Tennessee hosts int'l conference
Meet includes Quilt display
by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

AIDS education specialists from around the world will gather in Tennessee this week for the Third International Conference on AIDS Education, to be held at the Stouffer Nashville Hotel and the Nashville Convention Center, September 10-13.

Sponsored by the International Society for AIDS Education, organizers of "Changing Environments: Meeting the Challenge," expect more than 1,000 delegates to attend the four-day conference.

In addition, some 2000 panels of the NAMES project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which will have its final complete display in Washington in October, will be on display at the Convention Center during the conference.

Co-sponsors of the conference include: Vanderbilt AIDS Project (VAP), Center for Social Exploration of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, University of Tennessee, and the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (Brazil).

"This conference will be another opportunity to highlight AIDS issues and to raise awareness locally," said A. Gene Copello, president of the International Society for AIDS Education.

Copello, assistant professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, is director of VAP and chair of the board of directors of Nashville CARES, a local AIDS services organization.

"AIDS is a multi-faceted problem," Copello said. "Hopefully, this conference will enable people to start talking about the legal and ethical problems of AIDS, along with the other basics of education and prevention.

It will give people another opportunity to do more thinking."

Run on the European model, the Conference will provide structured and unstructured periods for networking and idea exchange as well as plenary sessions delivered by experts in the field, according to information from the Conference organizing committee.

Concurrent sessions will be classified into three groups: research seminars, roundtable discussions and workshops. In addition, corporations and organizations will have displays at the Convention Center.

Both Memphis and Nashville will host gala benefit performances of Heart Strings: The National Tour, a Broadway-style musical review designed to raise funds for AIDS education and services. The Memphis performance is set for Monday, September 25 at 8 p.m. (phone (901) 458-AIDS for information). The show will be presented in Nashville Thursday, September 28 at 8 p.m. (phone (615) 297-5425 for details). — PHOTO COURTESY MARY DONNET, HEART STRINGS NATIONAL TOUR

Tennessee campuses organize for fall
UT/Knoxville, Murfreesboro's MTSU and Nashville's Vanderbilt regroup
by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Lesbian and gay student groups at campuses around Tennessee, including Middle Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Vanderbilt University, are set to begin their activities for the 1989-90 school year.

"We're just now getting started," said Cherrie Lefevers, president of the MTSU Lambda Association in Murfreesboro.

After the group's first meeting on Aug. 14, they will alternate each week among business, social, educational and "share" meetings.

"We're basically a social organization," Lefevers said, but added that educational meetings have covered such topics as AIDS and the legal rights of homosexuals.

Recruitment will be an early priority for the MTSU group, she said, including ads in local papers to increase membership and create "more enthusiasm" for the organization.

At UT-Knoxville, Gay and Lesbian Student Union President Tom Jackson said that organization will be starting with between 40 and 50 members this fall.

"People have had trouble finding us," said Jackson, but those problems have been corrected.

Besides its weekly meetings, the UT group holds "one or two social activities each month," as well as sponsoring other special events, Jackson said.

Plans for this year include sponsoring an AIDS awareness program and co-sponsoring a performance by gay singers/musicians Romanovsky and Phillips. Last year's activities included a benefit at a local community center and a celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride Week.

In Nashville, the Vanderbilt Lambda Association will continue its efforts to have sexual orientation included in the University's non-discrimination statement, according to... continued on page 4

Openly-gay South African activist visits Memphis
Black and White Men Together brings Nkoli
by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Gay South African anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli will be in Memphis this weekend for a series of events sponsored by the local chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT).

Nkoli, currently on a 14-city tour of North America, comes to Memphis from an appearance in Atlanta, according to Irwin Rothenberg, chair of the Simon Nkoli Support Committee of BWMT/Memphis.

Nkoli will speak in an open meeting Saturday from 4:15 to 6 p.m. in the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library's main branch at Peabody and McLean. Following that, what is described as a "consciousness-raising" discussion group and informal potluck dinner will be held at 7:30 p.m. Further information is available by phone (901) 726-1461.

Nkoli's first visit to North America follows months of delays and bureaucratic snafus, according to tour organizers.

"Anxiously, but with enthusiasm, look forward to meeting and greeting so many people throughout the U.S. who gave me such strong support spiritually, monetarily and otherwise during my detention," Nkoli said.

Nkoli was one of 21 defendants in the notorious Delmas Treason Trial, charged following revolts in townships surrounding Johannesburg to protest rent hikes imposed by local councillors. Five councillors were killed in the ensuing violence.

Refused bail by a South African court, Nkoli was finally released in 1988 after he and nine others were acquitted of the charges.

Since his acquittal, Nkoli has remained unemployed. Throughout the trial, he was denied both working and visitation privileges.

Organized by the Simon Nkoli Support Committee of Mem-phis and Columbus (MCN), the Simon Nkoli Anti-Apartheid Committee and the Zulu AIDS Project, Nkoli's North American visit is designed to enlighten lesbian and gay audiences about the current status of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

Nkoli is chair of the Gay/Lesbian Organization of Wine Waterstrand (GLOW), a non-racial gay organization.

"As we gaze Simon, it is our responsibility to understand that his struggles are our struggles and our struggles are his," said James Grede, of MACT/New York. "This is a unique opportunity for all people of conscious who care about the inhum­anity of racist, sexist and homophobia­phobic behavior to join together so... continued on page 4

Inside Dare this week
On the front lines: how Tennessee's AIDS service groups cope with crisis.
Centerpiece, page 6.

Actors' Playhouse gets in Line, and Chaffin's Barn goes to Biloxi.
Curtains, page 11.

Imagine! Patrick Buchanan talks about queers.
Quotes, page 12.
Fed study looks at anti-gay violence

BETHESDA, MD — The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has addressed the effects of anti-gay violence in a national research workshop on anti-gay violence.

The meeting included researchers, psychologists, social workers and members of the NIMH staff, and was chaired by Kevin Berrill, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project. "Although we know that violence against lesbians and gay men is a serious problem, further research is needed in order to better understand its causes and consequences and to develop appropriate interventions," said Berrill. "This workshop, which was the first ever held on this issue by NIMH, will help shape the nature and direction of future research."

Topics addressed at the workshop were defining anti-gay violence, the social and psychological context of homophobic violence, the extent and scope of the problem, risk factors, mental health consequences, and treatment and service interventions.

"This workshop is another example of our continuing efforts to push the federal government to respond to anti-gay violence," said Berrill. "But this is only a first step. We will continue to press NIMH and other federal agencies to respond to attacks against lesbians and gay men."

HRCF seeks interns

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign Fund is looking for interns to work in all its program areas, including legislative, political, field, lesbian issues, administration, and public relations.

"This is a great opportunity for someone interested in lesbian and gay issues, or just in learning how government and politics work," said Eric Rosenthal, HRCF political director and coordinator of the intern program. "Interns have an opportunity to make a contribution to the lesbian and gay movement as they work on important Congressional issues."

Interns receive a stipend. For more information, contact Rosenthal at (202) 628-4160.

Anti-choicers guilty

NASHVILLE — Two anti-abortion protesters have been placed on probation after being found guilty of trespassing at the Planned Parenthood clinic on 21st Avenue.

General Sessions Court Judge Bill Higgins ordered Kenneth Najar and Wesley Yoder to stay away from the clinic for the duration of their probation. Higgins also dismissed assault charges brought against the two by Laura Milner, community services director for Planned Parenthood of Nashville, as well as assault charges brought against Milner by Najar and Yoder.

All of the charges arose from an incident on May 20, when Milner prevented Najar and Yoder from entering the clinic. Najar and Yoder claimed they intended to demand access to the clinic's financial records, while Milner said she believed the two were attempting "to go into the clinic and harass our patients."

And the winner is...

The votes are in. The best of Nashville theater, as chosen by Dare readers, will be honored in each of ten categories. Of course, there'll be singing, dancing, comedy. And the drama of finding out who the winners are, chosen from among the past year's best local productions.

You'll enjoy live original-cast performances from Rave Revues' Avante Garage, Nashville Public Theatre's Quilters, Gallatin Arts Council's The Business of Marriage, Circle Players' Frivolities and more.

Hosted by Shane Caldwell, one of the two funniest Sylvan Brothers, the show features special appearances by singer/actress Martha Gabel, singer Thom Byrum and by performance artist Rusel Brown.

Sunday, September 17, 7:30 p.m., at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre, 2301 Metrocenter Boulevard in Nashville. Tickets $10 at the door. Of course, the evening's real winner will be the clients of Nashville CARES. All proceeds from First Night benefit Nashville CARES.

To find out more about First Night, phone (615) 327-Dare.
The Gay and Lesbian Student Union
of the
University of Tennessee / Knoxville
meets weekly.
For more information, get in touch with us:
GLSU/UTK
University of Tennessee
Box 8529
Knoxville, TN 37996
or phone (615) 595-8666

Chattanooga Council on AIDS
Educalicn
call (615) 266-2422

at 1713 Church Street, Nashville

Eugene falls in love.

The main purpose of this conference is to bring together persons in university, governmental and community settings working in the interdisciplinary field of AIDS education, counseling and prevention,* according to organizers.

Participants will review current approaches and methods in the context of meeting the challenges posed by changing social, economic and institutional environments and changing communication and information technologies. The adaptation of AIDS education and counseling programs to such change will be emphasized. Policy, psychosocial, legal and ethical issues will be addressed,* conference organizers said.

...Nkoli to visit Tennessee
Throughout the tour, Nkoli is also seeking funds for the Zulu AIDS Project, which is being developed to provide AIDS education and prevention materials in three or more of the major languages spoken by black and coloured South Africans. Currently, AIDS information is provided only to white South Africans.*

...campus groups organize statewide
A campus organization...

"It was really no big deal. It was a lot easier than we thought it would be," Lefevers said.

"We've had real positive input mostly."

"We'd rather have opened broke off from a Christian group, "which to my knowledge is new defunct," said Jackson.

"We haven't had much of a negative reaction," said Jackson, although "sometimes our flyers get torn down."

"We've been very warmly received by the University administration so far," he said. Likewise, Burks said the VU Lambda group has "sort of been kind of a novelty on campus."

"I've been very surprised by the support we've gotten on campus," she said. "The faculty has just been incredibly supportive.

Lesbian and gay student groups on Tennessee campuses have come a long way since the first on-campus organization at Clarksville's Austin Peay State University was forced to take the State Board of Regents to court to gain official recognition.

At the conclusion of that case, which began in 1979, state officials were forced to officially approve such groups.

The APSU student group, however, has not been active since 1981 when the original movement leaders there left campus due to graduation or transfer.

Memphis State University's lesbian and gay student organization, begun after the APSU decision was handed down in federal court, has also been inactive for the past several academic years.*

...Barn goes to Biloxi
It is to mold this motley crew into a crack fighting force. Played by Chris Harrod with a properly menacing gait and tone, Eugene is almost a parody of a Negro soldier and far more likable character with warmth and wit. *

Blues has its fair share of laughs. But it also has its very dramatic moments — as when one of the soldiers is taken away from the barracks in the middle of the night for being caught in a sexual act with another man. It's a painful moment — and the audience, having gotten to know and to like the man, are made aware of the injustices heaped upon those who are "different."

Supporting roles are Pam Atsa as Rowena, the Biloxi hooker with the proverbial heart of gold, who sells Evening in Paris on the side; and Virginia Burke as Daisy Hannigan, a lovely Catholic school redhead with whom Eugene falls in love.

But it's definitely Jerome's show and Chambers seizes the opportunity to portray a totally likable character with warmth and wit.*

*hearing all their Sergeant's old war stories and being forced to officially approve such groups.
First Night finalists announced

from STAFF REPORTS

Finalists in the premiere presentation of the Dare First Night Theatre Awards — recognizing excellence in the Nashville theatre community — were announced last Tuesday.

Finalists for the awards were selected by the paper’s readers and area theatre-goers from among nominees representing shows produced since August 1, 1988. Winners will be announced during a gala awards ceremony, set for Sunday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre, 2301 Metrocenter Boulevard, Nashville.

Actor/comedian Shane Caldwell will emcee the event, which will feature performances by the cast of Rave Revues’ Autumn Garbage, the cast of Nashville Public Theatre’s Quitters, Susanna Rainer from the Gallatin Arts Council’s production of The Business of Marriage, Rona Carter from the Chaffin’s Barn production of Num Sense, the cast of Circle Players’ Priviledges, actress/singer Martha Gabel; actor/singer Thom Byrum; performance artist Rusel Brown and other local entertainers.

Proceeds from the Dare First Night Theatre Awards will go to benefit Nashville CARES, a community-based AIDS services organization. Tickets for the Awards will be available at the door for $10.

Circle Players, which this year is celebrating its 40th season, led the field with 19 finalists; Actors’ Playhouse of Nashville followed with 12; Tennessee Repertory Theatre and Second Stage each had 11; Rave Revues, five; Chaffin’s Barn, three; and Nashville Public Theatre, two.

Productions leading the field were Most A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The King and I and Bent, each mentioned five times, and Eva with four finalists. In all, some 22 different productions were mentioned among finalists for the awards.

Finalists in the ten categories are:

• Best Play: Bent; Actors’ Playhouse; Lone Starr, Actors’ Playhouse; ‘Night Mother’; Tennessee Repertory Theatre’s Second Stage; On Golden Pond, Chaffin’s Barn; and Transformations, Nashville Public Theatre.

• Best Musical: ‘A... My Name is Alice,’ Circle Players; Almost a Midsummer Night’s Dream, Rave Revues; Eva, Tennessee Repertory Theatre; The King and I, Circle Players; and Pippin, Circle Players.

• Best Actor in a musical: Adele Akin, ‘A... My Name is Alice’; Sharon Farmer, Priviledges, Martha Gabel, Almost A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Karen Mueller, The King and I, Lisa Mulvaney, ‘A... My Name is Alice,’ and Ginger Newman, Eva.

• Best Actress in a play: Dorothy Marie, Night Mother; Dorothy Marie, Transformations, Sri, Women Behind Bars, Actors’ Playhouse; Ellen Thomas, The Mousetrap, Circle Players; and Anne Tonelson, Table Settings, Actors’ Playhouse.


• Best Supporting Actor in a play: Melissa Bedinger, Dracula, Circle Players; Denice Hicks, You Can’t Take It With You, TRT; Elizabeth Moses Mahowald, On Golden Pond; Rise Lasch, Table Settings, and Nelda Pope, Social Security, Actors’ Playhouse.

• Best Actor in a musical: Michael Bouson, Almost A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Anthony Dickens, The King and I, Joseph R. Mahowald, Christmas Memories, TRT; Brian Mathis, Unsinkable Molly Brown; Circle, Frank Preston, Priviledges.

• Best Actor in a play: Jim Conrad, Bent, Rick Harrell, Bent, Joe Keenan, On Golden Pond; Phil Perry, Curse of the Starving Class, Actors’ Playhouse; and Barry Scott, The Blood Knot, TRT’s Second Stage.

• Best Supporting Actor in a musical: Thom Byrum, The King and I; Bill Hood, Unsinkable Molly Brown, Ricky Russell, Eva, Rick Sear; Priviledges, and Barry Scott, Christmas Memories.

• Best Supporting Actor in a play: Scott Moreno, The Butler Did It; Actors’ Playhouse; Myke Mueller, You Can’t Take It With You; G. Scott Osten, Bent, Phil Perry, Dracula, and Mel Yoomb, Bent.

For information phone (615) 327-Dare.

...division and dividing

truth that much of the anger we harbor against each other — especially women against men and men against women — is born of the stereotypes, fear and hatred we accuse straight of harboring against us. This woman is too tough, too overbearing, too uncompromising, too radical; this man is too shallow, too self-centered, too extroverted — he cares only about crotches and Calvin Klein.

The horror we feel at the judgments so many of us secretly and not so secretly pass against each other makes us fall back on masks of pretense and polish in order to get along. We cannot describe why we’re not getting along because the truth would make us sick.

Once we have faced down our own fears and hatreds, we can then begin to learn to accept difference, dissent, and challenge within our own ranks.

We may even learn that the truth of our often invoked if seldom honored “diversity” will indeed set us free — free of the burden of believing we must think and act alike, free of the fear that our organizations are perpetually on the brink of utter doom, and free of solipsistic cant in which our opinions begin to look to us like fact, our theories like truth.

We may then be free of the notion that in disagreeing we betray each other or betray our movement.

Montaigne referred to both the personal and political when he said he did not want to be considered either so affectionate or so loyal a servant as to be found fit to betray anyone.

Perhaps if we allow our loyalties to relax and our minds to think, pushing one another another and once more movement forward instead of anchoring it on one idea or one voice, we will find our progress is not only more steady and more full of promise, but more full of people. And that’s something we could all learn to live with.
Juanita's

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Tuesday is Movie Night
25¢ draft & free popcorn 8 pm - 11 pm
Beer Bust - $3 All you can drink
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in 1982, there were only two cases of AIDS reported in the
state of Tennessee. Since then,
more than 850 cases have been reported to the state Department of Health and
Environment.

And while the number of cases di-
agnosed has increased in the past
seven years, so has the level of that
most important of community response
to the crisis: the community-based AIDS-
service organization.

In 1982, Tennessee had no such
groups. Now, there are six. All rely heav-
ily on the lesbian and gay community for
financial support as well as the most criti-
cal element — volunteers.

FROM ITS FOUNDING in 1986
until October 1988, Chattanooga CARES had an all-volunteer staff. Funds from the Health Department enabled the
group to hire a full-time staff member, and
now the group plans to use United Way funds to hire another part time.

With the help of some 100 trained vol-
unteers, the organization provides sup-
port groups for people with AIDS
(PWAs) and for their "families and loved
ones." said Kenton Dickerson, executive
director.

"We can provide some emergency re-
lief," said Dickerson, adding that "we
generally try to work very closely with
other social services." The organization currently has about 20 people in the PWA
group and 8 to 10 in the recently-formed
group for families and loved ones.

"We do a lot of work with gay and
bisexual men," as well as college-age
youth and women at risk, Dickerson said.

The group has a hotline and a speakers
bureau, although Dickerson said the
demand for speakers is highly vari-
able.

"Sometimes we'll have two or three
programs a week to do and sometimes
we go two weeks without any," Dickerson said.

The hotline gets from 20 to 25 calls per
day.

They will be co-sponsoring a display
of the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt from
Nov. 1 to Dec. 1 at the pavilion in Miller
Park. The event is being funded by the
Lyndhurst Foundation and the proceeds
will go fund Chattanooga CARES.

The group is also planning a new train-
ing session for volunteers in late Septem-
ber or early October, and a Stop AIDS
program in January.

ALTHOUGH somewhat smaller,
the three-year-old Clarkville CARES
has the same basic goals as its older
counterpart in Nashville and Chat-
tanooga, according to Glenn Carter, the
group's vice-president.

"We have the same types of goals," he
said, "education, prevention, support
services, etc."

The organization is only working with
a small group of PWAs at the moment.

"We're hoping to grow as we get more
volunteers and as we get more referrals," said Carter. "We wish we didn't have to
do more."
New AIDS cases reported in Tennessee by year*

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*1989 figures include only cases reported up to July 31.

"Our focus in education is going to be more and more in the minority community, women at risk, and in the gay and lesbian community," said Forsythe, although the group will continue its efforts at general education.

ARK has a continuing support grant from Levi-Strauss, and receives educational funds from the Center for Disease Control. They have also received grants from the Melrose Foundation and the Chicago Resource Center, in addition to individual donations.

In MEMPHIS, the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) has been working since 1985 with PWAs, people who are HIV positive, and their friends and families.

"We have in place four support groups right now," one a piece for PWAs, HIV positives, family and friends, and women with AIDS, said Rita Underhill, education coordinator. ATEAC is currently serving about 150 clients.

The group has only one full-time and one part-time staff member, Underhill said, but currently has almost 200 volunteers. Although many of these came on to work with Heart Strings, "Most of the people have made a commitment," she said.

The group has trained 95 volunteers as a part of its buddy program.

On the educational front, ATEAC has a speakers bureau which makes 10 to 15 presentations each month.

"We've spoken to every group imaginable, almost," said Underhill. They also have an AIDS hotline.

In addition to individual contributions, the group's educational efforts are funded by a U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant administered by the Memphis/Shelby County Health Department. However, patient services are funded entirely from donations.

Underhill said the group is trying to develop educational materials that are targeted for specific segments of the population, such as Asian-Americans or Memphis' population of functional illiterates.

**NASHVILLE CARES**, the oldest community-based AIDS group in the state, will be in operation for four years in October and provides a wide variety of support and educational services.

"We really provide two services" with a multitude of facets, said Sandee Potter, executive director.

First, the organization provides help to individuals "to deal with the impact of contracting AIDS or testing positive for HIV infection," Potter said.

"We provide individual counseling as well as group counseling," she said. They have two social workers as full-time staff, and "We work closely with a number of other public service organizations as well as health care organizations."

The group offers a nutritional program for people with AIDS. "We're in the process of expanding that program," said Potter. "We want to be certain that our clients are able to get the food they need. It's a pretty basic need."

A full-time "client advocate" assists clients both with emergency needs and in getting public benefits.

"We want to be certain that our clients are able to get the food they need. It's a pretty basic need."

A full-time "client advocate" assists clients both with emergency needs and in getting public benefits.

"We are in the process of developing a more active community outreach," she said. "We're going to be out there in the community, especially in the gay community. We would love to come up with an AIDS vaccine, but right now all we have to prevent AIDS is education."

The group's educational efforts include distributing brochures, maintaining a videotape library with between 40 and 45 titles, and providing speakers for a variety of audiences. Over 600 people receive the group's free monthly newsletter, which Potter described as "a combination of AIDS education, agency update, as well as what's going on in other places."

Besides the five full-time staff members, Nashville CARES is supported by approximately 100 volunteers. Funding for the group comes from a variety of sources, including grants, individual contributions, and fundraising events such as Heart Strings and the Dare First Night Theatre Awards.

"The gay community has been incredibly generous, and we are very grateful for all the money that the Nashville gay and lesbian community has given us over the years," Potter said.

The organization also receives continuing support from the United Way, "for which we are very grateful," said Potter, who added that she strongly encourages people to support the United Way's efforts.

Nashville CARES was one of five AIDS groups in the country to be visited last week by Betti Knight, an Australian AIDS worker who visited four American cities: Nashville, Boston, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

"What Nashville is coping with now, Melbourne will be coping with in three to five years," said Potter. She said Australia has had fewer than 1,400 reported cases of AIDS, "a really small figure," but added that "1,400 is 1,400 too many."
The letter carrier always rings twice...

And it doesn't necessarily have to be the same old bunch of bills. Or letters from Ed McMahon. Now you can honestly look forward to looking in the mailbox. Just subscribe to Dare! Reliable news, informed opinion, literate reviews and fascinating features. Everything you need to know about lesbians and gay men in Tennessee, in one festive little package.

And now, buy one, get another for half price. Now, isn't that better than some old Lana Turner movie?

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Heart Strings: A Musical Evening Of Hope For The Healing Of AIDS.

Heart Strings: The National Tour is coming to Nashville for one night only, Thursday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m., at the Polk Theatre in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Outstanding local stars will join the musical revue which benefits Nashville CARES, Minority AIDS Outreach, and the Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Regular tickets: $25 through TICKETMASTER. Ticket plus pre-show buffet and post-show champagne cast party: $100. Ticket plus cast party: $50. Call 385-0140 for special tickets and information.

Heart Strings: The National Tour is a project of DIFFA, Design Industries Foundation for AIDS.
AIDS in Tennessee

AS MORE THAN 1,000 AIDS education specialists gather in Nashville for the Third International Conference on AIDS Education, it helps to bring more sharply into focus the fact that Tennessee, alone among all the United States, has no law to protect people with AIDS or HIV-positive status from discrimination.

What that means is that anyone in Tennessee with AIDS or who is HIV-positive can be effectively denied employment or housing—simply because of the disease that inhabits their blood.

The reasoning behind state lawmakers' decision to pass such backward legislation into law is, at best, unclear. Tennessee Gov. Ned McWherter's admission that he failed to comprehend the bill's meaning when he signed it into law is, at best, vague.

Perhaps the Third International Conference on AIDS Education will help to open state legislators' eyes—and their hearts.

Thanks!

Dear Dare,

I would like to thank the many people from our community who dropped by the grand opening of It's A Scream! alternative gift shop recently.

Many people took time from their busy holiday weekend to come in and wish us well in our new shop and express how pleased they are to have a place in which they can comfortably shop for gay- and lesbian-identified items without having to go through mail order or go out of town. People also seemed very pleased with the resource center in the shop.

We at It's A Scream! invite you to publicize your event or business in the shop's resource center. We want to be on top of community activities so we may become a focal point for new organizations, as well as old timers, in the community to go, be comfortable and enjoy!

Thanks again.

JACKI MOSS

Nashville

On division and dividing

by CAROLE CUNNINGHAM

WE WERE TOLD from the beginning by a self-declared veteran of gay and lesbian politics that it wouldn't work.

We were told that the seeds of our downfall were already sown.

We were told we would get bored, disen­
chanted, tired of each other and our cause.

We would need a lifetime of therapy before we'd along.

We were told, simply, that it was just a matter of time.

Those of us sitting in that first Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) meeting stared with wide eyes and slack jaws at this predicament of doom. We would rise, we would fall, she said. Membership would swell, dwindle, then disappear into the dark maw of activism's night.

She said what all the bitter, seasoned ones said: the division, when it came, would be between the women and the men. And the rift, however it began, would never be healed and the group would dissolve until some naive, unsuspecting upstarts tried again years later.

When our horror subsided, our laughter returned. Ridiculous, we said. How cynical, we scoffed. Surely we had more endurance, more respect for each other, and for our goals than that. Our brave naiveté was intoxicating in the months ahead. Then we found out we were naïve. We also discovered we weren't alone.

Those of us who traveled to the March on Washington, to political conventions, to queer conferences from San Francisco to New Orleans, from Minneapolis to Miami heard the same old story. Every gay and lesbian organization appeared divided and divisive, and often along gender lines. Their demise was considered immanent by observers and members alike.

So the naysayers at home started to look a little more like the soothsayers they wanted to be. And those of us who believed otherwise began to look not only naive but a little foolish.

In the two years since T-GALA was formed by about twelve devotees, I have waited to see the chronicle of our death foretold in all its awful, certain glory. Slowly we do seem to have come close to colliding with the destiny we believed we would avoid through diligence, hard work, and consistently correct politics.

We discovered our politics were sometimes far from correct; the methods or manner of one member flew in the face of the methods and manners of another; egos clashed like titans, and, yes, men and women seemed divided, not so much in the open, but behind the scenes.

We put on faces to meet the faces we would meet, but in private we could hardly contain our naked contempt and disappointment, our distrust and anger. We hoped the Others would go away, find a job, find a lover. And often they did.

Whether we're in T-GALA, AIDS service organizations, churches, or other activist efforts, we can't help but recognize we're our own worst enemy. We can't help concealing that maybe the naysayers were right after all. But were they right for the right reasons? And are we as doomed as they believe?

I can only conclude from the informal, back­room meetings I hear about, and from those I have attended, that we suffer immeasurably under the burden of an image we imagine we're supposed to project and naïvely believe we can possess.

We accept for practical purposes the notion that when dealing with reporters, politicians, arbiters of public morality, that the voice we speak with must be one voice. But we forget that the bargain with reality is made for practical purposes and doesn't reflect reality at all.

So while we flock to the coffee shops to complain about each others' ideologies, haircuts, overbearing egos, and selfish motivations, with people who think just like we do, we steer clear of arguments in public with those with whom we disagree.

We think our challenges of one another will divide us. We believe our arguments will confirm what the naysayers said all along: we can't get along; we'll fight; we'll divide.

And we are dividing. Not because we disagree, but because we don't know how to stop the cycle. Right now we are divided, but we are afraid to correct or confront each other because we fear being corrected ourselves.

We least of all want to face the rather banal conclusion that perhaps we were wrong.
Actors' hands a Line

Line. By Israel Horovitz, directed by Dennis Ewing and Rick Harrell. Actors' Playhouse, Nashville. Through September 16.
reviewed by JEFF ELIS

ISRAEL HOROVITZ LINE is one of those
interesting little urban dramas tinged with
acerbic, contemporary comedy.
You know you like it, but you're never quite
sure what it's about—or if you really got the
point. In other words, it's the perfect late night
show at Actors' Playhouse.
Horovitz' play, performed by five capable
actors under Dennis Ewing's and Rick Harrell's
expert direction, deals with the never-ending
battle to get ahead. Here, we're introduced to
time-not-altogether-likeable characters;
each striving in her or his own way to be
number one.
The five people in the one-act play are
standing (better yet, battling) on line, wait-
ning for something. What they're waiting
for, we're never quite certain; it could be to buy
tickets for a movie, play or Rolling Stones
concert (that's what I imagined while watching
the action onstage).
But as they wait, each of the people allows
us a more intimate glimpse of who they are and
what motivates them to be first on line. What
transpires is a no-holds-barred struggle for su-
periority, the line becoming a microcosm of
society's class struggles in which the weak
and/or feeble-minded get left behind, where a
woman must sleep her way to the top and
where ordinarily nice people become land-
locked piranhas.
The cast is peopled by interesting individu-
als who, like Horovitz' characters, look average
and act average until they are over-
whelmed by the spirit of competition.
Phillip Craig is cast as the slightly dim-witted
Fleming, who allows himself to be tricked out
of his highly-valued first place on line. Sup-
planting Fleming, with his slight of hand and
double-talk, is James Brantley as Stephen.
Brantley's slightly-
crazed delivery is ideal
for the conniving,
slightly-crazed char-
acter.
Actors' Playhouse stalwart Karen
Mundy, in one of her best performances to
date, is given the daunting task of plying a to-
tally unsympathetic character, yet she man-
ages to pull it off with style. In fact, her Molly
is not the slut Horovitz paints her in the early
goings; instead, she is determined to gain her
place on line any way she can.
Jerry Craig's Dobal and Barry Lindsay's
Armill complete the cast with carefully drawn
performances.

Barn does Biloxi

Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre, Nashville. Through September 30.
reviewed by JEFF ELIS

FOR THE PAST 30 or so years, Neil Simon's
comedies have delighted theatre audiences,
becoming staples in the repertoires of count-
less community and dinner theatres.
Simon's award-winning "BB" trilogy of
autobiographical plays are not the typical
farces one expects from the man who brought us
Barefoot in the Park and The Odd Couple.
Instead, Simon gives his "BB" comedies a
much-needed jolt of dra-
matic realism and, in the
process, gives his audience
a more thoughtful
though just as funny
view of the human com-
edy.
The second installment in Simon's trilogy is Biloxi
Blues. In its present incar-
nation at Chaffin's Barn
Dinner Theatre, director
Michael Edwards has as-
sembled a cast of some of Nashville's most
talented young actors who, through the course
of the evening, manage to endear themselves
to the audience.
Heading the capable cast is Steve Chambers
as Eugene Morris Jerome (the Neil Simon
character), the naïve young man from
Brighton Beach who dreams of being a writer.
**Market**

**Announcements**

- **relationship struggles?** New audiotape gives support and steps to resolve conflict. Based on bestseller **lesbian couples**, $11.95 prepaid to Seal Press, 3131 Western, #410, Seattle, WA 98121.


- Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Dare First Night Theater Awards, $10 at the door benefits Nashville CARES. Tym., Sunday, September 17, at Nashville's Looby Theater. For more information, phone 615 327-327.

- Do you remember the first time you read Radclyffe Hall's The Well of Loneliness? Dare is looking for your impressions and recollections for a Radclyffe Hall anniversary story. Phone us at 615 327-327, and either tell your anecdote or leave your name and number for an interview.

- Dare is now in Knoxville! Look for us at the Carousel, the Pepperbottle, Traditions, Metropolitan Community Church/Knoxville and Davis-Kidd Bookellers. Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly.

- **Wanter:** Reliable, hardworking self-starters in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis for commissioned ad sales. Great part-time, high-pay work for students, etc. 615 327-327.

- **Wanter:** Reliable and energetic people to help deliver Dare in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. Write Dare, Box 40422, 37204 or phone 615 327-327.

**Long Hours! Hard Work! Low Pay!** Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-Cities and around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, 37204 or phone 615 327-327.

**Travel**


**Homes**

- GWM seeks roommate to share 3 bdrm house, Nashville. No smokers. $225-250 +1/2 utilities. 615 567-1623.

- GWM, 29, S. room for quiet apt near Nashville airport. Perfect for airline worker or other. 615 360-3974.

**Personal**

- **Personal to HHB: Have a couple on me, if you can.**

- Happy birthday to the best little boy! I love you no matter how old you get, just as long as you're older than me. Love from the Younger Man.

- ALCU lawyer William Rubenstein, as quoted in the American Bar Association Journal, on a New York Court of Appeals ruling recognizing same-sex relationships for purposes of defining a family under New York City's rent-control regulations.

- I wear a lot of makeup 'cause I love to paint and because I enjoy it.

- **Entertainer extraordinary Dolly Parton, to McCull's magazine in a September interview.**

**Quotes**

"Gee, Pat, you sure talk about queers a lot"

- "Boy, they were big on crematoriums, weren't they?"
  — President George Bush, regular guy and master of the understatement, commenting during a 1987 tour of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

- "Our relationship is sort of like Bert and Ernie's. I'm not sure what it is, but it works."
  — Puppet creator Jim Henson, at the 1989 Daytime Emmy Awards, discussing his relationship with Joan Gcooney, creator of Sesame Street.

- It marks the most important single step forward in American law toward full recognition of gay and lesbian relationships.

- I met homeless gay men with AIDS and gay teenage runaways who raked their beds bare for meals and drugs, hustling on every street corner.
  — Noted gay activist and author Darrell Yates Rist, writing in The Nation, recounting a visit to San Francisco.

- This anti-porno campaign serves only to give [former U.S. ambassador to France] Joe Rodgers an opportunity for some cheap grandstanding and the religious right a chance to elbow their way into our bedrooms, our art, our music, our television, our press and our freedom of choice and thought.
  — John Trim in a letter to The Tennessean.

**Classified ads and subscriptions**

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**I.**

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**Office use only**

**Run ad for**

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- 3 weeks $ 25.00
- 4 weeks $ 30.00
- 6 weeks $ 35.00

**Ad cost per 2-week period**

$ 15.00

**Response drawer charge**

$ 5.00

**BOLD CAPS charge**

$ 5.00

**SUBTOTAL**

$ 25.00

**x number of two-week periods**

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**classified ad total**

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**6 months**

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**1 year**

$ 240.00

**Amount enclosed**

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**20.00**

**$ 10.00**

**$ 20.00**

**Signed**

I certify that I am the person named above. No ad will be accepted without signature.

[Books for sale: Sallie Tisdale in the Summer, Triple C.O.P.L.O.N.'s, which ignore the anti-same sex campaign.]