Forty-one arrested
ACT UP demonstrators protest South Carolina AIDS laws, police wear rubber gloves

by DEBORAH BURKS
Staff Writer

Targeting South Carolina's "oppressive" AIDS laws, 125 people participated in a civil disobedience demonstration staged last Thursday at the state capitol in Columbia. Forty-one of the demonstrators were arrested as they blocked traffic at two major intersections in front of the Capitol building.

The demonstration was organized by ACT UP/Atlanta and was supported by ACT UP/New York and ACT UP/New Orleans as well as individuals from both South and North Carolina. According to Chip Rowan, legal coordinator for ACT UP/Atlanta, one of the purposes of the demonstration was to call attention to AIDS legislation passed last spring by the South Carolina legislature. The legislation includes provisions for a ban on anonymous HIV testing, for quarantine of certain people with HIV infection or those "reasonably suspected" of having HIV, for forcible or mandatory testing of individuals suspected of HIV infection (including anyone in police custody), and for the removal of HIV-positive children from public schools.

"South Carolina is one of the few states that does not allow anonymous HIV testing. There is some of the most oppressive and repressive AIDS legislation in the country," Rowan told Dare. "People have actually been quarantined using these laws, so it's not just theoretical that such things could happen in this state."

The demonstrators demands' included the repeal of the state's recent AIDS legislation package, the introduction of laws protecting people with AIDS or HIV from discrimination, a fiscal commitment from the state to services for and culturally-sensitive education on AIDS, and provisions for anonymous test sites.

Gay Nineties? Southeastern Conference plans future

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Planning strategies for the 1990s was among the topics discussed by delegates gathered last week in Dallas for the fourteenth annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men (SEC).

"The way for the southeast region to really become involved in the struggle for lesbian and gay civil rights is to begin discussing these strategies now," said SEC board member Sam Adams of Nashville.

Much of the direction for lesbians and gay men in the '80s, Adams suggested, has been the result of the AIDS epidemic. To effectively meet the challenge of the '90s he said, "we should begin planning the agenda for ourselves, not let others plan it for us."

"What I hear a lot of people saying is that our primary concern should not be AIDS, but the problems that will exist after AIDS is defeated — politics, voter registration, civil rights," Adams said.

He was quick to note, however, that AIDS has not been forgotten by lesbian and gay activists. "In 1983, the Southeastern Conference, meeting in New Orleans, co-hosted one of the first AIDS education conferences. So that shows a commitment to the issue. But there are other things that will be problems in the future that we must address," Adams said.

The four-day conference, drawing delegates from throughout the southeastern United States — from Maryland to Florida, the Carolinas to New Mexico — is the oldest regional conference for lesbians and gay men in the country.

Among speakers at the conference were Vivian Shapiro, former co-chair of the Human Rights Campaign Fund; Renée McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG); Stephen Beck, associate director of the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA); David Sconzolas, Boston's first openly gay city councillor, and Virginia Apuzzo, deputy executive director of the New York State Consumer Protection Board and former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and of the Fund for Human Dignity.

This year's conference site, Dallas, marked the first time for it to be held outside the regional boundaries of the southeast, Adams said.

"One of the problems with the conference was the site. Many people just didn't want to travel that far. One reason for it being held in Dallas was to attract members of the Desert..." -continued on page 4

Michaud set for counseling, "evaluation"

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Nashville entertainment manager George Michaud, sentenced to three years in prison for soliciting sex from a teen-age boy, will undergo counseling and evaluation before a May 19 hearing to set the terms of his sentence.

Criminal Court Judge Thomas Shriver last week imposed the three-year sentence after a jury found Michaud guilty of soliciting sex from Tony St. Clair during an undercover operation conducted in December, 1987, and January, 1988.

"They're wanting to send me to two or three counselors for screening to determine if I'm a child molester," Michaud told Dare Tuesday.

"I am not a child molester." Michaud declined to comment further on the sentence handed down last week by Shriver, but indicated a willingness to discuss his case later, after conferring with his attorney.

Michaud's attorney, Charles Ray, is vacationing in Ireland and was unavailable for comment.

Michaud is the only one of 43 men arrested in the undercover sex sting operation whose case has been heard in Criminal Court. Most of the others charged in the operation have pleaded guilty to solicitation and have been placed on probation.

Michaud was convicted by a Criminal Court jury last month of soliciting sex from St. Clair, who was 15 at the time of the sting operation, and of promoting prostitution by discussing a possible sexual encounter with another man.

"evaluation" -continued on page 4

INSIDE
Happy May Day!

The play's the thing: Stella and Evita in Tennessee, Curtains, page 6.

A new psychology of gay men, Being Homosexual, Pages, page 7.

Was Jesus at the March on Washington? Quotes, page 8.
Memphis

Mondays
Day Alternatives Hear Radio show, WER, FM 93, 6-7 pm.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 6pm. Info 901 729-9499.

Tuesdays
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 6pm. Info 901 270-9499.

Wednesdays
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 6pm. Info 901 270-9499.

Thursdays
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30pm. Info 901 270-9499.

Friday and Saturday
Two-for-one Special
Buy one buffet dinner, get one free with this ad. Good through May 1.

Special Events

Saturday, April 29

Sunday, April 30
Planning Meeting Meet to plan Nashville Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '89. Nashville. 1pm. Info 615-297-4233.

Monday, May 1

Saturday, May 6
Benefit For Nashville Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '89. At Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern, 2nd Ave South, Nashville. Info 615-297-4237.
Speaker: ax “homosexual” bank official

JIM WRIGHT, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, tried to get Federal Home Loan Bank Board chair Edwin Gray to fire a savings-and-loan regulator because Wright said the man was gay.

Gray said in testimony before the House ethics committee’s Special Outside Counsel Richard J. Phelan that Wright had phoned him in November, 1986, asking him to get rid of the man, identified only as “Selby.”

“And then I received a call and basically it was another call about the treatment of Texas S&L institutions. And then [Wright] said that he understood that Selby was a homosexual. And he understood from people that he believed... Selby had established a ring of homosexual lawyers in Texas at various law firms, and that in order for people to deal with the Federal Home Loan Bank supervision people, they would have to deal with this ring...He said to me, ‘Isn’t there anything you can do to get rid of Selby or ask him to leave or something?’” Gray told Phelan, according to Phelan’s 279-page report to the Committee.

Phelan’s report concluded that “An attempt to destroy the distinguished career of a dedicated public servant because of his rumored sexual orientation or because of a wild accusation hardly reflects credibly on the House,” citing House Rule XXIII, clause 1, which provides that “[a] Member...shall conduct himself[sic] at all times in a manner which shall reflect credibly on the House.”

Downey says gay-bashing due to childhood sexual advance

COMBATIVE TABLOID-TELEVISION HOST Morton Downey Jr. told a San Francisco TV station last weekend that he attacks lesbians and gay men because his male doctor made sexual advances to the 12-year-old Downey.

Downey, who admitted in the interview that he has begun to tone down the confrontational nature of his show in order to keep it on the air, downplayed the antigay rhetoric that has helped community groups force him off the air in San Francisco and Los Angeles, saying that “Pressure groups in this country have every right to respond. They have every right to demand that a Morton Downey Jr. show be taken off the air if it doesn’t meet their sensibilities.”

Many large advertisers have begun to refuse to buy commercial time on the show, according to syndicated television columnist Gary Deeb.

Military panel recommends anti-bashing training for service members

AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN in the military has recommended that training programs designed to stop sexual harassment against women in the military discourage “unfounded accusations of homosexuality against Service members.”

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS) issued the recommendations after four military women, two active-duty members facing discharge and two former members who were discharged for their homosexuality, testified during a public comments period last week.

School sends crossdressing boys home

SIX BOYS WHO WORE CULOTTES or skirts in protest of their school’s dress code were forced to change clothes or were sent home by principal Gary Blocker, who said, “Culottes are for girls. The handbook doesn’t say that, but that’s what is meant.”

Aaron Martinez, an honor roll student at the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, school, began the protest Thursday when he wore culottes to class.

“They’re saying we can’t wear shorts, but girls can wear skirts that are shorter than shorts, so they’re indirectly discriminating against guys,” Martinez said. The school’s dress code allows culottes, but does not mention that only girls can wear them.

Fire-and-brimstone preacher sentenced for sex with boys

MARIO “TONY” LEYVA, a GEORGIA-BASED CHRISTIAN evangelist known for his fiery condemnations of sexual “sin,” has been convicted in Roanoke, Virginia, of using his revival circuit to recruit boys for sexual purposes. Leyva was sentenced to 20 years in prison by U.S. District Judge James Turk, who called Leyva and two assistants “con artists, liars and cheats,” and said that he intended for the men to serve their full terms in prison with no chance of parole.

Fire-and-brimstone preacher sentenced for sex with boys

The itinerant preacher, who his defense team said had a “Jekyll and Hyde personality,” admitted molesting over 100 children. The indictment charged that the molestations took place across the South and East, including Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Ohio and Indiana.
South Carolina arrests

As Rowan explained, some of the South Carolina residents involved in the demonstration met with their legislators the day before the action for discussions on changing the extreme AIDS laws. He said some of the legislators described the activists as “disobedient” and AIDS as “God’s punishment.” Rowan and others also met with representatives of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, who were sensitive to the demands of the group but opposed the tactics of the planned demonstration.

Rowan noted that the demonstration itself did not receive any negative responses. However, the 41 activists were arrested by police officers who wore gloves. Those arrested were charged with failure to obey police and were released after posting bail. According to Rowan, a final decision about trials and pleas of those arrested has not been finalized.

The second objective of the action in South Carolina was to initiate the development of AIDS-activist groups in South Carolina.

“ACT UP/Atlanta was started by members of ACT UP/New York when they were here for the Democratic Convention last summer and we feel a responsibility to spread activism in the South,” said Rowan. “HIV does not stop at state borders and our fight against it does not either.”

Rowan feels that the objective to catalyze AIDS activism in the state has been achieved: ACT UP/South Carolina was scheduled to hold its first meeting Wednesday, April 26.

“Our efforts were more than successful—we hustled a thousand with this demonstration,” Rowan concluded. “We talked about AIDS and about being gay and that’s never been done before at the capitol in South Carolina. We focused national attention on the oppressive nature of these laws and we fired up a lot of people in South Carolina who will become AIDS activists.”

Michaud evaluation

In his sentencing order last week, Shriver delayed until May 19 any decision on whether Michaud should be imprisoned or given an alternative sentence. Presumably, he is waiting for psychiatric evaluations before imposing a sentence.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Fisher asked Shriver to impose a three-year sentence for each of the two charges and to make Michaud serve at least 180 days in jail.

Fisher said the other men who have already pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the sting have “recognized their weakness and have conceded to treatment.”

Defense attorney Ray last week filed a sentencing memorandum which said that Michaud should not be punished for his “alternative lifestyle.”

Southeastern Conference

States Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men,” Adams said.

Although attendance from those states was not as high as organizers had hoped, Adams said “we did attract some key people from there who expressed an interest in what the SEC is doing.”

Next year’s conference will be held in Raleigh, N.C., near the Chapel Hill, N.C., location where the conference was first organized in 1975. Interest in organizing state chapters was expressed by delegates from Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina, but such a move is impossible under current by-laws.

“It may be necessary to change the bylaws in order to make the Southeastern Conference important to people in various localities,” Adams said.

Adams, in the second year of his first three-year term on the Conference’s board of directors, said that board member Lelah Wyckoff of Mountain Home retained a seat on the SEC Advisory Committee, which serves in an ad hoc capacity to advise the board of directors.

Wyckoff will also continue as co-chair of the conference’s fundraising committee.

Memphian Rick Bray also became a member of the Advisory Committee, considered by insiders to be the first step toward a membership on the board of directors.

Gregg Orifici, a student at Vanderbilt Law School, also gave the conference high marks. “We met a lot of wonderful people. It was one of the more enlightening experiences of my life,” he said.

Orifici praised conference organizers for providing alternative housing for those participants who wanted it. “It stayed at the PWA [people with AIDS] house, Revlon Apartments. It’s still being renovated and needs some work,” he said. “It was an incredible experience.”

Participation by Tennesseans in the SEC this year showed a marked increase since 1988, Adams said. Four people attended last year, and this year 15 Tennesseans took part this year, including delegates from Memphis, Nashville, Murfreesboro and upper East Tennessee.
New productions to open

by JEFF ELIUS
Managing Editor

NASHVILLE BALLET's revival of Cinderella roared into the 1988 season. The production was a hit with audiences and the cast enjoyed bringing the classic story to life on stage.

NASHVILLE BALLET will present the traditional holiday production of The Nutcracker, with performances at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. The Nutcracker is a beloved classic, and the production features some of the city's finest dancers and musicians.

A Streetcar Named Desire

reviewed by TIM BULLARD
Contributing Writer

THERE ARE DANGERS INHERENT in seeing, much less reviewing, a play you already know. It is even more dangerous if you admit to loving, yes, loving a certain play. On the one hand, you may uncrumple and enjoy even a mediocre production. On the other, it's more likely no production will ever measure up to your own preconceived ideas or expectations. It's worse if you've seen the movie; worse still if it's a classic movie. How can any local production possibly compare well with Vivien Leigh or Marlon Brando? The actors face a two-edged sword: they must do as good a job without doing it in exactly the same way.

Yet Playhouse on the Square's production of Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire, which opened last Friday should more than satisfy the most ardent (and critical) Williams fan. The show is every bit as steamy and sultry as a New Orleans summer.

Joe Bagby's set, a rundown French Quarter apartment building, could not be better. Bates Brooks gives a lovely performance as Blanche Dubois, the delicate Southern belle who has outlived her beauty, her money and her era. Unable to cope with her own life's grim realities, she slowly slips into fantasy. In a blond wig and a yellow dress, she flutters nervously about the stage suggesting a butterfly.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS you notice is that Brooks doesn't have the heavy Mississippi Delta accent usually associated with Blanche. Her drawl is like a natural one, flowing from the ribbons of Williams' own language. She resists the temptation to just do an accent rather than create a real character.

Brooks is at her best in the final act as she glides into an imaginary world, convinced her old lover Shep Hunstleigh is coming to rescue her. She also gives one of the few believable stage performances of someone drunk.

Charles Kevin McCarty is also memorable as the crude, lusty, macho Stanley Kowalski, determined to rid his roost of his unwanted sister-in-law. His accent is northern and blue-collar, and he struts and swaggers about the stage shirtless, wearing his old Army dogtag.

McCarty's portrayal includes a touch of vulnerability not usually found in Stanley. In one particularly touching moment, after one of his wife-beating rages, Stanley buries his face in Stella's skirt, weeping and begging her to come back to him.

Peter Colburn is suitably awkward as Mitch, without being wimpy. He shows surprising rage in his final scene with Blanche.

Ruth Ekberg gives a solid performance as Stella, Blanche's sister who is married to Stanley, but is a bit less focussed and forceful than she might be, although she does make it clear that Stanley is good in bed. She still leaves us wondering why she stays with him and endures physical abuse.

KEN ZIMMERMAN'S DIRECTION maintains the show's sexual tension and energy. Dialogue is clear and well-paced. He remains faithful to Williams' script, not glossing over any unpleasant elements.

For example, watching the movie, you may not understand that Blanche's husband killed himself because of his inability to accept his own homosexuality. The movie audience is left wondering whether or not Stanley forces himself sexually on Blanche in Act Three. Both these elements are clear to anyone who reads the script, and the Playhouse production is faithful to it.
I REMEMBER AS A CHILD hearing with utter disbelief my mother’s assurance that the freedom I sought — whether to cross the street by myself, play after dark, or work after school — came at a price, and that a time would come when I would wish I was a child again without my adult freedom.

Freedom, I thought then, was just that: “free.” The idea that freedom cost something could be nothing but an adult conspiracy. Worst of all, said adults to sceptical children, exercising one freedom often meant giving up another. Adult choices would be hard and the stakes high. To my ten-year-old ears this sounded more like bondage than freedom.

The debate over freedom to choose abortion will take center stage this week before the Supreme Court for the first time since 1973 when Roe v. Wade established the right of women to legally choose abortion. The choices will be hard, the stakes high, and there is little indication that the Justices will hear new evidence from either side so persuasive as to make the 1989 decision any easier than it was in 1973.

Most legal experts say the Court will not make abortion illegal at the federal level. If a Roe "reversal" happens, it will happen because the Court has left the abortion decision in the hands of state legislatures. So the question becomes not "what" freedom is at stake but "who" decides whether a woman has an abortion: the woman or her legislature?

Women responding to this question invariably turn to first-person narratives, the intimacy with which an issue touches our lives sets the boundaries of the debate. We hear from one woman who had an abortion and is pro-choice, another who had an abortion, regrets it, and is now pro-life.

The legacy of Roe v. Wade is that each woman had her choice and a life to live after that choice full of her decision’s irrevocable consequence: freedom. It seems, is full of this sort of common doom. Damned if you do, and damned if you don’t. That, I suppose, is what my mother meant when she said I might not like the kind of freedom I would have as an adult: that the right to choose your life was frightening and full of lifetime reconsiderations and regrets. Because the right to change your mind, to regret, or to stand fast, is part of the right to free choice too, a choice no one should compel us to take or compel us to avoid.

I wonder at those women who had abortions and now regret and call for legislation making abortion illegal, because it smacks of the approach to freedom my mother implied I wanted as a child — meaning, "I want freedom without the consequences and if I might later change my mind, don’t give me freedom, don’t give me choices."

Perhaps the difficulty of the decision makes the certainty of illegality seductive for some; the perennial relief of responsibility we experience when a father figure lays down the law can be so childishly reassuring.

But like most truth that is sure, but never free, the truth that few women will forsake in the interest of state law their present and future freedom to choose when to be mothers and fathers, and how to live their lives will be a choice no one should compel us to make.

Perhaps, in the end, the gift of a Roe decision now was the gift that freedom would have been to ourselves. Freedom then wasn’t measured by how little impact our decisions had, but by how much. Freedom, I thought then, was just that: “free.”
IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, there have been two highly acclaimed books on the psychological development of homosexual men: The "Sissy Boy Syndrome" and the Development of Homosexuality in 1987, and The Psychoanalytic Theory of Male Homosexuality last year. Both books, unlike many other approaches to the same subject, were sympathetic, well-reasoned and politically careful.

Richard Green's 1987 book was the result of a fifteen-year study and indicated a probable link between effeminacy in childhood (boys who are identified as "sissies") and adult homosexuality. Green further sought to identify exactly what input parents have into their sons' sexuality and discovered that father-son relationships are more homogeneous in the experience of homosexual men than were the mother-son relationships (mother being the parent usually "blamed" for a son's homosexual tendencies). Further, not enough similarity exists to indicate that even fathers have significant influence in their sons' eventual sexual orientation.

Kenneth Lewes' 1988 book took a historical approach to the subject, tracing a shift in psychoanalytic attitudes towards male homosexuality from Freud's death to 1982. Lewes' thesis was that after Freud, the main-stream of the psychoanalytic community reverted to pre-Freudian attitudes towards homosexuality in an effort to gain popular acceptance and official respect, and in the process became the most vicious opponent, next to the church perhaps, of tolerance and gay rights.

This year, psychiatrist Richard Isay has published a more modest but more accessible book, pursuing similar lines of reason. It is a book that most homosexual people and their friends should greet warmly, as it introduces the subject of male homosexual psychology in a manner that helps the individual better to understand himself and his experience in a tone that is frank, humane and informed, though not overburdened with anecdotes or scholarly references.

Isay's position, as a psychiatrist and practicing psychoanalyst with numerous homosexual clients, is that homosexuality is constitutional, not the product of environment or choice. As philosophically problematic as this position is, Isay considers it to be worthwhile in removing "blame" and "guilt" from the analysis.

He argues that heterosexual men are no less prone to be promiscuous than homosexual men, but are more likely to be susceptible to cultural taboos which enforce monogamy. Does he mean, then, to suggest that pre-homosexual boys experience something only analogous to but constitutionally different from the Oedipus complex? Say, for instance, a "Ganymede complex"? Isay's position in this matter was, it seemed to me unnecessarily vague, though perhaps he wanted to avoid raising any issues that would complicate his point further.

I should add that the book is careful not to suggest that the psychological development of homosexual men should be studied in order to "cure" or "prevent" homosexuality. Instead, Isay raises issues which are meant to encourage self-examination and healthful adjustment to one's experience and one's own sense of value and dignity, and secondarily, when it is ready, to society.
**MARKET**

**Announcements**
- Washer/dryer for sale. Good condition. $150 each. 615-352-9363.
- **PLEASE NOTICE** our new phone number: 615-327-DARE (327-3273). Our mailing address is still the same: Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422.
- Help fight proposed new homophobic changes in the law. Donate to, volunteer for, Advance, the political action committee of the Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance. Advance, Box 24181, Nashville, TN 37202.
- Catch our new look! Watch GCN/Nashville Tuesdays at 8pm, Saturdays at 6pm. On Nashville's Cable 35.

**Travel**
- **COMING** to Panama City Beach? Stay where you'll be comfortable. GRANDE GULF MOTEL, 6014 Thomas. 30-year-old enlightened gay male seeks one who is willing to grow and experience joy who enjoys the unusual. A seeker of bliss. DARE DRAWER 36.

**Homes**

**Persons**
- Thank Goddess she's finally finished. Now if she'll just go ahead and graduate, we can all go back in our closets. Ah, the sweet smell of cedar.
- Congratulations to all the Boys in the Band for a terrific show. Can't wait till next time!
- Cathy adores a minute, the Ballets Russes and Ziegfeld Follies, but Patty loves to rock 'n' roll — a hot dog makes her lose control. What a wild duel!
- 30-year-old enlightened gay male seeks one who is courageously sensitive for emotional involvement. A radical soul living in a reactionary world, idealistic, willing to grow and experience joy who enjoys the unusual. A seeker of bliss. Dare, Drawer 36.

**Quotes**

"...We are less surprised but even more informed by the behavior the committee has conformed.

"All present and future Members of Congress have just been instructed as follows. It's entirely ethical to block needed legislation until a regulatory agency does favors for your friends. It's also ethical to try to get agencies to fire employees who are tough with your political contributors, even if that means spreading accusations of homosexuality."


"As an African-American clergymen and a non-white woman minister, we cannot accept his assertions which parallel white racists' historical misuse of Biblical passages—namely Genesis 9:27, 11:1-9 and Ephesians 6:5— to justify slavery and to discriminate against generations of African-Americans from entering educational institutions like Vanderbilt.

While South Africans customarily use the same Biblical passages to oppress black South Africans. And now, the Bible is being targeted against another group—gays, bisexuals and lesbians.

"If we are to use the Bible as a basis for argument, we are offended when scripture is used to label an entire population as sinful and to deny them fair treatment. To use scripture to oppress anyone is diametrically opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ—a gospel of love that he proclaimed would 'bring deliverance to the oppressed.' God is a God of the oppressed and does not condemn someone for loving another human being."

— Mona Bagasco-Crane and Horace Griffin, in a letter to the editor of the Nashville Banner.

"Jesus Would Be Marching, Too!"

"I was quoted as saying that AIDS is primarily a biological event without theological or social significance...and has no religious or sociopolitical meaning." This quotation is from a section in the chapter where I am discussing the transmission of the AIDS virus.

"The remainder of the chapter concerns the fact that society and individuals have given social, theological, and political meaning to AIDS as the disease has touched so many lives and has had such significant impact on American society.

"This meaning, I go on to say, has motivated many people to deal with the epidemic in constructive ways (e.g., becoming AIDS volunteers). The point is that the appearance of the AIDS virus is a biological event, but the meaning humans give to this disease indeed has social implications.

"I would recommend more complete and more accurate reporting about AIDS in the future."

— A. Gene Copelle, director of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project, in a letter to the editor of the Nashville Banner correcting the paper's coverage of church's response to AIDS.

"Do you realize that this procedure is the only procedure in the state of Tennessee that requires the consent of both parents? A teenage can have open-heart surgery, brain surgery or her leg amputated, all with the consent of one parent."

— Martha McDonald, a Memphis internist, in testimony before the Tennessee House Welfare Committee on the state's parental-consent-for-abortion law.

"It is interesting to wonder if Judge George Hampton of Dallas would have given the same sentence to Richard Lee Bednarzki, had his murder victims, instead of being homosexuals, been heterosexuals cheating on their wives.

"What a shame that society and certain religious leaders are so quick to condemn some folks while ostensively excusing others."
— Susan B. Hayes, in a letter to the editor of the Nashville Tennessean.

"Why do gay people go to gay bars?" Because they are the only safe place to meet, dance and associate. It is incredible and embarrassing to me, to most of my friends and hopefully, to most of our society, that this fear and that such a state persists.

— Dan Scondras, Boston's first openly gay City Councillor, expressed in his address to last weekend's Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, a gay bar should be any place that plays good music. A gay restaurant — any place that serves good food, etc. Lesbians and gay men go everywhere or have the right legally to go everywhere. We should feel safe and comfortable and welcome — clapping hands above the table when moved to do so — everywhere. To this end, every bar should be a gay one.

"As for my gay-sensitive and supportive friends, please come to our aid. Socially and politically. Come out against all prejudice and discrimination. Counter homophobia wherever present. Define it as repulsive and unacceptable."
— Greg Orfield, third-year law student and columnist, in a Vanderbilt Hustler column detailing his experiences at the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men in Dallas.

"Just as Selma began the fight over racial issues, we believe the South can be the place for us. New York and California are targeting Tennessee as the first state to turn around the sodomy laws."
— Sam Adams, longtime Nashville activist, in a Nashville Banner story about the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men.