HRCF joins pro-choice forces

by JEFF ELLIS

Calling the Supreme Court's Webster v. Reproductive Health Services decision a "blow to individual liberty and women's freedom," the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) has vowed to continue its fight for the right of privacy of all Americans and lend its support to a nation-wide coalition organized by key pro-choice groups.

"As gays and lesbians concerned about equality and keeping the government out of our bedrooms, we are extremely troubled by the court's decision," said Tim McFeely, HRCF executive director. "We will look for opportunities to educate politicians and support pro-choice groups as the battle for privacy now moves from the courts to the legislatures."

HRCF is the nation's largest lesbian and gay political action committee (PAC), and the ninth-largest of all national PACs, with a 1989 budget approaching $2 million.

The Supreme Court earlier this month, in a 5-4 decision, ruled that states are free to impose new restrictions on abortions, stopping just short of overturning its landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. In a series of new rulings, justices upheld several provisions of a Missouri law that imposed new restraints.

Under the Court's Webster ruling, justices gave the apparent green light for state governments to issue new restrictions, including:

• prohibiting state employees from counseling on the option of abortion

**continued on page 3**

Metro Council defers CAT budget vote while GCN rallies les/gay community support

by HARRISON HICKS

Staff Writer

Members of the Metro Nashville Council Tuesday night delayed until Tuesday, August 1, any action on proposed cuts in the city's operating budget which would have affected Community Access Television (CAT), which cablecasts Gay Cable Network/Nashville (GCN).

GCN and CAT will be the focus of the latest Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville (MCC) Church and Community Forum next Saturday, July 29.

Council members had been expected to approve Mayor Bill Boner's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. In that proposal, $54,000 had been allotted for CAT, an amount which is likely to mean the demise of the station as a separate entity.

Council members voted Tuesday night to defer action on the budget again, this time until August 1.

"In some ways, that's a good move for us," Dixie Aubrey, CAT public relations director, said in an interview Wednesday. "The delay gives us longer to try to convince people on the Council to restore the funds."

"You know, this [the proposed cut] first came up in the middle of absolute chaos — everyone thought that everyone in Metro was going to be losing jobs. The situation really looked bleak, and they were looking for funds anywhere they could get them," she said. "Now, it's not so bad. Departments will be able to make personnel cuts through attrition, rather than layoffs."

Aubrey said that there was no direct evidence that the proposed cuts are an attempt to silence GCN.

"Unless some Councilman stands up and says that publicly, I can't ascribe that reason just based on hearsay," she said. "I might feel that way, but I don't have any way to confirm it."

Metro government sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Dare when the cuts were announced that they were intended to punish CAT for carrying GCN.

Councilmen were only able to approve the Mayor's budget by a 6-4 vote. McDonnell, who represents the Fifth District, was the only person voting in favor of Mayor's cuts that included the CAT and GCN.

By a 5-4 vote, the eight Councilmen passed the final budget, which would have affected GCN and CAT.

Metro Nashville police are looking for this man for questioning in connection with the stabbing last week of 34-year-old nurse Barry McDonald. Detectives suspect that the murderer may have been someone McDonald was counseling about AIDS. Anyone with information about the suspect or the murder may phone police at (615) 862-7293 or 862-7546.
Nashville CARES. Won't you care, too?
Nashville Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Services
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Naval investigators say that they have collected strong evidence that a suicidal homosexual was responsible for an explosion that killed 47 sailors on the battleship USS Iowa in April, according to reports from NBC News and The New York Times.

The 10-week probe by Naval investigators, with FBI assistance, ruled out unstable gunpowder or flames in the mechanical or electrical systems in the gun turrets where the explosion occurred.

The unreleased Navy report said Gunner’s Mate Clayton Hartwig, 25, may have been responsible for the blast, according to both NBC and The Times. Navy spokesperson Lt. Greg Smith said the investigation report had been submitted to the commander of surface forces for the Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Va., and eventually would make its way to the secretary of defense’s desk.

The investigators based their findings on a psychological profile of Hartwig by the FBI and 228 other exhibits, including a three-hour videotaped statement from another Iowa sailor, David Smith, according to NBC.

David Smith said he rejected Hartwig’s sexual advances the night before the explosion. He also said Hartwig had discussed how to set off a bomb using a nine-volt battery and a small timer, NBC reported.

Investigators also pointed to the rejection of Hartwig by Gunner’s Mate Kendall Truitt, who survived the explosion. Hartwig had named Truitt as the sole beneficiary of a $50,000 double indemnity life insurance policy.

When rumors surfaced shortly after the blast, it might have been related to Hartwig’s relationship with Truitt, Truitt heartedly denied that either he or Hartwig was gay.

Truitt was later transferred away from the Iowa, because Navy officials said they feared for his safety there.

Ellis promoted to Editor

Abby R. Rubenfeld, Attorney at Law

ABBY R. RUBENFELD ATTORNEY AT LAW

WATTS, UNDERWOOD & RUBENFELD

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Ellis, who graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1980 with a B.S. in journalism and an emphasis in print journalism and minors in English and history, is an award-winning journalist who served as the first openly-gay Editor-in-Chief of MTSU’s student newspaper, Sidelines.

While at MTSU, he won four regional awards from Sigma Delta Chi, the student arm of the Society of Professional Journalists: Best All-Around Student Magazine, Best In-Depth Reporting for Newspapers, and Best Magazine Writing (two years running). Ellis was a national runner-up in the Best All-Around Student Magazine and Best Magazine Writing competitions.

The Best All-Around Student Magazine awards were for his series Growing Up Gay in the Bible Belt, while the Best Magazine Writing awards were for a Nashville magazine piece on male prostitution in Nashville.

Ellis served part-time as Managing Editor while working full-time as a buyer for Haverty Furniture Company in Nashville.

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There is absolutely no risk of acquiring AIDS from these vaccines.

Persons Interested in volunteering for AIDS vaccine research must meet the following criteria:

- Age: 18-60 years
- Healthy: no chronic illness
- Low-risk lifestyle for HIV (AIDS) exposure: monogamous relationship or abstinence, no IV drug abuse
- Available for 12-14 month study

In addition to these general guidelines, volunteers for the present study must have never had a smallpox vaccine.

For more information about the current study, or future studies, please contact:

Vanderbilt AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Center at 615-343-2437 (343-AIDS)

...gay man’s murderer sought

...continued from page 1

become interested in the counseling of AIDS victims," McElroy said. "He had expressed an interest to friends in becoming an AIDS counselor and had discussed setting up a counseling program."

McElroy said McDonald had been characterized by friends and co-workers as "a very concerned individual, very good at his job, very compassionate and very caring."

...HRCF joins pro-choice groups

...continued from page 1

prohibiting state-funded facilities from offering abortions
requiring doctors to perform tests to determine "fetal viability"
determining that life begins at conception as long as such determinations are "advisory" and not binding.

The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) has said the ruling "basically guts Roe v. Wade" and has taken from women the right to choose abortion and has given that right to state legislatures.

The Court will hear three additional abortion cases next term, a move heralded by pro-life advocates as an indication the court may completely overturn Roe v. Wade.

HRCF has been part of a coalition of pro-choice groups organized by NARAL. Voters for Choice, National Organization for Women (NOW) and others.

McElroy said that the killer may have been one of McDonald’s patients. "Based on the description and the composite drawing, it is possible that the suspect could have been a person that the victim was attempting to counsel," McElroy said.

Anyone with information pertaining to the case is asked to contact McElroy, Det. Grady Elam or Sgt. Robert Moore of the Metro Murder Squad at (615) 862-7529 or 862-7546.

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What if I broke in,
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What if we took down turns
for nourishing the children;
your kits, my kits,
similar, so similar?

What if I kneelt down
in a newly colored version
of Julia and Julia,
without the falcon's crest,
and kissed the ex mark,
the point of no return?

"It's too shocking"
"It's terribly unreal"
while your hands get demolished
in insensitive volleys of the ball

Who wins, who loses?
Leftovers, butts of cigars
and your canard necessity to run.

— From Y Otras Desgracias / And Other Misfortunes
Poems by Luz Maria Umpierre
Third Woman Press, 1985

Lesbian Activist and poet Luz Maria Umpierre filed suit against Rutgers University in New Jersey because she said the school denied her the chair of its Puerto Rican and Hispanic/Caribbean Studies Department in favor of a man who was less qualified. Umpierre is now the new chair of Western Kentucky University Department of Modern Languages. Book Editor Sherre Dryden spoke with her earlier this week about her lawsuit, her poetry and her new position at WKU.

Dryden: You received national coverage when you filed suit against Rutgers (the State University of New Jersey), alleging discrimination due to gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation. What is the status of the case now?

Umpierre: In 1984 I applied for the position of chair of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic/Caribbean Studies Department at Rutgers. I was very politically active on campus as a lesbian. I was organizing a group that was going to sue Rutgers on a class action suit for not having minority women on the faculty. The university knew that, so they denied me the chairship even though I was the candidate that had the most votes and the most support. They denied me the chairship and it was offered to a man who was less qualified.

That man subsequently occupied the position and he died. So the position became open and I applied for a second time. Again I was denied the position and the position was offered to a man who was less qualified.

What happened then was that I got together with a group of friends and they told me that this would be the one case that would probably be carried through against Rutgers if it was taken before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. I decided to file a grievance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against the University alleging that I was discriminated against on the basis of my gender, my ethnic background and my sexual preference.

The case has been all over the newspapers throughout the country. At one point we were asking donations for the legal defense fund and that's how the book The Margaritas Poems came about. The sales of it were used for the legal fees.

The case was going to be heard in New Jersey but we alleged that it would be detrimental to me if it was heard in New Jersey because it would be biased in favor of the University. The last decision that we got on it was that they agreed and the case will be heard in Washington, D.C., which is a big victory. Very few cases are heard by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington.

I don't know when they're going to hear the case.

Why did you decide to take the position at
Western Kentucky?

One of the things that attracted me to this position was the fact that they were willing to consider a Puerto Rican woman as chairperson. I thought that was a very good and positive sign about this university.

Does the Western Kentucky administration know you are a lesbian?

They don't know that I'm a lesbian but they do know that one of my publications in my vita for everybody to see is an article called "Lesbian Tantalizing" — and it's right there. My vita includes the fact that I was a speaker on the march for gay rights [the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights], so I'm not hiding anything.

The main thing that I'm really very happy about is that they've finally given me the opportunity to chair a department. I am now one of the very few — I think that there are not more than two persons I'm one out of two persons who are of Puerto Rican origin and are women who are occupying the highest position at their rank. I think that's very important and that it says a lot about Kentucky and the University. I am very happy about that and I will be working to try and foster things that deal with minority women especially in the University.

You're mainly known as a poet.

I have several books of poems. Critics have said that the most important is the last one. It's a lesbian collection called the Margaritas Poems. They are poems openly lesbian.

I was invited by Rutgers — the Newark campus, which is more open — to give a reading and a biography of myself. I used it to indicate the University in the things that they had done against other minority women and I read the whole collection in public. They're lesbian poems. Well, I had a standing ovation, which was very good. The collection deals openly about my lesbianism and that's why it was written. There are many articles published on my work, and my work is very political. It deals with the conditions of Hispanics in this country, the conditions of women, and my condition of being a lesbian in this country, too.

What was the atmosphere like at Rutgers for gay men and lesbians?

I suffered harassment at the University (Rutgers). I had a poster on the gay march on Washington on my door and it was stolen. I had a picture of myself and the Puerto Rican poet Janina Braschi on my desk and it was stolen and in its place they left a phallic symbol.

At Rutgers there was a study done by a woman in sociology whose name is Kastri, a very well-known lesbian who has published a book on lesbian history. She did a study at Rutgers of gay and lesbian and the results were monumental.

Seventy-five percent of the lesbians said that they had encountered some sort of open harassment against them on campus. It was a very, very important study because it shows the pervasiveness of the system at the University.

Because of my case, the president of the University had to institute a fund called "Making It Safe for Minorities". He had to generate a million dollars for that fund. He was very, very upset about this because of course it's money that he was going to use on something else that he had to put to use for this.

What will you be teaching at Western?

Next semester I'm going to be teaching a class called Latin American Women. After that I'm going to be teaching courses on women in Latin American women in the Caribbean, poetry and Caribbean literature.

Have you encountered any prejudice here?

I only arrived here about a month ago. The only open prejudice was when I went to the [Lesbian and Gay Pride '91] march in Nashville when they were screaming things at us, and things like that. But that was in Tennessee.

What was your impression of the Nashville march?

It was an experience. I'm used to marching in the march in New York. That's hundreds of thousands of people and then there were about 300 there. So, it felt like a smaller group, that you could be hurt more easily.

But I thought it was a wonderful thing to have it. I was very happy and the speaker [Renée McCoy], who was a black woman, a minister, a lesbian, I thought that her speech was very true. That we have to come out, and stay out, wherever we are. The March on Washington was very good for all of us. For me, in particular, it was good because they recognized the fact that my case was very important for lesbians and gays.

They asked me to give one of the speeches at the march and they also invited me to be a reader for the NAMES project [National AIDS Quilt display]. That was very good for me, to gain more exposure.

Are you working on a new book?

I'm writing a book of poems on women who have died — both known women and unknown women. Friends of mine or also women who are fairly well known. I already wrote the first poem to Sylvia Plath. I'm writing now a poem to Gilda Radner. That's the collection that I'm working on now. I'm giving a poetry reading on September 27. I'm available for readings, for talk about the case anywhere in the area.
Dare

BETWEEN THE LINES

Letter from the Editor
by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

PUBLISHING AND EDITING a weekly newspaper is not an easy job. It requires perseverance, patience and, quite often, nerves of steel. Nonetheless, I'm ready to assume the duties which go along with a new title.

With this issue of Dare, I take on the title of editor and the myriad responsibilities that go along with it.

It's not an empty gesture meant to please an egotistical writer (although I admit to being that), but rather it is an effort on our part to present a newspaper that's both informative and provocative.

From the beginning, we've tried to be many things to many people: a historical record, a compilation of local events, a chronicler of who we are and where we are going.

And, as is often the case when one has such lofty ideals, we've sometimes borne the brunt of stirring criticism along with praise from our readers and non-readers as well.

That is part of the newspaper business and will, no doubt, continue as long as Dare continues.

Often, we are criticized for certain coverage, or a lack of coverage of some stories or events. Most recently, we were called to task by a sometime-reader who referred to our "lack of coverage of the NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt." "No one reads Dare anymore because you didn't cover the Quilt," the charge came.

It's obvious that reader doesn't read Dare anymore—at least not very closely. But it's not because of the Quilt coverage, I'm sure. For if she did read Dare regularly, as some 6000 or so people do, she would know the Quilt was featured in no fewer than eight issues of Dare. Someone else charged that no one reads Dare anymore because we continue to cover the much-lamented sex-sting trials.

"People have nothing to do with me as a gay man," he contended. Be that as it may, we've continued to cover the sex-sting cases because several members of our community were involved. We'll continue to cover stories that effect our community because our readers have a right to know. We'll present the facts as best we can, honestly and fairly.

Our readers can make up their own minds. The fact is, people do read Dare (the 6000 theater awards).

So, you see, we have our work cut out for us. It's going to take more people to realize the goals we've set, which means you'll see an active campaign to add people to our list of contributing writers.

We also hope to set up an internship program which would enable us to tap the journalistic talents in local colleges and universities.

WHAT ALL OF THIS MEANS TO YOU, the reader, is a newspaper that is more informative, more timely. We've done our best in the past year and some months to effectively cover the news, but there is always room for improvement. And that's an continuing project.

But an integral part of these plans is you, the reader.

We need to hear your ideas and comments, your compliments and complaints. So write us, or call us, with your suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you.
The sensible-shoes novel

reviewed by JOE MAROHL
Staff Writer

IF IT HAS NOT BEEN DONE already, Eliz­abeth Jolley has invented the sensible-shoes novel.

Readers who usually prefer to scan pages may find My Father's Moon, her eleventh book, off-putting because Jolley pretty much insists that her readers read her word for exact word. Her simple prose condenses other writ­ers' five long paragraphs to a pithy paragraph of perhaps four irreducible sentences impossible to scan.

My Father's Moon is an episodic coming-of-age novel told in first person by the protagon­ist, Veronica Wright, an uncomplicated English girl of Quaker background. The story centers on Veron­ica's experiences as a stu­dent nurse at an isolated English hospital during the Second World War.

Her adventures, such as they are, are not only made her witness to the scarring ef­fects of war but also lead her to view herself as an emotional human being, distinct from her parents and the girl she used to be at home.

She relates all her experiences with straight­forwardness and dispassion one expects of the technical professions. Whatever poetry there is in the novel is what Veronica calls the "poetry of anatomy."

If Jolley's style here is, let's face it, dowdy, it is still informed with intelligence and barely concealed emotion: "It is Diamond and Snorter and they are naturally quite naked. There is nothing un­usual about their bodies. Their clothes, party clothes, are all in little heaps on the floor. They, the women not the clothes, are holding hands, their arms held up gracefully. They are step­ping up towards each other and away again. They have stopped singing and are nodding and smiling and turning to the left and to the right, and then, with sedate little steps, skipping slowly round and round. It is a dance, a little dance for two people, a minuet, graceful strange and remote.

In the steam the naked bodies are like a pair of sea birds engaged in a mating display. They appear and disappear as if seen through a white sea mist on some far off shore."

The eloquence of this passage is intensified by its plainness, leanness, characteristic of the low-key tone of the book.

Jolley makes art out of the cadence and im­agery of the academic plain style.

Veronica's infatuation with staff nurse Ramsden is the love story which unifies the episodic Hence the novel. Since Ramsden is well­bred, evident in her apprecia­tion for classical music, Veronica goes so far as to invest in a violin case in order to catch the other woman's attention. When Veronica has a child by the hospital's resident Casanova, she turns away from Ramsden in embarrass­ment, only to begin, years later, a quest for the older woman who comes to represent austere simplicity and tender intimacy, the components of the happy calm Veronica seeks.

THE NOVEL IS a fine and sometimes dryly amusing defense of living close to the earth. It is also a book about the pleasures of solitude and the loneliness of love.

Personally, I found little in the book's tone of made-for-Masterpiece Theatre characters to enjoy.

A certain degree of redundancy in the novel, vestiges of Jolley's publication of parts as short fiction in periodicals, perhaps, seemed a little inconsistent with the elliptical sparseness elsewhere.

Nevertheless, I admire Jolley's artistry here and the simplicity of her aesthetic. •

...a well-set Table

* * continued from page 8

"Do you think I enjoy being a cultural stere­otype?" she asks the audience.

As her Older Son, the lawyer, Dennis Ewing is the obedient child who sometimes finds himself restricted by the confines of family life and responsibility to his wife and kids. He dreams of freedom, but ultimately discovers his real place is with his family.

Ewing's restrained performance gives you the idea of something simmering beneath the surface.

Karen Mundy adds another amusing charac­ter to her repertoire as the Older Son's Strik­ish wife. "We were told Jewish men were faithful and hard-working," she says, wondering what happened to the "sexy tiger" she first met.

Jesse James Lorrerre's on-target portrayal of the Younger Son is both low-key and broadly drawn. He seeks "better living through chemicals" and fulfillment in unfulfilling rela­tionships, smoking pot and snorting cocaine. Lorrerre's role is probably the most theat­rical of the lot. He exhibits a good range, proving himself adept at both comedy and drama - plus he has a great haircut.

When the Younger Son meets the Girlfriend (who happens to be a psychiatric social worker in need of some therapy herself) we're treated to a comic look at modern romance.

Bryan Nachman, as the Girlfriend, gives a delight­ful performance; her delivery is skillful and her timing near perfect as she tells us of living in the shadow of her prettier, smarter older sister. She's an actress we're going to want to see more of in the future.

As the younger family members, Angela Robertson and Bryan Miller do none of that precocious pre-teen overacting that some­times substitutes for real talent. Instead, both of the young actors give natural performances that are entertaining.

Thanks to their deft performances and Lap­ine's genuinely honest script, they more than hold their own with their older, more experi­enced counterparts. •

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Ribbon cutting and opening
Friday, July 28 at 11 a.m.
Open Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30
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