

SOUTHERN VOICE

A Look at
Little 5 Points
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Vol. 1, No. 6

Taking Pride in Our Culture

May 12, 1988

INSIDE

News in Brief – just what it says. Chicago researchers have announced the discovery of a factor in saliva that destroys HIV. Atlanta attorney Gil Robison joined the growing number of gay men and lesbians seeking elected office. And lesbian leaders discussed the importance of a visible presence as lesbians. Plus much more! Page 2.

Little 5 Points garners the spotlight in this first of a continuing series about the eclectic intown community which is quickly becoming the next "in spot." Pages 6 & 7.

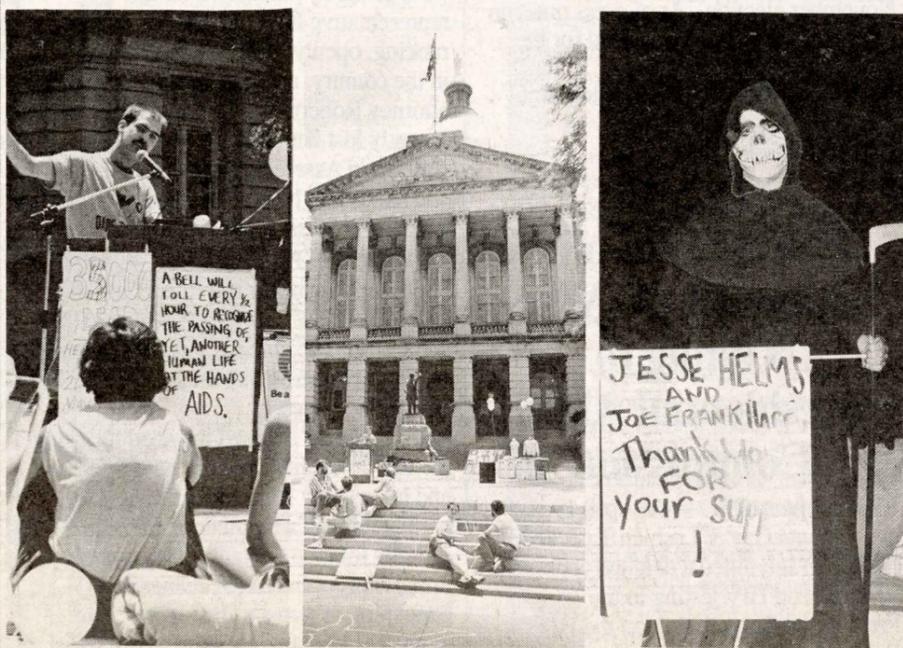
The Registry is the best resource in town for gay men and lesbians to find their place(s) in the community. Atlanta's largest listing of organizations, the Registry contains 34 groups waiting to hear from you. Page 10.

Counterculture pulls you behind the scenes to reveal the latest appearance of lesbians and gay men in the mass media. "Heartbeat," a medical "LA Law," introduced two lesbian characters on ABC's attempt to catch prime-time viewers. "inside/OUT" is the gay/lesbian alternative to NPR. The half-hour nationally syndicated radio show, the first of its kind, airs weekly on WRFG-FM 89.3 during K.C. Wildmoon's show, "Still Ain't Satisfied." Page 11.

Mandatory AIDS testing flops! In states that have attempted to mandate testing for HIV, the expense has forced them to consider changing their policy less than one year after the policy was instituted. Page 12.

Personals and Classifieds grow in Atlanta's best deal on classifieds. Our classifieds cost you \$3.00 for 3 weeks for 30 words and reach thousands of lesbians and gay men every other week. Kinda silly to loaf at \$17.00 for one week in a straight publication, huh?

AIDS Vigil Sends Message to Gov. Harris



Spring AIDS Action '88 drew the concerned and the angry to the State Capitol steps for a 26-hour vigil to protest Gov. Harris' negligence in the face of the AIDS crisis. Photos by Pam Cole, Rhonda Mensen.

Surrounded by strips of masking tape representing outlined bodies, a sign affixed to the steps of the Capitol Saturday morning read, "Georgia State Capitol: Scene of the Crime 1988."

A little further up the steps, in front of the imposing statue that looks out over Washington Street, lay a banner entitled, "Send The Governor a Message about AIDS." One of the many handwritten inscriptions read, "I voted for you. God, if I had only known that you would forsake so many."

The occasion was an all-night vigil sponsored by the Atlanta March Committee to protest the cutting of AIDS funding by Gov. Joe Frank Harris, and what speaker Janet Callum of the Feminist Women's Health Center described as "punitive measures and meager funding" from legislators.

Supporters began arriving shortly before noon Friday, and more than 100 were still on hand the following morning when Fulton County Commission chairman Michael Lomax and several representatives from social service agencies dealing with AIDS addressed the crowd.

The March Committee's Johnny Vermont read a statement which said, in part, "In a state which has the seventh highest number of people with ARC/AIDS, Georgia remains near the lowest in its per capita AIDS expenditures. Gov. Harris slashed by 75% the recent requests of the Department of Human Resources for \$2.6 million for the most minimal statewide AIDS funding."

The statement went on to call for "massive allocations of state funds" to provide education statewide, as well as housing, mental health services, and care arrangements for ARC/PWA's.

Lomax told listeners they must continue to make legislators aware of these needs. "We need you to speak out loudly," he said.

He admitted that although state and municipal government is "doing some things right... we're doing too many things wrong or not doing them at all."

In addition to providing financial support to AID Atlanta, Lomax said the city of Atlanta is also working toward an expansion of Grady Memorial Hospital, which will include some 60 beds earmarked for AIDS patients. A separate facility for those patients is also a possibility.

The Board of Commissioners has approved the hiring of two consultants who will design an "AIDS plan of action" for the city. An AIDS task force will be established that, according to Lomax, will be "a progressive force in the community."

Lomax is particularly concerned with the need to expand AIDS education beyond the gay and lesbian community. Intravenous drug users and low-income communities make up "a very much larger population than know that they're at risk," he said.

According to Callum, women have also received insufficient attention and education. "AIDS education, up to this point, has been largely unavailable to women," she said.

Bruce Gamer, president of AID Atlanta's board of directors, said that agency's caseload now stands at around 550 active clients, with 30-40 being added per month.

Gamer stressed the importance of making the public at large more aware of the situation, saying, "If that happens, then AID Atlanta will cease to exist, and I will be glad of that."

Although the Georgia legislature has legalized mandatory testing in some instances, Linda McSwain of the Georgia Nurses Association said that organization believes voluntary screening is the key to slowing the spread of AIDS. She emphasized that results must be kept completely confidential, saying, "Being seropositive is not a crime, but discrimination is."

The only speaker to receive hostile reactions from the crowd was Jane Carr of the Georgia Department of

Methodists Reject Gays & Lesbians

United Methodist delegates voted 676-293 May 2, 1988, to uphold a 1984 ban preventing "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" from serving as clergy.

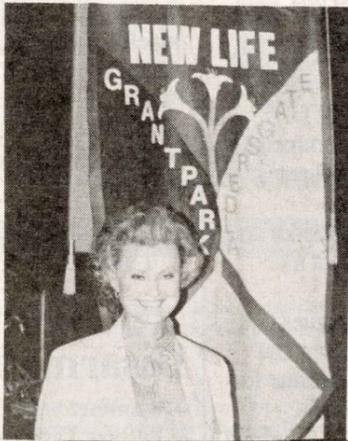
Delegates to the 1988 General Conference, held in St. Louis, Missouri, also voted to keep in its Book of Discipline the statement that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." This statement was originally included at the 1972 General Conference.

"I'm disappointed," said Rev. Sally V. Daniel, pastor of the Grant Park-Aldersgate United Methodist Church, "but I'm not surprised that they voted to keep the position." The Grant Park-Aldersgate church submitted a petition to the Conference stating the congregation's desire that the ordination of homosexuals be allowed.

"You can't write off one million Methodists," Rev. Daniel said. "If statistics for the Church hold, then approximately 10 percent of all United Methodists are gay or lesbian. They are a presence that is going to be heard."

The General Conference meets every four years to determine Church policy. Delegates are sent from each conference across the country as representatives. Atlanta-area United Methodist churches are members of the North Georgia Conference which sends 11 clergy and 11 lay delegates to the Conference.

Rev. Rex Kaney, senior minister at Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Atlanta, said that he is "disappointed that the



Rev. Sally Daniel
Photo by Kathie deNobriga

Church has made the issue of homosexuality a focal point for so long."

"The Church needs to be open to looking at current medical and psychological findings about homosexuality," Rev. Kaney said. "I hope this isn't the end of it."

Grant Park-Aldersgate is one of 32 reconciling congregations in the United Methodist Church. A reconciling congregation is one which accepts gay men and lesbians openly. In its "Statement of Reconciliation," the Grant Park-Aldersgate congregation says, "We

affirm lesbians and gay men as full participants in our congregation. We will advocate their rights as human beings and as Christians."

"The position that we have taken is not wildly extreme," Rev. Daniel said of her congregation's reconciliation statement. "There are many people who feel as we do."

The next General Conference will be held in 1992. While individual churches may make statements of their own in the interim, no official statements from the United Methodist Church concerning the issue of homosexuality or any other issue may be made except at General Conference.

"My prayer is that some day all of the business about homosexuals is simply out, that there is simply nothing said," Rev. Daniel said. "And I think that day will come."

- Sharon D. Blalock

Continued on Page 3

HIV Blocked by Human Saliva

Chicago—Preliminary studies have found evidence that a factor exists in human saliva which blocks the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) from infecting cells in the mouth. The research provided the first clear-cut evidence that the human body may have some natural defense against HIV, which is the leading candidate as the cause of AIDS.

A report on the study, published in the May issue of the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, explains for the first time why the mouth is not a ready means of transmission for the virus. According to Phillip Fox, senior investigator in the study and head of clinical studies at the National Institute of Dental Research, the study suggests that the inhibitory element may interfere with the surface receptors through which white blood cells are infected by HIV.

"This supports biologically what we have been seeing epidemiologically," said Irwin Mandel, director of the Center for Clinical Research in Dentistry at Columbia University in New York. "There is essentially no chance of transmission of the virus through saliva."

Researchers will next attempt to isolate the blocking agent and determine how to put it to work throughout the body.

Robison Begins Race for House of Representatives

Atlanta — In a long-anticipated move, Atlanta attorney Gil Robison announced his candidacy for the District 40 seat to the Georgia House of Representatives on April 26th. Robison is the second openly gay man to announce a campaign for the House this year, and will attempt to fill the seat being vacated by incumbent democrat Barbara Couch.

District 40 encompasses all of metropolitan Fulton County. Candidates for the at-large seat must appeal to a broad range of voters who represent every strata of social, political and economic divisions imaginable.

Robison, respected both as a grass-roots activist and a skillful negotiator, is perhaps best-known for his recent lobbying efforts that reversed the most negative aspects of the Georgia AIDS Omnibus Bill. He also was a principle drafter of Atlanta's lesbian/gay civil rights ordinance.

Stressing competency, efficiency and

effectiveness as the determining factors in any political race, Robison said he was propelled into the race by the urgings of "many friends and people I worked with over the years ... both inside and outside the gay/lesbian community."

Issues that Robison will stress in his campaign include "the crucial problem of funding for AIDS and other public health concerns;" creative funding for MARTA that will not further burden lower-income residents of metro Atlanta; and insurance reform that will address and regulate problems in the industry "across the board."

Robison sees the lesbian/gay vote as a "sleeping dragon" in Atlanta/Fulton politics, and plans on attracting other disenfranchised blocs of voters to win the November election. As of press time, no other candidate had announced for the seat.

Persons interested in donating time or

NGLTF Submits Statement on AIDS Testing to Presidential AIDS Commission

Washington, D.C. — On April 19, 1988, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) submitted a detailed consensus statement on HIV testing to the Presidential Commission on the HIV Epidemic. The statement was signed by 74 AIDS-related and gay and lesbian organizations nationwide.

The Consensus statement is a cogent statement on the part of AIDS-service providers and activists on the critical issues which any HIV testing program must address. "We developed this consensus statement to press in a systematic way for certain protections for those who are seeking testing," noted NGLTF Executive Director Jeff Levi. "This statement offers the government a carefully reasoned blueprint for its testing programs. We have asked the Presidential Commission to consider and incorporate these perspectives in its deliberations."

The Consensus statement argues that testing is an adjunct to counseling and prevention programs, not a substitute for them. It calls for testing to remain anonymous, voluntary after full informed consent, and strictly confidential. The statement opposes the use of HIV testing as a screening tool. Finally, the statement delineates specific information

to be included in the pre- and post-test counseling that accompanies HIV testing.

Lesbian Leaders Stress Visibility

Irvine, Calif.—100 lesbians met in Irvine, California, on April 17, 1988, for a leadership conference entitled "Putting Lesbians in Power". Lesbian professionals from the organization Southern California Women of Understanding were in attendance in large numbers.

The conference was geared to electing lesbians to political office and business and social concerns. Keynote speeches were given by Minnesota State representative Karen Clark, the highest-ranking, openly lesbian, elected official in the country, and San Francisco attorney Roberta Achtenberg who recently lost her bid for election to the California Assembly. Clark stated that she hopes that by demystifying the political process, more lesbians will be encouraged to run for office. "Roberta Achtenberg hasn't made it yet, but I'm sure she will," Clark stated. Clark said she wants to be able to "give up" the title of the only openly gay State legislator in the United States.

Achtenberg stressed the need for using the word "lesbian" in daily newspapers and television. Ruth Mahaney, a participant and a member of Lesbian Agenda for Action stated, "My overall impression is that a real change is happening in terms of being out." One woman, a lesbian journalist, asked to be allowed to tape the proceedings of a workshop with a promise not to reveal people's names in her article. The majority of participants in the workshop stated that they wanted their names used.

Mahaney said that to nearly every issue raised that the "subanswer" was the need for lesbian visibility. "It felt very hopeful. It felt as if we are at a new stage," she said. Conference coordinator Pat Callahan agreed with Mahaney, saying, "I believe the era of the invisible lesbian is coming to a grinding, slamming halt."

NGLTF Endorses June 11th Disarmament March

Washington, D.C.—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has endorsed a broad national coalition of organizations' call for national demonstrations demanding nuclear disarmament, an end to military

intervention and a governmental commitment to economic development and social justice. The June 11th demonstrations will be held simultaneously in San Francisco and New York City, and coincide with the Third UN Special Session on Disarmament. The Second UN Session on Disarmament in June of 1982 drew one million people to New York City.

"The NGLTF Board endorsed this action because gay men and lesbians are not single issue people. We care deeply about issues like a sane nuclear policy and an end to militarism," noted NGLTF Executive Director Jeffrey Levi. "And we have seen first hand how our government's focus on defense directly hurts funding for much-needed social programs, such as funding to fight AIDS or to develop a national health insurance policy."

Information on gay/lesbian contingents to the marches and more logistical details may be obtained from the SSD III National Coalition, 11 John Street, #803, New York, NY 10038. The telephone number is (212) 608-8155.

5 Republicans Disavow Responsibility to Protect Gay Men and Lesbians

Washington, D.C.—Five Republican Members of Congress, led by Representative George Gekas (R-PA), have filed a minority report to the House Judiciary Committee's report on the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (H.R. 3193) strongly disagreeing with sexual orientation language included in the bill. Flying in the face of the Reagan Administration's Department of Justice study which found gay men and lesbians at most risk for hate-motivated crimes, the five Republicans stated that homosexuals are not targets of organized hate crimes.

The minority report stated in part that "It is not a federal obligation to protect citizens in their sexual orientation."

Kevin Berrill, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Anti-Violence Project, called the statement "utterly reprehensible". He added, "This is exactly the attitude that is the cause of violence we are trying to end."

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act mandates the collection of statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on

race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity.

With 109 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and four co-sponsors in the Senate, the NGLTF has prepared a packet explaining how to lobby Legislators to co-sponsor and support the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

Said NGLTF lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic, "Gaining co-sponsors is critical to the successful passage of any bill."



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Spring AIDS Action, Cont.

Continued From Page 1

Human Resources. Carr told listeners she hoped to "change your perspective" about that agency's efforts toward AIDS, but when she referred to existing state legislation as "reasonable," one listener cried out, "Bullshit!," and others shouted their disapproval as well.

Cathy Woolard of the Atlanta March Committee, who introduced the speakers, told the audience their hostility should be aimed primarily at Gov. Harris. "Don't let him sit in that office and think we don't give a damn," she said.

The March Committee planned the vigil and rally to coincide with events in other cities nationwide, as part of "Spring AIDS Action '88," organized by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACTUP).

Approximately 35 supporters stayed all night Friday, according to Woolard. They were entertained by songs from the Atlanta Lambda Chorale, and singers Jan Riley, Caroline Mobley, and Angela Motter, as well as readings by Rebecca

Ranson and Johnny Walsh from Ranson's forthcoming book, *Ward 5-B: Voices of AIDS*. Local businessmen Kenneth Tidwell and Timothy Crane, owners of the Subway Sandwich Shop in Midtown, provided food for the all-nighters.

Police officers were on hand throughout the vigil, and arrested one driver on Washington Street who was subsequently charged with disturbing the peace and driving under the influence.

The banner to be sent to Gov. Harris was laid out early Friday evening, and participants wrote comments ranging from the practical to the highly personal.

"When the history of moral courage is written concerning this crisis," one correspondent wrote to Harris, "you will be listed among the absent."

Another implored him to "work for all the citizens of Georgia, especially the minorities. Show some compassion."
-David Tucker



A circle of healing led by Wayne Sizemore provided a moment to restore participants at Spring AIDS Action '88. Photos by Pam Cole

Gay Freedom Ride Planned for Political Conventions

Atlanta- Michael Petrelis, co-founder of the Gay Lesbian Freedom Ride, visited Atlanta briefly on April 16 during a whirlwind networking session at the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men (SECLGM). He attended the Conference to allay suspicions that he held derogatory or condescending opinions about Southern lesbians and gay men. The Freedom Ride is Petrelis' attempt to capture and direct attention to the presidential candidates' AIDS policies.

The original Freedom Ride was an action used during the 60's black civil rights movement. It bussed white and black supporters from outside the Southeast into the region in order to lend aid to, and

accentuate the plight of, black Americans.

Petrelis said the idea of a gay/lesbian Freedom Ride was born from a concept that he and James Reid originated. Both were living at Bailey House, a New York City home for people with AIDS (PWAs), when they decided to sew a quilt memorializing residents of Bailey House who had died of AIDS. Reid has since died of a heart attack. Over 30 panels have been created by Bailey House residents.



Petrelis. Photo by Rhonda Mensen

The idea, admittedly borrowed from the Names Project, differs from the national AIDS memorial quilt in that Petrelis and Reid envisioned their project as a specifically political medium. Petrelis claims that his quilt is not in competition with the Names Project. "We decided to keep it very specific for this one residence in this one city."

After a successful tour during the New Hampshire primary, Petrelis said that he and Reid began envisioning a swing throughout the South between the July Democratic Convention in Atlanta and the Republicans' August meeting in New Orleans. "We saw it as a black one and a white one with AIDS going to the South," and continuing to demand national attention to the AIDS crisis.

Petrelis, a self-identified street activist, met Charlotte, NC resident Robert Sheets during the

February War Conference, an informal meeting of lesbian and gay leaders. "I told him (Sheets) about this crazy idea, and in less than a week I was going down through the Carolinas. That was when it became the Gay/Lesbian Freedom Ride."

While in the Carolinas, Petrelis and the traveling band of five PWAs drew attention to their crusade by exhibiting the quilt and staging raucous "kiss-in's" and "ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) style actions" at Sen. Jesse Helms' (R-NC) Raleigh office and Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker's multi-million dollar theme park, Heritage U.S.A.

According to Petrelis, many "straight people yelled at us 'go back up North.'" He acknowledged that connecting the words Freedom Ride and New York activist conjured up the image of an "invading Yankee." "I'm real aware of that," he said.

The activists continued to use the term Freedom Riders when they detoured to Chicago for the Illinois primary. He stated his belief that "the communities... used it (the Freedom Ride) as an opportunity for them to focus attention on their local problems."

Petrelis has begun to solidify plans for their meandering journey between Atlanta and New

Orleans, which will include two weeks in Tennessee and two weeks in Texas. "My main concern is just having enough to eat, a place to sleep, and a Greyhound bus ticket. It's all really dependent on the people in Tennessee and Texas."

He sees himself as a binding agent between the South and the North. "We, as a community, are not going to get anywhere unless it comes from the South. I'd like to see mine as one little effort to reach out to the South."

During an interview, Petrelis challenged Southerners to reverse the process. "Come up to New York... People could come to New York and show us a thing or two. I'd like to help coordinate something." As a part of the trip, he suggested that visitors might like to tour Bailey House, an ACT UP meeting, St. Clair's Hospital and an ACT UP action.

The unassuming activist admitted, "I am totally afraid; there are no rules, and no book I can turn to for information on how to do this thing."

Inquiries and support should be addressed to: Michael Petrelis, 180 Christopher Street, NY, NY 10014.
-Chris Duncan

OBITUARIES

David G. O'Shields

March 13, 1949 to May 5, 1988

Long-time local activist David O'Shields died at Grady Memorial Hospital Thursday evening, May 5, 1988, of complications due to AIDS. A native of Atlanta, O'Shields was an active participant in Dignity, the gay catholic organization, since the early 1980's. He held several offices in the organization and served as spokesperson on several occasions.

O'Shields also worked on *The News* as an advertising representative and Calendar Editor from that paper's early inception in 1984.

O'Shields is survived by a father, brother and grandmother as well as many loving friends. Funeral services were held Monday, May 9th at Spring Hill.

Donations in his name may be made to AID Atlanta, 1132 W. Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta, GA, 30309.

Bill Cutler

Bill Cutler of Atlanta, a free-lance writer and editor of *Knife and Fork* newsletter, died of pneumonia May 6, 1988 at his home. He was 51.

Cutler wrote for many southeastern periodicals, including *Atlanta Weekly*, *Atlanta Magazine* and *Georgia Trend*. He taught at Columbia University, Wellesley College and Haverford College before moving to Atlanta in 1971.

Cutler was involved in the Buddy program at AID Atlanta.

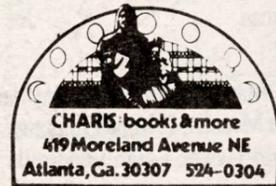
Three sisters survive, Mary Doll, Mrs. Elizabeth Atson and Mrs. Helen Pell. He is also survived by the Reverend James Edward Foy.

Private funeral services will be held, according to a family member.

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AIDS Vigil: Mixed Emotions

On May 6th and 7th Atlantans were given the opportunity to go to the Capitol and tell Governor Joe Frank Harris what they think about his unforgivable negligence concerning the AIDS crisis in our state. **Spring AIDS Action '88**, organized and coordinated by the Atlanta March Committee, had the potential of bringing young and old, black and white, and gay and straight people together to send a strong message to Gov. Harris and the Georgia General Assembly that AIDS funding is not only inadequate - it is inhumane. The March Committee, NAPWA (National Association of People With AIDS, Atlanta chapter) and LIFE (Lesbians in Fun Endeavors) worked hard to publicize the 26-hour vigil and to make sure attendants were fed, entertained and informed. Permits were secured, posters were made, food was bought and cooked, and police security was obtained - all in an effort to stage a demonstration which could have rocked Joe Frank's complacent boat. It didn't.

Recent figures state that there are 1300 reported AIDS cases in Georgia. There are others, of course, which are not reported and there are many Georgia citizens who are HIV-positive. The most people at the Capitol at any given time on May 6th and 7th was one hundred and fifty. Given just the 1300 reported cases of AIDS, there are thousands of other people - family, friends, lovers and health care workers - who are directly affected by AIDS. In reality, everyone in our state is affected in some way by AIDS. The one hundred and fifty in attendance at **Spring AIDS Action 88** represent less than one one-hundredth of 1% of the population of Georgia. Given the small numbers, any urgency about AIDS was lost and it's doubtful the governor will pay any attention.

Those people who did take the time to participate deserve our gratitude and respect. For a small crowd with a life or death mission, there was an almost festive atmosphere. People cried, but they laughed as well, and by their presence they carried the hope for an end to the apathy and the suffering.

Unfortunately, there was a note of discord which needs to be addressed. On Friday evening Mr. Charlie Brown, well known for his work and his dedication to raise money for PWAs/ARCs, chose the occasion to point a finger, not at Governor Harris, but at "radical lesbians". Mr. Brown apparently felt the need to retaliate against "radical lesbians" who he believes are less than supportive of his profession of female impersonation. He assured the crowd that female impersonation is his "tribute" to women and went on to say that perhaps lesbians could better appreciate their own womanhood by "wearing a dress once a month" instead of "flannel shirts and blue jeans". These statements were inappropriate and divisive. In his attempt to defend himself, Mr. Brown, out of ignorance or poor eyesight, failed to notice that more than half of the organizers, participants and entertainers were women. Women who, regardless of their attire or opinions about female impersonators, are concerned and involved in the fight to end the suffering of AIDS. (It is possible that Mr. Brown's oversight was due to his very brief stay at the Capitol). This was an unfortunate incident in an otherwise positive and healing experience. Although we support Mr. Brown's work for PWAs/PWARCs, we cannot excuse his "bitchiness" directed at the lesbian community who is in the forefront in the fight against AIDS.

While it's true that **Spring AIDS Action 88** had its problems, it was a commendable effort. Those who did not choose to join in, for whatever reasons, need to do some soul searching. If we, as a gay and lesbian community cannot muster enough numbers to make a decent showing at an AIDS vigil, who will? The answer is short and simple and frightening. Nobody.

SOUTHERN VOICE

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Guest Editorial Changing Priorities

When the U.S. Supreme Court voted to uphold the Georgia sodomy law, the lesbian and gay community initially reacted rather quietly. We were shocked and saddened that such an injustice was not only allowed to continue but was strongly praised by the majority of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The anger and action came later. The March on Washington and the growth and strength of lesbian and gay organizations at the local and national levels attest to the vigor of our desire for freedom and equality.

I also believe that the loss of the sodomy law challenge had another salutary effect. This terrible decision has forced the lesbian and gay community to face the fact that the American public still does not know who we are, or why discrimination against us is wrong. The U.S. high court was merely echoing the sentiments of the majority.

When the Supreme Court finally approved abortion rights in *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973, the Court was able to reach that decision because activists for privacy and women's rights had convinced the majority of the public that a woman has a right to privacy over her own body. Even today, after 15 years of loud protest against this ruling by the religious right, polls show that 60% of the U.S. public continues to support this hard-won right.

Even if the Supreme Court had voted to strike down Georgia's sodomy law, American gays and lesbians might still not be free from fear of jail sentences and loss of children and homes and jobs. Such a ruling, I fear, would have provoked an angry backlash against the Court and against us and our supporters. This is because we have not yet educated the public about our lives and our lack of rights, and thus we could not expect such a decision to be understood or readily accepted.

I believe that one of our national and local priorities must become the formation of a media and education campaign aimed at educating the ignorant and informing the uninformed. The Jewish and Black communities have each mounted very successful media and anti-discrimination campaigns. Why don't we counter the lies and misinformation by educating the public about about discrimination against us and by presenting the positive truths about our lives and our loves? Why can't we emulate the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League by challenging the negative stereotypes in news reporting and in broadcasting and films? Why don't we challenge discrimination whenever it is encountered and mount protests and boycotts against any group or business that treats us as less than fully American?

I financially support those local and Washington-based groups now lobbying for our rights. I doubt, however, that Congress will pass an equal rights amendment for lesbians and gays. The public and, therefore, Congress do not yet understand the need for such protection. I believe that the political action (PAC) funds we donate to local and national candidates do help gain us support on legislation in our interest and help to protect us from even harsher treatment by our enemies. I do not, however, think these political contributions will, at any time soon, win us the prize we ultimately seek: equal treatment under the law through federal civil rights legislation.

I urge our national organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) to continue lobbying for the protection of our civil rights, but to also join together to develop a national media watch and education campaign. Such a coordinated effort could easily be replicated at the local level. We only have so much money and so much energy to give. Let's pool these resources to bring the best talent together in a united effort to educate the public about who we are and what we are not.

Only when the American public understands that we want nothing more than we deserve as American citizens and that we are members of the same human family, will Congress and the courts have the courage to acknowledge us as equal partners. We must have the courage to mount a media campaign that proudly tells who we are. I urge our national and local leadership to carefully study how best to use the donations and talent of the community and to plan the formation of a united media campaign so that the next battle before the U.S. Supreme Court will end in a victory for our community.

- Nick Danna

Nick Danna is past-president of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of the Georgia ACLU and Treasurer of the Georgia ACLU.

Clarification

DeKalb County Commissioner Sherry Schulman announced during the April 10th Focus '88 her intention to introduce a comprehensive Hate-Crimes Ordinance for the metropolitan-Atlanta county. (See *SV*, vol. 1; iss. 4) According to Schulman, the proposed ordinance is still in "the very early planning stages," but will definitely contain language designed to include gay men and lesbians under the scope of the law.

At the time of her announcement, *Southern Voice* was going to press. The story, as printed, read "Schulman has been unavailable for comment since making her announcement." This left open the possible conclusion that Schulman was not accessible to the lesbian and gay community, either in DeKalb County and metropolitan Atlanta. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Schulman plans to present her ordinance to DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Manuel Maloof for his support on or about June 1, 1988. She strongly urges people to report incidences of hate-motivated crime to the proper authorities and to her office. She will need support for her argument that gays and lesbians need protection from hate-motivated bigots.

Long considered a strong proponent of lesbian and gay civil rights, Schulman has stated that she considers the community one of her best friends in DeKalb County.

Southern Voice sincerely regrets any negative implications that might have been derived from the original story.

The review of *A Dangerous Knowing: Four Black Women Poets* (see *Southern Voice* vol 1, no 5) was written by Terry Jewell. The byline for the article was inadvertently left off. Our apologies.

LETTERS

MCC Welcomes Women

To The Editor:

A few weeks ago, in the March 31st (I think), Vol 1, No. 3, issue of *Southern Voice*, there was Part II of a three-part article on religious organizations for our community. It was a good article and informative - for the most part.

One section, however, seemed very misleading. If I had not known better, the section on the MCC's would have led me to believe that Blessed Redeemer was chauvinistic and 99% men. It also sounded as if the only area in which they were active was the Coffee House Ministry to the homeless.

The purpose of this letter is to clear up a few things for the community. First of all, Blessed Redeemer is not chauvinistic, in the least! And we do have women in leadership roles, as well, and have for years. Women are, and have been, student clergy, deacons, Board members, committee chairpersons, etc.

There are also many activities and areas in which to get involved: social functions, dances, dinners, trips, shows, fundraisers, etc; Bible studies and Christian Education programs (some of which Ms. Tuttle, the author of the article, has been involved in and even taught herself); our own newsletter - *B.A.S.I.C.* (*Brothers and Sisters in Christ*); and a Deacons' Closet in existence for years to serve the needy and PWAs in our community.

We are also active in the community in many ways. Some more than others - such as volunteers and Board members at the (Atlanta) Gay Center, AID Atlanta, etc, and members of choruses and casts, and other organizations in the community. Recently, one of our members was a member of the cast of "Different." We have people in ACT, BWMT and AALGA, just to name a few.

We are also very proud to say we were the first MCC in Atlanta and in the Southeast sixteen years ago (there are now nineteen, not including Florida). In the years since, we have bought and paid for our building at 800 North Highland Avenue, and made many improvements and have plans for much more.

We have had our ups and downs, as all "families" do. But the future looks bright and very positive. We have just installed our 7th pastor, and everyone is very enthusiastic. We are a warm, friendly group and we love to "have company." So come visit our "family" and see for yourself the "new" first MCC.

Your sister,
Judi Hamby

We Have Met the Enemy and It Is Ourselves

To The Editor:

There have been many articles in this paper regarding the way society, as a whole, has been and continues to "oppress" those of us in this alternative lifestyle. Maybe it is time we take an objective look at our community.

I have listened to Randy Miller's character, Les Manley, and I must confess I find it amusing. I also feel compelled to point out that most, if not all of my gay friends, likewise find it amusing, due to its slight exaggeration of the way so many of our gay brethren think. He may on occasion carry it a bit far, but overall, we do not find it as demeaning as some have made it out to be. It is truly a sad state of affairs when we cannot laugh at ourselves.

What I find distressing is the constant arguments, verbal assaults, and disorganization which is rampant throughout some gay organizations in this city. Every periodical I read contains an article on the Atlanta Gay Center's fight with the ACLU or a fight within the Atlanta Gay Center's "leadership" (a term I use quite loosely in this case). No wonder society at large finds it so easy to discriminate and mock us when we provide all of the ammunition.

Recently, the news media was plastered with

stories on eighty-five homosexual arrests in South Harrison Park. A friend of mine, who is employed by a large department store at Lenox, stated that his employer had to hire (Atlanta) City Police to monitor the men's room. We all are quick to scream at a joke on the radio, thereby proclaiming our outstanding citizenship and community responsibility, yet we behave in a manner that results in justifiable arrests.

I am aware that much of the anonymous sex that occurs is performed by frustrated, often closeted, married men. I am also acutely aware that there are many gay men who do not perform sex acts in restrooms or other public areas. In fact, I am one of those who does not. Unfortunately, however, the average citizen is not aware of this, and, until we address this issue and work together to put an end to it, we will continue to suffer the "slings and arrows" of an outraged community.

I believe that it is time the gay community puts its actions where its mouth is. We can work together. The March on Washington and the successful attempt by LEGAL to send gay delegates to the Democratic Convention have proven this. Let us continue in this vein to remove the ammunition we supply to those who would mock and oppress us. Let us go forth with a clear conscience and a unified sword and take those rights which are inalienably ours...Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, as we so choose to define it.

Sincerely,
L. Jeffrey Davis

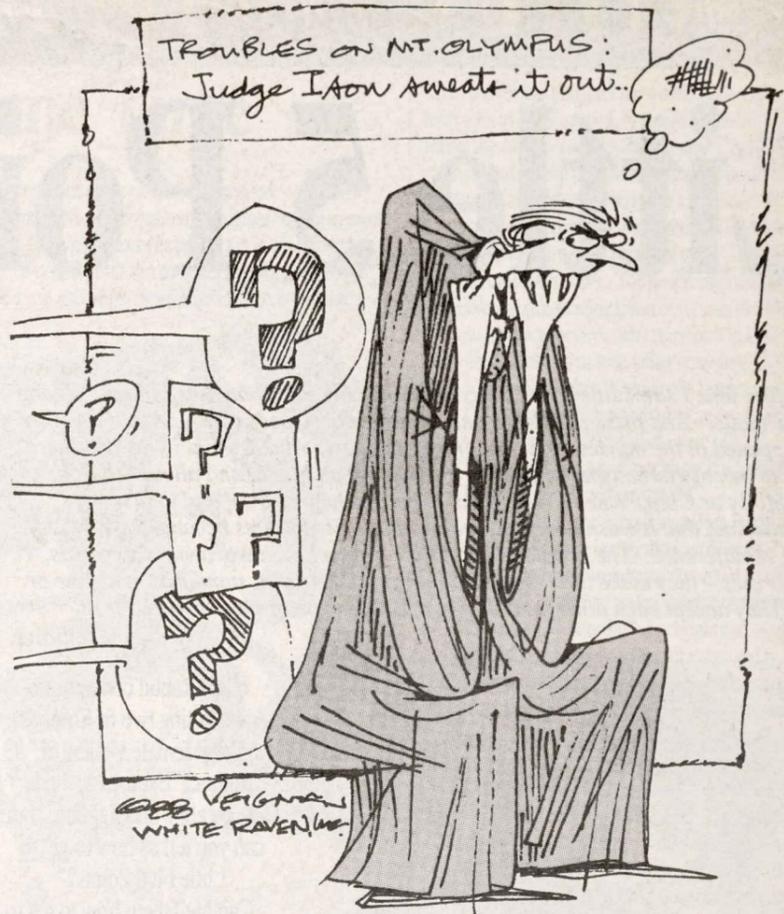
New Alliance Party... One More Time

To The Editor:

I am proud to be a New Alliance Party (NAP) supporter, and want to respond to Beth Coonan's attacks on NAP. In her most recent letter, Ms. Coonan is suggesting that *Southern Voice* not cover the activities of NAP because in her opinion, NAP is bad. Is she meaning to suggest that because she doesn't like NAP, using as reasons for these accusations that can't be proven in a court of law, her personal likes and dislikes should dictate what is newsworthy? If she doesn't like NAP that's her business, but to say they don't deserve media coverage for some very newsworthy events makes you wonder whose side she is on. Is she meaning to say that the first black woman to be on the ballot in all 50 states; the only independent party to have a candidate on the ballot in all 50 states; and a party that is outspokenly pro-gay, women of color led, multi-racial and fighting for women's rights, civil rights, voters' rights and gay rights shouldn't be covered in a newspaper? It's hard to know if Ms. Coonan is on the FAR Right, or a sell-out Democrat. She also states that independent politics has nothing to do with the fight for accessible housing. How does she know? Has she been leading the fight for accessible housing? I don't see any political parties fighting for the rights of the disabled but independent parties.

As the fastest growing independent party in the country, NAP has nothing to hide on any issue. NAP is proud to be controversial and to be building a fight-back movement across the country that thousands of people support for its unwavering stands on gay rights, on women's rights, the fight for homes for the homeless and the fight for fair elections and democracy. In Atlanta alone, over 3,000 people have signed a petition in support of a legislative package calling for a National AIDS Bill of Rights, a National Health Care Bill and the overturning of the Hardwick Decision. Over 30,000 people have signed in support of Dr. Fulani and the New Alliance Party's right to be on the ballot in Georgia and over 1,000 people have contributed to her campaign, which is the only independent party to qualify for matching funds. This should set Ms. Coonan's mind to rest; not all of these people, black & white, gay and straight, can be brainwashed.

I also want to commend *Southern Voice* and Pat Jackson for covering the work of the New Alliance Party and the Lenora B. Fulani Committee for Fair



On June 13, 1988 Judge William Ison will take the stand in Clayton County Superior Court. Ison ruled against Leigh VanderEls, an open lesbian, in her fight to keep custody of her son in 1987. Shortly after the ruling, Ison's call to her employer resulted in VanderEls losing her job. The Ga. Supreme Court has reason to believe that Ison may have been "prejudiced" and he will have to account for his actions in court.

Elections, for letting people know that there is a progressive choice this year.

Sincerely,
Tara Harris
Atlanta, Georgia

Better People, Not More People

To The Editor:

I reply to M. Lutz, mother, who responded to my "Viewpoints" article of April 14, "Why Are Lesbians Having Babies?" (See *Southern Voice* Vol. 1, No. 4)

Ms. Lutz, thank you for the letter.

I share with you your concern for "our future in regards to building a society with sympathies towards lesbians, gay men and other oppressed people." (Some of my best friends are oppressed.) You might note though, that we are evidently our own oppressors due directly to our own grand misapprehension of ourselves. This ignorance is both individual and collective.

By "ourselves" I refer to the soul. Spirit. Embodied menaing, purpose and will to unity. We do not as yet understand our origins or our direction either singly or as a world. The task of acquiring this understanding is of paramount importance. It

forms the only possible underpinning to the happy changes you or I would wish to see. World conditions elect such single, unencumbered folk as lesbians and gay men to pioneer for change. May we not simply buck up and accept the challenge? Why exacerbate current conditions?

Within the insufferable circumstance of spiritual ignorance, child-breding becomes criminal activity. The world is tipping with people. Those here must become better, not more. Only people who have answered their own needs can effect influence and change. We have not orchestrated even that baby-step. So babies have babies.

Why don't we "teach and inform the public?" Why don't we "carry our vision?" Why not enlist to "fight off the straight-world attitudes" even though we've grudgingly endured such "from the word go?" We might then merit the description, "self-assertive."

Having babies to throw in our proverbial 2 cents worth is a muddled and adolescent reaction to our own supposed misappropriation of social, political, and personal power.

I am sure lesbians are terribly serious and contemplative and self-questioning about choosing motherhood. I am sure also, that those ponderous exercises would serve both the sufferer and the rest of us more truly if they failed to culminate in the physical manifestation of a baby.

Sincerely,
Deignan
Atlanta, Georgia

Viewpoints is part of a continuing effort to provide a forum 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
PO Box 54719
Atlanta, Georgia
30308

Buckhead is phony... Downtown is dead...

Little 5 Points !

The first time I saw Little Five Points it shocked my suburban sensibilities. Where were the malls? And these people! Skinheads and 60's types milling around together only happened in the movies, and then only in the past. At that point in my life, there seemed to be only three types of people; all generic, all bland, and all named Bob, Susan, Molly or Chip. When I recovered, I realized how narrow and limited my world was, and that it wasn't only my world. Little Five Points became a symbol of change, of difference. The people of Little Five Points have their own goals, ideas, and priorities - they make their dreams a reality by their own standards, not mine or yours. They accept each other, and they live together, and isn't that what it's all about?

- Joe Vindich



"There just has to be more to life than going to work and making \$20,000 and paying outrageous rent" - Doug Shoemaker, recent resident of L5P.

L5P "Energy" Draws Diverse Crowd

Our heroine is standing in the brilliant springtime sunshine at the Virginia-Highlands Shell station, pumping gas into her 1987 candy apple red Z28 Camaro, and looking rather dashing in her Bruce Willis shades and highwaisted British safari shorts. Up pulls a

ATTITUDES

L5P HAS ATTITUDES, OR CONSISTENT THEMES THAT SEEM TO BE THE RULE, RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION:

- **NATURALISM** - A respect for the earth, and it's resources. The ambience in many local businesses reflect naturalism in their decor, ranging from the use of wood, and natural lighting, to the products sold, ranging from an all natural grocery co-op, to all natural clothing stores.
- **EGALITARIANISM** - The idea that all people are equal in all facets of life. This concept is evident in the tolerance of people of different race, socio-economic groups, ages, sexes, lifestyles, religions, and abilities, who live in L5P with little or no hostility.
- **HUMANITARIANISM** - A concern for human welfare. From the peaceful existence of a shelter for the homeless, to the more eccentric vagrants that wander around the business district, the people in L5P, seem to genuinely care for their own. As long as the behavior isn't anti-social, people seem to be somewhat friendly, and helpful. Food baskets for the elderly, and a Crime Watch also show a community working within itself, to take care of its people.
- **ACITVISM** - An active role in political causes. The people of L5P are excitable when it comes to global issues such as human rights, the environment, nuclear disarmament, apartheid and Nicaragua. These issues as well as local concerns such as the Presidential Parkway and homelessness are evident on flyers, bulletin board announcements and graffiti throughout the community.

black Rabbit convertible transporting two of Emory's finest female victims of fashion. "Excuse me," one says giggling and jiggling, "but can you tell us how to get to Little Five Points?"

Can I tell them how to get to Little Five Points? Does the pope wear a beanie? I can remember when driving through the intersection of Euclid, McLendon, and Moreland was a dangerous and undone thing. Now it

can be done in an open convertible.

For years, Little Five Points has provided an atmosphere of tolerance for minorities of every description. Gays, feminists, blacks, skinheads, Rastefarians, Hare Krishnas, vegetarians, and hippies, all feel comfortable here. Even yuppies. What energy draws so many different people to this area?

"The first time I came to Little Five Points I thought, what is this place?" said one woman resident. "But for some reason, I



Devoted Dead Heads and people-watchers Amy Nease and Don Donnelly fear L5P is becoming "fashionable".

just kept coming back and coming back. There's lots of life and spirit and good stuff here. Charis has helped me a lot. It's helped me find beauty as a woman rather than as the other half of a couple."

The residents of Little Five Points a mere 15 years ago were mostly transients, hookers, and criminals. But in 1974, Charis Books and Severanda opened their doors, and the flower children followed the

liberal literature, health food, and low rent to Little Five Points. They brought their philosophies of peace and goodwill with them and began to incorporate their ideals into the community. Then, in 1976 the Little Five Points Community Pub replaced the crime-ridden neighborhood bar. How bad was the crime in this pre-Pub bar? It was so bad that the front windows were boarded up to prevent patrons from being thrown through them.

But the windows are wide open now and Little



Sharon Kettering, obviously a fashion follower, eyes the wares outside Renè Renè.

Five Points has become, shall we say, trendy.

Doug Shoemaker is moving to Little Five Points in two weeks. Why?

"There's a lot of hip people here. I started working for GreenPeace, and this is very

convenient. There just has to be more to life than going to work every day and making \$20,000, and paying outrageous rent. I spent one year making a lot of money, and it was the worst year of my life. I'm also a juggler and a freelance poet and this just seems to be the place for me."

"I think the whole country is becoming more aware, like during the post-Eisenhower era. You have to work within the system, you can't really work against the system anymore. And you can't change the system, you can only change the individual and then hopefully, that will change the system."

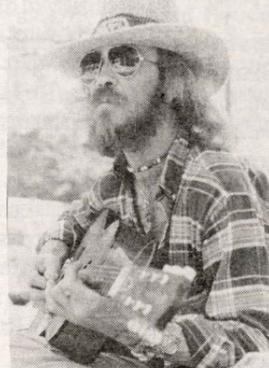
Amy Nease lives in Stone Mountain. She likes to come to L5P to watch the people. "It used to be like this at Lenox," she said.



Donald Head, a life-long resident, chooses his favorite shady spot - and comic book.

A peaceful man on the plaza told me: "This is the best place in the city to live. When I'm not climbing mountains I'm living down here writing songs. I've been working on this song about three years. My name is Mountainwalker."

Don Donnelly and Amy Nease spend their spare time at the Euclid Avenue Yacht Club. Don says he likes the scenery in L5P. He says this as several pretty girls go by. "And the beer is really cold here," Amy adds. Don and Amy are devoted Grateful Dead fans and longtime



"Mountain Walker" is convinced that L5P is the best place to live in the city.

L5P residents. They fear that, like the Dead, Little Five Points has become "fashionable".

Donald Head said, "It's peaceful. My sister went to high school here. I've lived here all my life and I sit here all the time. I think it's the only shady spot around today. I live across the tracks now, but I always come back here."

Everett Smith drives a taxi-cab in Little Five

Points. He says business is good. He sits at the taxi stand on Euclid Avenue in a cane-bottomed chair and watches the whole show.

"Yeah, there's been a lot of changes around here," says Smith, a 30-year resident of Little Five Points. "Same buildings, different people. Most of it's for the good. Do you remember Peachtree and Tenth? Remember all those hippies they had down there? That's what we got here. It'll probably die out like Peachtree and Tenth did, you never know."

You never know. Whatever the source of its energy, Little Five Points is one of the last places on earth that encourages alternative



For many, shopping is what it's all about.

lifestyles. Perhaps this is its greatest attraction. In this fearful world that would rather kill us than allow us our differences, the community

of Little Five Points nurtures and displays these differences. It provides a place where it is safe to be ourselves, to be openly unique, and to walk outside in the sun for all to see. And it is, after all, our similarities that make this possible.

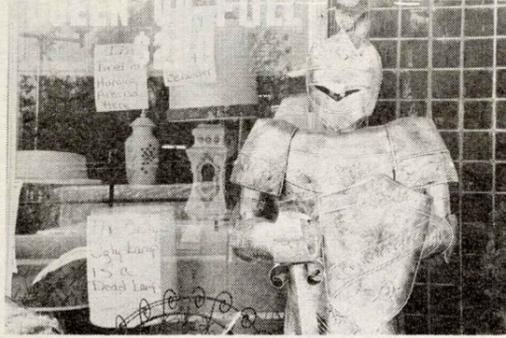
- Pamela J. Cole

Midtown is leaving... Where to go? What to do?

Business BOOMS for L5P

The Little Five Points (L5P) business community serves Little Five Points and surrounding communities, and also attracts people from the entire metro area.

It wasn't always that way; ten years ago there was a 50% occupancy rate, large scale graffiti, and a crime and safety problem. In the mid-70's Kelly Jordan, first president of



Watch your step. Security is tight in L5P.

the L5P Business Association, restored the Point Center Building, which houses Charis Books, Abbadabba's and other thriving businesses. Findley Park rose where Euclid Avenue was cut off, providing residents and visitors a place to rest, people-watch and eat.

Dancer's Collective, (today The Collective/Seven Stages Theatre) arrived in 1982, and within a year fifteen new businesses opened along Euclid Avenue.

Today, potential renters stand in line for retail space. L5P is a balanced mix of retail, entertainment, restaurants, services, organizations, and arts. The community has its own library, Post Office, radio station, newspaper, credit union, Georgia Power Office, and an active business association.

Current L5P Business Association president, Bill Carmichael, credits the Association's efforts for many of the improvements. Fifty-five businesses joined the Association in 1987, up from 30 in 1986.

In 1986 the community, along with the Atlanta Guardian Angels, spent a weekend



The Carter Presidential Center and the much-argued still-to-be-settled Presidential Parkway are bringing changes to the face and heart of L5P.

painting over all the graffiti. They theorized that removing graffiti would quickly eliminate its usefulness as a form of communication. The problem with graffiti soon evaporated, with a few exceptions, and the success brought in the support of many businesses.

A "Holiday Security Project", in which Atlanta Public Safety Zone 6 Officers Terry McFarland and Bo Vinsant patrolled the streets, aggressively confronted underage drinkers. The program worked so well that it has been continued with coverage Friday night, all day and evening Saturday, and Sunday night. With the help of the officers, the business owners, and the security committee of the L5P Business Association have developed a successful anti-crime program.

The message is out - don't come to L5P to engage in criminal activities, to be disruptive, or get drunk. While Officers McFarland and Vinsant are sensitive to differing lifestyles, they are quick to confront anti-social behaviors. They have gained tremendous respect from business owners and residents of the area.

With the help of the City of Atlanta, the L5P Business Association produces three festivals a year, including the Spring Festival in conjunction with Inman Park, "Summer in the Village" in July and "Get Ready for



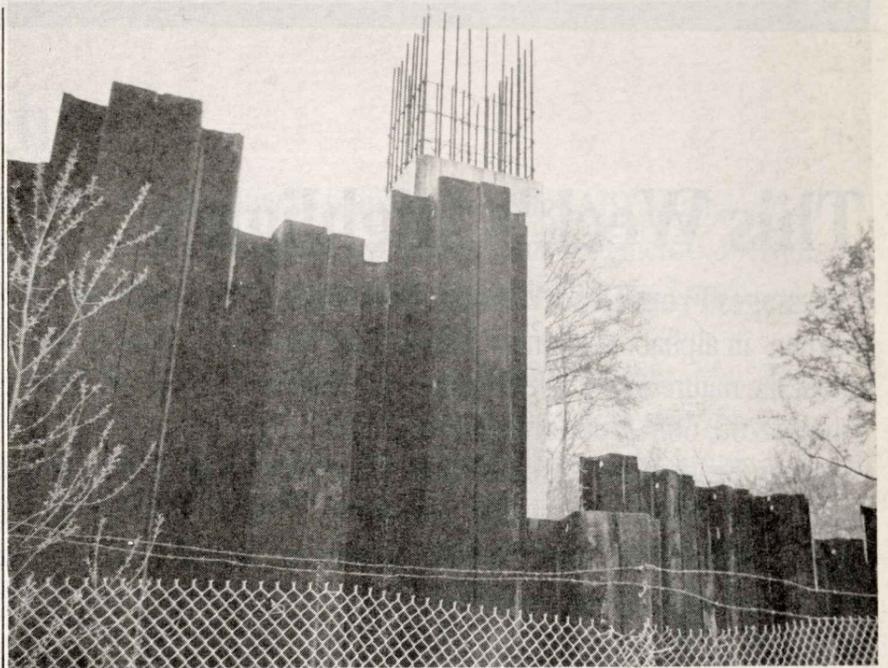
Residents of L5P are not shy in expressing their feelings about the "Ex-Pres-Way".

Halloween in L5P".

Holly Mull, Special Events Manager for the Bureau of Cultural Affairs - City of Atlanta says, "Neighborhood festivals are very important for the continuing vitality of our city neighborhoods."

This year the Association is working on a festival for the residents of the surrounding communities. Of primary importance to the Association is enhancing a sense of community, and keeping L5P a fun and safe place to be. - Elena Rutter

Photos by Pam Cole



Pylons line Goldsboro Park awaiting the decision on the Presidential Parkway

Next Issue:
The State of the Ex-Pres-Way
and Its Impact on L5P

GRAFFITI

Society is like a bowl of stew, if you don't stir it up, the scum will rise to the top.

The nuns are coming! The nuns are coming!

Kisses aren't promises and love ain't no guarantee.

Why is Nancy always on top?
Because Ronnie can only f___ up!

Death is nothing to politics.

Without me you are something - but not much.

Nothing's true. Everything's permitted. (Don't think about it.)

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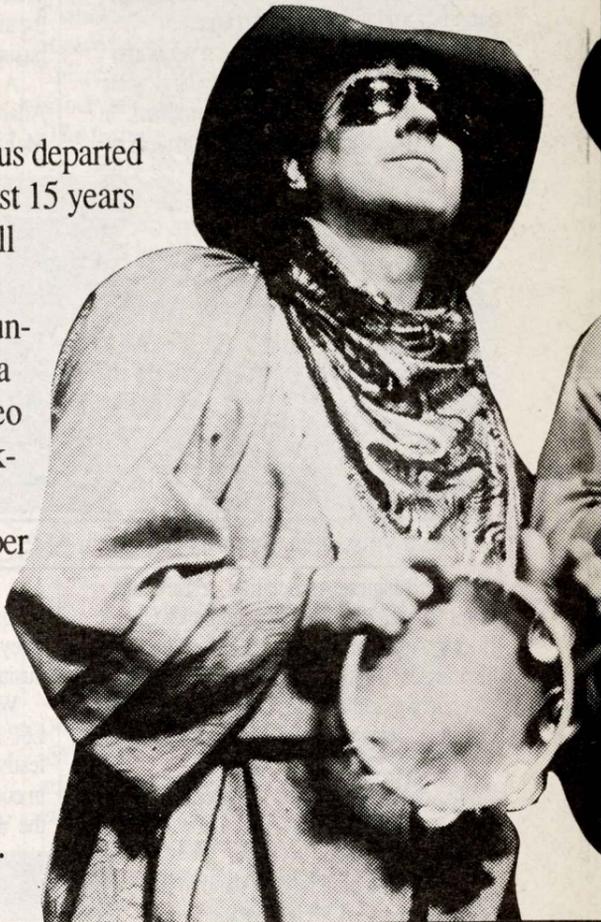
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THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

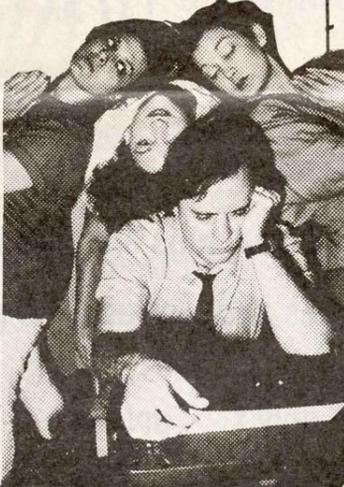
- **Messages From Dead Women**- May 12th-14th. A "communication" with the spirits of 26 famous departed women- in alphabetical order. Phillip Depoy, who has spoken with famous dead women for the past 15 years about the nature of the afterlife, presents his findings. Nexus Performance Space. 608 Ralph McGill Blvd. \$8.00. 688-2500 for tickets and info.
- **Spring Festival in Candler Park**- May 14th. Sponsored by the First Existentialist Church, "a fun-packed, good-time community celebration." Artists' booths, music, food, a volleyball tournament, a "Most Unusual Dog Show" (sorry, no dogs so unusual they could easily be mistaken for cats), video shows, and more should make for a truly existentialist experience. Candler Park. 10:00 AM 'til dark-maybe.
- **"What's In A Name?"**- May 15th. A benefit for the NAMES Project/Atlanta. Indigo Girls, Paper Dolls & Face of Concern perform in an effort to assure that the showing of the NAMES Quilt in Atlanta on Memorial Day Weekend will be FREE to the public. Thanks! Club Rio. 195 Luckie St. 3:00 - 9:00 PM. \$10.
- **12th Atlanta Film & Video Festival**- May 18th-22nd. The best works by media artists from around the region and across the country. Samplers: "Dawn's Early Light: Ralph McGill and the Segregated South" on May 18th; "Not A Jealous Bone" on May 19th; Academy Award nominee "Radio Bikini" on May 22nd. 42 films and videos in all! Presented by IMAGE Film/Video Center.



THURSDAY

12

Atlanta Couples Together. Peachtree Library. 7:00 PM. Ann Herrera, atty., speaks on wills, powers of attorney & guardianship. 432-1085.
• NAPWA- 1132 W. Peachtree St. 7:00PM. 874-7926.



FRIDAY

13

• **Messages From Dead Women**- Nexus Performance Space. 8:00 PM. 688-2500. Tonight & tomorrow night.



FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH

SATURDAY

14

• **Spring Festival in Candler Park.** All day-guess where.
• **The Atlanta Ballet presents "Romeo & Juliet"**. Civic Center. 2:00 & 8:00 PM. Final performances! 892-3303.



SUNDAY

15

19

• **Evening at Charis with Judith McDaniel**- author, activist and lesbian who was captured by the contras in Nicaragua. 7:30 PM. 524-0304.
• **MACGLO**- Peachtree Library. 7:00 PM.

20

• **AIDS Awareness & Action Weekend.** Pierremont Plaza Hotel. Today & tomorrow. 872-0600.
• **Southern Expressions: A Sense of Self**- 6 local artists present their works. High Museum of Art. Through June 19th. 892-HIGH



21

• **Human Rights Campaign Fund Southeastern Gala.** Marriott Marquis. 261-1666.

22

• **AVS Renegade** Park. 4:00 PM.
• **Angela Motter** 9:30 PM.
• **A Final Evening** Alliance Studio. 8 May 29th.

SOUTHERN VOICE

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see page 15



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Dykes to Watch Out For

Personal Wellness through Transpersonal Counseling

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DANIEL TRUSSELL, M.Ed.
242-2021



Inner Harmony for Stressful Times

The Atlanta March Committee

More than a phase...

Next Meeting: May 24th

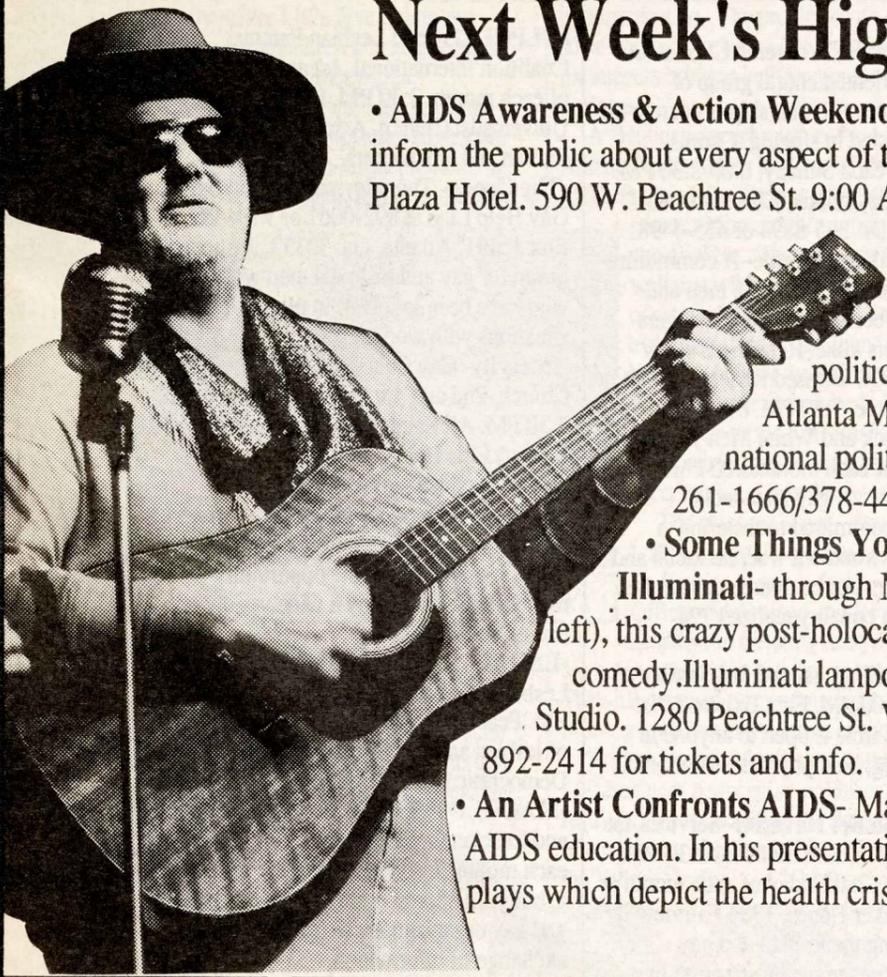
Come Plan the Pride Prom!
7:30PM-Highland Branch Library

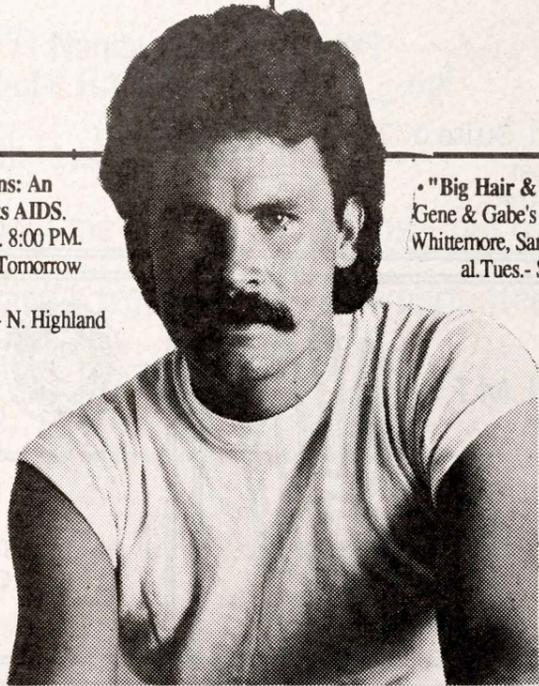
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Next Week's Highlights

- **AIDS Awareness & Action Weekend**- May 20th & 21st. A seminar to train volunteers for AID Atlanta and to inform the public about every aspect of the AIDS crisis.(Maybe Joe Frank could learn something here!). Pierremont Plaza Hotel. 590 W. Peachtree St. 9:00 AM- 5:30 PM both days. Registration at 8:30 AM both days. Lunch provided. \$30. 872-0600 for more info.
- **Human Rights Campaign Fund Southeastern Gala**- May 21st. Anticipated by Atlanta organizers to be "the largest lesbian and gay political fundraiser in the history of the South." Congressman John Lewis and the Atlanta March Committee will be honored. Cocktails, dinner, dancing and local & national politicians. If you've got the bucks (\$150 per person) – you're in for a treat tonight. 261-1666/378-4443 for more info.
- **Some Things You Need To Know Before The World Ends: A Final Evening With The Illuminati**- through May 29th. Written and performed by Larry Larson and Levi Lee (pictured at left), this crazy post-holocaust farce is a free-form exercise in satire, vaudeville and surrealistic comedy. Illuminati lampoons the empty rituals of organized religion and does it very well. Alliance Studio. 1280 Peachtree St. Wed. - Fri. at 8:00 PM. Saturdays at 7:00 & 10:00 PM. Sundays at 8:00 PM. 892-2414 for tickets and info.
- **An Artist Confronts AIDS**- May 24th & 25th. Michael Kearns, openly gay theater artist, is dedicated to AIDS education. In his presentation, Kearns shares personal stories and performs dramatizations from topical plays which depict the health crisis. Horizon Theater. Little 5 Points Community Center. 8:00 PM. \$5.00.



Y	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>What's In A Name?" Benefit for NAMES Project/Atlanta. Paper Dolls. Club Rio. 3:00-9:00 PM.</p>	<p>16 • LEGAL- Peachtree Library. 7:00 PM. • WOW- N. Highland Library. 7:45 PM. Program topic: "Bringing a Feminist Vision to Everyday Life".</p>	<p>17 • P-FLAG- Unitarian/Universalist Church. 7:30 PM.</p>	<p>18 • 12th Atlanta Film & Video Festival. Rich Auditorium. Woodruff Arts Center. 8:00 PM. 352-4225. • AVS Volleyball. Wynn Park. 7:00 PM. Every Wednesday!</p>
<p>es vs The Armory. Piedmont Band. Little 5 Points Pub. g With The Illuminati - :00 PM. 892-2414. Through</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 • Michael Kearns: An Artist Confronts AIDS. Horizon Theater. 8:00 PM. Tonight & Tomorrow night. • Atlanta March Committee- N. Highland Library. 7:30 PM.</p>	<p>• "Big Hair & Other Teases"- Cabaret at Gene & Gabe's Upstairs. 9:00 PM. Libby Whittemore, Sam "the voice" Baker, et al. Tues.- Sat. thru July.</p> 



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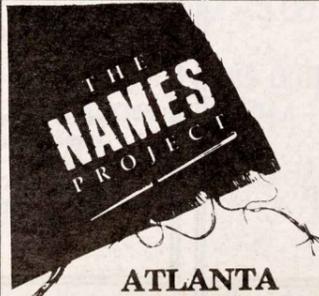


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ATLANTA
May 29th & 30th



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ORGANIZATIONS

Registry

- AALGA**- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance. 1st Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. Quaker House. A political and social organization for black lesbians and gay men. 523-3376.
- ACLU/LG**- American Civil Liberties Union/Lesbian&Gay Chapter. 3rd Wednesday of each month. Peachtree Branch Library. 7:30 PM. Working for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the metropolitan Atlanta area. 231-5991.
- ACT**- Atlanta Couples Together. Meeting times vary. A social support and educational outreach. 432-1085.
- AFC**- Atlanta Faerie Circle. 1st Sunday of each month. Location and time varies. Gay men who gather to support one another and explore their connections with the earth and white light. 622-4112.
- 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. AGC Help Line-892-0061. Information, counseling and referrals.
- AGMC**- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. A semi-professional community oriented chorus of male voices. Membership open to all interested singers and non-singers alike. 296-6581.
- ALFA**- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance. 2nd Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. A lesbian feminist organization which welcomes lesbians of all races, religions, political orientation, economic status,

occupation and degree of openness. 378-6769 for more information and newsletter.

- ALGPC**- Atlanta Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. Needs volunteers to coordinate this year's lesbian and gay pride March to insure its success.
- AMC**- Atlanta March Committee- More Than a Phase. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. 7:30 PM. North Highland Branch Library. A community based activist organization that works toward promoting lesbian and gay rights through educational, social, cultural, and political events. 377-8312.
- AVS**- Atlanta Venture Sports. Activities and meetings vary. An association in which the membership enjoys recreational, social, educational, and sports activities. 242-4899.
- AID Atlanta**- A community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to all people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. Community volunteers working with a small professional staff. New volunteers orientation sessions: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM. 1132 W. Peachtree St. (Entrance 13th Street). 872-0600.
- AIDS Information Line**-876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). Answers to questions about AIDS, referrals, etc., by trained volunteers staffing phone lines from 9:00 AM-9:00 PM daily. A public service of AID Atlanta.
- Atlanta Business & Professional Guild**- A non-profit service organization comprised of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. 2nd

Tuesday of each month. Place varies. Membership and further information: 872-1922.

- Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus**- A community-oriented choral group of women's voices. Membership is open to all women interested in singing. Chorus practice held each Sunday, 6:00-8:30 PM at the First Existentialist Church at 470 Candler Park Dr. 355-8894 or 435-4498.
- Atlanta Lambda Chorale**- A community-oriented choral group for both men and women. Membership open to all singers and non-singers alike. Rehearsals every Tuesday at MCC-Blessed Redeemer, 800 N. Highland Ave. 7:30 PM. 874-1622.
- BWMT**- Black and White Men Together. 1st Saturday of each month. 8:00 PM. Location varies. 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. 794-BWMT.
- Circle of Healing**- 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. First Existentialist Church. The Circle is open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual.
- Congregation Bet Haverim**- Services 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 PM. Shabbat Seder, 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 PM. Quaker House, 1384 Fairview Dr. Proudly serving the lesbian and gay community. Synagogue information line: 642-3467.
- Couples, Inc.**- The National Organization for Family Diversity is seeking full legal and social recognition of same-sex relationships. Meetings will vary as membership grows. Interested persons may call (404) 634-3061 or write: PO Box 77266, Atlanta, Ga. 30357-7266.
- Friends Atlanta**- Activities and meetings vary. A social, recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. Volleyball, bowling, dinners, theater nights, and dances are among the activities. 634-2500.
- GALA**- Gay Atheists of America. Meetings social in nature and at members' discretion. To assure freedom of speech; freedom from religion; to defend the separation of church and state; to assist in obtaining civil rights for gays and lesbians, and to offer non-believers an alternate social scene. 875-8877.
- GAPAC**- Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition. Meetings vary. The gay and lesbian political action committee

monitoring and acting in the local political scene. 885-0510.

- GLPCI**- Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. A support group for lesbian and gay parents. 296-8369.
- The Group**- Thursday nights. Call the Gay Help Line at 892-0061 or write PO Box 15191, Atlanta, Ga. 30333. A support group for gay and bisexual men who are or who 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 PM. All Saints Episcopal Church-3rd floor of Ellis Hall.
- LIFE**- Lesbians in Fun Endeavors. Meeting times and locations vary. Bringing professional gay women together for the fun of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events. 493-3966.
- LEGAL**- Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians. 3rd Monday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. The voice of lesbian and gay Georgians in the Democratic party. 875-7500.
- MACGLO**- Metro Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. A representative council of lesbian and gay organizations to facilitate the exchange of information. 633-4754.
- MCC Atlanta**- Metropolitan Community Church of the Blessed Redeemer. Sunday Services at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM evangelistic service. Mid-week services on Wednesday at 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. Office hours Noon-6:00 PM, Tuesday-Friday. A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment for individuals and couples. 872-2246.
- NAPWA**- Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS. 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. 1132 W. Peachtree St. 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. 874-7926.
- P-FLAG**- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. 3rd Tuesday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Committed to help parents learn what we have learned. To help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding, so all gay people can live with dignity and respect. 961-6085 or 296-0830.
- PLGC**- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns/More Light. 1st Sunday of each month. Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage. 377-5830.
- SAME**- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc. Organized to utilize the arts and media as tools for exploration, education, and change in human rights, especially those pertaining to the lesbian and gay community. 584-2104.
- UULGC**- Unitarian-Universalist Lesbian and Gay Community. 2nd Thursday of each month. 8:00 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. A spiritual and social support group for religious liberals. Call for a copy of our newsletter. 634-5134.
- WOW**- Women of Wisdom. 3rd Monday of each month. 7:45 PM. 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.

GREGORY Z. SCHROEDER

Attorney At Law

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ABC's Heartbeat: Lesbians in Prime Time

Prime time television has improved a bit in the past few years. It takes more risks, dares to be "realistic" in ways the networks feel the viewing public can handle it (not too much real life) and have made a token attempt at racial and gender parity and doing away with stereotypes. Now, ABC has decided to really push the limits of its audience's "acceptance" with its new 6-episode pilot series "Heartbeat." During the fifth episode of this medical "LA Law" take-off, we learn that one of the main characters, a female M.D., is a lesbian—complete with lover, a daughter who has some problems with her mother's relationship, and a very supportive circle of colleagues and friends. The show was created by Sara Davidson whose doctor happens to be a lesbian employed at a women's medical center. The authenticity is evident in the show, although in an upper middle-class and stilted fashion. Gail Strickland, who plays the role of Marilyn McGrath, and Gina Hecht who plays Patti, her lover of four years, are restricted to occasional passionless hugs and hand touching on the show. Despite this, the intimate conversations they have are realistic—reflecting two women who love and respect one another—and who demonstrate no guilt about who they are. It's probably a plus that the characters are not allowed more room to express physical affection. If they were, it's likely that people would watch the show just to see the "taboo" of women touching each other, and the show would lose some credibility. As it stands,

the focus is on a positive relationship and not on sex, which is a credit to ABC and the writers.

In episode 5, which aired April 19th, Strickland wrestles with the problem of whether to attend her daughter's wedding. Her daughter, played to perfection,

puts conditions on her mother's attendance—she is welcome but her lover, who the daughter has yet to meet, is not. The writers do an excellent job of revealing the fears of both mother and daughter. By the time of the wedding in episode 6, the problem has been resolved.



Mom's lover and daughter have met, discovered they have a lot in common and, in a particularly moving scene, the daughter admits that her anger is not about her mother's lesbianism but about feelings of desertion when her mother and father divorced. It's a credit to the writers that these complex and emotional issues are handled so well in a brief period of time. There is no thinness or triteness here. The people are real and the situations are real, leading those of us who live these situations to believe there must be a lesbian writing these parts—or at least being consulted. J. Carey Junkin and Walter Wheeler of Couples, Inc., a California-based national advocacy organization for lesbian and gay families, were official consultants, but we do not know if a lesbian or lesbians were directly involved.

Southern Voice interviewed Gina Hecht, Strickland's lover on the show, and asked if she knew if lesbians were being consulted or writing the part. Hecht had no knowledge of this but did say that the writers are "very bright and aware" and have a "good understanding of issues today such as what can happen when gays and lesbians come out to their families." She knew only the main writer, Billy Schwartz, and laughingly stated she felt sure that "he is not a lesbian."

Hecht related that she had gotten a taste of "what it's like in the real world" by portraying a lesbian. She said that curiosity among employees at the studios was "very high. I've worked for ten years in this business and my sexuality has never been in question," she said. "Several times I would hear whispers as I walked by such as 'that's the one,

Continued on Page 13

inside/OUT: Lesbian/Gay Radio, NPR-style

Have you ever wondered what "All Things Considered" might have sounded like if Susan Stamberg had been a lesbian? Well, you don't have to wonder any longer—just turn your radio to 89.3, WRFG-FM on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and you can hear "inside/OUT" (i/O), a new lesbian and gay half-hour radio show which calls itself "The International Gay and Lesbian Radio Magazine". In production only since March of this year, i/O is closely modeled in format on the successful National Public Radio newsprogram, except that it presents only the 5-to-10 minute feature stories, similar to what ATC does after it gives you 8 minutes worth of news. And i/O's stories are just about as good as ATC's, which is a credit to the program's all volunteer staff.

I only listened to the first two shows, which means that i/O is still figuring out what it's going to do and how to do it. But from what I heard, the program shows much promise. Those first two shows centered around two general areas of interest, politics and

humor, and it does a better job with the first one. Specific stories include reports on Great Britain's homophobic new law, Clause 29, which prohibits local governments from passing laws that promote homosexuality; what happened at Stonewall, for those who don't know; ACT-UP's March 11 demonstration in Manhattan, which backed traffic up into New Jersey; the recent meeting in Los Angeles of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; and an interview with the first openly gay member of the Canadian Parliament. Meaty stuff, and all of the stories were informative and professionally done. Co-anchors Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle have between them more than 12 years of experience in radio and their chemistry is good and will get better as the show progresses.

On the humor side, i/O is still struggling. Does a fake commercial with Elmer Fudd endorsing the "Gay-mexican Express Card" ("Don't be homo without it") do justice to the substance of the rest of the show? I wonder. i/O did score with an interview with feminist comedian Kate Clinton, but I would be concerned with any group that couldn't do a good interview with someone as funny as Clinton. Maybe the humor will get better as i/O finds its voice; its cute little logo indicates the show's creators have a sense of whimsy, much like the early ATC. They just need to

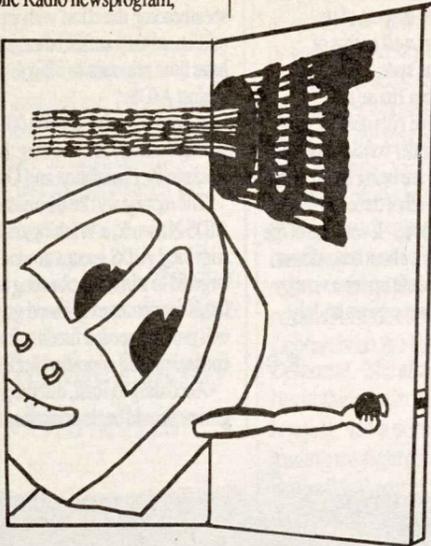
make sure that their message doesn't get undercut by the humor and obscure the truly substantial voice they have already established.

The politics of the people responsible for this show is also impressive. It is produced by Pacifica Radio, the people who carried a live broadcast of the March on Washington last October. The show's lesbian host, Lucia Chappelle, is station manager at KPFF-FM, Pacifica's flagship station in Los Angeles. And in Atlanta, you can hear i/O on Atlanta's alternative radio station WRFG-FM. And there is clearly a need for a show like this. i/O quotes one of the letters they received from one of their listeners: "I am 15 going on 16 and of course gay. ... I listen to your radio program every week on my headphones so nobody will hear me listening. ... Radio's almost mythic power to change people's lives and incite their imaginations is clearly evident here, and its value can't be underestimated for the gay people for whom it is their only private escape from their day to day

experience.

i/O's mission is important and it is arriving at a seminal time in our community's history. As organizations start to solidify and strengthen after the March, it is important that we find ways to network and communicate to one section of the U.S. about what another section is doing. i/O already has 28 radio stations signed up in the U.S., thanks to a grant from the Chicago Resource Center, which is subsidizing distribution. What that means is that WRFG is getting 13 free weeks of i/O, and then the station and K. C. Wildmoon, the local radio host involved in bringing i/O to town, will have to pay for a year's worth of these programs. To find out more, tune into K. C.'s show, "Still Ain't Satisfied", which airs from 5:05 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. I for one am glad she's carrying this wonderful new source of timely and detailed information for Atlanta's gay and lesbian community.

- Al Cotton



I Need Your House...

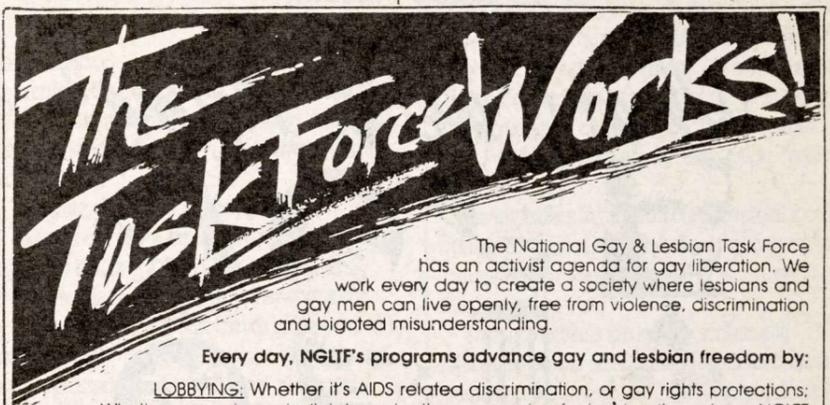
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Living With AIDS

Since I don't have AIDS, ARC or a positive HIV test, what qualified me to write an article entitled *Living With AIDS*? Several things, I think. Having friends who are living with AIDS and those who have died from the disease. Even if I had not been personally affected, being part of a community that is saturated with the HIV makes one live with AIDS each day.

I also live with AIDS at work since part of my job in public health is to talk to groups about AIDS and HIV infection. I frequently ask audience members to raise their hands if they know someone with AIDS, ARC, or who has tested positive. Often, no hands are raised. The first time I asked an audience of approximately 100 people that question and no hands were raised, I was astonished. How could they not know anyone with HIV infection? Then I borrowed a saying from another AIDS educator, "There are two kinds of people in this room: those of us who have been personally touched by this epidemic and those who will be."

But it suddenly became clear to me why such an element of denial exists among the "mainstream" (for lack of a better word) population. The epidemic, to the majority of people, is still "us" and "them". While most AIDS educators have tried to stop talking about "high risk groups", that concept was planted firmly in people's minds early on in the epidemic. It was very easy to categorize people in groups and if one did not fall into a risk group, the epidemic did not have much significance. Even the numbers aren't all that effective if they remain numbers only. Yes, there have been 1,322 cases of AIDS in Georgia with 755 deaths (as of April 11, 1988), but if none of these people were friends, neighbors, lovers, fathers, mothers, siblings, or other family members, then the numbers don't have much impact.

For me, living with AIDS has become an ingrained part of my life. When friends confide in me their HIV test was positive or when I find out someone is newly diagnosed, the shock element is no longer present. HIV and related illnesses have become too commonplace in the community.

The climate at work, however, is very different and I am often faced with talking to people who are still viewing AIDS as "someone else's problem". People still want to cling to the hopelessly outdated idea of being able to tell who's infected by looking at him or her. I try to dispel this myth in many different ways and people will often nod as if they are comprehending what I'm saying. But then come the "what if" questions. My favorite "what if" is "What if I'm in a restaurant and the waiter, who looks gay, brings me a salad with blood on it?" As one can imagine, it is very difficult to answer these questions.

It is extremely frustrating for me to have one foot firmly entrenched in the gay community and see, for the most part, people heeding safer sex messages and acting responsibly to slow down this horrendous epidemic. The other foot is in the public health domain, attempting to educate large numbers of people who don't give a damn about AIDS and who want someone else to take care of the problem. There are, of course, many people at "low risk" who are concerned and caring and volunteering their time and money to help in the fight. But what about the rest of the population? How can they be motivated to care and help?

Anyone who has read *And the Band Played On* knows the denial that existed in the beginning, and the time and effort involved to make people believe the truth about AIDS and how it is spread. The only way to slow the transmission is for people to take individual responsibility for changing their sexual practices. Now that the gay community has gotten the message, we are in the beginning of *And the Band Played On-2* with women, minorities, and heterosexuals.

- Name Withheld by Request

Updates

Mandatory AIDS Testing: An Expensive Flop

The two states requiring AIDS testing for marriage licenses are quickly finding the measure to be an expensive waste of time.

Illinois and Louisiana have had laws mandating the test for marriage applicants for only four months, but efforts to repeal the legislation are already mounting in both states.

The Illinois State Medical Society, which held its annual meeting during the third week in April, passed a resolution calling for the abolition of mandatory testing. The president of the ISMA, Dr. Harry Springer, said the law is ineffective, and it discriminates against poor couples.

Only two days after the ISMA vote, the State House Human Services Committee voted 12-5 for a repeal of the law. However, chances for a vote on the repeal by the full legislature at this point still seem small, with many lawmakers saying more time should pass before a final decision is made.

Illinois' law went into effect the first of this year. Since then, the state's counties have complained of a loss of revenues, with marriage applicants going to neighboring states to avoid paying the cost of the test. (The migration was such that a bordering Wisconsin county considered raising fees for out-of-state applicants.)

The initial test can cost up to \$100 per person, and that cost can increase rapidly when the results are positive, calling for further tests to determine the validity of the first one. In the end, millions of dollars are spent on testing people who want to get married, tying up facilities

and other limited resources on many who are at low risk for infection.

So far, the number of people found to be HIV-positive, that is, having the antibodies to HIV, has been less than one in 4,000 in Illinois' premarital testing program.

In Louisiana, repeal seems to be imminent. The House Health and Welfare Committee voted April 27th to repeal the testing law. The vote was unanimous with legislators saying mandatory testing turned out to be "an expensive flop." Since the 1987 law became effective on January 1st of this year, Louisiana couples have resorted to the same money-saving action as their Illinois counterparts, flocking to Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas to get married, running from test fees by local labs now charging as much as \$200 for the mandated test.

Legislators have recognized what opponents of mandatory testing have said all along. The program spends money that could be used in education and in care for the ill, while targeting low risk groups and subjecting thousands to the anguish of tests whose results are sometimes false-positives.

The repeal, which is expected to be backed by the entire Louisiana legislature, has the support of the original author of the testing bill, as well as that of physicians and hospitals around the state.

A spokesperson for the Louisiana House told *Southern Voice* there are at least five bills dealing with repeal of mandatory testing now under consideration by the state legislature. Two of those are being heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The other three are in the House Health and Welfare Committee. It was one of the latter that passed unanimously and without amendment. That means the repeal is likely to come up for a vote by the full House before the current term expires on July 11th.

- F. G.

Major Foundations Join AIDS War

A major effort to involve the nation's wealthiest charitable foundations in the fight against AIDS has been launched by the Ford Foundation.

Ford Foundation's Office of Reports Director, William Rust, spoke to *Southern Voice* about the project which was officially unveiled at the meeting of the Council of Foundations in Los Angeles.

The plan calls for major philanthropic groups to pool their resources and create the National-Community AIDS Partnership. The money will be used to provide matching funds to local and community groups working in the fight against AIDS.

Officials of the Ford Foundation admitted a plan like this should have come perhaps five years ago, but Rust declined to speculate on the reasons for the slow response by the nation's pre-eminent donors of humanitarian funds.

Late as it may be, the Ford Foundation is spearheading the effort with an initial contribution of \$2 million, as they attract other groups which in the past have been reluctant to offer their support in the war against AIDS.

Already, another \$1,000,000 has been committed by several foundations. Among the donors are the Rockefeller Foundation and Gannett Foundation.

The money will be administered by the National AIDS Network, a Washington-based group that works with local AIDS groups around the country. It will be targeted to stimulate planning and provide matching funds for community-based groups. Rust said this effort will provide needed funding for housing, day care, counseling and education for PWAs and their families.

According to Rust, disbursement to community groups should begin sometime this summer. - F. G.

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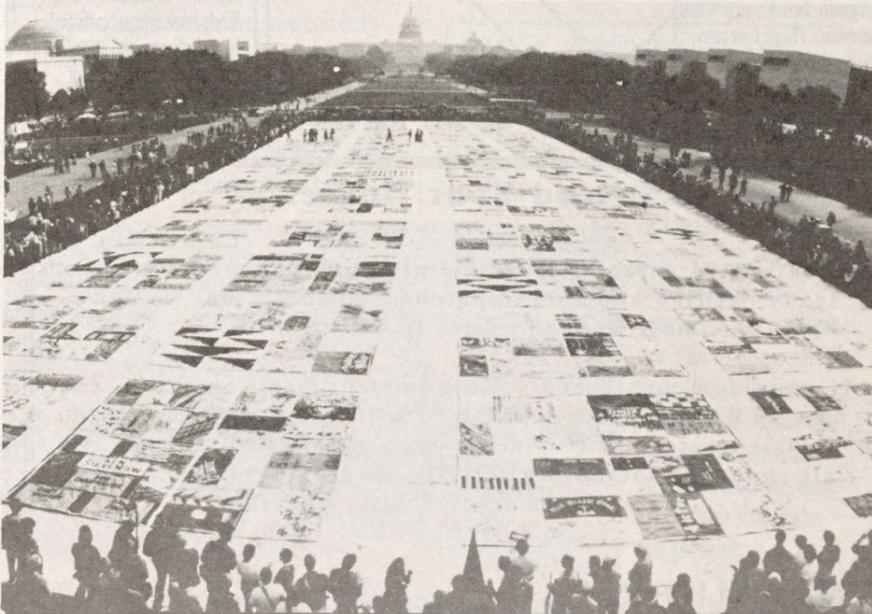
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Indigo Girls - Paper Dolls - Face of Concern
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The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th & 30th at the Georgia World Congress Center. Look to the next issue of *Southern Voice* for a complete list of all activities planned for the weekend. Photo by Marc Geller

Nationwide Support Shown During Dubuque Pride March

Dubuque, Iowa—Rebounding from a disastrous pride march last fall in which the twenty-odd participants were verbally abused and pelted with eggs by a crowd of angry onlookers, gay and lesbian activists in Dubuque, Iowa were joined by supporters from all over the country Saturday, April 30th for a massive second march which organizer Stacie Neldaughter described as "a dream come true."

Organizers last September were not prepared for the degree of hostility their first-ever march would generate in the residents of this blue-collar, predominantly Catholic city. They also had not anticipated that once onlookers began to vent their hatred, members of the city's police force would prove reluctant to get involved. "There was a police officer in the crowd," recalled organizer Ginny Lynns, "but he failed to respond to any of this."

Nevertheless, march organizers wanted to demonstrate that they were not cowed, and scheduled a follow-up march. This time around, however, they asked for help.

"People started talking about it everywhere they went," Lynns said. The word-of-mouth publicity, along with coverage in a number of gay- and lesbian-oriented periodicals, resulted in a turnout variously estimated between 400 and 800 participants, some of whom came from as far away as California, New York, and Georgia to lend their support.

Guest speaker Sue Hyde, Privacy Project director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), addressed listeners at a post-march rally, saying, "We challenge (Dubuque) Mayor James Brady to realize that our sexuality is not simply a private matter, especially when he himself is quoted in the paper as saying, 'I wouldn't want to live next door to one.'"

"Mayor Brady," Hyde continued, "we want you to know that there is nothing private about your public declaration of bigotry and hate."

She also challenged civic leaders to create legal protection for the civil rights of all Dubuque citizens. "Surely the events of last

year's march are evidence enough of the need for basic protections for lesbians and gay men," she said.

While hostility was still readily apparent from some who attended, the situation was under control this time around, Neldaughter said. "A lot of people were verbally violent, but it was nothing like last time."

She credited the police with greatly improved response over the initial march. Streets were blocked off so as to protect the marchers, the police officers videotaped the proceedings from a nearby rooftop. "And they confiscated 16 eggs," Neldaughter added with a laugh. More importantly, perhaps, one of the onlookers who threw eggs at the first march re-appeared this year and was taken into custody by police, who, according to Neldaughter, found that he was carrying a concealed weapon.

Although she was delighted by the outcome of this year's march, Neldaughter admitted that Dubuque is still a very inhospitable place for gay and lesbian citizens to live openly. "You don't fit in unless you're closeted around here," she said.

Many of those closeted people were upset by the marches and the resulting publicity, she said. "The gay and lesbian community does not appreciate us at all. A lot of them are angry at us for doing it."

Hyde agreed that the situation in Dubuque is far from ideal, adding that Neldaughter and Lynns were "quite brave to have organized this," but told *Southern Voice* she was optimistic about the effects of this year's march.

"I can't help but think that some minds in Dubuque are changed today because of this event," she said.

- David Tucker

AIDS Medical Insurance, Industry Skeptical

A major insurance company is now offering a new health care policy that would pay AIDS benefits without requiring applicants to be tested for the disease.

Golden Rule, an Indiana-based insurer, described its new product during recent hearings held in Washington by the President's Commission on AIDS.

The policy provides AIDS benefits as long as no signs of the disease appear during the first twelve months of coverage. For cases appearing after the first year, coverage goes up to \$1 million. So far, six states have approved the policy. They are Alaska, Hawaii, Louisiana, Vermont, Delaware and North Dakota. Talks are now underway with the Florida Insurance Commission to determine if that state will approve it. Golden Rule will wait for the outcome of those talks before applying in Georgia.

The company has hired an activist lesbian who has long been involved in civil rights work in Indiana as an AIDS-legislative consultant.

Marla Stevens, who says she started her career of activism in Savannah and was run out by the Klan in 1977, works with the Indiana Civil Liberties Union as head on-site lobbyist for its Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She jokes claiming to be the first lesbian ever hired by an insurance company because she is a lesbian and an activist.

Stevens told *Southern Voice* the idea for Golden Rule's policy came from the company's chairperson, Patrick Rooney. Rooney, she explains, is on the Board of the ACLU in Indiana - an uncommon cause for a major corporate executive. His company, she says, "has a long history of doing the right thing." When he heard about the devastating effects of AIDS and medical coverage problems, he decided to do something constructive, and this policy was the result.

She said that estimates are that approximately 30 percent of people who are infected with AIDS at the time they purchase the policy will receive benefits. That is, 70 percent would be excluded for exhibiting symptoms during the first twelve months. Still, the fact that Golden Rule will not screen applicants for AIDS is raising eyebrows within the insurance industry.

Most companies have instituted universal testing for individual policies (group policies are still for the most part unchanged) or, what is worse, many have a peculiar style of selective testing where applicants who appear to be in a high-risk group (i.e. "people appearing to be gay") are either told to be tested, or denied coverage. This is a clear violation of industry guidelines against using sexual orientation as a factor determining coverage.

The industry as a whole, not surprisingly, opposes Golden Rule's move. Stevens says they want universal testing to be the norm and they believe the company will "lose its shirt" with this policy.

Reaction among AIDS groups has not been totally positive, either. Some have criticized the policy, saying it sets a negative precedent by not covering 100 percent of insured people's AIDS care costs. In response, Stevens points out that coverage for everyone would make the premiums too expensive for any AIDS coverage to be viable. In addition, she explains, all policies have limitations on pre-existing conditions. In this case, the one year exclusion takes the place of the limitations, and protects applicants from the serious gaps in insurance confidentiality.

In her opinion, this is definitely a positive development in the AIDS crisis.

Golden Rule, says Stevens, has been successful with many innovative policies in the past. The company has remained profitable, taking in more than \$300 million in premiums last year. It bills itself as the nation's largest underwriter of individual medical insurance.

One of the reasons for their success is that they emphasize cost containment. That's why they think they'll be able to offer AIDS coverage without "losing their shirt" and with premiums no higher than most other policies. In cutting costs, Stevens says, they offer better care. They pay for home and hospice care, trying to avoid the exorbitant costs of hospital stays. They cover AZT and other AIDS drugs. "They try to keep patients healthy, which is better for everyone."

Stevenson would not predict the outcome of the application with Florida's insurance authorities, but reiterated that if approval is received, the outlook for approval in Georgia is pretty bright. -F.G.

Heartbeat

Continued From Page 11

she's the one. I'm a little rebellious so my reaction was to keep things as mysterious as possible." Hecht was also angrily questioned by a grip about lesbians. He wanted to know "What they're all about," and "What do they want." Hecht believes his anger comes from a lack of understanding which she believes "Heartbeat" can change if given a chance to stay on the air. "Maybe if people see it more, on television and in the rest of the media, they might get a better understanding of the situation and be less frightened and angry," she said.

Hecht stated she had no problem as a straight woman playing the role of a lesbian in a romantic relationship. "Love is love," she said. "Anytime I play a role where I am involved with someone, whether it's Robert Redford or Gail, I personalize them. I substitute someone in my life for the other actor so I can call up the feelings. There's no difference. It is what it is." That's evident in Hecht's performance. She is excellent in her role and comes off a bit more believable than Strickland.

I asked Hecht if she knew of any openly gay or lesbian actors in film or television. She stated that she didn't, that being open means sure career suicide. "They can't be open and get a variety of jobs," she said. Hecht stated she knows lesbians who are "some of the hottest, sexiest women you'll ever see." But if they are open, she says, they will not be given roles that require them to be in a love relationship with a male. "I wouldn't encourage lesbians to be out in this business," she said. "It would greatly limit their casting. You're stereotyped anyway. It's the nature of the business."

"Heartbeat" is a mixed bag. The writing and acting are uneven with the exception of the lesbian segments. In its attempt to be the medical version of "LA Law", "Heartbeat" falls short. It's choppy and loses its impact because it tries to include too many stories and too many characters in sixty minutes. And the people are just too too pretty and polished and "good". I'm sorry, but I find it awfully difficult to believe that there can be that many beautiful wonderful people in one medical center.

But we need "Heartbeat". We need it as a good first step toward introducing lesbians and gays on prime time TV. The general educational benefits are tremendous.

TV is the only way, unfortunately, to reach millions of "typical" Americans. And just think of the personal benefits to be derived from this show. Your parents, your employers and your co-workers are likely to watch if it is carried into the new season. Wouldn't it be nice, for a change, for someone else to carry a bit of responsibility for education other than us? It could pave the way somewhat. It's a nice thought - and it's about time.

If you want to see "Heartbeat" in the new season you need to let ABC know. Hecht says every letter is read and we need to write in for support to counter and outweigh the negative responses ABC is sure to receive. Write to: ABC Entertainment, "Heartbeat", 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA, 90067.

-Christina Cash

Southern Voice would like to thank Atlanta Robin Cohn for arranging the interview with Ms. Hecht. Robin had an inside line - Hecht is her aunt.

It Isn't Easy Being Green

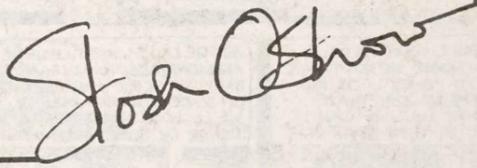
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KEEP REFRIGERATED

Star Gays

by Martia Proba
May 15 - 31

There are messages out that May 23rd could be a day of catastrophic events, particularly in California. Astrologically, the Quarter Moon opposes the Sun as the Moon enters Virgo, an earth sign. Venus goes retrograde that day as well. Proba predicts a later happening.



GEMINI You may find it difficult to express those enthusiastic intellectual yearnings you feel after the 22nd because four planets are retrograde. Mars in Pisces doesn't help, either. This is a time for being laid-back - try indulging in sexual fantasies.



CANCER The Sun in your 12th house after the 22nd suggests that you may be involved in secret personal matters, especially on the 29th. Don't kiss and tell.



LEO Communicate with your friends and neighbors after the 21st, but don't expect openness. The Moon stays in your sign for parts of four days this period, so take it easy on yourself from the 20th through the 23rd.



VIRGO After the 21st, the Sun shines on your popularity and career. Be very careful on the 23rd when Quarter Moon in Virgo with five planets retrograde suggests you talk things over before acting. Above all, do not be aggressive.



LIBRA On the 26th and 27th your thoughts may turn to the spiritual. With Uranus moving retrograde into Sagittarius, liberation from old ways is on your mind. Share your inspiration with a Gemini.



SCORPIO The 31st is not a good day for you for anything but transplanting chrysanthemums (Jupiter's flower). The Sun in Gemini after the 21st points you toward joint money concerns - a Leo could be prominent here.



SAGITTARIUS Uranus continues retrograde and moves into your sign on the 27th. With Venus in opposition, do not do anything romantic with a Gemini. Full Moon in Sagittarius on the 31st turns your fire energy inward - enjoy.



CAPRICORN Until the 27th, three planets retrograde in your sign cause seemingly endless delays and maze-like procedures from external sources. Venus direct in Cancer until the 22nd suggests you establish a loving, understanding relationship with your mate.



AQUARIUS It'll be confusing, but after the 22nd, you should find a successful romantic attachment. Be loving and patient with a young person after 8 p.m. on the 25th.



PISCES After the 22nd, beware of coming on too strong as Mars enters your first house. On the other hand, take advantage of the opportunity to express your hidden feelings as the Moon is in Scorpio on the 29th.



ARIES Take care of legal and travel matters on the 27th. If you wait till the 31st, you'll only go in circles - all the wrong circles. The Sun suggests educational ventures after the 22nd would be interesting with a Gemini.



TAURUS Mars makes you want to be in groups after the 22nd, but watch your health during this period. An alliance (or dalliance) with a Cancer on the 19th needs to be handled with tact and patience.

Dear Nadisa

Dear Nadisa:

I am dating a woman who is an Orthodox Jew. I am not a Jew and our relationship is experiencing difficulties because of cultural differences. I love her and am willing to do anything necessary to be a part of her life. What can I do?

The first step you can take is to understand that her religious devotion is a prescribed way of life that may not permit compromise. You must respect her obligations and rituals even to the point of your own exclusion. It may help you to do some reading. Try *Nice Jewish Girls - A Lesbian Anthology* by Evelyn Torton Beck; *The Tribe of Dina - A Jewish Women's Anthology* by Melanie Kaye Kanitowitz and Irena Klepfisz; *A New Haggadah: A Jewish Lesbian Seder* by a woman with the last name of Stein; *Triangles (fiction)* by Ruth Geller; *Purim Megillah and A Jewish Lesbian Chanukah*, both by Stein.

Cultural dissimilarities do not have to be an obstacle to understanding another person; however, they do indeed pose a challenge for growth. You failed to specify what in particular is creating a problem. Cultural influences can determine not only the flavor of one's meal and the way one makes love, but one's sense of personal style. The whole point is to have the patience to TALK THROUGH your differences. Learn as much as you can about the woman you are dating and share as much as you can about yourself with her.

If your dissimilarities are such that you find them insurmountable, I see no reason to date her any further.

Dear Nadisa:

My girlfriend wears a scent that I find, well, nauseating. How can I break the news to her?

I am assuming you are referring to a cologne, an essence or oil that your girlfriend wears. I am also hoping it is not her ONLY scent or her FAVORITE scent of all time. For now, let's refer to it as "the nasty stuff."

Your approach to this problem will depend on the sensitivities of your girlfriend. If she is forthright and appreciates the same from you, I would simply tell her that the nasty stuff (and you had best know it BY NAME) does not appeal to you and you would prefer something else. Have a specific suggestion, preferably a scent she already

has that you like better. Make sure it is NOT the scent a previous girlfriend wore and you think your present girlfriend has forgotten.

If your girlfriend has more tender sensibilities, go out and buy a small quantity of scent that you really like and a single flower or piece of candy. After dinner, go get the nasty stuff and place your gifts next to it on a table. Draw her attention to them both, then say, "Honey (or her favorite pet name), I need to talk with you. If you were to choose one of these, would you choose 'A' - a fragrance that causes me to crave you in a thousand ways instantly, or 'B' - a scent that makes me want you in some ways but only after certain soap commercials?" If she chooses the nasty stuff, you have a bigger problem than you thought, my friend. And if she sits there silently and quizzically, you may have to work a bit harder at it. Otherwise, you may be able to open up a discussion leading to a happy solution for both of you.

Dear Nadisa:

My lover is 34, I am 36 and we have a problem. On major holidays, each of us is expected to spend the holiday with our respective families. During the past 4 years, we have done exactly that; however, this has caused hard feelings on both sides. I think we should invite both sets of parents over. My lover strongly disagrees. What do YOU think?

You might try examining the EXPECTATION that each of you must spend major holidays with families instead of with ONE ANOTHER. Spending time together during a holiday validates the fact that the two of you share a relationship worthy of recognition and respect. Stop acting like spinster sisters.

You both have been the good daughters during the past 4 years, so pat yourselves on the back. Now realize that one of the advantages of reaching adulthood is having the c-h-o-i-c-e to live your own life. If you have anything to gain by having both sets of parents over, consider it. However, I am assuming you and your lover are "out" to your families and have visited them as a couple, that the atmosphere during these times was amiable or at least bearable. If my assumption is incorrect, I would suggest an honest look at what could come out of such a holiday dinner.

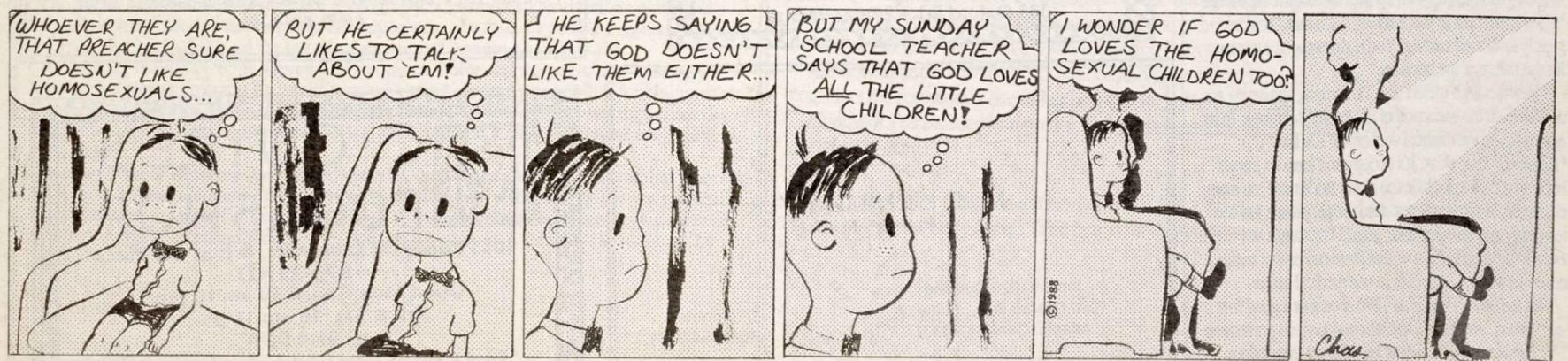
Think about spending the next holiday with one another without family. Work toward easing those hard feelings. Don't let them escalate into an irreconcilable problem.

Dykes to Watch Out For



Bittersweet

by Charles Haver



CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support group for Lesbians considering pregnancy. Explore your hopes and concerns in a non-threatening environment. 10 weeks \$15.00 per session. New South Center. Call Barbara Burns 351-5307 (V1#9)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IS NEEDED BY The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus. A degree in music or equivalent experience directing a chorus is required. For more information call Shirley Chancey at 355-8894. (V1#7)

A *women's therapy group* is forming to focus on issues arising from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse experienced during childhood. For additional information contact Shirley Chancey at 355-8894. (V1#7)

Atlanta Alternatives-Buyers Club, a group plan for obtaining bulk orders at reduced cost of certain alternative products of possible interest to PWAs, is being formed, and additional participants are welcome. Current products being considered are AL-721 and German enzymes, but others are also possible. For details, call 233-0083 and ask for Gregg. (V1#7)

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General Practice, Criminal Defense,
Bankruptcy, DUI. 550 Pharr Rd., Suite 333
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PERSONALS

Brian-You were rude, insulting, and too
sure of yourself at Bulldogs. You seem to
have possibilities, but then again, how do
I know you won't do the same thing to
me as you did to your ex? By the way, I
never did believe you about your "under-
standing" with your ex, and I sure would
never put up with that treatment! Respond
if you have enough nerve. Just call me
Sir, for now. (V1#6)

You've seen him at Good Old Days. Or
Five Paces. You've wondered, "Could he
be...? No. No way." Well he is. And he's
been looking for you for a long time.
Young professional WM, 24, successful,
fun-loving, sincere, seeks GWM for
ultimate friendship. If you understand
how it feels to be caught between two
worlds, not quite fitting in either one,
please write. S.V. Box 2200 (V1 #8)

Professional GWM with BMW looking
for same, for brunch, lunch, cocktails,
meaningless money monologues and
expense accounts. Never mind, I'll date
myself. (O)

SIR? YOU HAVE GOT TO BE
kidding! I don't think I was too sure of
myself at Bulldogs, I really think you are
just not sure of yourself, and that doesn't
warrant a "Sir" from anyone, especially
me. At least I am honest and straight-
forward. Think about it, and what you
could be throwing away; the possibilities
are endless, and fading... Brian (V1#7)

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ate people. Currently in jail, will be out
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PERSONALS

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for someone who is FUN for friendship,
maybe a relationship, or just something. S.V.
Box 2204 (V1#7)

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every other week. Kinda silly to loaf at \$17.00
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(V1#6)

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Park, Lake Claire, Midtown. (V1 #8).

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(V1#12)

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ment. 584-2104 (I)

MISCELLANEOUS

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(V1#7)

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0468 — or digital beeper 999-3442 — P.O.
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Atlanta, Georgia 30308 (404) 885-1662 (AI)

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PERSONALS

GWM Young professional, handsome, tastes
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—V.A. Musetto, NEW YORK POST



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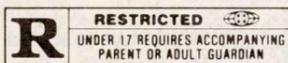
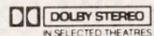
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