

SOUTHERN VOICE

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Volume 1, Number 1

Taking Pride in Our Culture

March 1, 1988

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Featuring arts and entertainment with an emphasis on local artists. In this issue, Atlantan Frank Abbott's book, *New Men, New Minds*, and an informative preview of "Different", a gay musical by Patrick Hutchison and Dan Pruitt. Also, Jane Rule's newest release, *Memory Board*, reviewed by local writer Amanda Gable. Pg. 11

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Delivers updated reports on worldwide AIDS events and features accounts of PWA's, PWARC's, professionals and others involved with the AIDS crisis in the continuing series, "Living With AIDS". Pg. 12

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Admit it, you love to read your horoscope, you turn first to the comics, and you can't keep from reading advice columns. We've got it all. "Bittersweet", an original cartoon strip by local artist Charles Haver, "Dear Nadisa", the lesbian advice column you've been waiting for, and "Star Gays" to help you plot your next two weeks. Pg. 14

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Our roving sports reporter takes you "From Fields to Courts" in Atlanta sports. Michael McMillan previews the coming sports season and provides Atlanta lesbians and gay men with the 'big picture'. Look for his amusing accounts in future issues. Pg. 15

AIM Reunites Mothers & Children

Her story is a break your heart one. I'll call her Sarah. She is a large black woman who once served two years in Hardwick Prison. Her son was fourteen years old when she went to prison. He told her he would just stay in their apartment until she returned. "He didn't understand where I was going, how long it would be before I would come back." Of course, her son didn't stay in the apartment. He went to live with his father up north, far from the prison where his mother was confined. Sarah and her son had only one contact in those two years. Sarah became a "bad mother" because she was doing prison time.

"The past beat me up for eighteen or twenty years," Sarah says now. "My family didn't ever talk feelings and I didn't want to have any feelings." This was why Sarah got so involved with drugs. She could shoot up and stop feeling. She and her son have never talked about her prison time, have never talked about her past drug addiction. He's married now, has children of his own. Sarah is working up to having that talk with him about her feelings, about his feelings. She is involved in an AA program and she is in process of taking responsibility for having feelings, good ones and hard ones. "I always thought it was too

painful to feel," she says, "so I dealt with things by not dealing at all."

Another area that Sarah avoided dealing with was the fact that she is a lesbian. She says she denied confronting that for a long time despite the fact that her family and friends often referred to her female friends as the ones who were important to her. "I wasn't even important to myself," she says, "so drugs and avoiding feeling, although that was considered selfish, kept anything or anybody else from being important." This has changed. Sarah has a long-distance lover who recently came to visit her.

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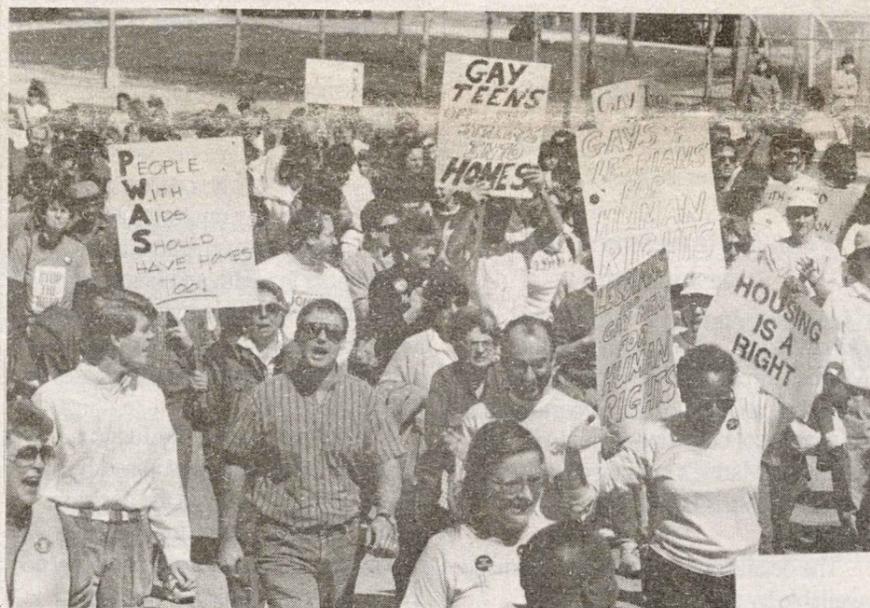


Photo by Gerald Jones

10,000 Rally For Homeless

On Saturday, February 27, ten thousand people rallied and marched through the streets of Atlanta in support of the homeless.

Sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless, an impressive list of speakers stepped forward to address the assembled marchers at pre- and post-march rallies. Present at the rallies were Democratic National Chairperson Paul Kirk, and all of the Democratic presidential candidates: Dukakis, Gephardt, Gore, Hart, Jackson, and Simon. Also present at the rally was Dr. Lenora Fulani, independent presidential candidate for the New Alliance Party. Noticeably absent were any of the Republican presidential candidates.

Moderator Tom Houck, of WGST, Atlanta, urged the people at the march to use their vote to "defend the homeless." He also repeatedly jabbed at the Republican candidates, leading protesters in chanting "Where are they?...

Absent!"

Also present at the march was a vocal crowd of lesbians and gay men, estimated at 100, who not only marched as an independent contingent, but were also scattered throughout other groups present.

Among the organized lesbian and gay groups at the march were the MCC, the Atlanta March Committee, LEGAL, and the Atlanta Gay Center.

Melinda Daniels, a Gore delegate-elect to the Democratic National Convention, stated that she was there "as a Gore supporter, a lesbian concerned for all people...and a person seeking an end to AIDS."

The National Coalition for the Homeless has established a three-point program to provide short and long term solutions to the homeless crisis. They are: to establish a national right to

Continued on page 7

AIDS Bill Revised

The most comprehensive AIDS legislation to come before the Georgia General Assembly to date, the Omnibus AIDS Bill (H.B. 1281), has come out of Senate committee and will be considered by the full Senate beginning Monday, February 29. The bill, originally drafted by Representative George Hooks and the House Health and Ecology Subcommittee, is supported by Governor Joe Frank Harris.

Representative Hook's draft of the bill was the product of a summer-long series of public hearings held by the sub-committee. Prompted by growing public demand for legislative action on the AIDS epidemic, the House of Representatives passed what the Georgia AIDS Coalition referred to as the "Ominous" Omnibus AIDS Bill by a vote of 162 to 11.

Voting against the Bill were Representatives Lorenzo Benn, Tyrone Brooks, George Brown, Mary Cummings, Grace Davis, Nan Orrock, William Randall, LaNett Stanley, Mable Thomas, Mike Thurmond, and Juanita Williams.

The House bill contained criminal sanctions for those who knowingly transmit the virus, and included perspiration and tears as means of transmission; mandatory testing provisions for prison inmates, juvenile delinquents, the mentally disabled, and those arrested for "AIDS transmitting crimes" - solicitation for prostitution, sodomy, and adultery; and noticeably lacking were any confidentiality provisions.

The version of HB 1281 passed by the Senate Human Resources committee, chaired by Senator Pierre Howard, was recommended to the full Senate for approval on Friday, February 26. The Senate version of the bill, however, was substantially changed from the version passed by the House of Representatives.

Continued on page 2

AIDS Bill, Continued

Having less invested in the bill, the Senate committee heard twenty individuals and organizations testify on the proposed legislation. Among those testifying was Lee, a PWA; the Department of Human Resources; the Georgia Nursing Association; Physicians for Human Rights; the Hemophiliacs Association; the National Association of People With AIDS; the Medical Association of Georgia; the DeKalb County Commission; and the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition. None of the Senate witnesses could endorse the bill without reservation.

A petition was presented during the Committee hearings bearing the signatures of over a thousand persons who vowed, "Should the Omnibus AIDS Bill become law, we shall refuse to be tested!" Serious questions were raised by committee members as to the constitutionality and enforceability of the House version of the bill.

The bill, as recommended by the Human Resources Committee to the full Senate, is considered substantially improved by AIDS activists. Gil Robison, Lobbyist for the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition, commented, "It somewhat restores my faith in the Democratic process."

The refined Senate version of the bill defines body fluids for purposes of determining HIV transmission as blood, semen and vaginal fluids. The AIDS battery provisions have been changed to reckless endangerment, with proof of intent to transmit the virus placed on the prosecution. The use of safe sex is now a legitimate defense against prosecution, and transmission must be proved by the state.

The confidentiality of HIV records has been improved, with patient records now afforded the same protection as psychiatric records, which are immune from court order.

Physicians must inform patients before drawing blood that the serum will be tested for HIV, as well as explain to patients the implications of the test results.

The number of groups of people affected by the mandatory testing provisions has been decreased in the Senate version, with testing being performed at the recommendation of the Department of Human Resources, most probably on a case by case basis. Counseling must now be given whenever the test is performed.

AIDS activists, while not overjoyed with the Senate committee's version, are pleased with the changes affected on the "Ominous" Omnibus AIDS bill. Problems with the current version include a lack of anti-discrimination clauses and the remaining mandatory testing provisions.

As *Southern Voice* went to press, there were five remaining legislative days in the 1988 session. Activists now worry that negative amendments will be added to the bill either on the Senate floor or in the House-Senate compromise committee which will incorporate the two chamber's versions of the bill into the final bill to be signed by Governor Joe Frank Harris.

-Kurt Rahn

Gay Cuban Marielitos Sought

Houston - Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), the first Congressional representative to voluntarily identify himself as a gay man, is searching for information on gay men imprisoned after arriving in the U.S. during the Marielito exodus of Cuba. He is specifically looking for inmates who have been imprisoned solely for being homosexual.

It has been estimated that as many as 50 percent of the Cuban inmates who rioted in Atlanta and Oakdale, Louisiana during December are gay, and are being imprisoned solely because of their sexual orientation. Many of those incarcerated have been in prison for up to eight years and have never had a trial.

Representative Frank is a sponsor of a bill which would repeal the anti-gay/lesbian provisions of the current American Immigration Law. This law was used by the Reagan Justice Department to hang many of the Marielitos in limbo at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary and the Oakdale Federal Alien Detention Center.

It is feared that the recent government agreements which were reached in order to quell the December riots may not apply to any gay Cuban refugees currently being detained. Anyone with specific information on gay Marielitos, or who wishes to support Congressman Frank in his efforts, can contact him by mail at The U.S. House of Representatives, 1030 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. His telephone number is (202) 225-5931.

Female Marines accused of lesbianism

Parris Island - Two women in the Marine Corps have been suspended from duty and could face a court-martial on charges of engaging in homosexual acts at the Marine's training camp for women at Parris Island in South Carolina.

The details of the case were not made available by the Marine Corps spokesperson, but he said that the "indecent acts" with which they are charged are related to "sexual misconduct with other women service members." He said more specifics will be revealed during a hearing where the Marine women, a Captain and a Sergeant, will be allowed to respond to the charges.

Several other women at the base have been suspended because of this investigation into the sexual practices at the camp.

The Marine Corps spokesperson was asked about the recent appeals court decision ruling military practices against homosexuality to be discrimination that violates the protection offered by the Constitution.

He responded, claiming the ruling applies only to the Army, and added it could be overturned on appeal.

The Marine Corps' announcement of the charges came only one day after a

group of Marine women gave an anonymous interview to a South Carolina newspaper saying as many as ten women at the base were being investigated.

In the interview, they denied they were lesbians, saying the Marines want to punish them for not appearing feminine, and for acting the way they've been trained to act, like Marines.

They expressed concern that the investigation is based on speculation, innuendo, and conjectures, saying they can be discharged if officials have enough people to say in court that they are homosexual. "Not what they know, what they've seen. What they think."

Watkins Gains Favorable Decision Against Army

The recent ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals striking down Army regulations against gays and lesbians is being called by many a major landmark in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights. The Court ruled on February 10 that the Army can no longer discharge or refuse to re-enlist gay men and lesbians solely because of their sexual orientation.

The case involved the Army's decision to reject the re-enlistment of Sergeant Perry J. Watkins because of his sexual orientation.

The critical factor of the decision is how the court reached the decision. If the ruling is not overturned, it could affect the way future cases on lesbian and gay discrimination are treated.

The Court said that the Army's discrimination against the gay soldier was a violation of his constitutional rights, and that any review of a homosexual person's claim that his rights under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments are being violated must be reviewed in the same way that racial minorities and aliens have their cases reviewed.

The opinion, written by Judge William Norris, who was joined by Judge William Canby in the decision, stated, "The discrimination faced by homosexuals in our society is plainly no less pernicious or intense than the discrimination faced by other groups."

Leaning heavily on the equal protection clause of the Fifth Amendment, the ruling stated, "We hold that the Army's regulations violate the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the laws because they discriminate against persons of homosexual orientation... and because the regulations are not necessary to promote a legitimate compelling government reason."

Although the ruling is likely to be challenged by the government in further appeals, gay, lesbian, and civil rights activists think it will remain a landmark case even if the Supreme Court overturns it, as the courts will start looking more closely at discrimination based on sexual preference.

This ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals adds gays and lesbians to the list of so-called "suspect classes", making it more difficult for the

government to justify different treatment.

The Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments ban discrimination by the government, so the decision does not cover actions by private citizens or private employers. The decision applies only to the 9th judicial circuit: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Guam.



Lesbian Attorney Vies for Legislature

San Francisco lesbian civil rights attorney Roberta Achtenberg formally announced her candidacy for the California State Assembly in San Francisco in February. Achtenberg will be the first openly gay or lesbian member of the California state legislature.

Citing the need for vastly increased state funds to fight AIDS, for affordable childcare and quality education, for guarantees of reproductive rights, and social services for undocumented residents, Achtenberg pledged to forge "a new politics."

The contested seat fell vacant when Art Agnos was elected San Francisco's mayor in December. The multi-ethnic 16th District Achtenberg seeks to represent includes a large section of San Francisco's Castro district and has a history of voting for openly gay candidates. San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, running as an openly gay candidate for Congress in 1987, lost the race but won in the 16th District precincts.

Achtenberg established herself as a leader in gay politics through her pioneering work in civil rights and family law. She is the Directing Attorney of the Lesbian Rights Project where she has won groundbreaking cases including the nation's first joint adoption by a gay couple. Most recently she has been representing a gay man who has AIDS in his fight to retain custody of his son. Achtenberg is a former dean of the New College School of Law and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Bay Area.

She lives in San Francisco with her partner, Mary Morgan. Morgan is the first openly lesbian judge appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Court. The couple have a son, Benjamin, age two.

In urging activists for gay and feminist concerns to support this candidacy, Supervisor Harry Britt said, "Roberta Achtenberg is a woman of exceptional intelligence and accomplishment. I know she will be a strong and articulate voice promoting humane alternatives to the repressive social agenda of the right-wing Republicans. And we can be sure that she won't sell out our concerns on vital issues for political gain as some Democratic leaders have done."

More News in Brief, Page 13

Super Tuesday

Candidates

Where do they stand on our issues?

Of the ten surviving presidential candidates, six have returned a comprehensive survey circulated by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). The six who decided to address the concerns of the lesbian and gay communities are Vice-President George Bush (R), Governor Michael Dukakis (D-MA), Congressman Richard (Dick) Gephardt (D-MO), Senator Albert Gore (D-TN), the Reverend Jesse Jackson (D), and Senator Paul Simon (D-IL).

Senator Gary Hart's (D-CO) responses to a similar 1984 campaign survey, and public comments and policy papers issued by the remaining four campaigns, Senator Robert Dole (R-KS), Congressman Jack Kemp (R-NY), and the Reverend Pat Robertson (R) were used by the NGLTF to compare the candidates' commitments to issues of concern to gay men and lesbians.

AIDS policy issues have garnered enough attention during this campaign to ensure that all of the candidates have issued statements meant to assure their constituency that they consider "AIDS the number one health priority." In response to questions meant to determine how they would respond to the epidemic, the candidates predictably aligned themselves according to party lines.

With the exception of Senator Hart, who presumably has not had an opportunity to respond to updated AIDS information during his resurrected campaign, all of the Democratic candidates have publicly supported the pending Federal AIDS Policy Act which links HIV testing and counseling, demands test result confidentiality, and bans discrimination on the basis of HIV test results. All of the Republican candidates chose not to address the issue directly.

Senator Dole did break rank with the Republican silence on discrimination against PWA's by endorsing the idea of Federal legislation banning discrimination against people infected with the HIV virus. Vice-President Bush opposed such legislation, only saying that he supported "protecting those who do not have the virus." Congressman Kemp and the Reverend Robertson chose not to address the concerns of people already infected.

Whether or not to test the general population for AIDS has been a divisive issue in both federal and local politics. Bush, Kemp, and Robertson strongly support HIV testing, with Robertson going so far as to predict that states will eventually be forced to quarantine PWA's. Only Senator Dole opposes widespread mandatory testing, reserving himself to advocating voluntary testing of the general population and mandatory testing of immigrants and prisoners.

Both Robertson and Kemp advocate monogamy and chastity as the only means of prevention of the spread of AIDS. In a *USA Today* article, Reverend Robertson stated that "promoting condoms to fight AIDS (is) 'at best illusory at worst an absolute fraud'".

The Reverend Jesse Jackson was the candidate most specific in regards to AIDS education. He states that both AIDS

AIDS POLICY ISSUES

	Bush	Dole	Dukakis	Kemp	Gephardt	Gore	Hart	Jackson	Robertson	Simon
• \$2 billion recommended funding by National Academy of Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Adjusting 2-year wait for PWA's on Social Security Disability Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Federally mandated AIDS education in:										
Grade School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Targeted education & prevention programs for minorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Federal Legislation banning Discrimination against PWA's and HIV-infected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Federal AIDS Policy Act linking testing and counseling, demanding test result confidentiality & banning discrimination on the basis of test results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Widespread mandatory HIV testing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
• Mandatory testing for:										
The Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prison Inmates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage License Applicants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immigrants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Job Corps Applicants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
• HIV testing for health insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• HIV testing for life insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights										
• Federal Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights Bill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
* As President, would make such a bill a part of Legislative Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Classifying Anti-Lesbian/Gay Violence as a Civil Rights Violation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• An Executive Order banning Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the federal government, including military and security agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• An Executive Order banning Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by contractors with the federal government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Freedom of choice on Abortion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Comparable worth standards be factored into public sector wage scales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Including "non-traditional" families in Government Employee Benefit Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Adoption & foster Care by Gays & Lesbians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Provide Equality for Lesbians & Gays in Government hiring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Appointing Judicial Committees who are sensitive to the concerns of all minorities and women's issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• A Party Platform Plank supporting Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

Supports

Opposes

No Answer

Undecided

Continued on page 6

Tuesday's Tough Choices

Since LEGAL's stunning victory in the 4th and 5th Congressional Districts in January, we have the possibility of placing up to four gay men and a lesbian on the floor of the Democratic National Convention in July. People from those districts are now faced with the dilemma of either voting for a candidate who fears our support but whose delegates represent our issues, or voting for a presidential candidate who might be more sensitive to our concerns. Good arguments can be made for either action.

Voters in the 4th and 5th Congressional Districts who have strong feelings for a

particular candidate should cast their ballots in line with those feelings. The few candidates who do support our issues will need our votes on March 8th to keep them in the race until July.

Voters in the 4th Congressional District, in particular, who are undecided or unimpressed, may consider casting their votes for Senator Gore on Super Tuesday. The number of votes a candidate garners in the primaries determines how many of that candidate's delegates that will go to the Convention. In spite of Senator Gore's ambiguous position with regard to our issues, we need as many lesbian/gay votes at the Convention as possible. The California delegation will be introducing a strong pro-lesbian/gay platform on the floor of the Convention. We need Dick Rhodes, Melinda Daniels, Paul Garrard, Gil Robison, and Joe Williford to be there for important votes. Their participation will directly impact the platform of the Democratic Party and consequently whomever emerges victorious in July.

Whatever your choice, vote in Super Tuesday. And if you're not registered, do so immediately and exercise that right whenever possible. We can't possibly win if we're not in the game.

SOUTHERN VOICE

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From The Editor's Desk

I decided some weeks ago that it was appropriate to talk about information and education as our most powerful tools against the evils that constantly lurk about us. After all, it would neatly explain the launching of *Southern Voice* and make me look good in the process. But, somehow it didn't feel right, it was too perfect, too contrived. And it didn't say anything about matters of the heart or the spirit – those things most vulnerable to attack and those things which are the real reasons for this newspaper.

Today, with AIDS and everpresent fear of it, with increasing violence against us, with a resurgence of homophobia that's so strong it sometimes makes us wonder if they're right – we must use every tool we have. Information is good, education is good, but neither is enough. They do not nurture us or heal us or prepare us for attacks on our spirit.

So, how do we protect ourselves? How do we live so we don't take the homophobia into ourselves, where it can turn into hate, for "them" and for ourselves. I don't know the answers yet. But, I read something the other day that gave me another way of looking at things, a valuable "weapon" against attacks on the heart and spirit. Sean O'Casey, in "The Power of Laughter: Weapon Against Evil" said, "We are always hopeful of, always pushing towards better things, and to bring this about, a change must be made in the actual way of life, so laughter is brought in to mock at things as they are so that they may topple down and make room for better things to come."

I tend to agree with O'Casey. Laughter can change the world. If we can laugh at our enemies, we may begin to see that they do not hold the power over us we had imagined – their words aren't as sharp, their threats aren't so frightening.

We need to laugh more at ourselves and with ourselves, at our enemies and with our enemies, and with those we love. Maybe then we can "make room for better things to come."

—Christina Cash

Leap of Faith

Gary Kaupman

One of the truly annoying things about the world in which we live is that saying "yes" almost axiomatically means that we must also say "no": if I am a Democrat, I cannot be a Republican. I cannot be a vegetarian and still eat meat. I am gay, therefore I cannot have lovers of the opposite sex.

All true statements. And all false.

Oppression—personal and political—thrives on yes/no thinking. Majorities regularly use the ethic of exclusivity to keep minorities in check. Radicals—vegetarians who scarf steaks, lesbians who bed men, and Demos who vote for Bush—scare us.

"Yes, but..." is just another variation on the theme. Webster's number one definition of "but"? "On the contrary." In other words, no.

Rhetoric?

Is all this just rhetorical indulgence? I think not. Look at how saying "no" (or its equivalent "I can't") affects our lives. "I can't be out at work because they'll fire me." Or "If I tell Bruce how much I care, he'll just laugh at me."

Sure, you could lose your job. Or your boss might come out to you or introduce you to his lesbian sister.

And Bruce might reject your caring. Or he might just say "thanks" and tell you the feeling is mutual.

Three Examples

Several weeks ago, 170 gay men and women said "yes, I can support Albert Gore and still support Simon or Jackson or even Bush." At the Fourth District Caucus, Gay Center Administrator Richard Swanson and former Gay Center Board Chairman George Brenning—men who have been saying "no" to each other for as long as I can remember—

actually agreed, in public, about something. Powerful stuff.

Does the presence of *Southern Voice* mean that you should stop reading *etc* or *Guide*? No way. Three publications mean three different takes on the same story.

And broader or more in-depth coverage on other subjects. That variety of information is important in helping us form opinions and make choices.

Should a business owner decide to advertise in just one publication and exclude promoting his or her product in the others?

Absolutely not. Saying "yes" to all three publications offer advertisers access to more customers and valuable repeated exposure to those who read all three.

If I write for one publication, does that mean I can't write for the others?

I sure hope not. We need more chances for gay writers, artists, and photographers to work on subjects important to them. (In a brilliant attack of yes/no logic, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *Creative Loafing* prohibit their regular contributors from writing for other local publications. Sure smells like oppression to me.)

Say "yes" to AIDS? No way! But exclusive thinking leaves only "no" with which to fight the battle. Compare that stance to one that says "yes, we're living with AIDS."

Where To Find It

The yes/no mindset is deeply rooted in the western, Judeo-Christian and capitalist ethic that is mother and father to most of us. Exclusivity may be oppressive but it's usually easy to accept because it's familiar. Ditching an exclusive mindset isn't easy, but it is possible. And it's well worth the effort.

Many eastern spiritual systems are based on yes/yes thought—great stuff if you can deal with their incessant lack of linearity and cultural differences. Easier for most of us are the new thought teachings that offer inclusive thought in a linear, western format.

Psychotherapy provides the opportunity to reconstruct belief systems in ways supportive of our highest aspirations. For most, that will include a yes/yes philosophy. The process can take years and it costs money, but few who complete it begrudge either. Atlantans are lucky. The city sports a number of competent, caring, gay psychotherapists.

We live in an era ripe with workshops. The best ones offer a swift kick in the butt to yes/no thinking. One of the most widely publicized of these is The Experience Weekend. The Weekend isn't a gay version of the much maligned EST Training. And the sometimes vehement style with which it has sometimes been promoted have probably scared folks away. Those fears are a perfect example of "yes, but." Forget the "but" and find out for yourself what it's all about.

Monkey Stuck?

Questioning our exclusive belief systems is the first step. Actually enrolling in a workshop or shopping for a therapist requires a leap of faith. That's scary stuff. But then imagine a monkey swinging from vine to vine through the forest. There's no way he can move forward till he takes the chance and lets go of the vine that holds him back.



Woolard & WGST Wrangle

The Letter

12 February 1988

Mr. Eric Seidel
WGST
550 Pharr Rd.
Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30363

Dear Mr. Seidel:

I am writing to register a formal complaint about Tammy Lloyd's homophobic behavior and remarks on her February 11 show on "Gays in the Military". Ms. Lloyd opened this particular show by quoting the recruiting slogans of the Army, Navy, and Marines in a manner which I would describe as sexual leering, i.e. this ruling would lend new meaning to... the Marines are looking for a few good men. She also made references that implied that gay men are more apt to display sexually inappropriate behavior while in the Armed Forces. I daresay the large number of Amer-Asian children in Vietnam are testimony enough to the inappropriate sexual behavior of heterosexual men in the Armed Services.

In addition, Ms. Lloyd "repeated" two jokes about gay men in the military that I found extremely upsetting. When I told her how offensive gay men and lesbians find such remarks, she replied that she was only repeating what she had heard in the WGST offices. Would you, as Station Manager, allow a talk show host to "repeat" racist jokes on the air? How about jokes about Jews and disabled people? I think not. The person responsible for the offense is each person making the remark, not only the person who made it up.

To further add insult to injury, Ms. Lloyd stated early in the show that the Supreme Court decision in Bowers vs. Hardwick applied only to homosexuals. I called the program to make a correction only to be told by Ms. Lloyd that I was incorrect. The Supreme Court ruling in this case upheld that the Sodomy Statute of the State of Georgia was not unconstitutional and that homosexuals did not have a fundamental right to privacy in this matter. Whatever obscure language that Ms. Lloyd used in her first statement on the air did not reflect these facts and her subsequent rude defense of such only served to confuse the issue.

Throughout the show Ms. Lloyd made remarks and innuendos that can only be taken as homophobic and insulting by members of the gay community. When challenged she used the excuse that she was repeating something she heard or denied the innuendo. It doesn't matter to me how it gets on the air or who said it. The Ed Tyll matter showed that you don't consider racist remarks appropriate for the air waves. By what reasoning is Ms. Lloyd or any other employee at your station permitted homophobic behavior?

Mr. Seidel, there are approximately 250,000 lesbians and gay men in your listening area. There are likely a million listeners with lesbian and gay sons,

daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers in every ethnic group and economic class. Have you considered the hurt they must feel to hear these stereotypes perpetuated?

In keeping with my own policy of following criticism with positive constructive suggestion, I propose the following:

1. An on-the-air thorough correction of Ms. Lloyd's interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling (her attempt to do so only underscored her ignorance) as well as an apology for any offense intended or otherwise to the lesbian and gay community for her behavior and comments on the show.

2. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and members of your staff (including talk-show hosts) to explain what is going on in the lesbian and gay community, how we would like these issues discussed, and what we consider to be insulting behavior. Several of us were invited by Andy Fisher at WSB to do just this and we all came away with greater sensitivity.

3. An opportunity for lesbians and gay men to be present on shows dealing with issues of concern to us. Ms. Lloyd took great pains apparently to solicit comments from military recruiters regarding the recent California decision, why did she not take the same steps to solicit comments from activists in our community? (Don't say you couldn't find any lesbians or gay men. A quick trip downstairs to the "Library" would be a step in some direction, or hadn't you noticed the gay bar in your basement?)

As an organizer of the October March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and an activist in this community, I would appreciate the opportunity to assist you in improving your coverage of issues relevant to us. I hope to hear from you and Ms. Lloyd in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Catheren M. Woolard

cc/Chris Cash, Editor
Southern Voice

The Response

February 23, 1988

Ms. Catheren M. Woolard
302 Oxford Place
Atlanta, GA 30307

Dear Ms. Woolard:

Thank you for your letter of February 12 regarding THE TAMMY LLOYD SHOW.

In response, I first want to say that after having heard her show that day, I think Tammy did an excellent job. I don't agree that her behavior was "homophobic," and, in fact, she even defended gays several times against the attacks of callers.

As for repeating jokes she had heard, in answer to your question would we do the same with racial jokes. The answer is yes, and we have, in order to help make a point. I can think of at least two shows Tom Houck has done on people and their

prejudices in which he used those "jokes" to underscore his points.

As for the Hardwick decision, Tammy made it clear, and gave attribution to the state attorney general, that the Georgia law is used against gays. I heard her discussion with you, and she certainly made her point clear then.

Tammy asked her audience some tough questions, based on the reality of our times. I can understand how this made you uncomfortable, and agree with you that it's unfortunate that these conditions still exist within our society.

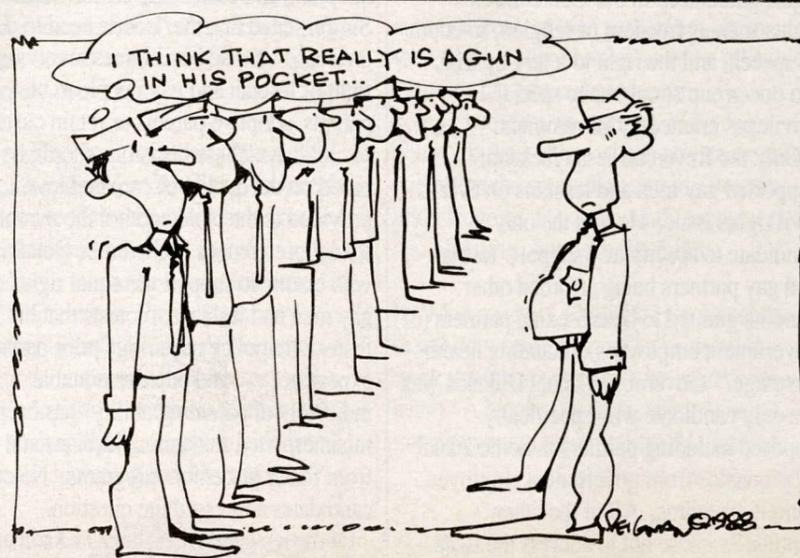
I see no need for an on-air apology or correction. And, as for your request to tell us "how we would like the issues discussed," you need to understand we are

not a vehicle for your or any other special interest group.

WGST NewsRadio 92 has done countless talk shows on gay/lesbian issues for which we have gotten excellent positive reaction. However, I don't recall ever having heard from you before now.

Sincerely,
Eric N. Seidel
Station Manager

cc: Chris Cash, Editor/Southern Voice
Ed. Note- Mr. Seidel's response was not received by Southern Voice as indicated in his letter to Catheren Woolard. Ms. Woolard was kind enough to share it with us.



Viewpoints is part of a continuing effort to provide a forum of opinion for our community. We invite your ideas, comments and feelings and your responses to ideas expressed in this space.

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Southern Voice. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than four pages. Mail to:

Southern Voice/Viewpoints
P.O. Box 54719
Atlanta, GA
30308

VOICES

--If you could resolve one lesbian and gay rights issue during the next year, what would it be?

Spousal rights - The dignity and right to marry and have children openly and legally with societal support instead of condemnation. This includes all rights open to heterosexuals.

Leslie Smith
Smyrna, GA

There are so many things that come to mind, it is difficult to choose. Rights for mothers and children, employment rights, everything rights.

Becky Bryant

Repealing all sodomy laws.

Greg Bates
Atlanta, GA

End discrimination by insurance companies against people who test positive for AIDS.

Dan Mazur
Atlanta, GA

Voices poses questions which reflect our diversity. You may be queried next.

Candidates

Continued from page 3

education and policy "must confront the homophobia, the irrational and divisive fear, the racism, the victim-blaming that impede efforts to combat the disease." Senator Simon and Governor Dukakis joined Jackson in supporting Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's call for "frank, non-judgmental education about AIDS", and targeted education and prevention programs for minorities. It is assumed that the candidates are including women, a majority of the U.S. population, under the category of minority.

Vice-President George Bush was the only Republican who in any way acknowledged the question of gay and lesbian civil rights. His only response to such concerns was, "I believe all Americans have fundamental rights guaranteed in our Constitution - rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and the right to a jury by trial. No one group should have special privileges granted by government."

Only the Reverend Jesse Jackson supported gay men and lesbians on every civil rights issue. He was the only candidate to specifically support "lesbian and gay partners being afforded other benefits granted to heterosexual partners (of government employees), including health coverage." Governor Michael Dukakis was the only candidate who specifically opposed including partners in homosexual relationships from government employee benefit programs. All of the other candidates chose not to address the issue.

All of the Democratic candidates, except Senator Gore, promised to make the Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights bill a part of their legislative agenda. Only Hart, Jackson, and Simon, however, promised to issue an Executive Order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the federal government, including the military, security agencies, and federal contractors.

Governor Dukakis opposes such an Executive Order, stating he "believes that a legislative solution to the problem would have broader application." Representative Gephardt, conversely, "believes that the Constitution and civil rights laws already protect individuals in federal government . . .

(including) the military . . . (and) national security clearances. If, as president, there is a determination that an Executive Order is necessary to obtain enforcement, an Executive Order would be issued."

All of the democratic candidates issued statements that only "merit and competence" will be used as hiring standards, with each assuring his commitment to equal opportunity.

The issue of women's rights has gained widespread support among all of the democratic candidates. They all supported passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and freedom of choice on abortion. All except Gephardt and Hart supported comparable worth standards being factored into public sector wage scales.

Reverend Jackson was the only candidate to specifically endorse the equal rights of gay men and lesbians in child custody, adoption, and foster care cases. Senator Simon stated that the "courts need to decide on a case by case basis issues involving the right of lesbian and gay people to be foster parents, adoptive parents or retain custody of children. These decisions should be based on the quality of care and love provided to the child and not the parent(s) sexual preferences." Governor Dukakis, who claims to support the equal rights of gay men and lesbians, protests that his foster care policy requiring "prior parenting experience . . . and other reasonable indicators of parenting ability" has been misinterpreted as banning lesbians and gays from foster placement programs. No other candidates addressed the question.

Of the ten candidates, only Jackson and Simon supported a party platform plank supporting lesbian/gay civil rights.

Southern Voice has not attempted to cover such areas as national defense, social policy other than that directly affecting gay men and lesbians, and the economy. We urge you to study other publications and contact the candidates' offices for more information. Valuable sources of information include the Georgia League of Women Voters at (404)522-8683, the Georgia Democratic Party at (404)681-1988, and the Georgia Republican Party at (404)870-2800.

-Chris Duncan

Gay & Lesbian Politicos Take Centerstage In Recent Caucus

ATLANTA- In an unprecedented move in Georgia politics, openly gay men and lesbians have won elections in the delegate selection process for both the Republican and Democratic parties. These men and women hope to represent the interests of lesbians and gays at the two party's national conventions this summer.

LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays And Lesbians), an Atlanta based Democratic club, successfully targeted Congressional District Four and Five in the heart of Atlanta to receive the brunt of their organizing efforts. The Democratic caucuses, held during the early morning hours of January 30th, elected delegates to each presidential candidate's slate.

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are apportioned in each Congressional district by the percentage of votes cast for each candidate during the upcoming March 8th, Super Tuesday, primary.

In the fourth Congressional district, which encompasses much of northeast Atlanta inside the I-285 perimeter, Dick Rhodes was elected to the first delegate slot for Senator Albert Gore. Melinda Daniels and Paul Garrard were elected to the third and fourth delegate slots in the district.

In the Fifth Congressional District, which includes most of downtown Atlanta, Gil Robison and Joe Williford were elected respectively to the third and fifth Gore delegate slots.

When asked to explain why Gore's campaign was targeted to advance the gay and lesbian cause, Lee Harrington, President of LEGAL, cited the electability and acceptability factors of Gore's campaign.

"We felt like the number two vote getter (in the fifth Congressional district) very likely was going to be Al Gore. And in the fourth district, we felt like Gore would win it." In addition to the number of popular votes each candidate would receive, the electability factor, LEGAL also had to consider the number of supporters each candidate would draw to the January 30th caucus meetings.

Harrington stressed Gore's acceptability to the lesbian and gay communities as a co-factor for the selection of his campaign. Gore co-sponsored "the AIDS Amendment to the fiscal '88 year budget . . . that increased what Reagan had proposed for AIDS funding by 650 million dollars." This indicates to Harrington that Senator Gore is at the very least "a compassionate person . . . (if not) the advocate of gay rights that we might like."

Seemingly homophobic comments by Gore and his campaign staff in reaction to early news of LEGAL's success would indeed seem to indicate that Gore was not an advocate of gay and lesbian rights. Arlie Schardt, a national spokesperson for Gore, was quick to defend his candidate, and complained that the media had inaccurately reported the circumstances which led to the disputed comments.

Schardt claims the candidate was baited by an Associated Press reporter, whose question stated as fact that "gay activists were using the Gore campaign as a tool to reach the Democratic National Convention, and were not supporting his (Gore's) candidacy."

Understandably, to Schardt, Gore reacted with indignation at the thought of being used

as a tool.

To the credit of the Gore campaign, as soon as they perceived how the story was being reported, they immediately contacted Harrington of LEGAL and the elected delegates to clarify the Senator's position.

When asked to give the Gore campaign's final position on LEGAL's success, Schardt said "they did a good job of organizing, got their delegates elected, and more power to them."

Dick Rhodes and Melinda Daniels, two of the delegates elect, are strident in their calls for fourth and fifth district gay men and lesbians to vote for Gore. Stressing the possibility of electing one lesbian and possibly two gay men to the floor of the Democratic National Convention, Rhodes urged people not totally committed to another candidate to cast their lot with Gore, "and get people (delegates) who believe in what we believe to the floor, and maybe we can help shape the (party) platform."

Lesbian and Gay Republicans have also made their presence known to party regulars in their own caucus system. Jeffrey Laymon, a local gay Republican, won election along with another gay delegate, and four gay alternates, to the county delegate convention. The Republican process, however, differs sharply from the Democratic process in that grass root voter participation is allowed only in the first of the five step process which eventually assigns delegates to the Republican candidates at the GOP National Convention.

According to Laymon, it is unlikely that he will advance past the next stage, the county caucus, due to the Republican system's reliance on long established ties and coalition among recognized GOP factions. Laymon attributes the cumbersome system and lack of knowledge of gay and lesbian concerns by mainstream Republican voters to his poor chances of winning final election as a delegate.

Being active in mainstream politics is a relatively new concept for gays and lesbians in Georgia, according to Harrington of LEGAL. Party politics, which more often revolve around number crunching than rhetoric, depend upon bloc voting and filling slates when determining the relative power of various groups. Dick Rhodes remarked on how "fragile the system is" to a concentrated attempt to garner power. A mere three hundred more people, for a total of four hundred present, would have allowed LEGAL to capture every delegate slot in every sub-caucus of the fourth Congressional district, according to Rhodes.

Political insiders trace the recent surge of participation in political processes by gay men and lesbians to the damning evidence against those currently in power, and their lack of response to the devastation the AIDS epidemic has wreaked in the gay and lesbian community. Beginning with the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, many see this growing activism of gay men and lesbians changing forever the face of American politics.

-Chris Duncan

CHERISHED LOVE by Evelyn Kennedy

...The love story you have always wished someone would write.

A romantic, sensuously detailed story of lesbian love.

Comments Katherine V. Forrest, author of *Curios Wine*: "This one should please women who enjoy erotic romance novels..."

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Homeless, Continued

From Page 1

appropriate shelter; enforce existing federal programs that should be aiding the homeless; and restore funding for federal housing programs to 1981 levels.

Lesbians and gay men appear to suffer from a greater susceptibility to being victimized by the current landlord-government relationship. With the advent of AIDS in society, many PWA's have become homeless, with a hospital their only home while acutely ill, the streets and charity shelters their only refuge between bouts of illness.

In addition to homeless PWA's, many lesbian and gay children are homeless, becoming "throwaways" upon reaching puberty. These young people continually migrate to large urban areas. The Covenant House in New York estimates that at least 10

percent of the homeless children in New York City are HIV seropositive.

Chris Minor, secretary of NAPWA-Atlanta, countered that it is not just the recognized risk groups who are testing positive for the HIV. "In New York City, the leading cause of death for women between 25 and 40 years old is AIDS... (most) are homeless women with children."

In a pre-march interview, Robert Hayes, Counsel for the Coalition, warns, "The states are going to go bankrupt through unnecessary, chronic hospitalization... the remedy (to the homeless problem) is one we know of, it's not a complicated technology."

Despite the presence and vigorous scrutiny applied to the issues by the lesbian and gay contingent at the rally, none of the candidates chose to address the issue of lesbians and gay men on the street, with or without AIDS.

-Karl Boyce and Chris Duncan

AIM Continued

From Page 1

"I was having trouble with her wearing my bathrobe or making up the bed differently than I do and I yelled at her and we had to laugh." Now Sarah has feelings about everything and expresses them. She talks about having all the feelings wear her out. "Sometimes I've been feeling so much that I just want to stop for three days and rest," she says, "but I tell myself that I just have to go to work or make a phone call or do one more thing and then I do and I feel better."

When Sarah was in prison, there was no support system to help her contact her son or deal with her own guilt for having him taken away from her and his friends. Her son became one more victim of his mother's crime. There were staff counselors for the prisoners but they were overloaded and there were no groups in the prison to share the pain. There are over 250,000 children of incarcerated women around the country who are separated from their mothers, generally with no contact and generally with no understanding between mother and children. Only 25% of those children ever see their mothers during the incarceration period. Most of the convicted mothers are haunted by that separation. Sometimes their children don't even remember them by the time they are released.

Aid for Imprisoned Mothers (AIM) was started in Atlanta by Attorney Sandra Barnhill. One of the services provided by AIM is transportation for children to visit their imprisoned mothers in order to strengthen mother-child bonds. Barnhill says that 70-80 percent of the women in prison should not have been incarcerated in the first place. She goes on to say, "If they had better representation or a better understanding of the criminal justice system, things would be different for them."

Sandra Barnhill, an Attorney who graduated from the University of Texas Law School in 1984, is the founder and visionary behind AIM in Atlanta. There are similar programs in Boston, Massachusetts and Montgomery, Alabama. Barnhill, who has worked with the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee, sees AIM as "an outgrowth of my desire to be

empowered and to be a change agent for the empowerment of other women. There is so much talk about justice and equality but that's just a farce. Justice is, after all, just-us: just-us women, just-us blacks, just-us prisoners."

About 50% of the women in prison in Georgia are there for property crimes; about 23% for drug sales or possession and 16% for violent personal crimes. Sixty percent are black. The over-representation of blacks in prison is based on the fact that, according to Barnhill, "race and sex are two real important factors in who gets sentenced and what the length of their sentence might be." The average age of women imprisoned in Georgia is thirty-one, and 78% have at least one child with two-thirds of these having sole custody. Most of the women are poor. Barnhill sees a connection between poverty and cutbacks in public aid related to property crimes. "I think it's a direct causal connection to the life circumstances. I think people who find themselves in desperate situations act in desperate ways."

Supportive long-term relationships have been recognized as one of the few factors that can be shown statistically to influence rehabilitation and reduce the rate of return to prison. Since most mothers in prisons have little or limited contact with their children, this important stabilizing and rehabilitative factor is often neglected. AIM is providing transportation to try to address this need. AIM also provides lawyer referrals for cases primarily concerning civil matters such as divorce, child custody and public benefits. AIM also offers workshops for prisoners in parenting skills and training for volunteers to work with incarcerated women.

There was no project like AIM to make Sarah's isolation and absence from her child easier. Now Sarah works with AIM as a volunteer to make sure other incarcerated women have better opportunities than she did. She plans to talk with her son, to allow all those feelings to surface, to be a person who recognizes and supports her feelings as good and healthy. Sarah now understands that it is less painful to express her inner feelings than to withhold them or to bury them beneath drugs and risk losing the love of a son.

-Rebecca Ranson

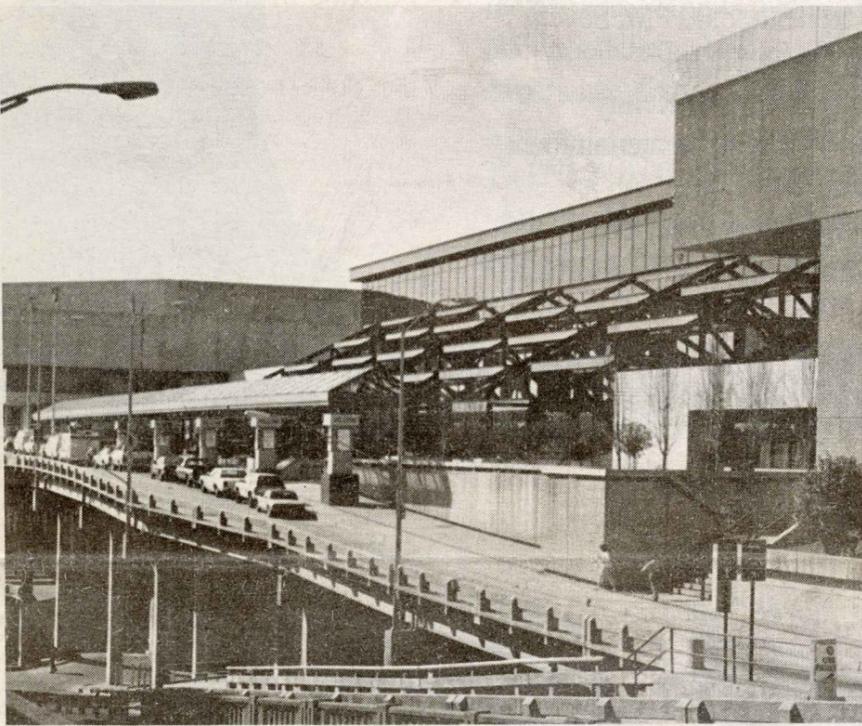


Photo by Gerald Jones

The World Congress Center, site of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution presidential candidate debates. The Democratic candidates left the March for the Homeless to attend the debates. Although the candidates had pledged to make "the plight of the homeless a national priority", none carried the rhetoric into the nationally televised debate.

How Do They Get There From Here?

The Democrats

In all but two of the ten Congressional Districts in Georgia, five delegates will be sent to the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. Congressional District Five will send six delegates, and Congressional District Seven will send four delegates to the Convention. Those people who are eligible to be sent were elected at party sub-caucuses January 30th in their home districts when they promised to support a presidential candidate for one vote of the full Convention nominating system.

When the popular vote is cast March 8th, Super Tuesday, each candidate's percentage of the total will be tallied by Congressional District. Each delegate elected is ranked against all of the other delegates based on the number of votes he/she received in the sub-caucus.

When the votes have been tallied, the candidate who wins the District by total votes will automatically send their first delegate to the DNC. A candidate must receive a threshold of 15% of the popular vote in order

to send their first delegate to the Convention. The remaining delegates will be apportioned among the candidates receiving more than 15% of the vote, in descending order of votes received. Due to the small number of delegates and the large number of candidates, it is conceivable that a candidate could garner 15% of the vote and not receive a delegate.

EXAMPLE: If Candidate 1 receives 48% of the vote, Candidate 2 gets 20%, Candidate 3 receives 17% of the vote, and Candidate 4 gets 15% of the vote, the delegates they would send to the DNC are:

Candidate 1 - 48%

* The candidate's delegate 1 for winning the district.

* The candidate's delegates 2 and 3 for winning approximately half of the votes cast in the district.

Candidate 2 - 20%

* The candidate's delegate 1 for taking one-

fifth of the district.

Candidate 3 - 17%

*The candidate's delegate 1 for taking approximately one-fifth of the district.

Candidate 4 - 15%

*No delegate, since all are already taken, even though the candidate won 15% of the total vote cast.

The Republicans

The Republican process, like in many states, is entirely different from the Democratic process. The Republican party uses a five-step process to determine the Congressional District delegates to the Republican National Convention.

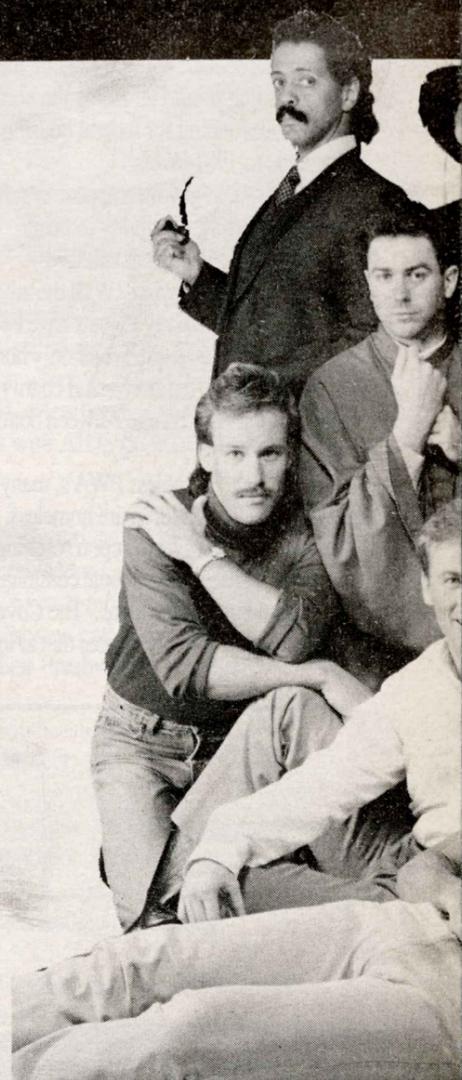
The first step involves all interested voters at the local precinct level. Delegate candidates do not pledge themselves to candidates, but rather are elected based on personal merit. The precinct delegates go to a county convention, where they elect from among themselves the

delegates to go to the Congressional District Convention. The Congressional District delegates then vote from among themselves delegates to the statewide convention as well as delegates directly to the national convention. At the statewide convention, the delegates to the national convention are elected.

The most important distinction between the two systems is that the Republicans assign only three delegates to each Congressional District. Those delegates are pledged to the candidate who wins the majority of votes in the district, and are not divided between candidates on the basis of the percentage of the vote they win. It is a "winner take all" system.

-Chris Duncan

THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR



This Week's Highlights

- Paper Dolls**- Atlanta's premiere rock 'n' roll band warms up for Dreams So Real, Thursday, March 4th at the Cotton Club, 1021 Peachtree St., 874-2532. They'll return March 5th for 96 rock night.
- Suede/Sam Baker in Concert**- Suede is back after a long year. This will be her Atlanta debut of several new songs from her upcoming album. Sam Baker, the man with the big voice who brought the house down at Heartstrings, opens the show. Saturday, March 5th, 8:00 PM, Seven Stages. Tickets \$10.00 at Charis, LazerAge, The Boy Next Door, and Seven Stages.
- Rache Alpert**- The sultry opener for stars such as Pheobe Snow, Judy Collins & Kenny Rankin returns to Little Five Points with music from Joplin to Jarreau. This is solo entertainment at its funnest and finest. Sunday, March 6th at the Little Five Points Pub. 577-7767
- 4 & 1- Four Painters and One Sculptor**- Artists Phillip Carpenter, Heather Hilton, Lee Lawson, Mark Morton and Dan Pruitt show their stuff. Ongoing at the Atlanta Financial Center, 3333 Peachtree Road, through April 15th.

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
1	"Wits End Players" Upstairs Gene & Gabes through the end of March 892-2261	2	Eclipse opening at Jerry Farber's	3	"Sister-Outsider: The Woman Prisoner" Charis Books & More	4	Wayne T
<p>•Atlanta Gay Center Clinic 6-9 PM 876-5372 (Every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)</p>		 <p>Dan Pruitt</p>		<p>•Atlanta Gay Center Young Adult Discussion Groups 876-5371</p>		<p>•Integrity 7:30 PM</p>	
8	ELECTION CENTRAL Backstreet	9	Steel Magnolias opening tonight- April 9 Alliance Main Stage 892-2414	10	"Not All Parents Are Straight" Charis Books & More	11	TH "Visible P
<p>SUPER TUESDAY !!! GET OUT AND VOTE!</p> <p>•Atlanta March Committee 7:30 PM</p>				<p>Different opens tonight-April 3 8:00 PM Seven Stages Theatre 523-7647</p> <p>•NAPWA Meeting 7:30</p>		<p>•Plus Group Atlanta Gay Center every Friday 876-5372</p>	

SOUTHERN VOICE

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
see page 15

The Atlanta March Committee
More than a phase...
supports
Southern Voice
& wishes Chris & her
staff a successful &
thriving future.
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Personal Wellness
through
Transpersonal Counseling

- Psychotherapy
- Imagery and Healing
- Centering and Attunements
- Astral Cognition
- Relationship Counseling
- Meditation
- Chakra Balancing
- Past Life Therapy

DANIEL TRUSSELL, M.Ed.
242-2021

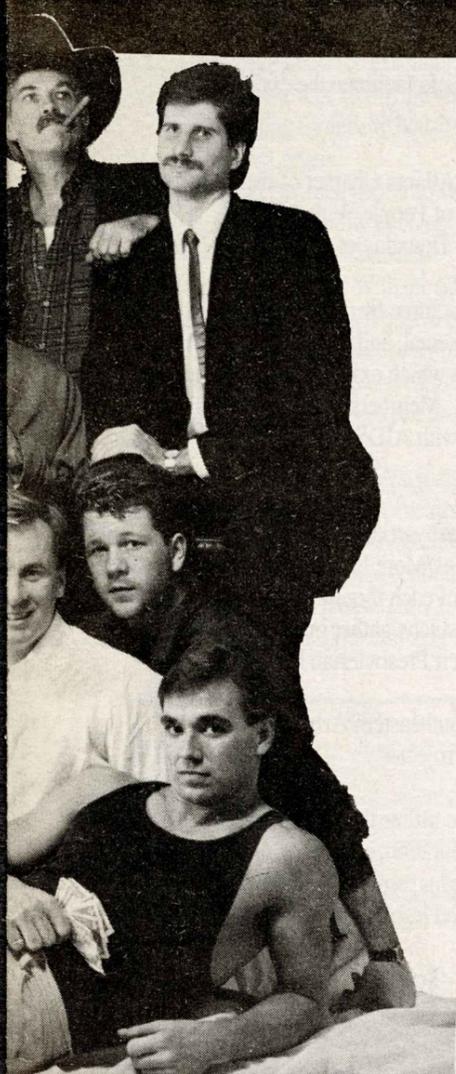


Inner Harmony for Stressful Times

THE NAMES PROJECT

ATLANTA
May 29th & 30th

bitter sweet
by Charles Haver
now appearing
Page 14



Next Week's Highlights

•**LEGAL's Super Tuesday Election Central**- An old-fashioned election central with a toteboard and all the red, white and blue bunting you'll ever want to see! This is the only place to get **details** on results of Congressional Districts 4 & 5. Come early. Cafe open. Tuesday, March 8th, 6:30 PM at Backstreet.

•**Not All Parents are Straight**- A video about lesbians & gay men as parents. A large part of the film is devoted to sons and daughters of all ages sharing their experiences about having/ living/ living with a lesbian or gay parent.

•**Different**-Those wonderful men in the picture to the left are appearing in a new musical by local artists Patrick Hutchison & Dan Pruitt. Chronicling a gay man's experience from childhood through dating and mating, the show is by gay men about the modern gay male experience. Funny as hell and heartwrenching. Premiering March 10-April 3, Thur.-Sun., Seven Stages.

Tickets \$10.00 at Charis Books or call 523-7647 to charge.

•**Angela Motter Band**- A month of Sundays in March with Angela and her funky, jazzy band. Little Five Points Pub, 9:30 PM. Come on! The Tracey Ullman show is over at 9:30! Angela & the guys won't mind if you're a little late.

SATURDAY

5

Suede/Sam Baker Concert
8 PM
Seven Stages Collective Theatre



Groups & the Zydecajuns
Blind Willies

Paper Dolls
10 PM Cotton Club

SUNDAY

6

A Rock & Roll Brunch with Rachel Alpert
2-4 PM Little Five Points Pub
every Sunday in March

13

T Bone 'n' Weasel
Final Performance
Alliance Studio
892-2414

Angela Motter Band
9:30 PM Little Five Points Pub
every Sunday in March

•Circle of Healing
First Existentialist Church
3:45-5:30 PM



MONDAY

7

• Southeastern Conference for Lesbians & Gay Men
Planning Meeting 7:00 PM
(Every Monday)

Theatre Du Wow! Presents
"Pigeon Puppet Theatre"
at Club Rio

12

Corpse Final Performance
Theatrical Outfit
872-0665

Aunt Dan & Lemon Final Performance
Horizon Theatre
684-7450



S.A.M.E.
Southeastern Arts, Media
& Education Project, Inc.

Join Friends Atlanta
for
DIFFERENT
Sunday, March 31
8:00 PM
Seven Stages

Ticket Info:
634-2500

Amethyst

A Literary Journal for
Lesbians & Gay Men
Available at your local bookstore

GREATER
ATLANTA
POLITICAL
AWARENESS
COALITION

GAPAC

Formerly Atlanta Campaign for
Human Rights (ACHR)
P.O. Box 3420
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

ORGANIZATIONS

Registry

AALGA - African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance

1st Sunday of each month 4:00 p.m.
Quaker House 525-3376

A political and social organization for black lesbians and gay men.

ACT - Atlanta Couples Together

Meeting times vary.
432-1085

A social support and educational outreach group for gay men and lesbian couples.

AFC - Atlanta Faerie Circle

1st Sunday of each month
Location and time varies 622-4112

Gay men who gather to support one another and explore their connections with the earth and white light.

AGC - Atlanta Gay Center

876-5372
Provides services and advocacy for the lesbian and gay community. Operated primarily by volunteers, AGC offers numerous services for lesbians and gay men as well as educational outreach to society as a whole.

AGMC - Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

296-6581
A semi-professional community oriented chorus of male voices.
Membership open to all interested singers and non-singers alike.

AMC - Atlanta March Committee--More than a Phase

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.

North Highland Branch Library 377-8312

A community based activist organization that works toward promoting lesbian and gay rights through educational, social, cultural, and political events.

AVS - Atlanta Venture Sports

Activities and meetings vary. 242-4899
An association in which the membership enjoys recreational, social, educational, and sports activities.

BWMT - Black and White Men Together

1st Saturday of each month 8:00 p.m. Rap Groups each Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Location varies 794-BWMT

A gay inter-racial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized.

Circle of Healing

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month 4:00 p.m.
First Existentialist Church
The Circle is available to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual.

Friends Atlanta

Activities and meetings vary. 634-2500
A social, recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. Volleyball, bowling, dinners, theatre nights, and dances are among the activities.

GAPAC - Greater Atlanta Political

Awareness Coalition
Meetings vary. 888-0510
The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene.

GLPCI - Gay and Lesbian Parents

Coalition International
1st and 3rd Sunday of each month 7:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church 296-8369
A support group for lesbian and gay parents.

The Group

Thursday nights.
Call the Gay HelpLine, 892-0661, or write: P.O. Box 15191, Atlanta, GA 30333
A support group for gay and bisexual men who are or have been involved in marital-type situations with women.

Integrity - Gay Caucus of the Episcopal

Church
2nd and 4th Friday of each month. 7:30 p.m.
All Saints Episcopal Church - 3rd floor of Ellis Hall

LIFE - Lesbians in Fun Endeavors

Meeting times and locations vary. 493-3966
Bringing professional gay women together for the fun of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events.

LEGAL - Legislate Equality for Gays and

Lesbians
3rd Monday of each month. 7:00 p.m.
Peachtree Branch Library 875-7500
The voice of lesbian and gay Georgians in the Democratic party.

MACGLO - Metro-Atlanta Council of

Gay and Lesbian Organizations
3rd Thursday each month. 7:00 p.m.
Peachtree Branch Library 633-4754
A representative council of lesbian and gay

organizations to facilitate the exchange of information.

NAPWA - Atlanta Chapter of the National

Association of People With AIDS
2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. 7:00 p.m.
1132 W. Peachtree St. 874-7926

A political, social, and educational organization which exists to confront the AIDS crisis. Membership is open to all individuals with AIDS or AIDS related complex.

PLGC - Presbyterians for Lesbian and

Gay Concerns/More Light
1st Sunday of each month. 373-5830
Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage.

SAME - Southeastern Arts, Media and

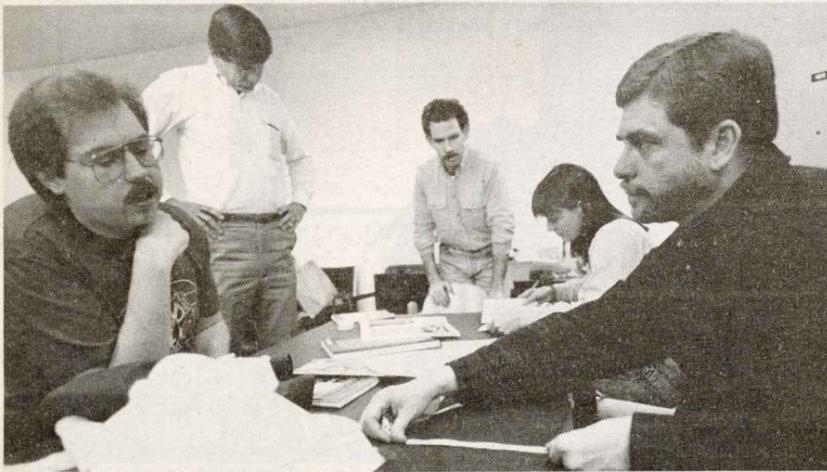
Education Project
584-2104
Organized to utilize the arts and media as a tool for exploration, education, and change in human rights, especially those pertaining to the gay and lesbian community.

SECLGM - Southeastern Conference for

Lesbians and Gay Men
Each Monday. 7:00 p.m.
Peachtree Branch Library
Volunteers needed to plan the Southeastern Conference to be held in April.

WOW - Women of Wisdom

3rd Monday of each month. 7:45 p.m.
North Highland Branch Library
Aims to facilitate women meeting together with older women in a pleasant atmosphere. Offers timely programs of interest to the community, reaches out to older women and women with special needs.



Names Projects Quilting Bees Are Being Held At AID Atlanta Every Sunday From 2-5 PM. Call 872-0600 For More Information.

DID YOU MAKE A PANEL?

The Names Project will have a monthly count of the number of Quilt panels that have been received. The total number that have been sent to San Francisco now exceeds 2,868 and they continue to come in, either hand carried or by mail. As we prepare for the 25-city National Tour, we are attempting to determine the various geographical areas each Quilt panel may represent. For example, a panel may have been made by someone in Baltimore for an individual who lived in that city but was originally from Houston. As the Quilt tours, that panel could have meaning to people in both of those cities. We are attempting to determine the geographical areas represented so that in each city toured, panels can be displayed that are meaningful to people in that area. To accomplish this we are requesting that you complete and return to The Names Project the form below. If you have already sent a panel or will be sending one, this will help us display the Quilt in a manner that will provide the greatest significance for you, loved ones, family, and friends.

NAME ON PANEL: _____

NAME OF PANEL MAKER: _____

CITY IN WHICH PERSON ON PANEL LIVED: _____

CITIES IN WHICH FAMILY/ FRIENDS/ LOVED ONES LIVED: _____

OTHER CITIES OF IMPORTANCE: _____

MAIL TO: The Names Project, P.O. Box 14573, San Francisco, CA, 94114

NBGLC

Ricky Wilson, a member of AALGA, gives his impressions of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference recently held in Los Angeles.

On February 12 - 14, with the theme, "Leadership! What Have We Learned? What Can We Share?," the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference was held in Los Angeles. The conference was co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/LA) and the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG). About 400 people from around the nation attended.

Some of the speakers for the event were Angela Davis, who was the keynote speaker, Tom Bradley, mayor of Los Angeles, Margaret Sloan-Hunter, one of the founding editors of *Ms.* magazine, Pat Parker, a dynamic poet, and Danitra Vance, an actress and comedienne who starred on NBC's Saturday Night Live and completed successful runs of the play "The Colored Museum" in New York and London. At a special luncheon to benefit the National Minority AIDS Council, Dionne Warwick was honored for her AIDS work.

Workshops covered a wide range of topics: AIDS and other health issues, organizing and supporting autonomous Black Lesbian and Gay institutions, fundraising techniques, law and political issues, women's issues, outreach programs for Lesbian and Gay seniors, opening businesses, and self-empowering matters. To celebrate our Lesbian and Gay history and culture, the rooms used for the workshops were titled with such personalities' names as Johnny Mathis, Butterfly McQueen, Bessie Smith, Audre Lorde, Harriet Tubman, Bayard Rustin, and George Washington Carver (yes, the peanut man).

Being at this historical event was energizing.

However, because of the anticipation that they generated, three events stood out. At the opening session, Tom Bradley came to welcome the conferees. He talked about the steps that the city of Los Angeles had taken to ensure that the human rights and dignity of the Gay and Lesbian community were not diminished; this included a city ordinance dealing with anti-discrimination due to sexual orientation and the funding of the Gay and Lesbian community services center. Another memorable event was hearing Angela Davis deliver the keynote address at the banquet. She gave a very rousing speech in which she clearly stated the importance of Black Gay and Lesbian self-determination because of its impact not only on the Black community but on all human rights efforts.

Another event that was a stand-out also occurred at the banquet--hearing Audre Lorde. Ms. Lorde was honored for her work in the arts and the Gay and Lesbian movement. She spoke to the conference via telephone, since she is in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands recuperating from cancer. Although what she said was not always audible, the mutual love and admiration between her and the audience was quite clear.

Margaret Sloan-Hunter spoke at the closing session of the conference. She raised many important points which we as a community need to think about. At the opening session, no women were included as speakers, an oversight not to be taken lightly. She pointed out that Black Gay men need to make efforts to address sexism in their ranks.

Overall, the conference was very rewarding. It gave me an opportunity to see people that I had met at the March on Washington and the Black Gay Men's retreat in Pottstown, Pennsylvania and to make new acquaintances. It was good to see the sexes participating equally and a genuine exchange between them.

Different 'll Punch Ya, POW!

As part of its ongoing effort to nurture gay talent and sponsor dynamic, responsible entertainment, S.A.M.E. is delighted to announce the world premiere of its eighth production, "Different". The musical by Patrick Hutchison and Dan Pruitt--part concert, cabaret, and commentary--opens March 10 and runs every Thursday through Sunday until April 3 at the Collective Theater.

A 21-song odyssey of a gay Everyman (David Willis), "Different" chronicles Sonny Robinson's childhood memories, coming out, plunge into romance and adult gay networks, and finally his ultimate confrontation with terminal illness. Each song is unique, catching all of Sonny's emotions from angry schoolyard brawls to knock-kneed fear as he first enters a gay bar to the rapturous discovery that his lover is much more than that, he is his friend.

Willis leads an ensemble of eight actor/singer/dancers whose combined credits exceed 150 shows from Manhattan to Florida to the Midwest. All of them sing, dance, and enact a plethora of roles. GSU student G. Burrow Holmes is featured as Sonny's lover, Neal. Choreographer Jeffrey Laymon, who also was responsible for the dances in S.A.M.E.'s previous "For Love and For Life" as well as the Decatur Playhouse's "A Chorus Line", promises dancing that will be as varied as the songs, encompassing 40's/50's images of "West Side Story", soft shoe, and up-to-date Fosse jazz.

"Different" marks a number of breakthroughs. For S.A.M.E., it is their first musical production, and probably the most commercial project yet undertaken. Director Rebecca Ranson stresses that what lifts the show beyond its undeniable appeal to gay audiences is its universality. "The score has a fantastic punch," she said, and she was punched enough to tackle directing her first musical. Previously, Ms. Ranson's efforts have been issue oriented drama, twenty years' worth of work ranging from the 1987 production of the drama, "Elmatha's Apology", at the Academy, to her recent "Blood on Blood" at Seven Stages, and of course, "Warren", also produced by S.A.M.E., which has gone onto 30 cities since, including its next production in Las Vegas.

For Willis, it is his first lead in a career that has included the Southeastern Savoyards, "Heartstrings", the Neighborhood Playhouse's "A Chorus Line", and Onstage Atlanta's "Working". He won a "Chance to Dance" award that allowed him to dance on Broadway in the 5000th performance of "A Chorus Line". The actor conceives of Sonny Robinson as a man whose resilience is tested again and again by rejections, guilt, and confusion and is still able to rise above his trials to forge an adult identity of trust and idealism. Sonny grows before the audience's eyes, and he keeps on growing to the very end.

For the composer--actor/singer/pianist/writer Patrick Hutchison, "Different" marks his first musical. Widely experienced in accompanying other shows, and in interpreting other composers, here, at last, he comes into artistic maturity and gets to sing in his own voice.

According to Hutchison and author Dan Pruitt, the production modestly began as a Mickey and Judy "Let's do a show!" lark. Initially involving themselves, their lovers and two other friends, they would present a home review using other people's songs. Then they added a few of their own songs, and initiated a process whereby the few were succeeded by another 20 numbers a year later, and the game had become a serious artistic effort.

For Pruitt, the timing couldn't have been better. Hitting his 40s, he was engaged in a glorious burnout of his previous artistic incarnations--graphics, painting, and teaching. He was an artist seeking a medium, and jumped in feet first.

Once the score was completed, it had evolved into both a biography of Sonny Robinson as well as a telling commentary on the manifold denizens of his world, two artistic intentions that sometimes blended and sometimes criss-crossed. Pruitt contacted Ranson about six months ago, and once she had heard the score, "Different" leapt into a new kind of reality for its creators.

"I want the audience to get an intelligent, witty entertainment," Pruitt says. "The show can give them a sense of where we've been, and where we're going--one continuous coming out after the other--where with shared joy and shared grief, we can be reminded of our weaknesses, our strengths, and our courage."

Tickets are available for \$10 at the Collective Theater (523-7647 for reservations) and at Charis Books and More.

—James Rosenfield

Suede back by popular demand

Suede continues her love affair with Atlanta on Saturday March 5 when she will appear at Seven Stages Collective Theatre in Little Five Points. Her special guests will be Sam Baker and Dan Lawrence.

At her first appearance in Atlanta last spring in a benefit with Romanovsky and Phillips for the local March on Washington committee, Suede felt a strong rapport with her audience and said she was "knocked over" and "moved" by the audience's generous reception.

"I really loved being in Atlanta," she says. "I can't believe I was only there for 24 hours; I felt so much at home."

Audience response was equally effusive. One local reviewer described her performance: "With a well-balanced

Redefining Masculinity

New Men, New Minds: Breaking Male Tradition

Edited by Franklin Abbott
The Crossing Press, Freedom, CA, 1987
\$10.95, 220 pp.

Franklin Abbott has served as editor of a cogent new book called *New Men, New Minds*, a collection of nearly fifty essays that examines the question of how men today are "changing the traditional roles of masculinity." The subject range is prodigious: male rape, circumcision, public acknowledgment of one's gayness, the origins and consequences of traditional male thinking. Yet the effect of the book is far more complex, and far more affecting, than any brief description of it can adequately convey.

The opening essay is slashing and simple. In "Healing the Wounded Father", Joseph H. Pleck recounts the unfortunate course of his dead father's life, from early unhappiness to middle-aged satisfaction to final embitterment. Pleck begins by exploring his own feelings of alienation from his father, and then discloses with charity and distress the private troubles his father so desperately sought to hide from his family, including two heart attacks

suffered and recovered from while away on extended "business trips."

As a child, Pleck's father had been made to work in his own father's ice cream business, though he seems often to have wished to be far away. The elder Peck recalled his father as "a good man, but he was a Prussian, he was strict. It wasn't that he refused to give me a vacation from making ice cream every day of my life, it just never occurred to him that a boy might not want to make ice cream every day, it just never occurred to him."

Pleck's own poise communicates itself. He is not content, as men sometimes are in their lives, to fight battles with the invisible. He finds his particular solace in comprehension: in learning all he can about a buried father whose private troubles still affect the son today, and in using that knowledge as the key toward forgiveness and effecting change in the future.

In "Mad as Hell", Craig G. Harris asserts that third world gays and lesbians must work to make their particular legal needs heard. A black, gay male assistant in a management consulting firm, Harris was

Continued on page 14



Franklin Abbott-photo by Linda Douglas

stylistic range and a genuinely warm rapport with her audience, she brought the crowd to its feet in a spontaneous ovation at the conclusion of her set."

Baltimore is home for Suede, but she performs often in New York and all along the east coast, from Provincetown to Atlanta. She has played at the Michigan Womyn's Festival, Campfest, and Winter Womyn Music I in North Carolina, and has shared the stage with Kate Clinton, Alix Dobkin, and Lucie Blue Tremblay.

"I view myself as a singer-vocalist first," Suede says. "The voice is my favorite instrument." She describes what she does as an art--the way she takes care of and approaches her voice, as well as her material. Suede designs her performances as if orchestrating or arranging a single piece of music, and pays attention to a set's tempo and texture in an attempt to make it flow easily. Her voice isn't the only instrument she uses: she plays guitar, piano, and trumpet as well. On March 5th, Suede will debut new songs from her upcoming album and she promised to

provide a few more surprises as well.

Says Cathy Woolard, who's producing the show: "Those of you who were fortunate enough to enjoy her show-stopping performance as the opening act for Romanovsky and Phillips know that this will be a show to remember. Those of you who missed that night certainly don't want to make the same mistake twice."

Woolard praises Sam Baker as well. She calls him "the unforgettable man with the big voice who brought down the Fox Theatre during Heartstrings and who anchored the music in SAME's production of *For Love and For Life*. Sam and his pianist, Dan Lawrence create a powerful sound that can rock you through the night.

Tickets are available at Charis Books & More, LazerAge Desktop Publishing, The Boy Next Door, and Seven Stages/Collective Theatre (call 523-7647 for charge orders). For more information, call 377-8312.

—Peter Dakutis

Living With AIDS

Reactions to news that one is HIV positive vary sharply. In the chaos of statistics we sometimes forget that gay men are not alone in the need to adapt to seropositivity. The following experiences of a heterosexual woman illustrate some of the parallel concerns shared by those who must deal with issues of discrimination, rejection, alienation, and sexuality.

I only vaguely remember signing a consent for "the Test" when I entered the hospital for cocaine addiction. A week into my hospitalization, I asked my physician for the results. He responded that "we'll talk in the morning, everything will be O.K." After I lay awake all night, the doctor finally arrived and summoned me to his office. As we walked down the hall, I began to sob uncontrollably. He asked how I knew as he began his explanation of my

odds, the research...

I remember thinking at the time of a close friend who has AIDS. I wanted to talk to him and tell him how sorry I was, all the times I told him it would be O.K., that I understood. People expressed their concern, the staff, other patients, they all seemed to know. Everybody was looking. Now I understood.

I guess I was fortunate to find out in a controlled environment. Everyone expressed that they didn't understand but that they cared. I asked people to not be afraid, to please ask questions. In the middle of the night, an elderly nurse entered my room to check my blood pressure. As she approached my bed, I noticed that she wore rubber gloves. Silent tears rolled from my eyes as I realized that I would be treated differently for the rest of my life.

A specialist was consulted, tests to

evaluate my T-cells were ordered. I knew they would be alright. After all, I'm straight and I'm asymptomatic. They were abnormal, my T-helper count lower than my friend's with AIDS. Reality again, it's in my blood. I'm going to die. I'm losing it.

I eagerly awaited the literature about women and AIDS. I could still have sex, a friend had encouraged. It was horrible... wash sex toys with bleach, a latex covering over my vagina for oral sex, a surgical glove for my partner if he fondles my vagina. I was devastated. Who would ever want to be with me? A straight man, especially here in the South, will never understand. I felt so alone.

I'd been out of the treatment center for four months, when I went out with a man I'd been seeing for eight years. He was drinking and very persistent. I told him that we were just friends and that the sexual part of our relationship was over. The moment I had dreaded, he asked if I had AIDS. I

explained that I had tested positive for exposure to AIDS. He was so sweet, so understanding. He had loved me for eight years and wasn't afraid of me. We laughed and cried and he held me all night.

I received a call from him a few days later. I guess he had sobered up and had time to think things over. He was afraid people would find out and it would reflect on him. He didn't want to be associated with me anymore. Oddly, I understood.

It's not been easy, but it's gotten better with time. It's always in the back of my mind, but I cannot allow it to control my life. I've made changes in my life. The weekend trips to New York, the all night parties that sometimes lasted for days. Now I concentrate on my relationships, with my family, my friends. People our age, gay or straight, shouldn't have to think about death. Some of my strongest support has been from my gay friends. I don't know how I would have gone through this alone.

Updates

World AIDS cases: 77,266

Geneva - The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported its updated total of AIDS cases as of January 31, 1988, showing an increase of 9.3 percent from one month earlier.

The latest update shows a total of 77,266 cases, with two-thirds reported in the United States.

WHO officials say the increase reflects not only more spreading of the disease, but better reporting and detection by third world countries.

Despite those improvements, they estimate that the true tally is probably between 50 percent more to double the reported total. So far, a total of 132 countries have reported cases of the disease. About half the cases have resulted in death.

Among the countries with the highest numbers of reported cases are the United States 51,361, Uganda 2,639, France 2,523, Brazil 2,325, Canada 1,435, West Germany 1,669, Tanzania 1,608, United Kingdom 1,227.

AIDS In The Workplace

Atlanta - A recent survey on attitudes toward people with AIDS in the workplace showed most workers are still afraid of becoming infected by sharing certain facilities with PWA's.

The survey, conducted by Georgia Tech, involved telephone interviews with 2,000 full-time workers who were over 18 years of age and not self-employed.

Bathrooms, the study showed, are the most feared place, with two-thirds of those surveyed saying they would be "concerned" about using the same restroom as a PWA.

Forty percent said they would think twice about using the same cafeteria, and thirty-seven percent went as far as to say they would not share tools or work equipment with PWA's.

One-third of those questioned said they did not believe the experts when they said AIDS can only be transmitted through sexual contact or contaminated blood.

But despite all the fear apparent in these responses, the survey did show most people seem sympathetic to the plight of PWA's.

More than eighty percent said they would be "willing to help the individual perform aspects of the job with which he or she was having difficulty." Seventy-five percent said they would favor special work arrangements for PWA's.

The survey shows the need for education on the facts about AIDS in order to keep misinformation from undermining the public's willingness to help PWA's.

South Africa Deports PWA's

Cape Town - The South African Health Minister has announced that up to 1,000 black migrant workers carrying the AIDS virus will be deported by his country.

In the future, workers from high risk African countries will be tested for the virus before coming into the country.

The minister, in a briefing to journalists, defended the segregated hospitals of South Africa, likening them to those in the U.S. "In New York hospitals you will find that the nursing sister will have Hispanics in one ward, Italians in one ward. They feel more comfortable with each other", he explained.

He said more than 1,000 workers from black African countries have tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS. Most of them were from Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Uganda. They are now in the process of being repatriated.

They were in South Africa to work in that country's gold and coal mines.

The country has begun an advertising campaign to warn people about the threat of AIDS. So far, there have been 98 reported cases of the disease and 66 people have died from AIDS in South Africa.

Show Angers Denmark Viewers

Copenhagen - "Love and Condoms", an explicit show about AIDS presented on Denmark's only TV channel angered many viewers who thought it went too far.

The program, which featured young people discussing their sexual experiences, taught how to put on a condom, and showed a (heterosexual) couple having intercourse, proved too much for many viewers, even in this country, known as more sexually liberated than most.

Despite the hundreds of angry phone calls from viewers, the country's leading AIDS specialist thought the program offered good instruction. Professor Viggo Farber said "of course the safest way is to stay away from sex, but that is just not how real life works. And we can't whip the whole population back to the Victorian age." Authorities in Denmark have decided to adopt a policy of openness on the disease, rather than one of moral condemnation, focusing their campaign on urging young people to use condoms.

Korean AIDS Law Passed

Korea - A law recently passed by the Korean National Assembly has harsh provisions against people who are HIV antibody seropositive, and attempts to strictly limit their activities.

The law contains provisions for mandatory HIV antibody screening of prostitutes and those working in discotheques, nightclubs, bars, and/or other types of entertainment establishments. In addition, the new law allows the imprisonment of PWA's and HIV antibody seropositives when they are found guilty of activities which might result in the transfer of the virus.

Under the new law, all doctors and medical clinics are required to report positive results to HIV antibody screenings to the authorities immediately. When found to have the virus, people may be subject to quarantine.

Although visitors to the country will not be

forced to subject themselves to the test, all resident foreigners will be under the jurisdiction of the new law.

Black Group Gets Dollars

Philadelphia - Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), a Philadelphia AIDS organization committed to educational outreach, recently received grants totalling \$49,000. With \$17,000 from Scott Paper Co. and \$32,000 from the Philadelphia Foundation, BEBASHI plans to expand its outreach to IV drug users and to launch a new educational program aimed at gay and bisexual men of color. The program will include leafletting in gay bars in the Philadelphia area and the promotion of BEBASHI's "home parties", where safe sex and AIDS information sessions will be held.

Director Rashidah Hassan of BEBASHI explained the necessity for his organization's methods by noting, "A large number of gay men of color are not participating in the gay community... They aren't getting targeted." BEBASHI's outreach staff for IV drug users will expand by four to six new people, who will go into areas frequented by IV drug users to teach them how to clean their "works".

Heart Fare 88 A Success

The Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People With AIDS raised over \$3,500 during their recent three day fundraiser. Members of the organization sold buttons, stamps, and collected donations at fifteen local participating bars. The Atlanta Chapter/NAPWA is a political, educational, and social organization whose members are people with AIDS or ARC. Over a thousand people signed petitions circulated during the benefit, declaring their opposition to the AIDS omnibus bill. The petitions declaring that "we shall refuse to be tested" if the bill becomes law were presented to Senator Pierre Howard, chairperson of the committee considering the bill.

Amnesty Gives Some, Ignores Some

Brazil – During a recent meeting of the International Council of Amnesty International, the decision-making body adopted a resolution which affirms the fundamental right of gays and lesbians not to suffer oppression based on their sexual orientation. The Council stopped short of recognizing as "prisoners of conscience" those who are jailed for supporting and/or advocating the rights of gay men and lesbians.

The International Council's emotion packed decision grew from a study conducted by a Dutch representative after a meeting in 1985. The Council's final comprehensive report is due at the 1989 meeting.

Dignity Protests

New York – Dignity, the gay Catholic group, said it will continue to hold outdoor protest masses in New York on the first Monday of each month, when Cardinal John O'Connor preaches at St. Patrick's Cathedral. After a Manhattan judge issued a restraining order banning the group from holding its protests within church property, Dignity members began holding services across Fifth Avenue, within police barricades.

More than 100 people attended the February 6 service despite the bitterly cold temperatures.

Police arrested 23 worshippers who were kneeling on the cathedral sidewalk. The arrested protesters, charged with disorderly conduct, offered no resistance. Instead, they marched into the police van singing "We Shall Overcome".

Robert Pusilo, a Dignity spokesperson, referred to the arrests saying, "We doubled our numbers from last month, we will double them again next month." Eleven Dignity members were arrested in January while holding the silent protest inside St. Patrick's Cathedral, prior to the judge's ruling.

The group's protest originated when Cardinal O'Connor banned the gay Catholic group from holding liturgical services on diocesan grounds. O'Connor vows he will not change the order, saying that discussion of changing the rulings can "only lead to futility."

Homophobic Paper Expands

Chicago – A right-wing, homophobic newspaper currently being published on the University of Chicago's Hyde Park campus, *Midway Review*, has announced an advanced distribution area and a name change.

The newspaper will be called *The Chicago Student* when it expands distribution to other Chicago area campuses. Several members of the *Midway Review* have been implicated in past harassment of gays, lesbians, and supportive heterosexuals on the University of Chicago campus. Examples of these attacks include deceptive personal advertisements in the paper designed to entrap and expose gays and lesbians in the Chicago area.

In the recent 12-page November/December issue, the editors devoted four articles to denigrating gays and lesbians. One of the articles described gay sex as "junk food sex", and crowed "they're dropping like flies."

N.H.Sodomy Bill Defeated

Concord, NH – The notoriously conservative New Hampshire State Senate dismissed by voice vote a proposal to recriminalize "unnatural and lascivious acts" in mid-January. Had it passed, the bill would have created a class B felony crime, but did not define what was meant by "unnatural and lascivious acts." No debate on the bill took place. New Hampshire decriminalized private, adult, consensual sexual behavior in 1973.

The defeat of the bill, SB 240, followed the January 11 hearing and a negative vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Jack Chandler, sponsor of the bill, was the only person who testified in support, saying it was needed to "wipe out deviant behavior."

Marcus Hum testified against the bill on behalf of the New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR). He said, "This bill is doomed to failure in its announced purpose because same sex relations are not unnatural, only less common... You can't wipe out deviant behavior. You can't wipe us out."

Ellen Musinsky, also of CAGLR, told the committee she was insulted by the introduction of the bill. "I pay \$7,000 a year in state and federal taxes. I contribute to the United Way and the Special Olympics. I take care of a stray cat. And I am angry that the state of New Hampshire would consider locking me up at the cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year because someone is offended by my private behavior."

The executive director of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, Claire Ebel, put it this way: "Give this bill the fate it deserves. Burn it."

Unlike last year's bill to prohibit foster care placements with lesbians and gay men, Chandler's recriminalization bill attracted very little attention from members of the

Senate or the New Hampshire news media. Susan Bruce, moderator of CAGLR's steering committee, noted, "Chandler's bill had so little support that it was defeated as part of a package of several other bills. We're pleased this bill died a natural and uncomplicated death. We feel confident it won't be resurrected in the future."

Last month's defeat of the New Hampshire sodomy recriminalization bill is a hopeful sign for repeal of sodomy laws in other states. "The unpopularity of the recriminalization bill demonstrates disapproval for the Supreme Court's 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*," said Sue Hyde, director for NGLTF's Privacy Project. "These laws will be repealed and will not be reinstated. Defeat of SB 240 is a victory for all the people of New Hampshire. Goes New Hampshire, so goes the nation."

New Lesbian Support Group

Houston – The Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos of Houston announced the formation of a new committee, All Mujeres Interested in Getting Alive (AMIGA). The purpose of the group will be to serve as a support group to all "lesbianas Latinas".

Among the group's future plans are consciousness raising workshops and "rap sessions where women can increase their awareness in most areas of interest and concern." Most recently, they sent two delegates to the Lesbian Feminist Conference in Mexico last October.

Interested persons can contact AMIGA by writing c/o GLHU, P.O. Box 600921, Houston, TX 77260.

Activists Assemble At War Conference

Virginia – The War Conference was held in Warrenton, Virginia on February 26 - 28. A coalition of 175 lesbians and gay men gathered to identify threats to the lesbian and gay community and develop strategies to combat them. Even though conference organizers concurred that the group was not a representative sampling, participants included members of national organizations and local political activists. Organizers plan to publish a summary of

tactics to be utilized by grassroots organizations to further promote lesbian and gay issues.

NGLTF Terms Budget "Deficient"

Washington – Calling the Reagan Administration's fiscal year 1989 AIDS budget proposals "a step forward but still deficient," the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) called on the Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$2 billion for AIDS research and prevention at the Public Health Service. The President's fiscal 1989 request allocates \$1.3 billion to the PHS for AIDS research and prevention activities, as compared to \$950 million in the current fiscal year. While the President's budget message announces \$2 billion in AIDS spending, the Administration's figures incorporate the programs of all government agencies, including Medicaid. Only \$1.3 billion would go toward the PHS's efforts.

"As the crisis continues to escalate," commented NGLTF Executive Director Jeffrey Levi, "we must move to reach the \$2 billion target set by the National Academy of Sciences." Levi argued that the President's budget is particularly deficient in the areas of prevention and care, and said NGLTF would be working with a broad-based coalition of gay/lesbian, AIDS, and health oriented organizations to justify a minimum of \$2 billion in funds next year.

"The toll keeps mounting, the virus keeps spreading, and still this Administration has failed to pull together a major national prevention campaign," Levi said. "What prevention money is available is strapped in its ability to deliver an effective message by restrictions imposed by Jesse Helms, the New Right, and the White House," Levi continued.

NGLTF also criticized the lack of planning for the care needs of persons with HIV infection and AIDS. "We are fast approaching the point where the health care delivery system will be overwhelmed by AIDS in some parts of the country," Levi said, "but still, model programs for care delivery go underfunded and the federal government has played little role in inspiring planning at the local level."

The research component of the proposed budget represents significant increases in funding. "But more money on paper does not mean rapidly expanding research. Unless the government acts to remove bureaucratic roadblocks to getting the funds into the hands of the scientists in the field, more money means little to people with AIDS who need treatment and a cure."

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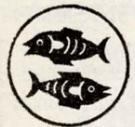
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Star Gays

by Martia Probia

Outlooks for March 1-15

If you've been wondering why schedules and communications have been a mess and you tend to trip over everything in your various paths, it's only Mercury who has been retrograde from the 2nd of February until the 23rd. Now that the fleet-footed messenger of the gods is back on the tracks, we can all get on with Spring.



PISCES Look for trouble and adventures with friends, especially on the Full Moon of the 3rd. This is your month to be a Sun-fish. Shine on.



ARIES Love should be in focus for you 'til the 7th; make hay while Venus shines. The 12th and 13th are heavy duty days; lay low.



TAURUS Grab the bull by the horns after the 9th. You can do no wrong except that your sexual energies may be a little backward on the 7th and 8th.



GEMINI Career interests are highlighted. Full Moon on the 3rd may make joint funds or the like a touchy issue.



CANCER The 6th is the day to turn friends into lovers. Bring them to your happy home on the 7th and they may not leave.



LEO You may fall in love with your work after the 8th and out of love with your lover on the 9th. Chuck it all for an exercise program on the 15th.



VIRGO Full Moon in your sign on the 3rd could bring you a proposal, either for a relationship commitment or a business relationship.



LIBRA Indecision is once again your fate on the 5th and 6th. Don't mix love and money.



SCORPIO Pluto is retrograde in your first house. Your whole life may be running backwards for the next 5 months; however, you'll be so busy expressing yourself you won't notice.



SAGITTARIUS The Archer aims for financial success, especially on the 12th. Pay more attention to your family.



CAPRICORN Ever ambitious, you have 4 planets in your first house. If ever you wanted to lead, now is the time.



AQUARIUS Mercury in your sign makes it more difficult than usual for you to make up your mind.

Dear Nadisa

"DEAR NADISA" arrived on the 2:40 pm southbound train yesterday in search of the Lesbian community. Is there something on your mind? Send her your questions in care of this newsletter (confidentiality assured) and look for your answer each month right here.

DEAR NADISA,
I am a Lesbian Feminist who is in love with a bisexual woman. We want to have a committed relationship; however, my friends tell me to stay away from her since she may be unfaithful based on her history. What do I do?

Sign me Confused

Dear Confused:
You're asking whether or not you should make a commitment might be an indication that you need to take more time to know this woman. Bisexuality is not PROMISCUITY under a different heading. A bisexual woman can be as loyal as any Lesbian lover. But be honest with yourself when you examine your own feelings over her present or potential intimacy with males. If both of you really care about one another, taking more time to do some honest talking and discovering more of one another's splendor without a "commitment" should not pose a problem.

DEAR NADISA,
This problem may seem silly, but I am being driven CRAZY. My lover whistles constantly. She whistles in the mornings during her bath, over breakfast, at the supermarket, in the movie lobby, while driving, during TV commercials, after SEX. None of this would seem so terrible if she would whistle SOFTLY and ON-KEY. When I ask her to stop, she does with a smile, but starts again a few minutes later. I love everything else about this woman, but I am about to resort to drastic means. Is there anything in Feminist theory to cover this one?

On Edge

Dear On Edge:
Yes, there is a massive Lesbian Feminist treatise on just this situation. It states: "Whistling is a radical strategy that originated in the forests of Madagascar among the carnivorous tree women who discovered in 1310 that whistling caused the meeker members of the clan to develop more assertive tendencies that enhanced chances for overall survival." In other words, when she whistles, you are to open your mouth and "LA-LA-LA" through a different song (preferably one she despises) and in a different key until she realizes that what you are doing to her is what she does to you. If this does not open communication after a few times, suggest she audition for the next whistler's spot on a TV game show...in Greenland.

New Men

Continued from page 11
reprimanded for his clothes, the chief villains being a stud earring and baggy seersucker trousers. His immediate supervisor, "an avowed racist and sexist", also had problems with the pitch of his telephone voice. "You gotta sound more butch," he was advised.

A co-worker's sister, an attorney for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, urged Harris to file for unemployment insurance on grounds of "constructive discharge" (forced by harassment to quit one's job) and contact Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The resolution was ideal. Harris filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, charging race and sex discrimination (his firm, located in New York, had no contracts with the City, and therefore was exempt from Mayor Koch's Executive Order 50, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation or affectional preference", the bill so bitterly opposed by,

among others, Cardinal John J. O'Connor).

In six months, Harris reached a favorable out-of-court settlement, and went on to become a member of Lambda's Public Education Committee. He planned a conference to address the problems of third world gays and lesbians, leading to Lambda program alterations based on some of the special needs gleaned from the meeting.

Again and again, *New Men, New Minds* reminds us that we must stand and intervene on our own behalf, not just intellectually and emotionally, but legally as well. Too often, complacency amounts to nothing more than intimidated acceptance, and the right to justice is not a white heterosexual preserve. Beyond that, these essays vindicate our own instincts that relations between fathers and sons need not be characterized by the fractious air that still hangs over so many families even today. The future lies with other sorts of minds, the book seems to say, and we must be careful not to incline to the wills of those who would leave us unfulfilled.

-Terry Francis

Forgetting the present

Memory Board

Naid Press, Tallahassee, FL, 1987
\$8.95, 322 pp.

Jane Rule's new novel *Memory Board* won't hypnotize you with the sheer beauty of its words; what it will do is make you think about your attitude toward aging, Alzheimer's disease, and family (with the specific cruelties therein). But this is not a

depressing book, rather it is joyful in its message and very lighthearted at times. In an abstract sense it is about the fragility and the power of memory. As the title signals, it is also about the constant process of creating memory.

The memory board is a tablet to help Constance know what she's already done in a day--and what comes next. Without it she doesn't know whether she's had her breakfast or if it's time to go to bed. She is sixty-seven, a former landscape gardener, and lives with her sixty-five year old lover, Diana. Since retirement from OB-GYN practice, Diana has been more and more singularly involved with

Continued on page 15

bitter sweet

by Charles Haver



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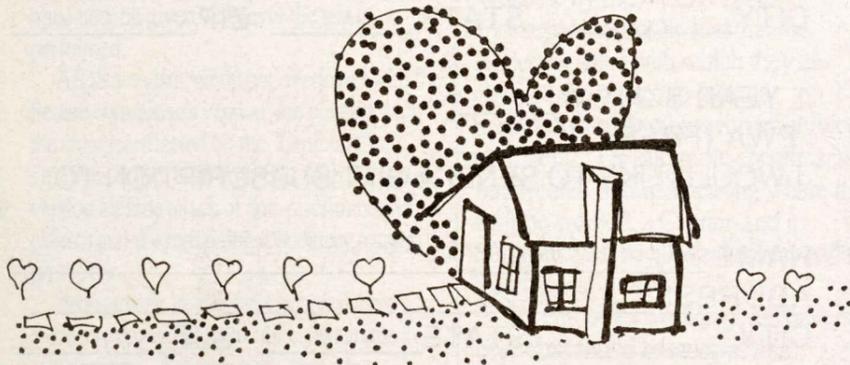
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Continued from previous page

- April 3 at Fairlanes Chamblee, featuring 76 4-member teams representing bowlers from all over the United States and Canada. We're talking Major Sports Event. The 31st is reserved for registration with a party to follow, and bowling will begin Friday, April 1st at 10:00 a.m. and continue till about 10:30 p.m. Saturday bowling will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A banquet is planned for Saturday night at the Marriott Perimeter Center as well as a Sunday brunch at Backstreet. As if this weren't enough for bowlers to look forward to, this year DIBO also plans on arranging for four bowlers to participate in the International Gay Bowling Organization Tournament to be held in Washington, D.C. over Memorial Day weekend.

DIBO offers bowling to both women and men. Anyone wanting to join a league, and by the way, now is an excellent time to register for the summer leagues, can contact Gary Robertson, president of DIBO, at 257-0107, or Tim Cooper at 451-4793. They will refer you to an appropriate team secretary.

On to the courts. Steve Wentworth, president and founder of the Atlanta Team Tennis Association, had worked with gay tennis organizations in both Dallas and Washington, D.C. before coming here. He founded ATTA (pronounced attah) in May of 1987 simply because there was no gay tennis playing in Atlanta. There are nine other gay tennis associations nationwide, and the goal is to create a national gay and lesbian tennis network by 1989.

ATTA currently has 37 members who play every Saturday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the DeKalb Tennis Center, with each player getting in from 3-5 sets. The players are currently grouped in an A and B division, but a C division is being formed this year. Furthermore, every Saturday a player will be rotated to help new members develop their skills. How's that for a nice bonus? League play will run from February to the end of November with a league tournament planned for October.

Are you ready for another major sports event? Atlanta Team Tennis Association will be hosting the Hotlanta Clay Court Invitational at the Bitsy Grant Tennis Center, I-75 and Northside Drive, March 12 and 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Players will be coming from Dallas, Houston, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Tampa, and Ft. Lauderdale. For this reporter, it promises to be a spectacular spectator event.

Those wanting information about joining ATTA can call Neil Kalin at 237-3321 or Bob McKenzie at 892-2578. You might also want to know that, recently, six ATTA members attended the Gasparilla Sports Festival in Tampa, and out of six clay-court divisions, ATTA came away with 5 of the division titles. Way to go, folks.

Let's stay on the courts, but raise the net and change balls. That's right, we're talking volleyball. After a bit of difficulty, the Hotlanta Volleyball League regrouped in October 1987 with 15 members, but has now grown to 150 members! HVL currently has an 8 team spring league, both women's and men's teams, who play competitive volleyball under the rules of USVBA and the North American Gay Volleyball Association, or NAGVA (you know). NAGVA, of whom HSL is a member, boasts a membership of over 250 gay and lesbian teams nationwide.

The spring league will begin play on February 26 and continue through April 29, with games being played on Friday nights from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. at 774 Virginia Avenue, across from the sand courts. All spectators are welcome, but no food, drinks, or alcoholic beverages are permitted on the premises.

You wonder if there's anything big and exciting coming up for volleyballers? You bet. First, Hotlanta Volleyball League will be going to Louisville, Kentucky April 30 - May 1 to represent Atlanta in the Derby Volleyball Tournament, sponsored by NAGVA. Then, there's the National Tournament in Montreal May 26 - 30, the world series of NAGVA volleyball teams. Four divisions will be represented there: A, B+, B, and women's. All this, and I haven't yet mentioned Backstreet Volleyball Classic I to be held October 7 - 10. But more of that in the future.

New members are now being registered for the summer league which begins June 1. To find out more, call Jerry Harvey at 577-1617.

No overview of summer activity alternatives would be complete without mentioning two self-described "recreational, social, and educational" organizations here in Atlanta. AVS, short for Atlanta Venture Sports, was founded in 1977 and now has approximately 170 members. In addition to their bowling league that I mentioned earlier, they also co-sponsor a mixed softball team, and will be offering jungle volleyball beginning in May.

From here, their activities really diversify. They are planning a whitewater canoeing weekend in April and a hiking/camping trip on the Appalachian Trail in March. They have a monthly board games night; needlework night; a monthly Cook and Dist; canasta; a Murder Mystery Party thrown in here and there for good measure; during summer months, monthly pool parties. The head spins. To get in touch with AVS, call their hotline number, 242-4899.

Friends Atlanta, founded in October of 1986, is also an organization which specializes in offering a wide range of social and recreational activities. They, too, have their own bowling league. Until May, they will be playing volleyball on Saturdays at Morningside Recreational Center, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. From May to October, the volleyball will move to Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at Winn Park in Ansley. They have two camping trips a year and also offer whitewater rafting.

Their regular activities include, and get ready: an investment club; a gourmet club; bingo; movie nights; dining out once a month; a weekly Sunday brunch on the town; generally anything anyone wants to do. In other words, enough stuff to keep you out of the house every night of the week.

One can call Friends Atlanta at 634-2500 and get details on weekly activities and new member information.

Well, if you can't tell, there's a lot of great things happening on the gay sports front this summer, and a whole lot of different ways to get involved. Any and all of these organizations will be more than happy to hear from you. But whatever you decide to do this summer, the important thing is to get out, get involved. It's a lot more fun if we do it together.

- Michael McMillan