



LILITH'S VOICE

WINTER 2004

The IMPACTS OF HB 15 or: Rep. Frank Corte is a big fat liar

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Our Clients
page 2
- Houston House party
page 2
- 2004 March for
Women's Lives
page 3
- Lilith Board Retreat
page 3
- State/National Update
page 4
- Lilith About Town
(events)
page 5
- Volunteer Corner
page 5

by Melissa DeHaan, Lilith Fund Board President

As I write this, it has been just over two weeks since the enactment of House Bill 15 - the bill farcically entitled "A Woman's Right To Know" - and already women are being forced to commute hundreds of miles to exercise heir right to a safe and legal abortion. This bill affects Lilith clients in two ways: it requires both a 24-hour informed consent/waiting period for all women in Texas seeking abortion, and that abortions 16 weeks and up must be performed in an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC).

I sat in on the hearings for House Bill 15 and watched in dismay as Frank Corte (R-San Antonio), the bill's author, misled his fellow state representatives. Corte displayed impressive foam board maps of Texas broken down by county, with the number of Ambulatory Surgical Centers found within those county borders printed boldly. He repeatedly emphasized how much HB 15 was going to **increase** a woman's access to abortion care, as there are many more ASCs located in each county than abortion providers.

What is an ASC? It is a place where a person might got to receive services such as rhinoplasty, liposuction, or rehabilitation of a torn knee ligament from a fall at a football game. ASCs are NOT places that have ever considered elective abortion to be part of their services.

As of today, **there are no Ambulatory Surgical Centers providing abortion services in Texas.** Worse, no abortion provider's facility yet meets the re-

quirements to become an ASC - not before spending thousands of dollars on renovation expenses. Preliminary discussions between abortion facility owners and ASC owners have revealed the cost of renting space from an ASC could be as high as several thousand dollars **per hour.**

This is, of course, providing that the Ambulatory Surgical Centers would even be amenable to such a rental. With protesters regularly parading around in front of abortion providers' practices displaying oversized pictures of blood and guts, how many ASCs would voluntarily agree to such unwelcome publicity?

Ultimately, women seeking abortion in Texas will absorb the cost inflation of renting space at an ASC. And since abor-

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tion providers in Texas are now losing a portion of what was once their regular business, prices are already increasing across the board to make up for their loss of income.

I work at a local abortion clinic and my experience indicates that the 24-hour waiting period has only served as an insult and inconvenience **so far.** HB 15 has been in effect for 2 weeks now; it is only

Continued page 2

Our Clients

	<i>Total as of December 31, 2003</i>	<i>Increase since July 31, 2003</i> Numbers	<i>Increase as % of to- tal</i> %	
Number of women served	921	190	25%	20%
Number of women following through with abortion	586	125	27%	21%
Minors assisted	141	19	15%	13%
Women in their second trimester	282	55	24%	20%

Houston House Party

On the evening of November 22, 2003, hotline advocate Kathy Goodwin graciously hosted an evening in support of Lilith at her Houston home. Kitty Kahn of Planned Parenthood Houston spoke to the intimate group and touched on the anticipated impacts of House Bill 15, including an increase in demand for abortion funding. Board members Melissa DeHaan and Hanna Kim echoed these concerns and urged those gathered to

step up to fill this expected need.

The Lilith Fund currently works with four abortion providers in Houston, assisting their patients with abortion costs. To date, Lilith has committed funds to a total of 50 Houston area women. Approximately 20 percent of Lilith's hotline volunteer force hails from the Houston area, and we are proud to have such strong representation there!

HB15 *continued from front page*

a matter of time until the 24-hour wait will push a woman into her 16th week of pregnancy and she will be forced to obtain her abortion out of state.

Last week, with great sadness, I placed a call to a clinic in Wichita, Kansas, to get prices for patients 16 weeks or over in their pregnancy. The receptionist said that starting that day, patients were showing up from Texas for abortions at their clinic. While driving across state lines for health care may be feasible for a woman of means, what is to happen to the clients that call The Lilith Fund? Already, The Lilith Fund is expanding our funding measures to assist women facing an expensive out-of-state journey for their abortion.

The most harmful impact of HB 15 will be borne by poor women in Texas with an amniocentesis revealing a severely abnormal pregnancy that could potentially threaten their lives. (While an amniocentesis can be done as early as 14 weeks into a pregnancy, results usually take 2 weeks to come back - putting the woman right at, or over, the 16-week limit.) I would like to personally invite Frank Corte to help us find an Ambulatory Surgical Center in Texas that will provide medically necessary services for these women - women that Lilith will inevitably be hearing from. Failing that, I urge him to step out from behind his lies and reveal his true agenda of limiting abortion access, especially for low-income women.

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Save a Tree

Now you can enjoy reading the Lilith Fund newsletter even more knowing that you will be saving paper by reading it online! This and future newsletters will be available via email and on our website <http://www.lilithfund.org>.

Help us save money on printing and postage so more of your contributions will go into direct services to women. Sign up to receive the electronic version of the newsletter today by returning the enclosed card or by emailing info@lilithfund.org with the subject: "electronic newsletter."

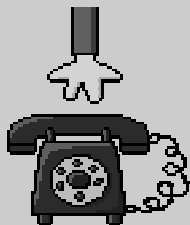
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The Lilith Fund needs your help! Whether you are interested in direct service or administrative tasks, can spare one hour a month or ten, there is a place for you with Lilith! To find out more about volunteering with The Lilith Fund, contact Emily at emily78745@lycos.com

Lilith esta buscando voluntarios que hablan espanol para su linea especial. Si está interesado, envíe por favor un mensaje al info@lilithfund.org o llame al 877-355-1463.

Washington-Bound: 2004 March for Women's Lives

On April 25, history will be made as thousands of people from around the country converge upon the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC to demand that women have the freedom to choose a **safe, legal** abortion. Lilith: A Fund for Reproductive Equity is a proud co-sponsor of the event and is looking forward to being part of a strong showing from the Access and Equality Contingent of the march. The National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF), of which Lilith is a member, has decided to hold their annual conference in Washington DC, so member funds can be present for the march.

How can you get to Washington DC at a discounted rate? Thanks to the Texas Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (TARAL), Southwest Airlines and American

Airlines are offering discounts of 10-15% off. For Southwest Airlines, call 1-800-433-5368 (please note that this is not their main reservation number), use ID code #U0327 and the event name "Texans March for Choice". For American Airlines, call 1-800-433-1790, use the group name TARAL MARCH and the authorization # A6644AH. If enough people express interest in bussing it to DC, TARAL will charter a bus. Contact marchforchoice@taral.org as soon as possible.

For more information on the march and travel/accommodation details, go to www.taral.org or www.marchforchoice.org.

Lilith Board Retreat

The Lilith Board met on September 13-14 for their annual retreat and awards banquet. Together with our volunteer facilitator, Sandy Rice, we re-visited Lilith's mission and goals and left the weekend with reinforced cohesiveness and a renewed sense of direction. We were reminded that there is more work than ever to be done as anti-choice legislation will go into effect soon, and there will be an increased need for financial, logisti-

cal, and emotional support for women in Texas.

During the banquet, several founding Board members were recognized for their outstanding work and commitment to reproductive health rights. Heather Busby was named "Outstanding Feminist of the Year" and Bryan Hadley was recognized for his excellent work as "Outstanding Volunteer Coordinator" for the past two and a half years.



"Gosh, ma'am, twarn't nothin'": Board President Melissa DeHaan presents board members Christina Gomez-Mira (l) and Samantha Evans with Certificates of Achievement at the annual retreat.

Photo credit: Shana Ginsberg

First Annual Reproductive Equity Award Ceremony

You're invited to join Lilith on **April 1st, 2004**, for the First Annual Reproductive Equity Awards ceremony at Fiesta Gardens. Our guest of honor will be **Diana Philip**, Executive Director and co-founder of JANE'S DUE PROCESS (JDP). Diana has played a critical role in helping Texas minors navigate the court system when they

are seeking judicial bypasses. For this reason, she will be the first recipient of Lilith's Reproductive Equity Award. We hope you will come to help us celebrate the enormous impact Diana and JDP have made on reproductive rights in Texas.

The evening begins at 6:00pm and continues until 10:00pm. Guests

will enjoy food, drinks, and live music. There will also be a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 each and \$25 for students. To purchase tickets, sponsor this event, volunteer, or donate silent auction items, please call 877-355-1463 or email info@lilithfund.org.

Update: Texas and Beyond



For women, the right to control reproduction is as vital and basic as the right to food, shelter and medical care. Yet that right has become increasingly politicized and curtailed both in Texas and at the national level.

In Austin, anti-choice forces are stepping up their efforts. A local small business owner has manipulated subcontractors into refusing to work on the construction of a new Planned Parenthood clinic. The owner of a local abortion clinic and her neighbors have experiences intimidation in the form of anonymous letters referring to her as a "serial killer" of children. And anti-abortion activists can be regularly found outside of Austin clinics holding signs, pamphlets and video cameras.

In addition, reproductive rights have been undercut by new legislation. On January 1st, 2004, Texas enacted the [A Woman's Right to Know Act](#), or House Bill 15. Despite the concern and compassion intimated by its name, the law does not encourage doctors to discuss with women the safety and frequency of abortion in this country. Rather, it requires women to wait a full 24 hours to have an abortion after being offered literature produced by the Texas Department of Health describing stages of fetal development and abortion procedures. It also requires doctors to refer to a link between abortion and breast cancer. However, obstetricians are not re-

quired to discuss with pregnant women the risks of carrying a pregnancy to term and giving birth (which, though generally also safe, is distinctly riskier than abortion).

(See the front page story for more effects of HB15.)

Similar laws requiring waiting periods have been enacted in 28 states. Although there are differences between states, these laws are all based on a law deemed constitu-

Texas has now joined several other states in asserting a faulty link between abortion and breast cancer.

tional in Pennsylvania in 1992.

With HB15, Texas has now joined Minnesota, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Kansas in asserting a faulty link between abortion and breast cancer. As recently as February 2003, the National Cancer Institute held a symposium and concluded that having an abortion **does not** increase the risk of breast cancer.

According to an article published in the City Pages of Minnesota, this symposium was designed as a response to an outcry among scientists researching breast cancer. They had been upset that "in 2002 a group of conservative federal lawmakers, reportedly with the support

of the Bush administration, pressured the National Cancer Institute to alter a fact sheet on breast cancer so that it suggested a link with abortion."

Despite the local and national accomplishments of anti-abortion activism in the last few years, the fact remains that **almost half of the women** in the United States will have at least one abortion over the course of their reproductive capacity. And most of those women will have friends, a partner or family members that they confide in or turn to for emotional, financial or practical support. This makes the people who have some connection to an abortion the clear majority in this country.

Despite its troubles over the last few months, Planned Parenthood has seen an exponential increase in donations and offers of help for the building of its new clinic. "The fight for choice is not just being played out by white guys in suits debating obscure policies in the halls of our government but also by regular people," said Danielle Tierney, Planned Parenthood's Communications Director.

If you would like to be involved locally, you can help the Lilith Fund by donating money, or volunteering on our hotline, at our events or as a member of our Board of Directors. For more information about how you can help keep abortion safe, legal and accessible, visit www.lilithfund.org or call 1-877-155-1463.



Lilith About Town

Rally for Planned Parenthood

On November 24, 2003, UT's chapter of **Voices for Choice** and other campus activists held a pro-choice rally in response to the anti-choice boycott of the Planned Parenthood clinic construction. Lilith Fund board members **Sonia Gonzalez, Hanna Kim, and Heather Busby** came out to show their support for the pro-choice movement and asked rally attendees to sign petitions against restrictive new rules placed on abortion providers by HB 15 and Texas Department of Health enforcers. During the rally, many students who shared their personal experiences and stories about why they believe in a woman's right to choose abortion. Their stories are a reminder that choosing whether or not to have an abortion is one of the most personal and private decisions a woman will ever have to make.



Future Lilith volunteer with her mother at the Voices for Choice rally.

Photo credit: Jana Birchum

Hip-Hop For Laydeez

This happening and hip fundraiser took place on Friday, December 5th at **Tambaleo** (formerly the Electric Lounge) in Austin and benefited The Lilith Fund and the **Harm Reduction Coalition**. It was sponsored and coordinated by **Kyre Osborn** with **Liz Brenner** assisting and featured **DJ Mel**, go-go grrls and fistfuls of laydeez. One attendee said the event was "Fabulously successful! The music was HOT with a good mix of people including a sprinkling of men." She praised the individuals she met from Lilith Fund and the HRC as "friendly and wonderful hosts." Other reports were that even at 11:00pm people were still lining up at the door to enter. The Lilith Fund wants to give a shout out to **Kyre and Liz for their \$788 contribution** and for hosting such an incredible event! Thank you!

Volunteer Corner

The Lilith Fund depends on the dedication and commitment of hard-working volunteers to realize its vision of increasing abortion access.

The Lilith Fund would like to thank the following volunteers for giving their time and energy to The Lilith Fund:

For their help with our big annual mailout: **Erynn Noecker, Kristi Sanchez, Kristy Morales, Huong Hoang, Juriz Hao, James Aldridge, Leigh McCormick, Sandy Jones, Tim de Guzman, Justin Thibert, Mercedes Casas, Eric Mallery, Gina Buller, Vi Glass, Hugo Mata, Jessica Sajak, Eyonna Davis, Allan Campbell, Christina Gomez-Mira, Samantha Evans, Eyra Dzakuma, Sandy Jones, Theresa Moreno, Sandra Molinari, Jerry Christer, Sharene Hughes, Jennifer Knight, Heather Busby, Sonia Gonzalez, Melissa DeHaan, Bryan Hadley, Amy Juried, Nick Juried, Dorothy Juried, Jennifer Costello** and

Tamara Talarico.

Jennifer Costello, Sharene Hughes and **Christina Morse** get a huge thank you for helping with a variety of office and administrative tasks as well as grant writing duties.

For tabling at the Harvest Fest, thank you to **Sandra Molinari, Vijay Akkaraju** and **Sharene Hughes**.

Thank you to **Emily Dewees, Vijay Akkaraju, Mikisha Hooper** and **Susan Scott** for their participation on the Spring Fundraiser Committee and other important tasks.

For offering their computer expertise to assist Lilith with our computer system, Lilith thanks **Linda Phan** and **Jonathan Doan**.

Our fall newsletter could not have gone out without the help of **Steven Greenstein, Shana Ginsberg, Amy Juried, Heather Busby, Allan Campbell, Susan Scott, Sharene Hughes, Emily Dewees, Erin Smith, Stacey Pogue, Christina Gomez-Mira, Emily Habermehl, and Samantha Evans**.

There is never enough thanks for our amazing hotline advocates. Welcome new volunteers **Sabina Peerbhai, Neesha Dave, Ingrid Hansen, Jennifer Logan, Jennifer Costello, Lynnsie Ruffino, Megan Cler, Sharene Hughes, and Virginia Weihs!** And we're pleased to have so many volunteers continuing to take calls. Thank you **Audra Rouse, Christine Meding, Crystal Mobley, Christina Worle, Shelly Sheppard, Jennifer Skadden, Janis Matuga, Lauren Hilgers, Cindy Beringer, Kathy Goodwin, Kristin Weitz Rammer, Sara Leibovich, Tamara Talarico, Tamara Klindt, Carla Oster** and **Laura Wells**.

Kim Dunkerley-Offor is also owed a huge thanks for her assistance in coordinating the hotline schedule for us last fall.

And finally, the Lilith Fund would like to thank **Allan Campbell** for networking and fundraising with the Atheist Community of Austin on Lilith's behalf.

The Lilith Fund

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www.lilithfund.org

and click on:

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