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MAY 25-31, 1988

AIDS Panel Nixes Mandatory Tests

Urges Law Protection from AIDS-Based Discrimination

By **JEFF ELLIS**
News Editor

Mandatory testing for the AIDS virus "is not effective and should not be done," according to a 45-page report completed last week by members of Tennessee's state advisory committee on AIDS.

That recommendation was one of several as the committee's 28 members completed their nine-month-long study of AIDS and made public their findings during hearings conducted last week at Tennessee State University.

Originally empanelled last September by state Health and Environment Commissioner James Word, the committee is not a policy-making body. Rather, their job, according to Word's office, was to advise the commissioner on public policy concerning AIDS.

Tennesseans with AIDS or AIDS-related complex (ARC) should be protected from job discrimination under a state law which

prohibits discrimination against the handicapped, the committee advised.

Committee members agreed that a 1987 law passed by the General Assembly which excludes persons with infectious diseases from discrimination protection offered the handicapped should be reworded to include people suffering from AIDS.

"The committee finds that AIDS (or related conditions) is not properly classified as an 'infectious, contagious or similarly transmittable disease' within the meaning of the law," the report states.

"The committee strongly endorses extending the employment protection embodied in the law... to persons with AIDS or HIV-related conditions."

It was suggested by several members of the committee that the amendment to a 1976 anti-discrimination law should be repealed.

The bill was signed into law by Gov. Ned McWherter, who has said he was unaware the bill carried such an exclusion. The governor, however, has said the legislature must now make any changes in the law's language.

The exclusionary clause has been derided by AIDS activists, as well as lesbian and gay activists for its detrimental effect on their efforts to ensure civil rights protection for persons with AIDS or who are HIV-positive.

Michael Engle, deputy general counsel for health and environment, told the committee he did not think the law could survive a challenge in the courts. However,

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Memphis' Alberta Hunter, at the peak of her career in the Thirties. This week's Pride Profiles examines the blues star's life and loves - page 5.

Minority AIDS Outreach Seeks Poor

By **CURT FOLTS**
Staff Writer

Minority AIDS Outreach's educational foray into Sam Levy Homes Saturday was termed "a great success" by director Joyce Perkins.

Minority AIDS Outreach is aggressively approaching minority groups in the city through churches, street fairs, college activities, housing development activities, and any place else that a group of minority people can be found, Perkins said.

Saturday's program at the Sam Levy Homes represents the first such attempt by volunteers for the AIDS service organization. The purpose of the event was to make residents aware that minorities are in as much danger of contracting AIDS as the white gay community, Perkins said.

"We want to give out as much correct information as possible, to break down the myth that AIDS is only a white gay disease. And we want to try and get people involved," Perkins said.

Volunteers distributed condoms, bleach, AIDS information pamphlets and refreshments to residents of the 500 units that comprise the Sam Levy development. Along with E.L.F. (Every Lady's Fantasy), a six-member rap group from Maplewood High School, singer Stella Harding and disc

jockey Tony Carter, MAO volunteers spread their AIDS prevention message.

Blacks make up 12-15% of the national population, and 25% percent of the AIDS-afflicted population; Latinos, 6% of the national population and 14% of the AIDS-afflicted population.

"That's almost twice the white AIDS-afflicted population," Perkins said. "These statistics show a great need for action."

Saturday's program was the second major effort of MAO since it was organized some 10 months ago. The first effort, last Decem-

ber, saw volunteers canvassing businesses from 1st to 40th streets along Jefferson Street with AIDS information pamphlets, asking they be made available to the public.

"The response was very supportive and encouraging," Perkins said.

Perkins, who previously worked for Nashville CARES for two years, started MAO when she realized minorities perceived CARES as a whites-only group.

"I discovered that even though Nashville CARES is for all people, most of the minority

Continued on Page 3

NAMES Quilt Comes to Atlanta

By **HARRISON HICKS**
Staff Writer

Atlanta, site of this year's Democratic National Convention, will witness politics of a different sort this weekend when the NAMES Project Quilt makes its latest stop on a nationwide tour.

Said to weigh more than five tons and requiring the space of several football fields to be displayed, the quilt was conceived last year by San Francisco gay activist Cleve Jones.

Seeking a way to honor the memory of friends who had died from AIDS, Jones

started soliciting panels for the quilt, with each panel devoted to a different individual.

By last October, when the quilt was displayed during the March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, it consisted of more than 4,000 panels. After the quilt became the emotional focal point of the March, the NAMES Project group decided to present the quilt around the country.

The tour began this spring in Los Angeles before moving to Atlanta, the only city in the deep south to host the exhibit.

Opening ceremonies for the quilt, which

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Pride Profiles:
Memphis'
black -and-blue
Alberta Hunter,
page 5.

Don't fall for
White Mischief,
page 7.

Dates

May

25 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

26 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Information phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.
Nashville CARES Board of Directors meeting, Room 106, American Red Cross Building. 7pm.

27 Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

28 Saturday

NAMES Project *The Names Quilt*, exhibit, Exhibit Hall A, World Congress Center, Atlanta. 9am-11pm. Free.

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.
Metropolitan Community Church *Homosexuality: What the Bible Does and Does Not Say*, Part 1, video. Community Forum. 8:30pm. Free.
Pride Week Fundraiser, Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern. 9:30pm. \$3.

29 Sunday

NAMES Project *The Names Quilt*, exhibit, Exhibit Hall A, World Congress Center, Atlanta. 9am-11pm. Free.
Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4pm.
New Attitude *Caligula*, movie. 8pm.

30 Monday

Memorial Day
NAMES Project *The Names Quilt*, exhibit, Exhibit Hall A, World Congress Center, Atlanta. 9am-7pm. Free.

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30pm.

Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6pm.
Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

31 Tuesday

Nashville CARES HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm.
AI-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

June

1 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

2 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.

Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Information phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.

3 Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont Methodist. 7:30pm.

4 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.
The Chute *The Dena Kaye Show*
Great Tennessee River Raft Race Chattanooga, Info phone 615 267-7238.

5 Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4pm.
New Attitude *Now, Voyager*, movie. 8pm.

6 Monday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6pm.
Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

7 Tuesday

Nashville CARES HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm.
AI-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed

meeting, MCC. 8pm.

8 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

9 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Information phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.

10 Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

11 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.

12 Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4pm.
New Attitude *Mommie Dearest*, movie. 8pm.

13 Monday

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Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
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14 Tuesday

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Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

15 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

16 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Information phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.

Your event or organization can be listed at no charge in *Dates* or *Listings*. Just drop a postcard or letter to *Dave*, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 292-9623 and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification.

Listings

RESTAURANTS AND CLUBS

NASHVILLE

The Cabaret	1711 Hayes St	320-7082
The Chute	2535 Franklin Rd	297-4571
Chez Collette	407 1st Av South	256-9134
Crazy Cowboy II	2311 Franklin Rd	269-5318
The Gas Lite	167 1/2 8th Av North	254-1278
Juanita's	1700 4th Av South	256-9681
The Jungle	306 4th Av South	256-9411
New Attitude	1803 Church St	320-5154
Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern	515 2nd Av South	256-9682
Victor/Victoria's	111 8th Av North	244-7256
Warehouse 28	2529 Franklin Rd	385-9689
World's End	1713 Church St	329-3480

CLARKSVILLE

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ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union Hedy Weinberg, <i>Director</i>	Box 120160, Nashville 37212	256-7028
Conductors	Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Hotline	256-7028
Nashville CARES Sandee Potter, <i>Director</i>	Box 40261, Nashville 37204	
Nashville Women's Alliance	Box 25107, Nashville 37202	385-1510
	AIDS Crisis Line	385-AIDS
National Organization for Women (Tennessee) Elizabeth Jamison, <i>President</i>	Box 120834, Nashville 37212	366-0555
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)	Box 120523, Nashville 37212	
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Task Force (TGLTF) Carole Cunningham, <i>President</i>	Box 24181, Nashville 37212	
Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS)	Box 24181, Nashville 37212	
Vanderbilt AIDS Project	Box 120871, Nashville 37212	297-8540
Vanderbilt Lambda Association	Hotline	322-AIDS
Women's Resource Center (YWCA)	Box 121743, Nashville 37212	
	1608 Woodmont Blvd	385-3952
SERVICES		
Jane Parkey Attorney		227-3958
Irene K. Ratner, EdD Psychologist	Suite 234 B, 4004 Hillsboro Rd	298-5369
RELIGIOUS		
Metropolitan Community Church Rev Paul Tucker, <i>Pastor</i>	131 15th Av North	320-0288

AIDS Panel Reports

Continued from Page 1

since it has not yet been challenged in the courts, Engle said he believed the committee's action could affect the outcome of any subsequent lawsuit.

Some 450 Tennesseans have been diagnosed as having AIDS, as of April 30, according to state health officials. Still thousands more are believed to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus - HIV.

Local health officials estimate that at least 20% of the gay male population of Nashville is HIV-positive. However, some counselors have claimed that estimate is too low, suggesting the actual figure may be doubled.

Among other recommendations included in the committee's 28-page report to Commissioner Word are:

*Widespread public education about how

the virus is and is not transmitted is the most effective way to stop AIDS-related discrimination.

*Such education should target high-risk individuals, community groups, schools, health care groups, public servants and the correction system.

*A period of anonymous testing be done on adult prison inmates at the time they enter prison to determine how prevalent the infection of the virus is in the system.

*Testing of food handlers and those applying for marriage licenses would be unnecessary and ineffective in stopping the spread of the disease.

*Students with AIDS or who are HIV-positive should be allowed to attend school until such time that they pose a medical threat to others.

Names Project Quilt/Atlanta

The following schedule of events for the weekend is tentative and subject to change. All events will take place at the World Congress Center, exhibit hall A. Further information is available by calling (404) 872-0600.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

8 p.m. **24-hour AIDS Candlelight Vigil.** Sponsored by MCC-Atlanta. Information: (404) 872-2246.

SATURDAY, MAY 28

1 p.m. **Screening: Buddies.** A young man is assigned to be a buddy to an AIDS patient. Though the two have little in common, they form a deep friendship.

3 - 5 p.m. **Screening: Only Human,** video.

6 p.m. **Screening: AIDS Film Project.**

8:30 p.m. **Performance: Warren,** a play by Rebecca Ranson. Tickets \$10, reservations required. Information (404) 827-9678.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

9 a.m. - 11 p.m. **Public viewing of the NAMES Project Quilt.**

9 a.m. **Opening Ceremonies.**

1 p.m. **Choir Performance.**

3 p.m. **Interfaith services.**

5 p.m. **Healing Circle** for AIDS.

8:30 p.m. **Performance: Higher Ground: Voices of AIDS.** By Rebecca Ranson, presented by Southeaster Arts, Media and Entertainment (SAME) and National Association of People Living with AIDS (NAPLA). Tickets \$15, reservations required. Information (404) 827-9678.

MONDAY, MAY 30

9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Public viewing of the NAMES Project Quilt.**

1 p.m. **Choir performance.**

2 p.m. **Film screening: Buddies.**

4 p.m. **Screening: AIDS Film Project.**

6 p.m. **Performance: Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus.**

6:30 p.m. **Performance: Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus.**

7:30 p.m. **Closing Ceremonies.**



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Sunday 3 pm - 7 pm

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NAMES Quilt in Atlanta

Continued from Page 1

will be displayed in the Georgia World Congress Center, will be held Sunday, May 29 at 9 a.m. After the opening ceremonies, the quilt will be available for public viewing until 11 p.m., with Monday's viewing scheduled from 9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Several events, including performances by the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus and the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus, will be held in

conjunction with the quilt's showing. All events, with the exception of the Saturday presentation of Warren and the Sunday presentation of Higher Ground, will be free and open to the public.

In addition, preceding the quilt's showing, the Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta will sponsor a 24-hour AIDS candlelight vigil starting on Friday, May 2, at 8 p.m.

Minority AIDS Outreach Success

Continued from Page 1

people stayed away, thinking it was a white organization," she said.

Currently, MAO has 35 dues-paid members (at \$12 a person), with dues going directly into projects such as Saturday's event at Sam Levy Homes. The organization is almost totally dependent upon contributions.

There is no paid staff for the organization and MAO is currently working toward achieving non-profit status, Perkins said.

"We don't qualify for grants yet, so it all depends on the people. We make do with what we have, for now," she said.

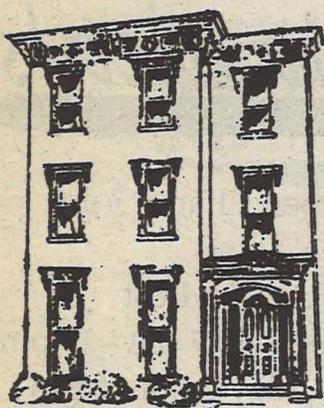
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which cripples the body's immune system, is transmitted through sexual

intercourse, tainted blood and blood products, and the sharing of needles by intravenous drug users. The bleach solution distributed by volunteers Saturday can be used to disinfect needles.

Minority AIDS Outreach had expressed concern that Settle Court, a strip which runs through the Levy Homes development, reportedly contains a high number of intravenous drug users.

Perkins, a state certified counselor and drug and alcohol abuse counselor, said that MAO has established a hotline for those interested in obtaining further information.

The number for the Minority AIDS Outreach hotline is 327-2340, and is open 24 hours.



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New Attitude
The Office, *Clarksville*
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Lambda Rising
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Nashville Sex Sting Lands in Court

Attorneys, Others Question Police Use of Minor

By JEFF ELLIS
News Editor

Tony St. Clair, the 15-year-old east Nashville boy used as a decoy in a sex sting conducted by Nashville Metro Police last winter, was subjected to danger, vulgarity and immorality by authorities, defense

attorneys for those arrested in the sting argued in Criminal Court last week.

However, assistant district attorney Richard Fisher retorted that Caroline St. Clair agreed to let police use her son as bait when she learned of his year-long history of prostitution on east Nashville streets.

According to Fisher, the woman hoped the sting operation would stop the men who pay for sex with teenaged boys in the area.

A series of motions were argued by attorneys for 33 of the 43 men arrested in the wake of the three-month-long sting. The remaining ten men must first face other legal proceedings before motions will be heard in the teen sex probe.

"This court must decide whether we are going to permit the use of minors," argued primary defense spokesman, attorney William Farmer.

Because St. Clair is a minor, Farmer argued, it was illegal under Tennessee law for police to use him for "obscene purposes."

Police testified that St. Clair was not given money or offered immunity from prosecution in exchange for his part in the operation.

Defense attorneys cited a 1984 state attorney general's opinion that law enforcement officials could not legally use minors to buy beer at establishments suspected of selling it to minors.

The opinion, signed by Attorney General W. Michael Cody, said such undercover operations involving minors are in violation of a state law that prohibits contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

However, Shriver told defense attorneys he was not certain that opinion applied in this case.

"As it stands, it is only an opinion. I don't consider myself bound by an assistant attorney general's opinion," Shriver said.

Farmer told the judge he must determine "which is the greater evil," men who solicit boys for sex, or placing those boys in dangerous, degrading positions in order to catch the men.

The sex sting operation was begun after authorities received a call from Caroline St. Clair last September. She said her son had been paid by adult men for performing sexual acts, Metro detective Harry Harris testified.

"The mother felt like she wanted us to go ahead with the sting," Harris said. "She wanted these people off the street."

Juvenile court officials and members of the city's victim intervention program discussed the case and, when the boy and his mother agreed to his participation, the operation got under way.

The corner of Fatherland and 10th streets was placed under surveillance by police to confirm St. Clair's claims about teen prostitution which allegedly flourished in the area. The teen-ager was wired with a tape recorder and used as a decoy, officers testified.

"He would stand outside on the street, at which time cars would approach him," Harris said. "They would make a deal. They would tell him what they wanted and how much they would pay for what they wanted. We never lost contact with him."

Detective Ricky Roll testified that Tony St. Clair "admitted he had been involved in this sort of thing for a long time."

"It wasn't like exposing someone to something they'd never been involved in before," Roll asserted.

Shriver did not rule on motions to drop charges against any of the men, continuing the hearing until St. Clair completes an alcohol abuse program at Vanderbilt University Hospital's Child and Adolescent Clinic. After his successful completion of the program, St. Clair will testify.

Shriver told defense attorneys they would have to select one representative to question the youth.

"I can't think of anything more terrifying than letting all of you question this kid," Shriver said. "I won't allow you to have open season on him."

Briefs

From STAFF REPORTS

New AIDS Test Could Reduce Risk of Tainted Blood

California scientists announced last week they have developed a new AIDS test that should reduce the risk of tainted blood transfusions by revealing if people are infected before they develop antibodies to the virus.

Detection of how much genetic information from the AIDS virus is present in a person's blood should help scientists study the effectiveness of experimental drugs in attacking the AIDS virus, molecular geneticist John J. Rossi said.

The test, developed by a research team at City of Hope National Medical Center in suburban Duarte, Calif., is similar, but more sensitive and accurate, than ones developed by scientists at Cetus Corp. and the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Rossi said the new test should sharply reduce contaminated blood transfusions and could reduce sexual transmission of AIDS because they can detect the presence of AIDS virus within a few days after a person is infected.

One of the new tests could be on the market within two years, at a cost comparable to existing tests, Rossi said. The new type of test eventually should replace the existing test once its accuracy is established.

U.S. House Passes Hate Crimes Bill

Anti-lesbian and anti-gay violence have been addressed in the U.S. House's first positive vote on gay and lesbian issues. By a 383-29 vote, the House passed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act last week.

The bill requires the Federal collection of statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on "race, religion, homosexuality or heterosexuality, and ethnicity." The Senate has not yet acted on its version of the legislation, S.B. 2000.

"This overwhelming victory is not only exciting but historic," according to Kevin Berrill, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project Director, "While Congress continues to permit discrimination against gay and lesbian people in employment, housing and other areas, this vote at least acknowledges that the Federal government does have a duty to protect lesbian and gay people from the violence and the threat of violence, which are the most fundamental violations of our human and civil rights."

Although conservatives attempted to remove the sexual orientation clause from the bill via an amendment proposed by Rep. George Gekas (R.-PA), supporters were able to push through the proposal by Rep. John Miller (R.-WA) defining sexual orientation as "homosexuality or heterosexuality."

Supporters of the bill included the 53-organization coalition called Organizations for Hate Crime Prevention, including the American Jewish Congress, the American Psychological Association, and People for the America Way.

New Coalition Seeks 1989 AIDS Funding

National Organizations Responding to AIDS, a coalition of public health, civil rights and professional organizations, has begun efforts to boost Federal AIDS funding levels to over \$2 billion for fiscal year 1989.

The group has prepared, in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a document called *An Alternative AIDS Budget for FY 1989*. The paper proposes dramatic increases over the Reagan Administration's request of just over \$1.2 billion.

AIDS Action Council Executive Director Jean McGuire said that the document should focus "more attention on health care delivery issues as the AIDS caseload continues to rise."

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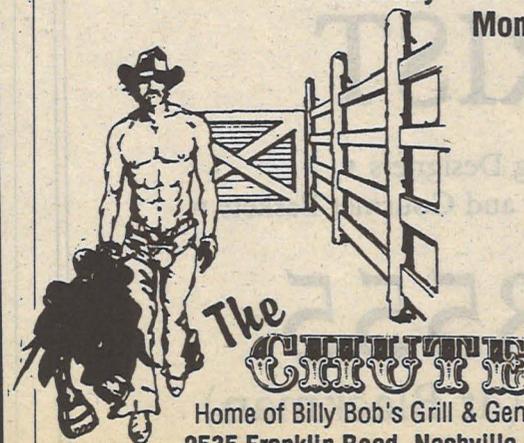
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Pride Profiles: Memphis' Alberta Hunter

By SHERRE DRYDEN
Book Editor

When singer/songwriter Alberta Hunter died in 1984 at age 89, she left an extraordinary legacy of achievement.

Alberta Hunter was born in 1895, a native of Beale Street in Memphis. Her father was a sleeping-car porter (the most prestigious job, outside the professions, open to black men in those days). After he deserted Hunter, her mother and sister, Hunter's mother worked as a maid for Emma and Myrtle Taylor, two white sisters who owned a "sporting house" (bordello) at 122 Gayoso Street.

Having heard that singers could earn as much as \$10 a week, Hunter took the train to Chicago when she was 16. Her singing career began at Dago Frank's, a favorite hangout for pimps and their "sportin' gals" who took Hunter under their wing. "The dangerous element hung out there, but so did the pickpocket women, and they did everything in their power to show me how to live a clean life." Hunter later recalled.

At The Panama in Chicago, she introduced the St. Louis Blues, and at the Dreamland she sang with the resident ensemble, King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band. "Singers would go around from table to table...hustlin' dollars in tips...I made a lot of money that way."

Around that same time she fell in love with Carrie Mae Ward and they took an apartment together. "I remember Carrie saying, 'I'm going to make you the best dresser in Chicago.' Boy, I wore some clothes. Chicks today think they're dressing up, but I was

dressing up when they were in the cornfields."

Hunter met Lottie Tyler in 1919. Although frequently separated, the two women were lovers for many years. While in Paris with Hunter, Tyler fell in love with another woman and returned to the United States to be with her. Hunter was hurt by Tyler's rejection, but the two remained friends, occasionally living together, until Tyler died.

Lesbianism remained one subject that Hunter refused to discuss. She grew up in a household and an era that didn't permit discussion of sexuality, much less acceptance of homosexuality.

In fact, she did everything she could to conceal her sexual orientation all her life. According to her biographers, lesbianism, in Hunter's mind, tarnished the image of propriety and respectability she struggled hard to achieve.

Hunter recoiled every time a lesbian performer like Ethel Waters fought with one of her lovers in public. "What will people say?" Hunter asked.

In 1921, Hunter began to record songs like *Bring Back the Joys* and *He's a Darn Good Man* for Black Swan, the first black-owned recording studio in the country. She sang with the Original Memphis Five, becoming the first black vocalist to record with a white band.

Convinced she had gone as far as she could in Chicago, Hunter moved to New York in 1923. A few days after her arrival, she replaced Bessie Smith in the Broadway



Alberta Hunter, after her 1977 comeback. "Boy, I wore some clothes." And some earrings.

production of the all-black musical *How Come?* at the Apollo Theatre.

Like many American artists in the 1920s, Alberta Hunter went to Europe, partly to escape the racial oppression of her own country. She performed at Bricktop's in Paris, the London Palladium, and succeeded Josephine Baker at the Casino de Paris. Her most famous composition, *Down Hearted Blues*, helped propel Bessie Smith to stardom.

The death of Hunter's mother in 1954 fueled a re-evaluation of her life and her decision to begin a new career.

At age 62, she cajoled the director of a YWCA training program for licensed practical nurses to admit her to the program. She was accepted, but the director subtracted 12 years from her age. Hunter graduated in 1956 and lead the procession, singing her song *I Want to Thank You Lord*. "That was the happiest night of my life," she said, "To think that I had been chosen to be a rescuer for my God."

She began working in 1957 as an LPN at Goldwater Hospital in New York. Over the next 20 years Hunter became so involved with nursing that she severed most of her ties to the entertainment world.

In 1961, jazz critic Chris Albertson asked her to make a historical record called *Songs We Taught Your Mother*. Later, she made another album which included a duet with Lovie Austin. Hunter and Austin had last performed together in 1922.

"Every now and then a colleague would find out I had been a singer and would think I must not have been doing so well to be emptying bedpans. I'd just smile to myself," Hunter said.

Because the hospital believed she had just reached retirement age, Hunter was forced to leave nursing in 1977. Shortly afterwards, "bored to tears," she began singing at the Cookery in Greenwich Village. She created such a sensation that her engagement was extended indefinitely. She continued to sing there until the summer before her death in 1984.

Clothes Make the Woman?

From STAFF REPORTS

Ugly clothes and too many rules are to blame for women prisoners in a Soviet penal colony turning to lesbianism and drugs, according to a Soviet newspaper.

"The regime of the colony gives rise to a destructive process in a woman," a prisoner told the newspaper *Sovietskaya Rossiya*. The report was an unprecedented article about prison conditions, made possible by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of openness - glasnost.

"Marching in formation, ugly clothes, banging of iron, commands, meatless diet - this makes one insipid, dull, leads one to search for emotional relief at any price," the prisoner was quoted as saying. She is a former college lecturer whose doctoral dissertation was about the family.

Prisoners could fight off a "breakdown" for five years at the most, the woman said, but "then the organism catastrophically weakens" and prisoners seek solace in smoking, lesbianism and narcotics.

The article described conditions at Corrective Labor Women's Colony No. 65-15, 620 miles southeast of Moscow on the Volga River.

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Finally! Common Sense

Thank God (or Goddess, as you prefer). Someone in state government has finally shown some good, old-fashioned common sense mixed in with some good, old-fashioned compassion.

Tennessee Commissioner of Health and Environment James Word's AIDS Advisory Committee has issued its report after nine long months studying the disease, its effects, and ways that Tennessee state government can battle it most efficiently and effectively.

The Committee's report sends two loud and clear messages to the people of Tennessee: First, that mandatory testing for the presence of antibodies to HIV is an expensive and useless policy; and second, that the civil rights of Tennesseans must be protected from those who would discriminate against them on the basis of AIDS, AIDS-related

complex (ARC) or HIV-seropositivity status.

The Committee examined the experiences of other states that have attempted to mandate HIV testing in on reform or another, and found that, far from being useful in the fight against AIDS, the required tests caused hardship and expense without providing any benefits.

In states that have required HIV testing for the issuance of marriage licenses, applicants have simply crossed state lines to get marriage licenses and avoid the tests. The study also found that in states like Louisiana, which attempted to mandate the tests, costs for the tests skyrocketed when providers had a captive market. In some cases, Louisiana test providers charged up to \$200 for an HIV antibody test that can be had in Tennessee for free at health departments. Even private

testers in Tennessee rarely charge more than \$50.

The Committee's second message is a potentially more-important one. Its endorsement of the extension of discrimination protection to those with AIDS of HIV-related conditions should be applauded.

It's not enough that the gay - and lesbian - community has had to suffer the ravages of the disease. We have also had to endure the rampages of those who hold AIDS to be God's judgment against us, and their use of the disease as an excuse to hide their bigotry behind.

The exclusion of AIDS and HIV disease from the state's employment-discrimination law last year was a blatant attempt to remove protection from those who suffer either from the disease or from the bigotry of those who

assume that all homosexuals - lesbians, too - are "carriers."

The AIDS Advisory Committee has finally made a clear and convincing case for the adoption of a level-headed, unemotional response to the AIDS epidemic.

It's about time.

What We're Up to Now

We'll be taking off this Memorial Day weekend, for Chicago and the Gay and Lesbian Press Association national convention. The convention, our first, promises a lot of excitement and the chance to rub elbows with the women and men who write, edit and publish gay and lesbian papers, magazines and books around the country and the world.

More than that, it's a chance for us to let the rest of the country in on what's happening here.

We trade subscriptions with quite a few publications coast-to-coast, and hope to add even more to their number. Reciprocal subscriptions help keep us and our fellow publications abreast of what's going on out there, so we can help keep you better informed.

With this, our tenth issue, we've taken a look back over the last few months, and the changes we've made in the paper. Many of them were your suggestions, for which we thank you. More changes are on the way. In

the coming weeks you'll see:

- A regular AIDS-and-your-health column, to keep you on top of the latest medical and social-service breakthroughs
- A new column called Sociables that will keep tabs on who's what's where, and
- Classifieds, where you can reach the right people for employment, real estate, announcements and personals.

*Our goal
is to be the best
local lesbian and
gay newspaper
in the U.S.*

At the same time, you'll continue to see in-depth local and national news, insightful reviews and on-target features in what we

think is one of the best local gay and lesbian newspapers in the country.

We'll also continue our quest to make it possible for you to keep up with what's going on here in Tennessee when you're out of town.

Dare is already one of the most widely-available local lesbian and gay newspapers, with regular distribution in ten cities from Chattanooga to San Francisco to Clarksville to Boston to Birmingham to Washington, D.C., and more cities to come.

Our circulation has almost doubled in the last two months. We like to interpret that to mean we're doing something right.

But our goal is to be the best local lesbian and gay newspaper in the U.S. And that's where you come in. Tell us what we can do to get you the news, information and entertainment you want.

Write to us, at Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, and let us know what you like and don't like about Dare.

We're waiting to hear from you.

Dare

The Gay and Lesbian Newspaper
From the Heart of the American South

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Dykes to Watch Out For™



A Burst of Lorde

A Burst of Light, Audre Lorde. Ithaca: Firebrand Books, 1988. \$7.95, \$16.95. 134 pp.

By SHERRE DRYDEN
Book Editor

Audre Lorde is, herself, a burst of light. Reading this brief collection of essays, I found it impossible not to fall in love with her. I saw her softness and her commitment and her bravery, her anger and the twinkle in her eye. Seeing these things in her, I realized their beauty, and wished I could find them in myself.

Lorde, a poet, has spent most of her life fighting racism, sexism and homophobia. In A Burst of Light (five essays, written between 1980 and 1987), there is a sense of these struggles, and an image of Audre Lorde, the activist.

Most powerful are "I am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities," a galvanizing plea not to let homophobia create barriers between black women, and "Apartheid, U.S.A." Lorde's juxtaposition of incidents in South Africa with similar, contemporary incidents in the United States is a stark statement on the true progress of civil rights in this country.

"Sadomasochism: Not About Condemnation" is a reasoned, unemotional analysis of the implications of lesbian sado/masochistic sexual practices. Guided by Lorde as she works through her feelings about dominant/subordinant role-playing ("I ask myself, under close scrutiny, whether I am puritanical about this..."), I was able to resolve much of my own confusion on the subject.

Most captivating, though, is the image of Audre, the woman.

In all of the essays, but particularly in "Turning the Beat Around: Lesbian Parenting in 1986" and "A Burst of Light: Living with Cancer", I met a woman I am in awe of, but also a woman who seems human and approachable.

Reading her words I imagined Audre making the tough decision to wean her baby daughter to be able to go to the 1963 March on Washington for Civil Rights. I saw tears streaming down her face as she wrote of black children murdered in South Africa and her eyes flash when her doctor told her "Well, you look like an intelligent girl."

I felt deeply her need for physical contact as she and her lover Frances walked near the

hospital where Audre was being treated for cancer, holding hands in their coat pockets.

I remember being in Atlanta last summer at a women's studies conference and one of the speakers said that Audre Lorde was ill and in need of our positive thoughts. Then, I only knew Audre Lorde the poet and activist, but I could feel the love that filled the room when her name was mentioned. Now I know why.

Lorde writes, "If one Black woman I do not know gains hope and strength from my story, then it has been worth the difficulty of telling."

Not only one black woman has gained, but hundreds, and hundreds of white women, too. Everyone must read A Burst of Light.

Curtains

White Misfits

By JEFF ELLIS
News Editor

White Mischief is a pretty, but stupid, movie about British colonials in 1940s Kenya who are a depraved, decadent and disgusting lot.

Readers of most gay-themed publications have seen the slightly seductive advertisements heralding the movie's release. There is a party scene featuring cross-dressing by both men and women which includes a brief glimpse of two women dancing together.

But Greta Scacchi wearing a tuxedo with her hair in a chignon and Charles Dance in a stunning midnight blue dinner dress do not a political statement make.

Written by Michael Radford and Jonathan Gems, White Mischief is a reprehensible mishmash, unappealing to all audiences - gay or straight.

"Give me a movie set in Africa, so we can have some great visuals," the money men must have muttered. "Throw in as much sex, drugs, violence, blood and gore as possible and make the characters completely void of redeeming qualities."

And this is a movie pitched, through print

advertising, to a lesbian and gay audience? Please.

Columbia Pictures must have forgotten that queers are society's arbiters of good taste.

The only good taste exhibited in White Mischief are the costumes worn by Scacchi and the title design. Beyond that, it's in rather bad taste.

So what's this movie about? Lord and Lady Broughton (Joss Ackland and Scacchi) move to Kenya to oversee his farms in order to make a greater contribution to the war effort. Lord Broughton - Jock to his friends - is an old geezer whom Lady Diana marries for money and a title.

She gets the title, but little money. It seems Jock is in dire financial straits, but we're never told why or how he reached this state of affairs.

Diana arrives in Kenya and immediately falls in lust with Joss Errol, the resident stud of the British Army. They breathe heavily, gaze longingly, sweat profusely and then fuck in the surf as friends watch from a nearby loggia.

The F-word is appropriate here - these people don't know from making love, thank

you very much.

Jock finds out; after all, Diana and Joss are less than discreet about their affair.

As you've probably already figured out, jealousy rears its ugly head and foul play ensues. We get more than our fair share of blood and gore in the idyllic vistas outside Nairobi.

Greta Scacchi is beautiful, but she must have taken acting lessons from reruns of Search for Tomorrow. She looks pained and screams a lot, all the while clad in gorgeous '40s era costumes.

Charles Dance, as Joss, is all smoldering Anglo sexuality, the object of lust of every woman this side of Cairo.

The other British colonials are indeed a lusty lot, reveling at cross-dressing parties, drinking champagne at cocktail parties held in graveyards, indulging in intravenous drugs and lolling about deciding who to fuck after the gin and champagne are gone.

"Doesn't anyone want to fuck me?" one woman asks plaintively.

No one does and no one would, believe me. She scared me.

But the most disgusting scene is Sarah

Miles (as a raving lunatic who's always walking around with a snake wrapped around her neck or some other equally off-putting animal as accessory) walking into a morgue to view a corpse. Sarah hikes her skirt and begins to masturbate while looking at the aforementioned corpse. She removes her hand and swaths the cadaver's face with her vaginal secretions. Please.

My reaction is not politically incorrect. It's just a mark of good breeding - like the linen hankie Diana is always daubing her nose with.

Geraldine Chaplin makes a brief appearance, all cheekbones and icy reserve, with her pet ocelot on a leash. John Hurt also appears as a filthy rich colonial who has forsaken the decadence and depravity for life with a Masai tribe - not a bad idea, considering their table manners.

White Mischief's money men certainly got their stunning visuals. And Greta Scacchi's breasts are quite nice, if you're into that sort of thing.

But frankly, White Mischief leaves a bad taste. This is one movie you can certainly miss.

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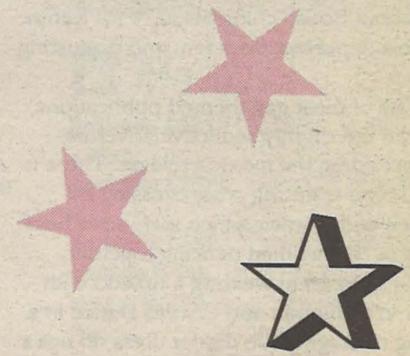
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