - 320-7082

- National Organization for Women (Tennessee)
  - Elizabeth Justison, President
  - Box 120252, Nashville 37212

- Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)
  - 201 Church St
  - 256-9172

- Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Task Force (TGLTF)
  - 201 Church St
  - 256-9172

- Tennessee Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS)
  - 201 Church St
  - 256-9172

- Vanderbilt AIDS Project
  - Hotline
  - 322-4226

- Vanderbilt Lambda Association
  - 331 15th Av North
  - 320-0286

- Women's Resource Center (YWCA)
  - 1600 Woodmont Blvd
  - 297-3958

- Women's Resource Center (YWCA)
  - 1600 Woodmont Blvd
  - 352-4226

- Jessie Parker
  - Attorney
  - 320-7082

- Irene K. Reeder, ALD, Psychologist
  - 4000 Hillsboro Rd
  - 297-3958

- Metropolitan Community Church
  - Rev Paul Tucker, Pastor
  - 151 15th Av North
  - 320-0286

### Nashville CARES

- Gay Couples Support Group. 6:30 pm.
- Family Support Group. 4:30 pm.
- End of Year Party. Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 9 pm.

**10 Tuesday**

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4 pm.

Vanderbilt Lambda closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 9 pm.

**11 Wednesday**

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

**12 Thursday**

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5 pm.

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

Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Phone 385-4776 or 352-5822 for details. 8 pm.

**13-15 Friday/Saturday**

Nashville CARES Volunteer training. Phone 385-1510 for info.

**13 Friday**

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Belmont United Methodist Church. 7:30 pm.

**14 Saturday**

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4 pm.

The Office Miss Gay Clarksville, $14. 9 pm.

The Chute US Male Revue, 10:30 pm and 12:30 am.

**15 Sunday**

The Office Co-ed softball, Mercier Park, Clarksville. 1 pm.

Tennessee Association of the Dead Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3 pm.

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

**16 Monday**

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30 pm.

Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6 pm.
Continued from Page 1

did so "not only to honor a personal friend but also to recall the fact that this American belonged to a minority group, that as a composer he worked successfully in both the popular and the classical fields, and that much of his best music was inspired by Negro rhythms."

Other composers, including Aaron Copeland, Leonard Bernstein, Vernon Duke, Ira Gershwin and W.C. Handy, followed Van Vechten's lead and made gifts to the collection.

When, in the mid-forties, Van Vechten was able to persuade noted artist Georgia O'Keeffe to donate a large portion of the art collection of her deceased husband Alfred Stieglitz to Fisk, the Van Vechten gallery was born.

The Stieglitz collection, which includes 19 photographs by Stieglitz, along with works by Picasso, Cezanne, Rivera, Renoir and two celebrated works by O'Keeffe herself, forms the heart of the permanent exhibit at the gallery. The gallery was dedicated in 1949, according to curator Pearl Cresswell, who has been in that position since the gallery's inception.

"Mr. Van Vechten was such a good friend of black culture and a supporter of the arts," Cresswell said.

One work from the gallery, O'Keeffe's "The Radiator Building-Night. New York," is on loan to a National Gallery retrospective of O'Keeffe's work which is currently touring the country.

When Van Vechten died in 1964, he was survived by his wife, Russian emigre Fania Maranov. Despite his heterosexual marriage, many historians believe, based upon Van Vechten's writings and friendships, he probably was involved in homosexual relationships throughout his life.

Although his writings are considered rather stilted and difficult to read, by 1988 standards, they nonetheless offer an extraordinary portrait of a more elegant time. In his book, The Blind Bow Boy, Van Vechten writes of a duke whose stationery is emblazoned with the phrase, "A thing of beauty is a boy forever."

Gay themes are found in many of his other works as well. Other claims that he was probably homosexual are supported by his friendships with Gertrude Stein, Hugh Walpole and Langston Hughes, among others.

Best known as a photographer, Van Vechten's subjects included virtually every famous lesbian or gay man of this country's artistic community from the '20s to the '60s. Cecil Beaton, Beasie Smith, Edna St. Vincent Millay and Somerset Maugham are among the many luminaries from the cultural milieu of the earlier part of this century to be photographed by the master, Van Vechten.

"Tennesseans can call [Senators Al] Gore and [Jim] Sasser and tell them to support Kennedy against Helms and any Helms-supported amendments," Hyde said. Senator Sasser's local number is (615) 736-7553, and Senator Gore's is (615) 736-5129.

"This is landmark legislation that will affect the course of Federal AIDS funding for years to come," Hyde said, "One phone call really can make a difference."

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Helms Fights AIDS Fighters Again

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good" as men. Female cross-dressing is not as threatening as male. It would unsettle society if large numbers were engaged in it (perhaps the cause of the persistence of Amazon myths but it is often treated harmless or eccentric.

Of course, the permission to dress as a man can, in a sexist society, be seen as a privilege - not a right - generously bestowed upon women. It can be argued that Amazon myths do not celebrate women who transcend gender limitations as much as they celebrate man power to overcome and defeat women who attempt such transcendence. Amazons are either killed or subjugated through the love of the heroic male.

A second reason for women to adopt men's clothes is sexual. Often cross-dressing is an overt, public statement of sexual orientation. Many lesbians, particularly in the early 20th century, wore men's clothes. Badlyciffe Hall, Collette, a number of lesbian night club acts of the 1920s and '30s used male costume as a way of publicly declaring their sexuality.

Molly Hamilton, the true-life heroine of Henry Fielding's *The Female Hushand* adopted male dress after a lesbian relationship, and later married women on three occasions. She was flogged and imprisoned. Clearly she went too far.

Contemporary lesbian feminism is often critical of the role-playing and male identification involved in male impersonation. Yet cross-dressing can still be seen as a courageous decision for individual women in a very difficult, and different, historical context.

The third reason for male impersonation is personal. Because western drama evolved out of religious and ritual representations, the connection is important. British pantomime sprang from Saturnalia, a pagan feast of reversal. Christianity, perhaps because of its unique desire for an all-male deity, always expressed a fear of gender confusion. Still, the pagan remnants like Mardi Gras, well known for its tolerance of drag, remain.

All three reasons should be kept in mind when looking at the fourth, performance decision.

There have been great male impersonators, not necessarily theatrical. They used men's clothes to make political or social points, and to exploit sexual ambivalence to their own advantage. Unlike female impersonators, they presented favorable images of masculinity, impersonating the "beau ideal" of their own societies - the soldier, the artist, the dandy, the dashing drunk. They portrayed the male norm that was also the male aspiration.

Perhaps the greatest was Joan of Arc. Joan did not try to disguise herself as a man, but always called herself Jeanne La Pucelle, Joan the Maid. She tried to create a middle ground, a gender-free space in which she could achieve the task at which she felt divinely called.

Like most male impersonators, she insisted on a rigorous sexual respectability, in her case virginity. She used the external symbols of maleness to achieve, but she also recognized that there was a price to be paid for acceptance into the world of masculinity. Joan the Maid lived, presumably, under the protection of God, as her trials made clear.

Queen Christina of Sweden's life presents a different case. She was a male values are dominant.

While there appears to be potential sexual radicalism in women assuming male dress, it has not worked to the actual advancement of women as a group.

In a historical reality where men and women are not equal, where gender is not just a determinant but also a prejudice, where men have power and have it at the expense of women, then women who use male impersonation to gain for themselves, as individuals, money or fame or prestige or even physical space, have most often affirmed male superiority.

Male impersonation (whatever its intention or potential) becomes an act of collusion. It may also become an act of self-denial, or self-destruction.

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**Women Dress Up as Men**

Vesta Tilley as "the London Idol"

Third in a four-part series

By SHERRIE DRYDEN

Book Editor

Vain trifles as they seem, clothes have, they say, more important offices than merely to keep up warm. They change our view of the world and the world's view of us. - Virginia Woolf.

There are at least four reasons why women dress up as men.

Firstly, simply, they do it for disguise. For whatever reason they wish, or need, to be perceived as, treated as and believed to be a man. By and large, women have assumed male disguises to transcend limits imposed upon them: that is, not imposed upon men.

Mary Anne Talbot, born in 1778, lived most of her life as a sailor named James Taylor. Jesse Kenney dressed as a messenger boy to carry instructions from Christable Pankhurst in Paris to militant suffragists in London. James Barry, born in 1799, became an army doctor. Ann Bonny, Mary Read and Ann Mills, pirates, also dressed as men.

It was impossible to be a woman doctor, sailor or soldier in the societies in which these women were making choices. Although the personal consequences for the women who took this solution to their entrapment within gender expectations were not uniformly happy, they received little censure as long as they did not try to go too far.

Their activities were seen as ambitious rather than degrading, as attempts to be "as

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4:30 pm - 1 am Monday - Thursday

4:30 pm - 3 am Friday, Saturday

Noon - 3 am Sunday

167 1/2 8th Avenue North 254-1278
By JEFF ELLIS
News Editor

One Monday morning in February, I walked into my office and picked up the phone to call my mother. We had not spoken in several days, so I was anxious to hear the news from home.

After a few moments of small talk and the usual health reports, she very quietly said, "I know you know about Jamie."

My heart in my mouth, I asked, "Who told you?"

"Jamie did. He called me Saturday," she said.

After almost a year and a half of evasive answers and downright lies, my greatest fear had come true. Mama now knew that her firstborn grandchild, Jamie, was suffering from AIDS. The prognosis was not good and it was essential that we come to terms with the fact that Jamie might die.

Mama, who had almost died of cancer in 1959, had suffered periodic bouts with kidney disease and angina for as long as I could remember. Although youthful and vibrant at 68, she still is not in the best of health and I was afraid the shock of knowing about Jamie's condition would lead to a decline in her physical condition.

For months we had debated whether we should tell Mama. Certainly, she should know. But the worry could kill her, we reasoned. Still, if we didn't tell her and the worst did happen, would she resent us for not keeping her informed?

Finally, after visiting Jamie last October and seeing how his body had been ravaged by the disease, I knew we had to tell her. And soon.

I waited for the perfect moment. It never arrived.

Jamie, hundreds of miles from home, away from the immediate love of his family needed to know that, despite his homosexuality and his illness, Mama still loved him. His mother, Stella, has not seen him since his illness was diagnosed. Her absence only compounded his physical suffering.

I love my sister. But for the life of me, I cannot understand how she stays away. Jamie had always worshipped her and had told her of his sexual orientation long before he became ill.

But still she stays away.

Lee, Jamie's lover of the past three years, told me during my visit to Boca Raton that if the disease, I knew we had to tell her. And soon.

"Are you mad at me for not telling you months ago?" I asked.

"No," she answered. "I understand why y'all kept it from me, that you didn't want to hurt me, that you didn't want me to worry. "But what you don't understand is that it's my right as a mother and grandmother to worry about my children. It kills me when I think that Jamie might die, that the poor little thing is all the way down in Florida without me, but it's better that I know."

We both cried. And Mama told me she loved me.

A few minutes later, I talked to Jamie. How's Mama Ellis?" he asked.

"She seems to be dealing with it pretty well," I answered.

He went on to say that he had promised to send Mama information about AIDS and he asked that I go over it with her during my next visit.

During my next trip home, Mama and I talked at length about Jamie, about his relationship with Lee and about AIDS. She was surprisingly much better informed than I expected.

"I'm not surprised," said Scott, Jamie's 22-year-old brother. "My grandmother is pretty hip. She watches television and reads newspapers and magazines. She's probably better informed about AIDS than most people are."

"Mama Ellis could fill the void. She could give Jamie the mothering he needs."

On that February morning, however, my mind was reeling. Selfishly, I wondered how this would effect my relationship with Mama.

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Since Jamie told Mama of his illness, they've talked frequently and the effect she's had on him is phenomenal. He's much more relaxed and his wonderful sense of humor has returned. It's as if a giant weight has been lifted from him.

And with Mama's unering intuition she can tell when he's really not feeling well, despite his protestations that he's fit as a fiddle.

When I was little and something frightened me, Mama could always calm my fears. She wasn't afraid of anything.

Now that I'm an adult, though, I realize Mama is frightened by many things - a loud noise that awakens her at night, the high winds that accompany a thunderstorm, the news that someone she loves may die.

So, I try to calm her fears. I'm not afraid of anything, I tell her.

But in our hearts, we both know I'm lying.

Next week: Jamie faces the future.
Who's Really Guilty Here?

Last week Criminal Court Judge Tom Shriver told prosecutors they must disclose whether police gave money to a 15-year-old boy involved in the recent sex-for-pay sting operation conducted by Metro sex abuse and vice squad detectives.

Shriver told prosecutors they will not be able to call the boy as a witness or use tape recordings of his voice as evidence until they divulge the nature of the boy's involvement.

When the story of the indictments, and the subsequent arrests, was announced to the media, it became apparent that the forty men were not the only ones who had used the boy. Apparently, the police used him too. Although police have not yet said if the boy was paid, or granted leniency, the possibility of misconduct on the part of authorities appears likely.

Perhaps the major point of the sting operation was to prevent the sexual misconduct of adult males consorting with minor males. The minors supposedly had been paid for a variety of sexual acts by the men. That accepted money in exchange for performing sexual acts.

Hoping to curb the growing instances of boy prostitution in this city, police set up the sting operation. It seems likely that the boy was in violation.

And she's getting results. Truckers are beginning to recognize Councilwoman Harper and to comply, even if only to avoid her disapproval.

And there's something we all need to realize.

When we see a situation that needs to be corrected, whether it's dump trucks dropping trash on the road or politicians spreading bigotry and homophobia in order to build support among the radical right, each one of us has the power to make a difference with the smallest of effort.

Sometimes all it takes is confronting the offender, exposing his or her actions to public view. As Thelma Harper knows, a little action can make a difference.

Thelma Harper on Patrol

Metro Nashville Councilwoman Thelma Harper is not happy.

Unlike many of the rest of us, however, she's doing something about it.

Councilwoman Harper's beef is with dump-truck drivers through the Bordeaux area: they're not covering their trucks, and dump-truckers driving through the Bordeaux area: they're not covering their trucks, and...
"The Mysteries of Pittsburgh" Revealed

By JOE MAROHL
Staff Reviewer

In his stories for the New Yorker, Michael Chabon covers much the same terrain as David Leavitt and the other New Yorker-s-s in their twenties: the delicate emotional balance of family life in 1980's white, bourgeois America. Now, his first novel, The Mysteries of Pittsburgh, falls in with Less Than Zero and Bright Lights, Big City, not to forget the comparably grandfathery Goodbye Columbus, as an exploration of contemporar y social values related to sex, work and class. It also comes to us brand new with one foot already in celluloid. Director Alan J. Pakula has the film rights in hand to adapt the book into a movie, capitalizing on the current mania for hip youth cinema. All of which is to suggest that the book makes no pretense of opening new literary ground, but which is not to suggest that it isn't any good.

Chabon's first novel is attractively and gracefully written. The main character and narrator, whom it is impossible for me to visualize as anything other than the neat and Prettily handsome photograph of Chabon on the back fly - leaf, is called Art Bechstein. A recent college graduate, Art takes on a job he is to suggest that the book makes no pretense of opening new literary ground, but which is not to suggest that it isn't any good.

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Sunday, May 8

Looney Tunes

starring
Carmella Marcella Garcia
Alexis Spaulding
Monica Munro

Two Shows at 10:30 & Midnight

Every Tuesday, 11:30 pm
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CARMELLA MARCELLA GARCIA

Every Wednesday, all night
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