Doctor who claimed he got AIDS from surgery dies

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Nashville surgeon Harold Dennison died Monday from complications brought on by his battle with AIDS.

Last week Dennison's family acknowledged his condition after weeks of speculation regarding his health. News of Dennison's death came in a brief statement issued by his family which read:

"Dr. Harold Dennison passed away this morning at Baptist Hospital. A memorial fund for medical research is being established."

Chief of surgery at Nashville's Baptist Hospital, Dennison may have contracted the deadly disease as the result of being splashed in the eye with contaminated blood during surgery.

Meanwhile, officials with the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment and the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control both denied rumors that special hotlines had been established to gather information about other possible means of transmission.

"That's not true at all. We're conducting business as usual. We do not discuss any individual cases," said Bernie Ellis, the state's coordinator for AIDS surveillance.

"We do not comment on individual cases," said CDC spokesperson Chuck Falls. "There is no special hotline. It would be impossible for us to set up hotlines for every case we encounter."

Baptist Hospital officials are examining operating-room records to determine if Dennison did indeed become infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the course of duty. If that method of transmission is confirmed, Dennison would be the first surgeon stricken with the disease as the result of an operating room accident.

Current figures list eight doctors -- including four surgeons -- who have been diagnosed with AIDS and whose infection mode has not been "definitively" documented. Those eight physicians have been listed in an "undetermined risk" category, according to data supplied by the CDC.

CDC records also show some 18 cases nationwide of health care workers who have contracted HIV through occupational exposure to the virus, mainly through accidental needlesticks. Moreover, CDC claims that the possible risks to health care workers is less than one percent.

John Lamb, an orthopedic surgeon on staff at Baptist, said in a televised interview Monday night that the CDC has misled health care providers about the dangers of possible infection.

Lamb told reporters last weekend that Dennison's family chose to go public with the news of the illness in order to focus debate on the controversy surrounding universal testing.

According to a report in Tuesday's Tennessean, Dennison's daughter Susan, a surgical nurse who often assisted her father, claims to remember an incident during which blood splashed into her father's eye during surgery.

Although Dennison had apparently suffered from ill health for much of the past year, resulting in the drastic curtailment of his practice, he was not diagnosed with AIDS until early last year.

Attempts to reach the security company at press time were unsuccessful.

The vandals apparently were not interested in theft. Bullimer said there was no evidence that the club had been entered.

"We think someone came by and just took a hammer and broke out the windows," he said, adding that he could think of no motive for the attack, although he added, "it might have been the competition."

Bullimer said owner Lamar Jones plans to replace the now-boarded windows with solid walls. The walls will be covered with murals outside.

"We'd planned to do it all along. Now we'll just do it a little sooner," Bullimer said. "It's more private now, and no one can look in from the street and see who's here."

New Memphis gay club vandalized, windows smashed

by STUART BIVIN
Editor

Vandals attacked a Memphis gay club early Thursday morning, January 26, destroying $4000 worth of windows before making a getaway.

Chaps, part of the new Numbers complex at 598-600 Marshall in Memphis, opened its doors in December, according to David Bullimer, general manager of Chaps. The club had a complete new security system including glass-breakage sensors.

"We're going to send the bill to Rolls [the company that installed the security system]," Bullimer said. "The glass breakage alarm just didn't work. It happened between 7:15 and 7:45 Thursday morning, and I didn't find out about it until that afternoon."

Tennessee counselor charged with rape of 6-year-old patient

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

A Nashville man who works as a counselor at a state-operated residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children was charged Monday night with raping a 6-year-old patient.

Walter Frederick Durst was arrested after the child's mother and Metro detectives obtained a warrant charging the man with aggravated rape.

The boy's mother filed a complaint last Saturday night which was followed by an investigation by Metro Police who in turn consulted the district attorney's office and obtained the warrant.

A spokesperson for the state Department of Mental Health and Retardation said an internal investigation into the charges is currently under way. The department operates Cumberland House, a facility for younger children, and Crockett Academy, a facility for emotionally troubled teens, at 3411 Belmont Boulevard.

Karen finally will see Sharon again

AFTER ALMOST FIVE YEARS, Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski will finally be reunited this weekend, Dare has learned.

Doctors at the Duluth, Minn., Miller-Dwan Clinic have agreed to a visit between the two women, at Kowalski's request. Kowalski was moved to the clinic, under judge's orders, two weeks ago.

The two women have been separated since an automobile accident in 1983 left Kowalski seriously injured. Following the accident, Kowalski's father Donald Kowalski was granted guardianship of his daughter and has refused to allow any contact with Thompson.

Although Donald Kowalski retains guardianship over his daughter, he may no longer dictate who may visit her under the terms of the judge's order. Thompson will be the first visitor to the clinic, although Kowalski's parents have also been invited for a later visit.

Karen finally will see Sharon again

Managing Editor

Ex-ex-gay Fisher

taking on the ex-ex-closeted,
page 5.

It's heart to believe

it's the ideal Valentine.

Snaps, page 9.

Teenage confidential--

out in the blackboard jungle.

One in Teen, page 10.
CRUSH
a novel by Jane Futcher

"A wonderful high-school lesbian romance, rich with developing sexuality and attraction, and the true pain and joys of adolescent love."
—Carol Neajay, in Feminist Bookstore News

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by Terry Boughner

Gertrude Stein is just one of the many fascinating people you'll find in this history of gays and lesbians from ancient Egypt to the present. Fifty vignettes of both well-known and lesser-known historical figures are handily illustrated by caricaturist Michael Willhoite.

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MEN/SHINE

Out & ABOUT

Mondays
Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 89.5-7pm.
Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Tuesdays
Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Wednesdays
Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center.B 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Thursdays
P-Kids (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Support group, St. John's Episcopal Church, 12th & S Main. Info 901-376-1444.
Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Fridays
Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Saturdays
Twisted Sistas (ACA) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. Alcorn. Info 901-376-1444.
Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

NASHVILLE

Mondays
Gay Diverter's Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay community. MCC, 8pm. Info 615-297-4323.

Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Tuesdays
All-Room Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.
Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Wednesdays
Out and About Ball Sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda Association. 118 Sarratt, Vanderbilt, Nashville. 7pm. Info 615-297-4293.

Thursdays
Gay Diverter's Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay community. MCC, 8pm. Info 615-297-4293.

Phenomena (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 619-270-9443.

Fridays
Wine Tasting Group. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-9443.

Saturday, February 3


Thursday, February 9


Sunday, February 12


Tuesday, February 14

Out and About Ball Valentine's Day Dance, Warehouse 26, 2509 Franklin Rd, Nashville. Sponsored by Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance. 7:30pm. $5 per person. Info 615-333-2215.

Thursday, February 16

Film Kiss of the Spider Woman, sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda Association. 220 Garland Hall, Nashville. 7pm. $1 donation. Info 615-297-5352.

Saturday, February 18

Seminar Loving Yourself Unconditionally, Susan Tarrant. Sponsored by Gay Women's Social Network, Memphis. 7:30pm. $2 donation. Info 901-324-6594.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to Date, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 615-292-9623 and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and phone number for verification. Deadline noon Tuesday for publication next Friday.
Alabama judges ask HIV-positive prisoners to phone in pleas

THREE JEFFERSON COUNTY, Alabama, judges last month asked prisoners who are HIV-positive to waive their right to appear at their own court hearings and instead to enter their pleas by telephone instead.

Judges Mike McCormick, Jack Montgomery and O.L. "Pete" Johnson said their bailiffs are fearful of contracting AIDS from inmates who might become violent and bite or scratch them in the judges' courtrooms.

Charles Collins, a board member of Birmingham AIDS Outreach, said that AIDS experts agree that the chances of contracting the disease from a bite or a scratch are very slim.

So far, at least three HIV-infected inmates have agreed to the request, including John Louis O'Neal, who said his lawyer "told me to do it over the phone because he didn't want to make the judge mad."

O'Neal, however, is reportedly taking legal action to prevent the judges from continuing the practice.

Atlanta lesbian/gay rights ordinance introduced by mayoral candidate

FULTON COUNTY COMMISSION Chair Michael Lomax told Atlanta's lesbian/gay newspaper Southern Voice last month that he is on the verge of introducing sweeping legislation that will ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and HIV antibody status.

The language contained in a near-final version of the ordinance prohibits discrimination in "employment, housing, public accommodation, public transportation, public services, governmental services and health care services offered any place in Fulton County, Georgia."

Lomax declined to speculate how his fellow commissioners would vote on the ordinance.

Members of a citizen's lobbying group in favor of the ordinance, however, feel that a favorable vote of 5-2 or 6-1 is an almost certainty.

Lomax told Southern Voice had not discussed the matter with the other commissioners, but that he did feel that the ordinance would be given a fair hearing.

"THE BOARD HAS BEEN very affirmative about human rights issues and anti-discrimination," he said. "My view is that the human rights initiative that we are going to undertake here around sexual orientation is not going to be differently viewed than others we have undertaken."

Lomax earlier announced his intentions to run for mayor of Atlanta in 1989.

Noted activist/author dies in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA ACTIVIST/AUTHOR Joseph Fairchild Beam died last month after a brief illness.

Beam had, for many years, worked to create a stronger movement of black lesbians and gay men. He was the first editor of BlackOut, a magazine serving the black gay and lesbian community, and for three years served on the board of directors of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG).

In 1985, Beam began work on a collection of writings and artwork by black gay men. It was published 18 months later, under the title In the Life. Although a number of works had already been published by and about black lesbians, Beam's was the first anthology ever to focus on the experiences of black gay men.

At the time of his death, Beam was compiling material for his second collection, Brother to Brother.

"Joe already had made a great deal of progress on that book, and his parents were highly supportive of what he was doing. We still expect to publish it," said publisher Sasha Alyson.
Two in Twenty
What's up and coming on GCN/N?
The lesbian soap opera that has captivated audiences all across the country.
Do yourself a favor: don't miss a single episode.
"The juiciest soap opera to come out since Dynasty."
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Tuesday at 9:00 Saturday at 8:00
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BEER BLAST Saturday & Sunday 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS 50¢ Draft, $1.25 Bottle Beer

Listings
Groups

Advance (political action committee of the Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance)
Box 24181, Nashville 37202
615 385-4283

Agape New Life Church
901 327-4145

Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC)
Box 40889, Memphis 38174
901 762-9401 or 901 465-AIDS

American Gay Atheist/Memphis
Box 41371, Memphis 38174

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Hedy Weinberg, Director
Box 120160, Nashville 37212
615 256-7028
Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Hotline
615 256-7028

Black and White Men Together
Box 41773, Memphis 38174
901 327-3753 or 901 452-5694 or 901 726-1461

Conductors
Box 40261, Nashville 37204
Dare
Box 40422, Nashville 37204
615 292-9623

Feminist Book Circle
Box 120372, Nashville 37212

Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition
Box 4082, Memphis 38174

Gay Alternative (radio show)
Box 41773, Memphis 38174

Gay Athletic Association
Box 22914, Memphis 38122
901 744-7312

Gay Cable Network/Nashville
Box 22011, Nashville 37202
615 254-8250

Gay Women's Social Group
901 324-6949

Human Response Council
901 276-5036

Kinship (Seventh Day Adventists)
Box 171135, Memphis 38187
901 274-6160

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health
1402 Poplar Ave, Memphis 38104
901 274-3550

Memphis Gay Coalition
Box 3038, Memphis 38173
901 324-GAYS

Memphis Lambda Center
241 North Cleveland, Memphis
901 276-7378

Metropolitan Community Church
131 15 Ave North, Nashville 37203
615 230-0688

Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite
Box 41622, Memphis 38174

Nashville CARES
Sandee Potter, Director
Box 25107, Nashville 37202
615 325-1501
AIDS Crisis Line
615 385-AIDS

Nashville Women's Alliance
Box 120634, Nashville 37212
615 369-0555

National Organization for Women
Box 40982, Memphis 38104
Box 120523, Nashville 37212

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)
Box 172031, Memphis 38187
901 761-1444

Phoenix (Gay AA)
901 272-9549 or 901 276-7379 or 901 454-1414

Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)
Box 24181, Nashville 37202

Tennesseeans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS)
Box 24181, Nashville 37202
615 297-8540

The Personals (computer bulletin board)
901 274-6713

Taurus (Leather-Levi Club)
Box 41082, Memphis 38174

Vanderbilt AIDS Project
Suite CCC5319 Medical Center North
Vanderbilt University, Nashville 37232
615 322-9213 or 615 322-3252

Vanderbilt Lambda Association
Box 121743, Nashville 37212
Tennessean appears on CBN to refute ex-gay claims

By STUART BIVIN
Editor

Greg Fisher, a Nashville editorial assistant and member of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), appeared yesterday on the Christian Broadcasting Network's cable talk show Straight Talk.

Fisher, who at one time lead a counseling group for the Nashville area gay group now and Sue Hyde, NGLTF Privacy Project director, appeared on the daily talk show along with members of the ex-gay movement. The group Arrow is now known as Promise, and operates out of the Christian Counseling Service on Woodland Street in Nashville.

The ex-gay movement is an evangelical Christian movement that claims to "heal" lesbians and gay men of their homosexuality.

In a phone interview Wednesday, the two told Date from NGLTF's Washington, D.C., offices that their reception was pleasant, although both criticized the ex-gay movement.

"They treated us like we were visitors from Mars...I think it's the ex-gay movement's desire to be rid of homosexuality, that kind of language," Fisher said. "I told them it was none of their business, that they have no business telling us our business.

While both criticized the ex-gay movement, Hyde said she was optimistic about the outcome.

"I told them that if anything happens, I'll talk about it," she said. "I think it's a new chapter in the movement, but I think we'll be able to refute them."

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Dennison dies of AIDS

continued from page 1

January of this year, he suffered from a recurring eye problem which led to blindness in his right eye despite a corneal transplant last year. The eye infection was thought to be caused by shingles, an ailment common among people with AIDS.

The incubation period for AIDS — from initial infection with the HIV virus to a diagnosis of full-blown AIDS — is believed to be in the neighborhood of five to seven years.

The disease is transmitted through HIV-infected blood and other body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions and mother's milk. Primary means of transmission are sexual intercourse, needles shared by intravenous drug users, from mother to newborn or contaminated blood products.

AIDS attacks and weakens the immune system and the body fails prey to a host of opportunistic diseases.

Dennison's death Monday from pneumocystis pneumonia brought about renewed pleas for universal seropositivity testing at Baptist Hospital. Sources there have indicated privately that such testing will be the rule at the hospital in April, following a vote by the hospital's staff physicians.

If a plan is implemented, all patients at Baptist will routinely have samples of their blood tested for the presence of HIV antibodies.

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counselor charged with rape

continued from page 1

Durst has been on staff at Cumberland House since 1985, as a psychiatric teacher/counselor. He was placed on leave of absence pending the investigation's conclusion.

According to the warrant, the six-year-old boy told investigators that Durst had raped him. Police refused to say when the incident occurred, but an examination performed at Baptist Hospital Saturday night confirmed that the child had been raped.

Durst's arrest followed by less than a week the arrest of Kevin Ray Hous, a nursing service employee, on charges of sexual assault and giving cocaine to female teen-age patients at Vanderbilt Child and Adolescent Hospital.
There's nothing like a little P.D.A. for Valentine's Day.

Dahling Fifi, I love you. Butch

Happy Valentine's Day!
Say it out loud to the one you love with Public Displays of Affection, our special Valentine's love ads (shown above actual size).
2-3/8" x 1-7/16" for eight bucks.
Add two dollars for white on black, and four dollars for pink or red.
HURRY! All ads must be in our hands by Monday, February 6, for publication Friday, February 10.
Larger ads available, of course.
Phone Ann Taylor at (615) 352-5823 for more information.

Dare

Yes! I want a Public Display of Affection.

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- Black type on white $8
- Black type on pink $12
- Black type on red $12
- Red type on white $12

Pick 1 typeface:
- Franklin Gothic
- Black type on red $12
- Red type on white $12

Pick 1 border:
- Border 1: thin line $1
- Border 2: double line $1

Pick 1 dingbat:
- w add $1
- o add $1
- No dingbat

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.
No order can be accepted without phone number and signature for verification.

By SHERRE DRYDEN
Book Editor

PARIS, Janet Flanner and Solita Solano decided, was where they would write their first novels. They settled down together at the Hotel Saint-Germain-des-Prés in the rue Bonaparte, close to the Seine, the buses and the cafés. They stayed 19 years.
Janet was the daughter of a prosperous businessman and an Indiana Quaker who, Janet said, "oddly enough, barBatmanized one season as Little Eva in a post-Civil War Tom show." Janet's older sister Maria became a musician and composer; her younger sister Hildegarde, a poet.

In 1912 Janet entered the University of Chicago, but after two years was asked to leave Green Hall Dormitory for being a "rebelling influence." She became the "first ever cinema critic" for the Indianapolis Star and made speeches favoring woman suffrage. At the end of World War I she went to New York where she tried "unsuccessfully to learn to be the writer I had for twenty-five years already wished to be."

One of Janet's first friends in New York was journalist Solita Solano.

Solita was born in New England. Described as "strong-willed, inquisitive and independent," Solita spent three years in the Philippines helping survey and build coral roads instead of going to college.

Back in the U.S., Solita went to work as a cub reporter for the Boston Herald-Traveller. She was soon promoted, becoming the first woman to hold the position of drama editor for a major U.S. daily. In 1920 she went to New York as the drama editor for the Tribune.

WHILE IN NEW YORK Janet (with Jane Grant) founded the Lucy Stone League, an early feminist organization. She also married an Indianapolis banker whose name she never took for her own nor disclosed publicly. By the time Janet and her husband were divorced in 1922, Janet and Solita had toured Greece, Crete, Turkey and Vienna together, and settled in Paris.

Almost immediately after arriving in Paris, Janet and Solita became part of the community of lesbian writers. They became friends with Sylvia Beach, then in the process of publishing James Joyce's Ulysses, and found their way to Natalie Barney's salon. They were serious about their work, too. Solita's first novel, The Uncertain Feast, was published in 1924 and her second, The Happy Failure, a year later.

Janet's only novel, The Cubical City, was published in 1926. Janet used the novel to criticize American sexual puritanism, particularly the double standard of conduct for women and women. Elements of Janet's own life, and the lives of the women she knew in Paris, enter the plot.

Janet, like the other women who went to Paris, had found it necessary to leave home to find the freedom she needed to be able to express her passion, which was lesbian. Her heroine, Delia's passion is heterosexual, but her escape is the same. As Delia tells a friend who criticizes her: "I didn't leave home to have lovers. But I left home to be free. And I won't give that up-- until I have to. Passion is natural."

Although The Cubical City is interesting in its examination of the "new woman" as a sexual being, it is a minor part of Janet's contribution. In 1925 she began a 50 year career as chronicler of French and American life in Paris. Janet wrote regularly to her friend Jane...
Grant, who showed the letters to her husband, publisher Harold Ross. When Ross's new magazine, The New Yorker, started on October 10, 1925, one of the features was Janet's "Letter From Paris." In that and over 700 columns that followed Janet covered cultural events and trends in modern literature, fashion, sporting events, nightlife, fascinating trivia, bizarre crimes and the activities of history-making individuals.

Consequently, New Yorker readers learned of the publication of Djuna Barnes' latest novel and that a woman who "specialized in banned plays" proposed one based on The Well of Loneliness. They met Sylvia Beach, Margaret Anderson, Gertrude Stein and Alice Toklas. They knew that Dolly Wilde was known to show up at parties dressed as her famous uncle, Oscar.

IN A COLUMN about Radclyffe Hall, Janet used the word lesbian, told readers where in Paris they could get a copy of The Well of Loneliness and how much the book would cost. She announced Dadaist poet Tristan Tzara's marriage to "a wealthy Swedish industrial Or his daughter, rather."

At first glance, it may seem that Janet kept her private life separated from her public career as a journalist. Shari Benstock, in Women of the Left Bank comments: "That Flanner herself was a lesbian is carefully hidden behind her professional role as a journalist and beneath a smooth and sometimes ironic prose style. Among her letters and memorabilia left to the Library of Congress there is virtually nothing that betrays her sexual orientation, for instance, or that reveals anything about her long-term association with Solita Solano."

To be sure, Janet did not write about herself. But throughout the Paris letters runs a subtext that must have been as decodable to homosexual women and men in 1927 as it is today. Harold told Janet, "I don't want to know what you think about what goes on in Paris. I want to know what the French think." But once she was done with the death of dowager Duchess de Rohan and the arrest for espionage of Mme. Lydia Stahl, Janet felt free to talk about the activities of her friends.

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A 1930 letter on fancy-dress balls describes one given by Elsa Maxwell and the Honorable Mrs. Reginald Fellowes. Elsa Maxwell went as Monsieur Briand and Stanislas de La Roche foucauld as Mademoiselle Marthe Letellier, "the famous beauty." Designer Coco Chanel, Janet continues, "did a land-office business generally, cutting and fitting gowns for young men about town who appeared as some of the best-known women in Paris."

It is impossible to imagine that anyone, even in the 1920's, who was remotely familiar with homosexual subcultures would not at least be suspicious about the extent of Janet's knowledge and the frequency with which references appeared in her columns.

Not only the folks back home read Janet's column. Her friends in Paris saw them, too, and for the women Janet wrote about it was frequently the only serious consideration their work received. Janet's support strengthened the lesbian community because she was one of them. It validated their work because of her membership, through Harold and The New Yorker, in the mainstream, male world. And it subverted that world because Janet made her own loyalties clear, at least to those who understood.

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Don’t Miss It.

The Second Annual
T-GALA Out & About Ball
Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.
$6 per person
at Warehouse 28
2529 Franklin Road, Nashville
Advance tickets at Warehouse 28 or phone (615) 333-2215
SNAPS
What’s your ideal Valentine?

Linda Goss — “Anybody.”

Lisa K. Manis — “Having somebody that could love me and treat me the way I’d like to treat them. Peace, love, and happiness — unity for the world — you know, stuff like that.”

Annette Franke — “J.J. And she is ideal!”

Anna Taylor — “You’ll have to wait for my P.D.A. in next week’s Dare.”

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Tennessee’s Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

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Dare
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WORD THAT SURGEON

Harold Dennison, Jr. died Monday of complications weak­
ing from AIDS is cause for mourning and for re­
flexion. The shock waves felt by the Nashville com­
community over Dennison’s illness have been exacer­
bated by the understandable illusion that Dennison’s life was furiously stripped from him by the AIDS virus in a matter of weeks. The seeming rapid decline of Den­
nison’s health in concert with the daily testimo­
nies by colleagues and friends of his unflag­
ging dedication to his patients and profession has made the injustice of his suffering seem all the more inexplicable. In the face of in­
explicable suffering, friends and family insist on finding a culprit. If Harold Dennison’s death from AIDS is a “crime,” reason tells us a “criminal” must be responsible.

As investigators painstakingly search for answers about the cause of Dennison’s infection with AIDS, some colleagues of Harold Dennison have already reached their own conclusions about the criminal and the crime. Patients not screened for HIV positivity are the culprits, say a number of Dennison’s colleagues.

YET ACCORDING TO THE ADMISSIONS of those same colleagues and his own daugh­
ter, with whom he practiced medicine, Harold Dennison treated patients without observing the universal precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, the American Hospital Association, and scores of professional medical associations. Harold Dennison practiced medicine in the absence of reason­able precautions, with puzzling disregard for the absolute futility of AIDS.

But the tragedy of Harold Dennison’s battle with AIDS has not ended with his death. The life of Dennison — a veritable paradox wrapped inside an enigma — is now being used to perpetrate another crime — a crime against reason and a crime against patient rights.

Using the death of Harold Dennison from AIDS as an example of why physicians and hospitals should institute universal testing of patients is a shameful use of his death and a shameful excuse for his dangerous medical practices. Even if he was exposed to the AIDS virus in the course of his medical practice, Dennison would not have spared his life had his patients been tested for AIDS, because he refused to take the precautions that would have saved his life even if he had known a patient was HIV-positive.

SADLY, THE ARGUMENT Dennison’s col­
league, orthopedic surgeon John Lamb, is using to support universal testing of patients only works if there is universal testing of phy­sicians — because if Dennison did indeed con­
tract the AIDS virus during the course of his practice (and the evidence is still inconclusive) by means of his refusal to protect himself through universal precautions, his containing refusal to practice those precautions after his exposure has indeed put his patients at risk.

The case of Harold Dennison proves with cold precision exactly why universal test­ing is not the answer for physicians or for patients who want to minimize their exposure to the virus. We may never know the reason why Dennison practiced medicine in a way that endangered his own life and perhaps the lives of others. And only Lamb knows the reason why he would observe a colleague taking life-threatening risks without counsel­ing his friend about the dangers he was taking. Knowing who has AIDS and who doesn’t does not prevent the spread of the virus: changing behaviors, practicing universal precautions in health care settings does.

If they want some­
to pity, they will
not pity the dead,
they will pity the
dying, and turn­ing their pity into ac­tion, they will tend to the needs of the ill...

One in Ten

I GUESSED YOU COULD SAY that I made a big step in my coming-out process this week. Let me explain what I mean, but first, I must give some background details. I am a member of the Nashville Youth Network, which is an empowerment group. Way back in June, dur­ing Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, the Nashville Youth Network participated in the march and rally. We also print a paper which is given out to students at most Nashville schools. In this paper, I wrote an article about the week’s festivities. I was daring and used my real name. Maybe not a good idea, but I did it, anyway.

At this point, you might be thinking, “Well, that was way back in June. Why is he talking about this now?” Good question. Due to some complications — we lost our editor — the paper didn’t come out until this week. Dated news, but important for teenagers to read. Most of the classmates I gave a copy of the paper were unaware that Pride Week had taken place.

Most students did not see this as an update of an event that occurred in the summer. All they saw were the words “lesbian and gay.” They would then quickly notice my name and begin reading further, laughing constantly. Next, they would go into shock and stare at me for an hour or two. This is only one of the many scenarios I witnessed during the day.

MY FAVORITE SCENARIO was in home­
room when I passed out the paper to everyone in the room. One girl read it out loud and then immediately glared at me and said, “Nuke ’em.”

She then went to our homeroom teacher and showed her the article and expressed her disgust to the teacher. As I left homeroom, I overheard the teacher say in a quiet, surprised voice, “You mean he’s gay?” I immediately broke out in hysterical laughter.

In Chemistry, a friend passed out the paper at the beginning of class. The teacher found it difficult to teach class due to the various jokes and discussions about my article. What sur­prised me the most was that they insulted and joked about lesbians and gays with the full knowledge that I was hearing every word they said. I guess ignorant people don’t have much tact.

I am amused that teenagers are so troubled by the fact that I wrote this article. It also upsets me that no one realized that there were many other articles about different subjects. Many assumed that it was a publication by lesbians and gays. There is one good thing out of this, though. My ad for the teen support group was in there as well. I hope that I will get some responses from that.
TAKE A little Noel Coward, a little Somerset Maugham, and a little Richard Burton (the one who translated the Arabian Nights, not the one who married Liz Taylor). Fisher Todd Hilton Wilder Burton Burton Warner) and use their styles to frame a gay pulp novel, and you get Curzon in Love.

Daniel Curzon, a professor of God-knows-what at City College in San Francisco, writes about—what else?—the sex life of a San Francisco everyman. Everyone moans about missing these days, and you get dedication page.

The surprise is that he doesn't do it very well. Curzon has written much better stuff than this waste of good trees. Not because guys have got to be mimicked them, and their styles to tell a story. Curzon has written much better stuff than this waste of good trees. His short story Two Barcers, a Butcher and His, published in Christopher Street magazine's terrific 1980 fiction collection Aphrodisiac, was a straightforward evocation of the impersonal seventies-style big-city bar scene everyone moans about missing these days. Still, it was direct, simple and effective. In other words, the polar opposite of Curzon in Love.

Pity poor Coward, Maugham, and Burton. These three guys have got to be doing flips in their graves. Not because Curzon has used their styles to tell a homosexual story. But because he had the effrontery to mimic them, and then to thank them by name on the dedication page.

A random sampling of what you should miss:

(THIS IS WHAT CURZON CALLS "GRUBBY REALISM")

Although he was attracted to men physically, and liked the fact that these creatures had penises, the penis itself rather disgusted him. Such a state is a cross to bear for a homosexual. Curzon was willing to acknowledge his neurosis, if that's what it was, but it seemed to him that other people just didn't see as well as he did. Otherwise, how could they go on romping over that reddish pole with untrained eyes up and down it and a pee-pee in the air?

Or this, from the supposedly Burtonesque section:

Curzon took fifi of his recently dreamed diminutive love, and it listened with many deep sighs and expressions of tender understanding. He himself had a love that had not fulfilled itself as he bad hoped. It was a man older by some ten years, given to unseemly ways as well as extreme sloth. This man would spend many days and weeks gazing into a crystal ball in the corner of the domicile they shared.

"Domestic!” Spare us.

And this, from what you can turn to. That is, if you can make enough sense out of it to form some kind of an opinion.

Bad writing is one thing, but Curzon's made even more difficult to get to because it is riddled with typographical errors—on nearly every page—and the text is printed in heavy black type through which you can see the page behind it. Curzon's.

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"Domestic!” Spare us.
**Mr. Market**

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- Spirits, Angels, Goddesses by "SAG" (oil paintings) on display at Lauren Michelle Salon, 1818 Division and Cleopatra at Faison's.
- **PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION** for Valentine's Day. Info Ann Taylor, Dare Ad Sales Manager, (615) 352-5623.
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- **PERSONALS**
  - NASHVILLE: BURTON Your friends aren't as easy to come by as your one-nighters.
  - Bisexual WM, 32, ave looks, HIV neg, looking for female to have a child. Tom, P.O. Box 4012, Huntsville, AL. 35815.

**Quotes**

"It will be basically an entertainment show. We will not be doing panel discussions on the Middle East. We will not be throwing furniture or doing lesbian nun segments."

- Wheel of Fortune host Pat Sajak about his new CBS latenight talk show.

"It's such a nightmare, I keep thinking we'll wake up and it will all be over. But I understand how gay people feel now because they're saying I'm gay. You want to fight, you want to sue. You want it kill—but you can't. I now understand what it's like to be black, to be Jewish, to go through a holocaust. I'm afraid that a holocaust could happen again to [to] people who are different. The prejudice that happens in the name of God is scary."

- Former PTL preacher Jim Bakker on The Sally Jesse Raphael Show.

"They had to go into the jungle, grab some fuckin' monkey and fuck him in the ass—and bring us back the fucking black plague of the '80s. Thanks, guys. Because of this shit, they want us to wear fuckin' rubbers. These fucking pricks. Do we like rubbers, guys? We hate rubbers. We fuckin' hate 'em!"

- Comedian and former Pentecostal preacher Sam Kinison, responding to criticism of his remarks on AIDS and gay men.

"As Christians we must not judge that a person with AIDS is being punished by God for sinful conduct."

- James Niedergeses, Roman Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Nashville.

"The most important aspect for the success of our show is not to point up that there are gay people on Brothers, but for the public to see, week after week, gays and straights interacting in a normal fashion."

- Actor Phillip Charles MacKenzie, who played Donald, the gay brother on the cable network Showtime's Brothers series. The show has since been cancelled and will be syndicated.

"So, AIDS is not only a killer of people, it also is a killing of clowning."

- Rita Rucin ("Rcinbo the Clown") in a letter to the editor of the Chicago Tribune, complaining about the shortage of rubber for clowns' swelling balloons caused by the surge in demand for condoms and rubber gloves.

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Signed

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