Feds Extend AIDS Drug Help

By BRIAN KELLY
Contributing Writer

President Reagan last week signed a bill authorizing a six-month extension of the Federal AIDS Drug Reimbursement program designed to provide AZT to low-income patients. In an unusual partnership between government and private industry, Burroughs-Wellcome, the exclusive maker of AZT, agreed to give $5 million to the program, with $10 million coming from the government.

However, none of the $10 million approved will be new money. Sen. Lowell Weicker [R-Connecticut] had tried to attach an additional subsidy to a supplemental appropriation bill, but "was not able to get money in the appropriation process," according to Sherry Hayes, legislative aide to Sen. Paul Simon [D-Illinois]. Instead, the money will be "reprogrammed" from existing AIDS programs within the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] budget. It is not yet known what areas of the HHS budget will be trimmed down to make room for the allocation. "By February or March [HHS] should be able to identify how they're running with this program," Hayes said. However, because of the extension, states have the authorization to make expenditures under the program.

Additionally, Hayes said, the states can, under Medicaid, make a 50-50 contribution to the program at the higher eligibility ceiling for the Federal program, and do not have to be restricted to Medicaid guidelines.

A letter sent by Simon to HHS Secretary Otis Bowen asked that the program be continued, calling it "unfortunate" that Congress had failed to give additional money. The letter continues, "From a medical perspective it seems somewhat self-defeating and inhumane to abandon the only course of treatment available to those who have been provided access to AZT under this program."

NGLTF Celebrates, Plans Meet

By DEBORAH BURKS
Staff Writer

In November, the country's oldest national gay and lesbian organization will celebrate 15 years of advocacy of gay and lesbian civil rights.

As part of its celebration, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will sponsor "Creating Change: A National Conference for Gay and Lesbian Organizing and Leadership Skill Building" which will be held Nov. 18-20 in Washington D.C.

NGLTF is taking this opportunity to share the work they have developed over the past 5 years about organizing, lobbying and educating, its director said. The "Creating Change" conference will feature at least 65 workshops over a three-day period. These workshops will be arranged by themes and conference participants will be able to follow a variety of tracks, including media, lobbying, direct action, AIDS, fund raising, anti-violence, lesbian issues and minority issues.

"With 'Creating Change,' we've tried to offer something for everyone," said Jeff Levi, executive director of NGLTF. "Whether you are a seasoned veteran activist or someone just getting involved, if you are from a newly formed or forming organization or one that is large, established and sophisticated, I think you'll find something in this conference for you."

Plenary session speakers will include Renee McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, and Virginia Apuzzo, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo's liaison to the gay and lesbian community.

More information on the conference may be obtained from NGLTF's Steve Snell at (202) 352-6845.
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AIDS Quilt Returns to Capital

By STUART BIVIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt returned to Washington last weekend after a year-long odyssey that took it to 20 cities around the country.

The anniversary display of the Quilt coincided with a flurry of lesbian-gay and AIDS activism in Washington and around the country.

The Capital was the scene of concerts, the premiere of More Than Names (a new play based on the story of the NAMES Project), and a special tribute at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to those performing artists lost to the AIDS epidemic.

AIDS activists, not affiliated with the NAMES Project, shut down the Federal Food and Drug Administration Tuesday when they blocked entrances to the FDA's Maryland enormous 17-story headquarters in protest of the agency's lengthy approval procedure for new drugs to fight AIDS.

Author and activist Vito Russo argued that the FDA's reasoning for the years-long delays in approving new drugs is inappropriate.

"The FDA's reasoning...is inappropriate. They say that they must be sure the drugs have no dangerous side effects before approval," Russo said. "The side effect of AIDS is death."

National Coming Out Day events around the U.S. also celebrated the first anniversary of the March on Washington.

The Quilt was displayed on the Ellipse.

...AIDS-drug money extended

continued from page 1

Moreover, many states could not spend the allocations given to them last year, or had late starting dates for their programs. Illinois, the last state to begin its program, returned $183,000, a quarter of its allocation, to the government. Hayes said this was a negative factor in the unsuccessful effort to raise new money for the program.

Six states ran out of money completely, including Florida and Louisiana. States that had a surplus had the option of obligating the funds by Sept. 30 or returning the money for redistribution to other states.

Richard Schulman of the Health Resources and Services Administration said the original intent was to ask Burroughs to contribute $5 million, with matching funds from the government, to continue the program for another year.

This idea met with resistance from legislators who saw it as creating an entitlement program for AZT. "They don't want it...because it would set a precedent for every other illness and, frankly, the government is not moving in that direction," Schulman said.

Schulman added that the hope last year was that the states would raise their eligibility for Medicaid. This did not happen.

Indeed, many states began the Drug Reimbursement Program with an eligibility ceiling only slightly higher than Medicaid, or about $11,000 per year allowable annual income. In response to pressure from critics and activists, most states gradually raised the ceiling.

Two states, Alabama and Colorado, still do not offer AZT under their Medicaid programs.

"We are trying to allow the states an additional six months to get their act together," Schulman said. "I don't think it's going to fly again."
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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30**

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**AIDS UPDATE**

**The Politics of AIDS**

**By LEONARD LINDSAY**

**Special to Dare**

While many of us are involved in educating the community about preventing the spread of HIV and/or volunteering our time to provide services to persons living with ARC or AIDS, we must not forget that there is another arena which requires our attention - the political arena.

For it is our political arenas - city councils, state legislatures, and the Congress - where decisions are being made that impact every­


city, state, our nation, our world recognized that we are here and we are its children, too.”

The day's activities were capped off locally by a celebration at the Gas Light Lounge, benefit­

**NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY**

**continued from page 1**

As committed to our lifetimes as married heterosexual couples, but have them taken from us with no legal recourse if they were to become seriously ill or injured. Straight men and women would be outraged by such a suggestion, so we are," Bellamy added.

The group also protested the use of their tax dollars for the perpetuation of an institution that explicitly excludes them.

“The is outrageous. But it is only one example of the many, many injustices perpetrated against us by the government we support and the society in which we live,” Campbell said.

The letter was sent to former Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Legal Director Abby Rubenfeld, now practicing law in Nashville, Advance co-chair Deborah Burks (Adv­

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**GCN Special Report**

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Republican Convention

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On the Road, On the Make and On the Spot

By JAAN STURGIS
Staff Writer

Travel, travel, travel. That seems to be the byword for Nashvillians lately, because I swear that no one I know (save myself) has remained in town the last few weeks.

Dan Ramey, notorious chief social worker at Nashville CARES, along with the chatty James Gidcomb, has recently been to every gay man's dream city: San Francisco. From the Golden Gate Bridge to the Castro district and beyond these two hearty souls did the town (oh my).

Mr. Ramey went under the auspices of taking in the Second Annual AIDS Conference sponsored by the San Francisco Health Department, but James Gidcomb had other things in store. His comment on San Francisco was, "There's no difference between the day and the night!"

Now, dearhearts, put that in your pipe and chew on it for a while. Who just got back from the Northeast - Boston, that is? Why, Frank Ashe, of course. Was he thrilled about his visit? Eeeww! Doesn't sum up his fervor for the city of the great tea dance, er, party.

Why did he go? To attend a friend's wedding. Not only did he dance the night away at the wedding reception last Saturday, but about 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning a huge birthday cake with, um, 29 candles on it was wheeled into the dance hall and all joined in a boisterous (perhaps a bit drunken) round of "Happy Birthday."

What was one of the highlights of his trip? Well, Frank says that the trip to Hubba Hubba - a clothing store - was a REAL trip.

Unfortunately, in the passion of packing, he forgot his black shoes and his friends insisted that Hubba Hubba would have just the thing. Well, they did. Kinda. They had women's shoes in sizes up to 15 and 16 and beyond and the young man who was trying on the punk-looking kid were so blissful that one would have thought it was an everyday occurrence there - purchasing bright fuchsia pumps in a 14-C!

To be kind to his Nashville friends, Frank brought us wonderful remembrances. Showing my extreme disdain for architecture and preservation, he purchased a T-shirt with a picture of the Paul Revere house on it. Turns out that this property was considered the beginning of the preservation movement back in the 1890s. And for everyone's friend Tammy Willard, Frank bought a sweatshirt with a multi-colored streetscape of a typical Boston neighborhood. Both really neat gifts.

Where was the wedding? At the Winery, an exclusive restaurant which overlooks Boston Harbor. Knowing that her in-laws were adamant teetotalers, the bride had the restaurant match stones and champagne. She gave strict instructions on which people were to get which drink. Worked out lovely and no one knew the better of this scheme. Clever, don't you think?

Perhaps the highlight of the week for Frank was last Thursday evening when he went to the Gay Community News to help assemble the paper for Friday's publication.

Welcomed by the staff and other volunteers, Frank was told that they were particularly shorthanded because so many of their folks had gone to Washington, D.C. Washington, you say...

Yes, dearhearts, Dare darlings Stuart Bivin and Jeff Ellis were in Washington along with those Bosonians and others from across the U.S. to attend the display of the NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt and for a Gay and Lesbian Press Association meeting. And to see Archie Bunker's chair at the Smithsonian. Ah, culture.

Who cares about the meeting, but be sure to ask Stuart what they did on Saturday night. It made me blush - the second time this year! It was more than I could believe of that fearless duo.

I did hear that they stayed at the new home of former Nashvillian Faye Hale, editor of publications for the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers union. Faye says to remind everyone not to drink Coke products because it isn't politically correct - Coke still has ties to South Africa.

Also at the unveiling of the quilt were CARES' Julie Jones, Geel Scott Osten, and Mike Garwood, along with mega star Susan Sarandon and Memphis' Rick Bray. Ronald Reagan and Jerry Falwell were not there.

And what have Diane Easter, Gerry Scopetulio, Diane Neel, Penny Campbell, Barbara Savage, Devie Levin, Krys Krakowiak, Dan Ramey, Merle Franklin, Laura Tek, Sheffield Clark, Linda Johnson, Linda Goss, Gary Bellamy, Jim Aldredge, Paul Tucker, Diane's own Deborah Burke, Ann Taylor and Carole Cunningham been up to lately? You got it. This past Tuesday they all demanded that the City Clerk's office at Howard School give them marriage licenses. Quite a statement, my dears. You're all to be commended for your bravery and commitment.

And I hear that the fireworks display which occurred for those of us who were in town last weekend was a huge success.

Such a success that Diane Easter claims she could see them from her apartment on 21st near Vandy. Hmmm...what could that all mean?

Laura Tek is tickled lavender - by the Lavender Law conference, that is. A law student, she's going to the conference on legal and gay legal issues in San Francisco the first week of November. Says that there will be more legal-type lesbian and gay folks at that gathering than ever before - including our own, attorneys Abby Rubenfeld and Stuart Bivin. Sounds like this meeting will be happy hunting grounds. Mother always wanted me to marry a lawyer.

At last Saturday's Oktoberfest, I ran into more people than I could shake a stick at, not that I go around shaking sticks at people. The country kitsch crafts were everywhere and at least a fair number of the crowd, including Alan Jewell, whom I went with, was decrying that I go around shaking sticks at people. The night was more than I could believe of that fearless duo.

Unfortunately, in the passion of packing, I missed the homes tour (a movie) of our city. Clever, don't you think?

Perhaps the highlight of the week for Frank was last Thursday evening when he went to the Gay Community News to help assemble the paper for Friday's publication.
Courage. And Something Else.

LAST TUESDAY was National Coming Out Day (NCOD), the first-anniversary celebration of the success of the historic March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The March was the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of the United States.

National organizers of NCOD urged gay men and lesbians across the country to take their next step in the coming-out process. Here in Nashville, lesbians and gay men celebrated individually and en masse.

At noon, ten same-sex couples marched into the Metro Nashville/Davidson County marriage bureau and asked the clerk to issue them marriage licenses.

At the same event, local activists announced that Metro Mayor Bill Boner had promised to issue a proclamation in honor of National Coming Out Day.

Later in the afternoon, about 30 people gathered on campus at Vanderbilt University to mark the official coming-out of Vanderbilt Lambda at the group’s first widely-publicized open meeting, and to see the official video of the March, which drew 750,000 men, women and children to Washington, D.C., last October.

Still later in the evening, a large crowd of men and women celebrated the day at the Gas Lite Lounge downtown.

Those who took part in the day’s events showed courage.

It took courage to face the reporters, photographers and TV cameras at the marriage bureau, to face the clerks and take a stand on the legal system’s discrimination against same-sex couples.

It took courage for students, faculty, staff and alumni at Vanderbilt to attend a public Lambda meeting, not knowing who might show up and see them there.

It took courage for community leaders to press the Mayor’s office for a proclamation decrying bigotry and violence against lesbians and gay men.

It took courage for all those who took their next steps.

But everyone who took a next step came away empowered, even those who had taken only little steps.

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**Sunday, October 30**

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  - **LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. NO PAY.** Dare is accepting applications for writers. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615-292-9623.
  - Gay or lesbian teenagers who would like to meet others and are interested in forming a support group in Nashville: write Box 158002, Nashville 37215-0082. All correspondence held in strictest confidence.
  - **GWF** needs roommate. Smyrna area BR+ bath $200/mth+ 1/2 util. M/F dependable must like animals. 459-7614.
  - GWM, 27, 5'8', 140. Very attractive. Smart. Creative. Witty. Student. Seeks similar high caliber guy to love. DARE DRAWER 20
  - **PERSONALS**
    - Hey, Butch: Ooh, Miss Mamma, she broke your face. Go left in the villa, but you better WEAR that dress. Seriously, you're the best. Kissy-face to the dyke supreme. Betcha didn't think I'd actually spend all this dough, didja? Well I did. Are you embarrassed? -Fifi.
    - Penny & Gary: Thank you for making NCOD fun & meaningful. Will you marry us? Love, Fifi & Butch.
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    - **Announcements**
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      - **Personals**
        - **Hey, Butch: Ooh, Miss Mamma, she broke your face. Go left in the villa, but you better WEAR that dress. Seriously, you're the best. Kissy-face to the dyke supreme. Betcha didn't think I'd actually spend all this dough, didja? Well I did. Are you embarrassed? -Fifi.**
        - **Penny & Gary: Thank you for making NCOD fun & meaningful. Will you marry us? Love, Fifi & Butch.**

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