

SOUTHERN VOICE

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GAPAC NEWS
See Centerspread

Vol. 1, No. 9

Taking Pride in Our Culture

June 23, 1988

INSIDE

Anti-lesbian/gay violence increased in 1987, says a report released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Find out how to stay informed and what to do if you're a victim. Page 3.

Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '88—Pride Week concludes June 26th with a sunrise interfaith service, the annual march beginning at 12:30p.m. at the Civic Center, and day-long festivities at Piedmont Park. See the centerspread Calendar and page 6 for complete Pride Week information.

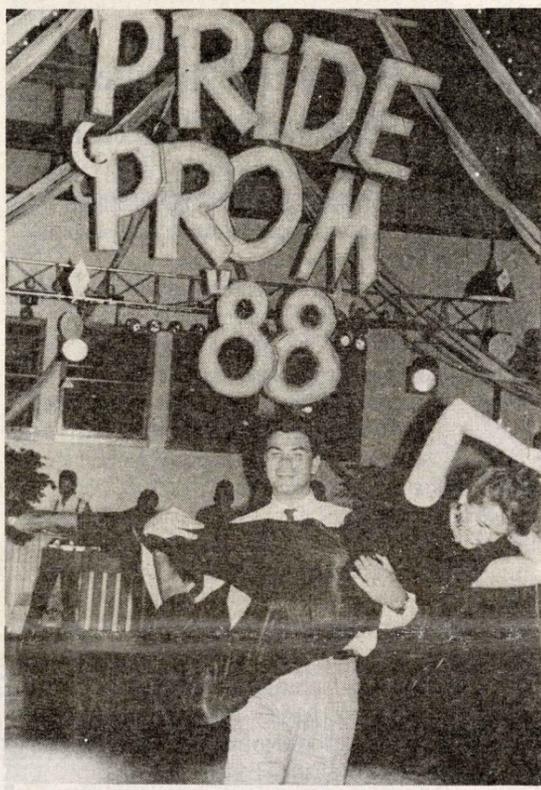
ALFA turns 16—and contributor Elizabeth Knowlton examines the life of what is conceivably the oldest lesbian center still in existence. Always a political organization, ALFA has changed in some ways, but stayed constant in its desire to build a better world for lesbians. Page 6.

Counterculture takes you on a trip to WomanWrites X and back in time to Christopher Street during the time of the Stonewall Inn riots. Writer Amanda Gable was a participant in the tenth annual WomanWrites—one of the few lesbian writer's conferences in the country, and perhaps the oldest—and she ensures that you won't want to miss the 11th. The Company We Keep, the first gay and lesbian production company in Atlanta, will be producing "Street Theater," a raucous comedy/drama that relives the first days of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Page 7.

Experimental AIDS Drugs—are examined in this first of a two part series by Terry Francis. Drawing from scientific and lay sources, as well as his own vast experience, Francis begins the series with a review of the role T-cells are thought to play in the immune system, as well as the drugs AZT (Retrovir), Ribavirin, and AL 721. Page 12.

Keep Refrigerated—will keep on ticklin' your funny bone with the all too real exploits unveiled in Alison Bechdel's "Dykes to Watch Out For" and Charles Haver's "Bittersweet." If you wanna know what the July 4th weekend holds in store for you, check out "Star Gays." Lots of things going on up there you should know about. Page 14.

Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '88



The Pride Prom, hosted by the Atlanta March Committee, drew more than 300 people for the kickoff of Pride Week '88. Vying for the title of Prom Royalty were Myrna Jean Sims, Delta Dawn Davenport (winner), Maxine Lewis, and Magnolia Jackson. Rip Jackson and Amy Bernstein (pictured at left) split the prize with Ron Halstead and his partner in the dance contest. Billed as a Celebration of Life, this year's events will continue through June 27th. Please see Page 6 for a full schedule of Pride Week '88 activities.

PHOTOS BY PAMELA J. COLE

Gay and Lesbian Groups Hard at Work in Atlanta: MACGLO Meeting Shows Results

Judging by the enthusiasm and devotion of gay and lesbian leaders in Atlanta and around the country, the community is ready to bring about change. But then, what else can you expect at a time when the front-runner in the race for the White House, Mike Dukakis, is a son of the Greek Island of Lesbos. Against the background of a possible - you can say it - lesbian president, organizers are working tirelessly on every possible front. Representatives of Atlanta's gay and lesbian organizations displayed an intense level of activism in our city at the June 16th meeting of the Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations (MACGLO). The meeting had strong attendance with representatives ranging from members of political action committees, civil rights organizations, and parents of gays and lesbians, to arts groups and several religious denominations. The mood showed a community determined to play a strong role in its own future, and one whose organization has brought it to the status of a political force of tremendous potential.

The undeniable political power of gays and lesbians in the metropolitan area was evidenced not only by the presence of two openly gay candidates to the Georgia Legislature, but by official requests for gay and lesbian support from mainstream candidates.

Among those asking for help from the

community are, most notably, the two openly gay candidates, Gil Robison and Dick Rhodes. Robison made a pitch for support. "We're off and running a vigorous race," said the Atlanta attorney whose work on AIDS legislation has been widely praised. Even though more than 600,000 people live in House District 40, Robison's target, the candidate said 40,000 votes would win the election. The election of Dick Rhodes' district in the DeKalb County area could also be decided by the gay vote.

Among other candidates requesting support, Dick Rubin, running for Superior Court of Fulton County spoke at the meeting. Ben Jones, running for Pat Swindall's seat, Michael Lomax, vying for the Mayor's office and Leah Sears-Collins, also looking to reach the Superior Court bench, have all recognized the power of the gay and lesbian vote.

With Lesbian and Gay Pride Week only days away, spirits soared at MACGLO's meeting. A proclamation signed by Andrew Young and the Atlanta City Council, declaring this the week of Gay Rights and Gay Pride, respectively, were read. In DeKalb County, Commissioner Sherry Shulman signed a similar document, as did Brince Manning. A member reported the two commissioners received abuse by other DeKalb County Commissioners because they signed the proclamation. (Thank you calls for the commissioners at 371-2881.)

In an emotional moment, organizers of the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men said that April's conference here in Atlanta was a huge success, turning a profit of \$2,400. They presented MACGLO with a donation of \$1,000 and announced a \$600 donation for Pride Week 1989, and \$250 gifts to National Association of People With AIDS, the Council on Battered Women and the Atlanta Feminist Women's Health Center.

All is not peace and love among gay and lesbian groups in the city, though. The representative of Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA) read a letter sent to the Atlanta Gay Center (AGC). ALFA, the longest continuously functioning lesbian group in the country, as a result of AGC's repeated attacks on women-only events, has asked to be removed from the AGC's directory and to no longer be listed in the AGC's publication, *The News*. ALFA requested that other groups join in the protest until AGC ceases its attacks and apologizes.

In another interesting discussion, the representative of P-FLAG brought up the subject of Tammy Lloyd's statements affecting the community, which have been covered by *Southern Voice*. Possible courses of action discussed included calling the station's advertisers to protest the blatant misrepresentations and inappropriate statements by the WGST talk-show host.

Cont'd Page 3

NEWS IN BRIEF



Sue Suter, Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner.

Suter Sworn In As First Disabled Head of Rehabilitation Services

Washington D.C.—Sue Suter, nominated by President Reagan as the Rehabilitation Services Commissioner, was sworn into office on June 8. Suter is the first person with a disability to ever hold the office. She contracted poliomyelitis at the age of two and was prevented from attending public school because of a lack of accessibility.

In spite of this, Suter earned a master's degree in clinical psychology and served as Director of the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, a position she held for three years prior to her appointment as RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) Commissioner.

Suter's emphasis is on empowering people with disabilities to take charge of their own lives and to allow government to provide the tools that they need to achieve their highest level of independence and more opportunities. She is an advocate for community integration of people with disabilities.

Suter has the support and enthusiasm of major disability groups who have come to rely on her for fairness and accountability.

AIDS Commission Chair Calls for Money, Bias Protection

Washington D.C.—The Chair of the President's AIDS Commission took a strong stand in favor of anti-discrimination laws to protect PWAs (Persons With AIDS) — a position opposed by the Reagan Administration.

Retired Admiral James D. Watkins made his statements three weeks before the official

report's scheduled delivery to the White House. According to Watkins, Federal laws against discrimination are "critical" to fighting the epidemic. The Administration, on the other hand, says it wants discrimination laws handled at the State level. Watkins charges that approach has and will continue to result in confusing and ineffective action.

Other recommendations by the Commission Chairman include an overhaul of the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control) strategy to combat AIDS, involving a major increase in staff and a total restructuring of the AIDS program which, he said, lacks direction. Federal and State spending on AIDS, says Watkins, should increase from the current \$500 million to \$3 billion per year.

He also emphasized the need for confidentiality, calling for legislation making disclosure of patient records a punishable crime.

CDC officials called the report "basically sound" although they disagreed with some of the criticism. AIDS groups had feared that a Reagan-appointed panel would be incapable of providing acceptable recommendations, but they conceded, these recommendations far exceed what they expected.

- F. G.

Gay Spy Wins at the Supreme Court

Washington, D.C. — The man fired by the Central Intelligence Agency because he revealed his homosexuality won an important round in his legal fight, with a Supreme Court ruling in his favor.

The man, identified only as John Doe, was rated an excellent agent by the CIA, where he worked for eight years, until his 1982 dismissal by then-Director William Casey. The CIA claimed he represented a security threat after the agent voluntarily told an agency officer that he was gay.

After his firing "in the interest of the United States," the agency and the Reagan administration maintained the CIA could fire anyone without review by the courts, due to the nature of the agency.

The Supreme Court disagreed, saying the courts may review the constitutionality of the firing.

The decision, according to legal experts, is a major setback for the CIA, and a small step forward for gay and lesbian rights.

Good News, Bad News at AIDS Conference

Stockholm — Researchers gathered at the fourth International Conference on AIDS appear to share a sense of optimism, as they learn about thousands of research projects from around the world, bearing both good and bad news on the disease.

The number of studies brought to the conference in Stockholm, Sweden, is so great that presentations take place simultaneously in nine different rooms. Still, most researchers

display their projects by tacking posters on a row of bulletin boards showing more than 3,200 studies in the battle against AIDS.

The sheer number of studies has brought optimism, although most agree a cure for AIDS, or a vaccine to prevent it, will not come in the near future.

Scientists, however, see progress in the number of ways to tackle the disease. And progress is reported in most fronts.

Vaccine tests, say researchers, continue to show promise and the development of treatments with reduced side effects has brought positive results.

The more than 7,000 scientists attending the meeting face a moving reminder of the importance of their task. Every morning they are welcomed into the meeting hall by panels from the NAMES Project, the memorial quilt for those who have died of AIDS.

-F.G

Dayton Publisher Fired for Rejecting Gay Advertising

Dayton, Ohio—The publisher of the Dayton Daily News has been fired after refusing to accept advertising from two local gay/lesbian groups.

According to a spokesperson for the Dayton Lesbian and Gay Center, the newspaper's publisher, Dennis Shire, had refused on several occasions to allow the organization to advertise an upcoming series of programs on health care. Another local group, Serenity, which offers legal services to the gay and lesbian community, organized a picket line in front of the Daily News offices after its advertising was rejected as well.

Although Shire released a statement saying that to accept the advertising would have been inconsistent with his Christian ethics, his boss, Cox Enterprises president David Easterly, said the refusal violated company policy.

"Personal feelings, religious or otherwise, cannot be allowed to override our obligation to treat people fairly," Easterly said. "As newspaper people, it's our job to defend freedom of expression for all people."

Cox Enterprises also owns the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution.

-David Tucker

AIDS Tape Banned from Gwinnett Schools

Lithonia, Ga.—An audiocassette which refers to gay men as "perverts," and includes erroneous information about how AIDS is transmitted, has been barred from further use in Gwinnett County classrooms after a parent's complaint.

The tape, part of the "Focus on the Family" series issued by evangelist Dr. James Dobson, was played in several 10th-grade health classes at Shiloh High School in Lithonia, according to principal Dr. Pat Mahon.

George Wilson of Stone Mountain, whose

daughter was among the students who heard it, complained to school officials after she told him of the "blatant errors" it contained, among them the statement that AIDS could be transmitted via kissing or the use of public toilets.

Dr. Mahon said the tape was brought into the classroom by a student who said it presented "another view," as opposed to the Red Cross AIDS unit the class was studying. Varsity head football coach Mell Hulme and assistant basketball coach Michael McCoy were the teachers who used the tape in their classes.

Wilson, who has been actively lobbying for improved health education and care in Gwinnett County schools, disagreed with this rationale for passing along such misinformation, saying, "You don't have a radical point of view on the proper way to do heart surgery."

Although he has been assured that teachers will not stray from the approved AIDS curriculum again, Wilson said the incident clearly demonstrated the need for fully-qualified staff to deal with health issues in schools, rather than "two guys who didn't know what the hell they were doing."

- David Tucker

Thailand Prime Minister Called Gay

Bangkok—Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond, who has been in office for at least eight years, has been accused of being homosexual by his opponents in the Parliament of Thailand.

Opposition party leader Chalerm Yubamrung claimed to have photographs and documentary evidence relating to what he called Prem's "peculiar behavior." He also said he would produce two young army officers to collaborate his claims at a parliamentary no-confidence debate, which had been scheduled for May 9th.

Prime Minister Prem avoided the debate by dissolving Parliament and calling new general elections for July 9. The newly elected Parliament will then make recommendations to King Bhumidol Adulyadej who will appoint the Prime Minister, the head of Thailand's government.

According to East/West Magazine of London, Prem's enjoyment of the company of young men has long been known in Bangkok. Thai gays affectionately refer to him as "Auntie Prem". However, this is the first time it has been raised publicly by his opponents. Prem, 67, is generally acknowledged to be the most popular and honest Prime Minister Thailand has had in many years.

Opposition leader Chalerm, when called a "toad" by a Prem supporter, replied, "A toad is no different from a homosexual. Months of rain cannot smooth a toad's rough skin."

"Likewise, a homosexual is always a homosexual, no matter what position he holds and how long," said Chalerm. He described an instance where he said a British cabinet minister had resigned when his homosexuality was revealed. He said anyone else in a similar position should be "man enough" to stand down.

Premier Prem, should he decide to come out, as have Representatives Barney Frank and Gerry Studds in the USA, could advance the cause of Gay Liberation in Asia by many years, even decades. Letters of encouragement and support can be sent to: Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond, Government House, Bangkok, Thailand.

- John Hubert



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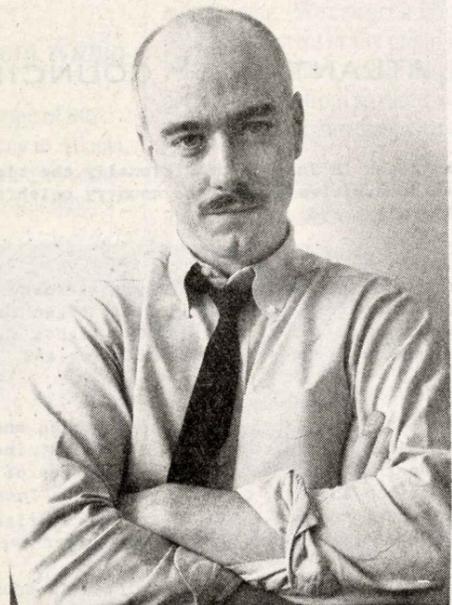
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Violence Against Lesbians and Gays Reaches Record High in 1987

Anti-gay harassment and violence remained a widespread and critical problem in 1987, according to a report released on June 7 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). A record high of 7,008 incidents were reported to NGLTF from across the United States, as compared to 4,946 incidents reported in 1986. Directed against persons because they are lesbian or gay or perceived to be so, these incidents included verbal harassment, intimidation, assault, police abuse, vandalism, arson, bomb threats and murder. The reported violence was perpetrated by lone individuals, gangs and organized hate groups, and occurred in a variety of settings—on the street, in school, on campus, in jail and prison, and even in the home.



Kevin Berrill, Director of the NGLTF Anti-Violence Project

Documented by 64 groups in 32 states and the District of Columbia, and by the National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline, the statistics gathered for last year account for only a very small fraction of the actual total. Low rates of reporting by victims and the lack of systematic data collection throughout most of the U.S. prevent a measurement of the problem's full scope. While incidents reported in 1987 are 42% higher than in 1986, it is unclear to what extent the rise reflect an increase in victimization or an increase in reporting or both.

"While our report does not claim to measure the full extent of anti-gay/lesbian harassment and violence in 1987, available data clearly demonstrate that the problem continues to be severe," said Kevin Berrill, Director of NGLTF's Anti-violence Project. "These episodes occur at a time of widespread attacks against members of the Arab, Asian, Black, Hispanic, Jewish, and Native American communities. Regardless of the group targeted, any attack motivated by bigotry is intended to violate and isolate not just the victim but all those who are different."

The NGLTF report also highlighted violence surveys completed in 1987 at Pennsylvania State University, Rutgers University, and in Vermont, Maryland and elsewhere. All surveys showed high rates of victimization, and provided additional evidence of the pervasiveness of anti-gay violence.

Anti-gay/lesbian attacks reported to NGLTF for 1987, included the following:

- On September 13, in Long Beach, California, three young men assaulted a gay man with AIDS, breaking his hip and causing other injuries.

- On July 12, in San Francisco, California, a heterosexual male tourist was stabbed to death because he was mistakenly perceived to be gay by his assailant.

- On January 17, in Shelby, North Carolina, several men linked by officials to the White Patriot Party entered a gay-oriented adult bookstore and shot five men, killing three. According to an informant, the killings were intended to "avenge Yahweh on homosexuals".

- On March 17, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a man brutally assaulted a lesbian at a local bar after she told him her sexual orientation.

- On October 6, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, three youths wielding Chinese "throwing stars" stormed into a gay bar and assaulted patrons.

More than one-third of the organizations reporting to NGLTF noted that anti-gay/lesbian

violence was more frequent in 1987 than in 1986, including the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force, which received a 39% increase in violence reports. The New York City Gay and

Lesbian Anti-violence Project, a gay victim assistance agency, saw 14% more clients in 1987, and San Francisco's Community United Against Violence (CUAV) reported a 14% increase in anti-gay violence victims seeking services.

Most of the groups reporting to NGLTF indicated that fear and hatred associated with AIDS had contributed to the problem of anti-gay violence in 1987: 15% (1,042) of all incidents reported for last year, and 5% (40) of all physical assaults, involved verbal reference to AIDS by the perpetrators or

were directed against persons with AIDS.

In recent months, anti-gay and lesbian violence has been the subject of a major National Institute of

Justice (NIJ) study of bias-motivated violence, completed in October of 1987 and has been addressed in legislation passed overwhelmingly by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The October, 1987, NIJ study concluded that "homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims of hate violence today". The Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HR 3193) passed the House of Representatives on May 18, 1988. A companion bill awaits action in the Senate. The bill mandates federal collection of statistics on violence motivated by prejudice based on "race, religion, homosexuality or heterosexuality, or ethnicity". H.R. 3193 is the first piece of federal legislation to pass either body of Congress which favorably addressed an issue of specific concern to the gay/lesbian community.

NGLTF urges all victims of anti-gay/lesbian harassment and violence to contact local anti-violence projects where they exist or the National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline at (800) 221-7044 or (212) 807-6016 within New York State.

"Creature Patrol" Defendants Face Court Date During Pride Week

The Atlanta Police Department's attempt to clean up Cypress Street in Midtown, dubbed the "Creature Patrol" by participating officers, will itself come under scrutiny as two men arrested on questionable charges June 2nd begin the fight to clear their names. Ron Ray, arrested for driving without a license and impeding traffic, and Ron Ledford, arrested for being drunk and disorderly and impeding another (the officer) in their lawful occupation, plan to fight the charges in court and through the Police Department's civilian complaints division.

The charges arose when Ray stopped at the corner of Cypress and 8th streets to let a passenger out of his car. He was stopped by Officers Jackson and Brown who were preparing to leave the area after conducting a several hour-long road block at that corner. According to sources, the charge of impeding traffic is rarely used, and when it is used it is normally an excuse to detain suspects while searching for more damaging evidence. The only other charge against Ray was for driving without a license, which he attempted to explain to the officers was recently stolen.

Ledford, who was asked to identify Ray by Officer Brown, was arrested after becoming exasperated at Brown's attitude toward the men. Although he was arrested for being drunk and disorderly, Ledford was never given a breathalyzer test to determine if he really was drunk.

The most galling fact to the two men

was not just the picayune charges they were eventually arrested for, it was the presumption of guilt by the officers, and then the search for any technical illegalities they might have committed. Said Ledford, "that guy (Brown) has got a problem. I don't think he can apply the law equally. He had already decide to arrest and harass me beforehand."

"There was no basis for the charges. It was pure harassment," he continued. Department spokespersons have denied any wrong-doing on the part of either the officers or the department. Ray and Ledford are currently consulting with the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter (Gay CLU) on their defense.

Gay CLU president, Cathy Woolard, stressed that witnesses of the night's activities should contact her. Her number is 377-8312. According to Woolard, it is also important that the courtroom be packed with Ray and Ledford supporters, both to lend the two men emotional support, and to remind the judicial system that the community is keeping an eye out to ensure that claims of harassment are not ignored.

Ledford and Ray's court date is set for Friday, June 24th at 1:00 in City Hall. The 24th is, ironically, during the middle of Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '88.

Complaints may be forwarded to Public Safety Commissioner George Napper's office at 658-7845.

—Chris Duncan

MACGLO

From Page 1

Stay tuned to the *Southern Voice* for more.

The statement quoted in the latest issue of *Business Atlanta*, where a spokesperson for Bone's Restaurant says of gay "we don't have those kinds of people apply for jobs here" received much attention. Bone's is now the subject of a boycott by lesbians and gays until they agree to retract, in print, the published statement.

Other unfriendly businesses mentioned: Rich's and Macy's. The retailers were asked to display NAMES Project panels from the Quilt in their windows. They refused. MACGLO agreed to have members and supporters send protest letters with pieces of

cut up Rich's and Macy's credit cards. Neiman Marcus did display quilt panels.

On a positive note, a letter sent to Cox Enterprises thanked them for firing a newspaper man from the *Dayton Daily News* who refused to publish an AIDS education ad sent by a gay and lesbian group. Southern Baptists are sending Cox protest notes for the same action.

The gay and lesbian community has clearly come of age in Atlanta. And the energy and enthusiasm of each involved community member are making a tangible difference in Atlanta.

—F.G.

MACGLO meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Peachtree Branch Library at 7:00 PM. 242-2342 for information.

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VIEWPOINTS

Guest Editorial

The New Activism: Heed the Call

Twenty years ago, presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy garnered the nation's attention by asserting that "one person can make a difference." Urging every American to take part in the political process, Kennedy insisted that one person's effort, one person's vote, one person's presence could determine the outcome of monumental issues facing America.

Today, more than ever before, we must heed Kennedy's call for individual participation. Our country can move forward — particularly in the area of human rights — only when individuals accept personal responsibility for bringing about necessary changes. And, that responsibility translates into activism.

Throughout the nation's gay and lesbian community, a call for New Activism is now being sounded as a result of the National March on Washington in October 1987, where 650,000 lesbians and gays demonstrated a strength that was astounding even to participants. It was a case where individuals made a difference because those individuals produced a crowd whose size and commitment depicted a well-organized and united gay and lesbian community. For the first time, millions of Americans acknowledged that the gay and lesbian community was a force capable of commanding attention and respect.

Now you must become a member of the New Activism movement. By participating in Atlanta's first Lesbian and Gay Pride March following the historical march in Washington, you can ensure that the political clout of the gay community is recognized by metro Atlanta citizens and public officials. Only through your personal involvement can you hope to protect the human rights of America's lesbians and gays.

-Michael Lomax

Michael Lomax is the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County.

Editor's Note: Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, Fulton County Commission Chair Michael Lomax and Dekalb County Chief Executive Officer Manuel Maloof were invited to write Guest Editorials for the Lesbian and Gay Pride Week issue of Southern Voice. Mr. Young and Mr. Maloof's offices blamed beauracratish mishaps for their non-participation. Perhaps Mr. Lomax would be willing to teach both of them the proper way to run an office.



Proclamation



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the last week in June is traditionally the time when gay and lesbian communities across the country celebrate their heritage and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the last week in June is also the anniversary week of the Stonewall conflict, the conflict that began the modern movement toward affirming and recognizing the rights and contributions of lesbian and gay persons in this country; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Lesbian and Gay Organizations is sponsoring a week-long series of events, including a Family Night Dinner at the Country Place, a series of plays and revues at the Horizon Theater, a Prom Nite at the Inman Trolley Barn, recreational tournaments, an Interfaith Sunrise Service at Trinity United Methodist Church, and other events; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee is sponsoring a march and rally on June 26th, 1988, to be followed by an afternoon of live music and festivities in Piedmont Park; and

WHEREAS, "Gay Pride" is the traditional designation for such events in cities across the country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Atlanta that Sunday, June 19, 1988 through Sunday, June 26, 1988 be designated "GAY PRIDE WEEK" in the City of Atlanta, and that Sunday, June 26, 1988 be designated "GAY PRIDE DAY" in the City of Atlanta.

This resolution, introduced by Mary Davis, and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Valentine, Maddox, Banks, Pitts, McCarty, Asher, Myrtle Davis, Campbell, Simama, and Finley, was adopted by City Council June 6, 1988. Mayor Andrew Young returned this resolution June 13, 1988 without signature. It became law per Section 2043, 1974 Charter of the City of Atlanta.

Atlanta City Council President Marvin Arrington requested that his name be removed from this proclamation, saying that he did not feel that it provided a good example for his sons.

SOUTHERN VOICE

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Proclamation

CITY OF ATLANTA

Office of the Mayor

FROM JUNE 18-26, 1988, THE ATLANTA LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE WILL SPONSOR THE 1988 GAY PRIDE WEEK.

THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION WILL INCLUDE A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL UNDER THE THEME "CELEBRATION OF LIFE." GAY PRIDE WEEK PROMISES TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS OF PAST EVENTS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS.

WE COMMEND ALL WHO HELPED TO COORDINATE THIS CELEBRATION AND EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR A FESTIVE WEEK.

THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTA, I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN EXPRESSING MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ATLANTA LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR NUMEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPIRIT AND VITALITY OF OUR CITY.

TO THAT END, I, ANDREW YOUNG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF JUNE 18-26, 1988,

AS

"LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS WEEK"



Andrew Young
ANDREW YOUNG
MAYOR

Proclamation



DEKALB COUNTY

WHEREAS, From June 18-26, 1988, the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee will sponsor the 1988 Gay Pride Week; and

WHEREAS, This year's celebration will include a variety of activities for the enjoyment of all under the theme "Celebration of Life." Gay Pride Week promises to build on the success of past events to focus attention of human rights and individual freedoms; and

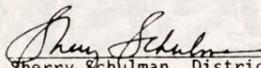
WHEREAS, We commend all who helped to coordinate this celebration and extend best wishes for a festive week; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the people of DeKalb, I take great pleasure in expressing my congratulations to the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee for their numerous contributions to the spirit and vitality of our County;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, The Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, proclaims the week of June 18-26, 1988, as Lesbian and Gay Rights Week."

Manuel J. Maloof
Chief Executive Officer

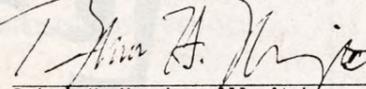
Jean Williams, District 1


Sherry Schulman, District 2

John Evans, District 3

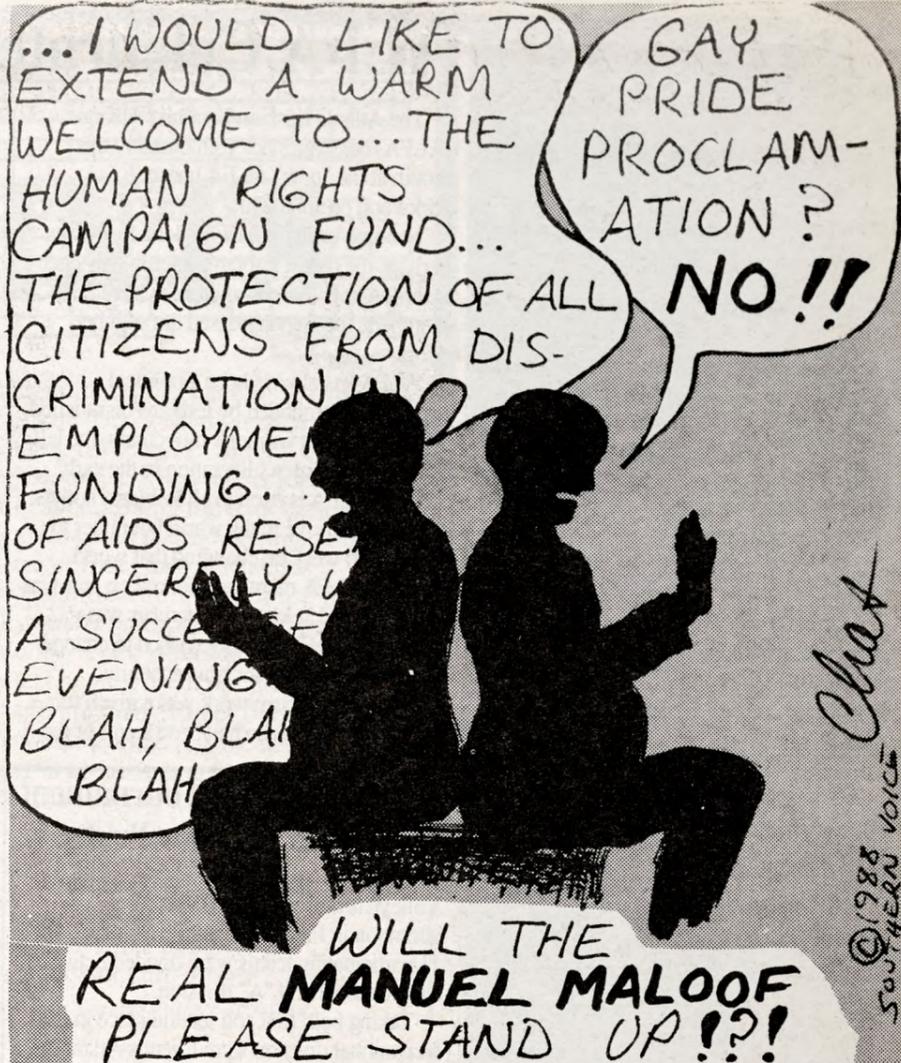
Robert J. Morris, District 4

John S. Fletcher, Jr., District 5


Brince H. Manning, III, At-Large

Robert E. Lanier, At-Large

While the above proclamation speaks for itself with its absence of certain signatures, we thought our readers would like to know that the following Dekalb County Commissioners are up for re-election in 1988: Jean Williams, District 1 and John S. Fletcher, Jr., District 5. Brince Manning III, At-Large, who signed the proclamation, is also up for re-election. Need we say more?



Jones Needs Intensive Education

To the Editor:

Congratulations on a job well done. Your publication is first rate and I hope that it continues to get the support of the community. I am taking this occasion to write in response to the interview with Ben Jones published in your May 26, 1988, issue. It is a sad day when the frontrunner for any Democratic party nomination espouses some of the misguided views expressed by Mr. Jones. Although he would certainly be an improvement over the illustrious Pat Swindall, your front cover quip that Mr. Jones is "not perfect" is quite an understatement. He claims that he is willing to be educated. If he is going to be any kind of candidate that the gay and lesbian community can support, his education had better start early and be intensive.

The tenor of Mr. Jones' views first surfaces in his discussion of HIV testing. He advocates widespread testing so that "AIDS carriers are identified" and then hedges on protecting those who test seropositive from discrimination (and thus do not even have AIDS) by saying that "the public safety comes before someone's job protection." Doctors widely acknowledge that individuals who test sero-positive pose no danger in most normal workplaces and that many people with AIDS can continue to work depending on their strength and the type of infection they are currently battling. He also seems inclined to let insurance companies screen all insurance applicants for HIV antibodies, which would lead to even more discrimination and add a further strain on the meager social services now available for sick people without insurance.

Another interesting window into Mr. Jones' mind is his rambling commentary on civil rights legislation, which he purportedly thinks extends only to those characteristics that are "birthrights." Mr. Jones claims that homosexuality is personal behavior and thus should be unprotected. Without even getting into a discussion about whether sexual orientation is a birthright, Mr. Jones might be surprised to know that most civil rights legislation protects religious preference (obviously a personal lifestyle choice and not a birthright) as well as race, color, sex, and national origin. As for his ridiculous argument that the founding fathers did not intend civil rights protection to extend to sexual orientation, Mr. Jones should be made aware of the fact that the founding fathers could never have imagined that civil rights protection would ever be extended to blacks and women.

Mr. Jones' prejudicial views again surface when he is questioned about lesbian and gay parenting. When told about the Leigh VanderEls case, he states that the case saddens him (how liberal) but that he would not support legislation to change the original result. He states that the traditional side of him feels that children need the traditional male/female, mother/father roles to balance the child. After working with abused children, it is clear to me that unconditional love, and not the sexual orientation of the parent(s), is what leads to healthy childhood development. Anyway, with today's high divorce rate and the increase in women in the workforce, it is debatable how many children really get the "traditional" background that Mr. Jones feels is necessary.

Mr. Jones claims to have a lot of gay and lesbian friends. Have they stood by silently while he has espoused his essentially anti-gay views? I urge all concerned voters to attempt to influence Mr. Jones' thinking and to educate him, or in the alternative, to campaign for a candidate who will support the rights of all Americans to live free of discrimination.

Sincerely,
David W. Purcell

Ed. note - Ben Jones' campaign headquarters is located at 2139 North Decatur Road. Mr. Jones has repeatedly urged 4th district constituents to drop by, or call him at (404) 636-1888.

Lesbian & Gay Pride Week '88

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, June 21st

Higher Ground: Voices of AIDS—opens at the Horizon Theatre in Little 5 Points. Presented by the Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project, Inc. (SAME) and the National Association of People With AIDS/Atlanta Chapter (NAPWA). Atlanta playwright Rebecca Ranson's *Higher Ground* is based on over 40 interviews with people affected by AIDS—PWAs, PWARCs, their lovers, friends and care providers. First presented at The NAMES Project, this show is a must see. Show begins at 8:30 p.m., tickets are \$15. Call 874-7926 for reservations.

Friday, June 24th

Bet Haverim—is sponsoring a pot-luck seder dinner at 7:30 p.m. at the Quaker House, followed at 8:30 with a lesbian & gay liberation service. Call 642-3467 for further information.

Sunday, June 26th

Sunrise Interfaith Service—6:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 265 Washington Street. 242-2342.

March!—12:30 p.m. March from the Atlanta Civic Center to Piedmont Park. 2:00-9:00 speakers, entertainment, music, food, beverages, booths, tables and a concert.

AIDS Memorial Service—All Saints Episcopal Church, 634 West Peachtree Street, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

ALFA Celebrates Her 16th With New Vitality

The Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA) celebrates her 16th birthday this month at the "new" ALFA house in Kirkwood on June 25th.

Looking back on ALFA's long history as perhaps the oldest lesbian center in existence is thrilling. Hundreds of women have been members; thousands, passed through her doors.

ALFA has always been a political organization, founded by lesbians dissatisfied with the straight women's movement, the left wing, and gay men's liberation in the early 1970's. ALFA is open to all lesbians, not just to help us survive in the world but rather to move us to work on changing that world.

Early ALFA members worked on anti-war activities, and at least one member was sought by the FBI. Many wished to change to a more equitable socialist economic system. Anti-racism work was a given for ALFA members who had been a part of the

Civil Rights struggles.

As the years have passed, process has changed more than ideals. We have a better understanding of our emotional and spiritual needs that must be nourished to prevent physical and intellectual burn-out. With the swing of the country to the right, fewer coalitions exist for social change actions. And media identification of the women's movement and personal success with flashy images of material gains and waste have affected our outer lives.

Within, ALFA has been energized by such diverse elements as a wiccan coven, those fighting our chemical addictions, and now Fat Dykes, a group working not only to support our fat selves but also to change a thin-identified world. What in another organization might have become a diet group has in ALFA metamorphosed itself into some of the most radical thinking in the country today—thinking that may begin to move us

forward out of our "lookism," the excuse for much of the discrimination that oppresses all of us.

ALFA now supports a non-nuclear world where once she viewed that issue as diversionary. She talks about "ensuring the world's living and non-living resources are used in a responsible manner for the benefit of all," rather than claiming to be socialist. The potlucks and dances, *Atalanta*, and letters to new lesbians go on. The tense discussions go on. No change will ever come without discomfort and struggle.

- Elizabeth Knowlton

Elizabeth Knowlton is a 14-year member of ALFA.

ALFA's 16th Birthday party is on June 25th at 4:00 p.m. Call 522-5623 or 627-5619 for further information and directions.

HVA Volleyball Tournament Primes Park for Pride

Over 300 people joined the Atlanta Volleyball Association (HVA) for an afternoon in Piedmont Park on Sunday. The 11 participating teams were divided between a recreational and "A" division.

Taking both first and second place in the recreational division were Friends Atlanta teams, while the Hot Diesels took first place in division A. Over \$500 was raised at the event, \$150 of which will go to the Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee.

A series of volleyball clinics hosted by HVA will begin July 7th at the Helenic Gymnasium on Piedmont Ave. The cost will be pro-rated, and will include both skills training and pick-up games.

Please contact Larry Lucas at 875-0700 for more information. HVA also invites you to join them on Sundays in Winn Park from 2-6 p.m. for free pick-up games.

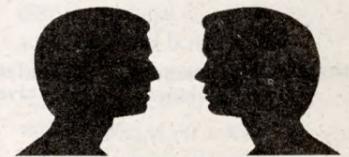
Softball Powerhouses Hit Atlanta July 1

The 5th annual Atlanta Armory Classic softball tournament will take place July 1-3, 1988 at Southside Park near the Hartsfield-Atlanta Airport. Organizers of the double-elimination tournament expect this to be the biggest year yet—both in number of teams represented and spectators.

At least 25 open division teams and 10 women's division teams are expected to participate. The teams represent a national pool of softball talent, and promise to make the event a must see.

The games will begin Friday at 7:00 p.m., and continue from 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 p.m. on Saturday. The championship rounds will be held Sunday to crown the winners.

Call 881-9280 for more information and directions to Southside Park.



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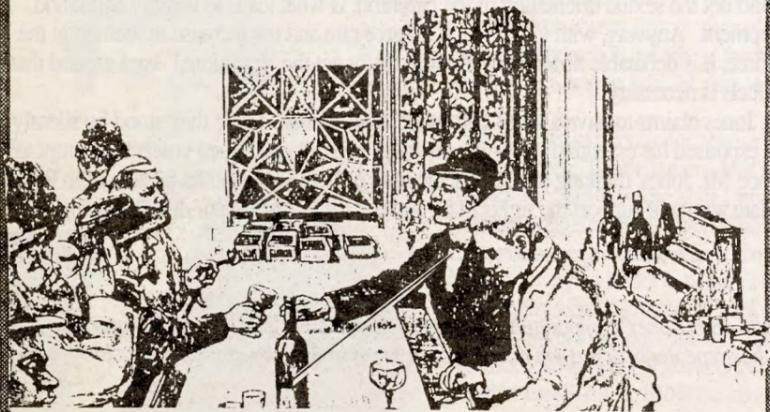
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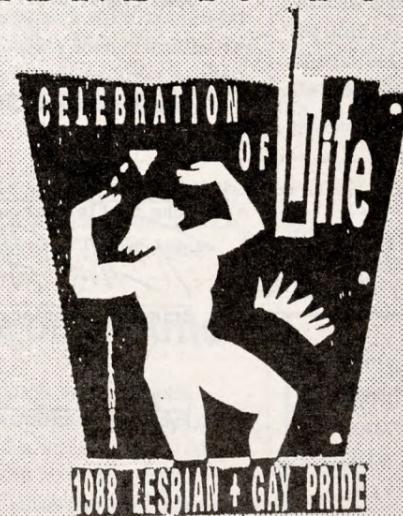
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Pride...

WHERE IS YOURS?



MAYBE IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

March to Piedmont Park
Sunday, June 26, 1988.

Gather at the Civic Center at
12:30 P.M.

WomonWrites 1988 - 10 Years and Growing

Unusual for more than just its longevity, WomonWrites—a Southeastern Lesbian Writers' Conference—celebrated her 10th year June 1-5, 1988. From the beginning in 1978, the original planners were committed to "being out" with their conference. Today WomonWrites is one of the few lesbian writers' conferences in the country and perhaps the oldest.

A distinction of this conference stems from its "no star" philosophy. The attending lesbians teach the workshops and read their work to other participants. You get critique on your work only if you ask for it. The idea is to create a community of lesbian writers ranging from beginners to nationally known, who provide each other a place to write and to be heard. Each year the current planners ask for women to organize the conference for the next year. This passing on of the responsibility of the conference from year to year, very often to first-time attendees, helps keep new energy in the planning.

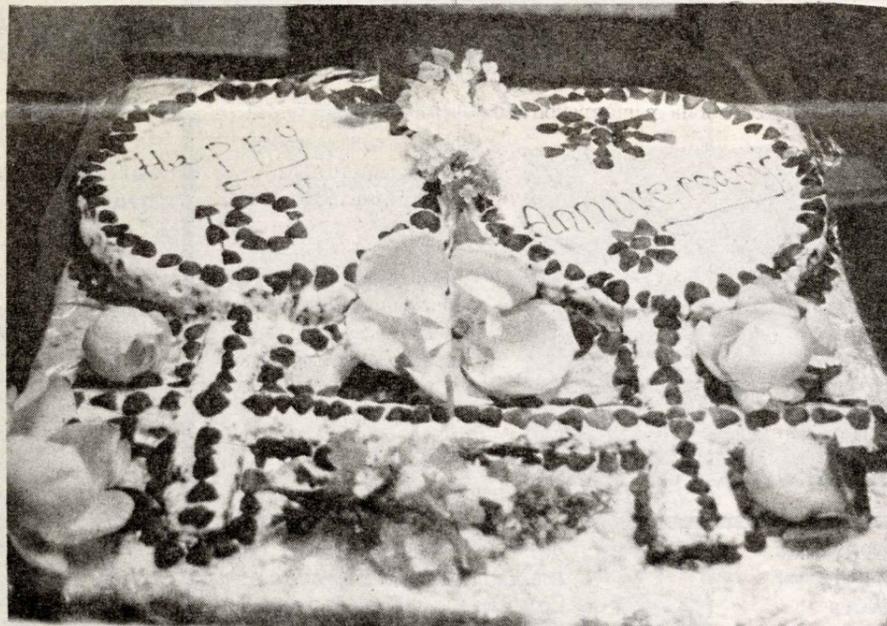
During the ending circle each woman has the opportunity to speak about her experience at WomonWrites. Difficult issues often emerge. Written evaluations bring up concerns that the next year's planners will address in their fall organizing meeting.

One concern throughout the years has been the lack of racial diversity at the conference. An ongoing effort and commitment has been to make the conference a safe place for lesbians of color which has included outreach and antiracism workshops at the conference. In many ways the problems of our society are



Writing during free-time on Radclyffe Hall porch.

Georgia, just down the road from a barbecue pit and who knows how many Free-Will Baptist churches, as a southeastern lesbian writers conference that has existed every summer for ten years. We aren't supposed to exist, and we don't exist in the eyes of much of mainstream society. But goddamn it we do exist and that in itself is revolutionary I think. For five days we are like a clan come home and like any homecoming it's never perfect, never what I expect and always so



mirrored in the conference. The conference remains predominately white and middle class.

The conference is diverse in age range. Women from early twenties to their seventies bring a richness to the conference as we learn about our lesbian culture and past, and look forward toward the future.

As I write this piece I am wearing my WomonWrites T-shirt (designed by Feral Willcox). Below the name appears an outline of the Southeastern United States—complete with flamingos, palm trees, mountains, cows, alligators, armadillos, peaches, thunder clouds, birds and a labryis—a lesbian tourist map of sorts. The map is open at the top, a vessel to be filled with ideas, words, and actions. WomonWrites is such a vessel, bringing lesbian writers together to share our work.

Celeste T. writes the following about her WomonWrites '88 experience:

"As I sat in the closing circle waiting for my turn to take the shell and talk, I just kept thinking how remarkable it was that we even existed—120 women writers, 120 lesbian writers, sitting in a dining hall in middle

much more than I can every imagine beforehand. For five days sharing work in the workshops, getting to hear lesbians read their writing out loud, no matter what level of writing they are at, no matter if I like or agree with everything I hear, feeds me, and has come to feel like the beginning and end of each year; a point in my own life and writing by which I mark the other 360 days."

WomonWrites happens around the same time every year (the first weekend in June). Look for flyers in Charis Books and More beginning in March. The sliding scale fee which includes a complete waiver option peaks around \$60 or \$70 for the full conference.

- Amanda Gable

"Street Theater" Marks Stonewall's 19th

"Street Theatre," an outlandish comedy commemorating the 19th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York City's Greenwich Village, opens in Atlanta June 27th at the Georgia-Pacific Auditorium.

"Street Theatre" recreates June 27, 1969 when gays barricaded themselves inside Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn and for two nights rioted against police harassment. While the play entertains as a comedy, it also displays the resolve and courage of the leather types, drag queens and assorted other "misfits" who sparked the modern-day lesbian and gay rights movement.

This production of the Doric Wilson play represents the debut of The Company We Keep, a company committed to gay theatre in Atlanta.

"The Company We Keep was formed to tap acting and production talent from the gay and lesbian community and those sympathetic to its concerns," says Lee Harrington, general manager and founder, "while offering positive and honestly presented images to thousands of lesbians and gays."

Produced and directed by Harrington, "Street Theatre" stars Aaron Bowie and Timothy Kevin as Ceil and Boom Boom, two hilarious street queens. Kevin has starred in the Atlanta productions of Rebecca Ranson's "For

Love and For Life" and Jim Grimsley's "Mister Universe."

The June 27th performance will also be a benefit for LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians).

The play opens at the Poor Man's Gallery on June 30th, the second anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Hardwick v. Bowers* which left Georgia as one of 26 states with sodomy legislation still on the books



The cast of "Street Theater"

The opening performance at the Georgia-Pacific Auditorium will begin at 8 P.M. and tickets are \$10.00. Other performances are at the Poor Man's Gallery, 1055 Peachtree Street, June 30-July 9 and July 16-23 at 8 P.M. and on July 15th at 7:00 P.M. Tickets for these performances are \$8.00. Call 875-7500 for reservations.

			"Higher Ground: Voices of AIDS" June 21-25 8:30 pm
			Horizon Theatre in the L5P Community Center 1083 Austin Ave. Call 874-7926 for reservations (tickets \$15)
			Proceeds benefit Atlanta NAPWA, (Atlanta Association of People With AIDS) and SAME, (Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project)

THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

HIGHER GROUND: VOICES OF AIDS—Through June 25th at the Horizon Theatre in Little Five Points. This new play by Rebecca Ranson is based on interviews with more than 40 PWAs, PWARCs, lovers, friends and care providers. Showtime is 8:30 pm each night and admission is \$15.00. Get tickets at Charis Books and More or call 874-7926 for reservations.

ALFA SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY PARTY—June 25th at the ALFA House. This annual celebration of the birth of the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance will begin at 4 pm and will be a pot-luck supper. The party is open to all women and female children, and male children under 12. Don't forget to bring a birthday present! To get more details on what to bring and where to go, call 522-5623 or 627-5619.

PRIDE DAY—June 26th—Lesbian and Gay Pride Week 1988 concludes with a full day of events, beginning at sunrise with an Interfaith worship service conducted at the Trinity United Methodist Church near the Capitol. The service will begin at 6:30 am. Gather at the Civic Center at 12:30 pm for the march to Piedmont Park where activities are planned until 9 pm. There will be speakers, entertainment, food, beverages, tons of fun and PRIDE! Call 662-6748 for details.

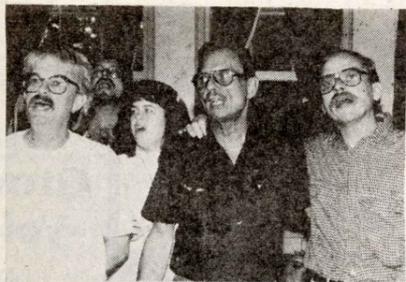
STREET THEATRE—June 27th, a play by Doric Wilson presented by "The Company We Keep." Commemorating the riots of Stonewall, the play is being presented on the 19th anniversary of that D-day in gay history. Proceeds will benefit LEGAL (Legislative Equality for Gays and Lesbians) and admission is \$10.00. The performance will be at 8:00 pm at the Georgia-Pacific Auditorium, 133 Peachtree Street. Call 875-7500 for more information.



THURSDAY

23

•"Higher Ground: Voices of AIDS", Through June 25th. 8:30 p.m. 874-7926.



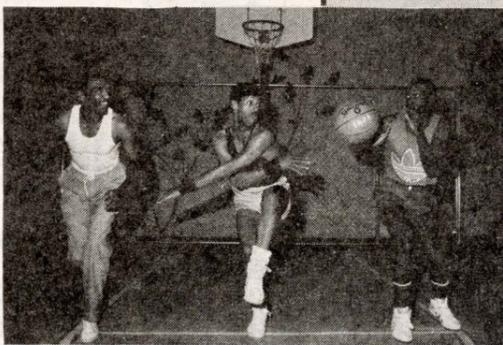
•Dixie Dregs reunion concert at Center Stage. 8:00 p.m. \$15. 873-2500.

FRIDAY

24

•The Paper Dolls at The Little Five Points Community Pub. June 23-25.

•Jomandi Productions "That Serious He-Man Ball" at the Academy Theatre. Through June 26th. 892-0880.



SATURDAY

25

•ALFA 16th birthday party. ALFA House. 4:00 p.m. 522-5623.

•"Dialogue—Lesbians—What kind of racists are we?" A work in progress presented at the Horizon Theatre. \$3.00. 584-9671.

•Virginia-Highlands Second Annual Summerfest, North Highland Avenue from Ponce de Leon to Amsterdam. Food, entertainment and more all day long.

SUNDAY

26

LESBIAN AND GAY

•Lesbian/Gay Pride Center at 12:30 p.m. Park!!

•AIDS Memorial Service. All Saints Church. 4:00-6:00 p.m. 872-0600.

•Cass Kennedy Group at Clarence Foster's in Buckhead. 8:30 p.m. 351-0002.



30

•"Movin' On with Debbie Hiers", Charis Books and More. A celebratory reading and booksigning in honor of the publication of Debbie's first book of poetry. 7:30 p.m. 524-0304.

•inside/OUT, the international Gay and Lesbian radio magazine. WRFG-FM 89.3. 6:00 p.m. every Thursday.

1

•5th Annual Atlanta Armory Classic softball tournament. Southside Field. Through July 3. 881-9280.

Bob Schwartz of Burkhardt's Pub, the leading team in the Open Division for the Atlanta Armory Classic.



2

•SUPER SLAM '88, Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam, Expose and more at the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. \$15.00. 1:00 p.m. 577-9600.

•Harlem Renaissance exhibit at the High Museum of Art. Through September 4. 892-HIGH.



3

•Alabama Shakespeare Festival (205) 277-2273.

•Atlanta Jazz Series, 2:00-8:00 p.m. Grant Park. Free admission. 653-...

SOUTHERN VOICE

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7:30PM-Highland Branch Library

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Piedmont Park

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Committee
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next year!

So
&

Next Week's Highlights

HARLEM RENAISSANCE: ART OF BLACK AMERICA—June 28th-September 4th at the High Museum of Art. This landmark exhibition is the first to explore the cultural awakening and artistic activity of Harlem in the 1920's. Featured in the exhibit are painters Aaron Douglas, William H. Johnson and Palmer Hayden, and photographer James Van Der Zee. More than 135 works will be on exhibit, dating from 1900 to 1964. Museum hours are 10 am-6 pm Tuesday through Saturday, until 9 pm every Wednesday, and Sunday noon-5 pm. Admission is \$3, except \$1 for students and senior citizens; children 12 and under are free. Call 892-HIGH for further information.

CLASSICS FIVE—the 5th annual Atlanta Armory Classic Softball tournament, July 1st-3rd at Southside Field, near the Atlanta airport, on Jonesboro Road. This year's tournament is expected to be the biggest yet. Thirty-five teams from across the country, including all your favorite Atlanta teams, will be competing in both the open and women's divisions. 881-9280 for information.

JULY FOURTH—Enjoy some traditional Independence Day activities! For runners and spectators, there's the early morning Peachtree Road Race. Fireworks enthusiasts can view displays at Lenox Square and Piedmont Park or take in a ball game at the stadium and enjoy fireworks afterwards. And in between there's the annual Salute to America Parade down Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta.

ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL—through July 3rd. Highlights at this year's festival are "A Streetcar Named Desire" on the Octagon Stage and "A Bold Stroke for a Wife" on the Festival Stage. Days and performance times vary. Ticket prices are \$14-\$16. Take I-85 south to Montgomery, exit 6. (205) 277-2273 is the number for details..

MONDAY

27

•"Street Theatre". 8 p.m. Georgia-Pacific Auditorium. \$10. 875-7500.

•BWMT Rap Group Topic: "Do I Want to Know? The pros and cons of the HIV antibody test." 7:30 p.m. 523-8285.

4

•Salute to America Parade

- Atlanta Braves with fireworks display after the game.
- Peachtree Road Race.
- Fireworks at Lenox Square and Piedmont Park.

**WAVE THAT FLAG, HONEY!
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY**

TUESDAY

28

•"Anything Goes" at The Performance Gallery. \$3.00. 874-6882.

•"My Husband is Going to Kill Me", a chilling account of domestic violence. GPTV Channel 3. 9:00 p.m.

5

•Showing of mixed media pieces by William Jay George at Club Rio. Through August 21 in the upstairs lounge. 525-7467.

WEDNESDAY

29

•"Ralph McGill: The Conscience of the South". Downtown branch, Atlanta Public Library. Noon-1:00 p.m. Free panel discussion presented by the Atlanta Historical Society. 261-1837.

6

•Atlanta Venture Sports Volleyball. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Wynn Park (behind Colony Square). Every Wednesday.

•Sarah Vaughn, ASO Summer Pops series, Chastain Park. 8:30 p.m. \$10.50-\$21. 892-2414.



ND GAY PRIDE '88
de Day - Gather at Civic
n. and march to Piedmont

nts Episcopal Church.



last weekend.

m.
7160 or 653-7144.



S.A.M.E.
theastern Arts, Media
Education Project, Inc.

Higher Ground:
Voices of AIDS
through June 25th
Horizon Theatre
Little 5 Points
Community Center
1083 Austin Ave.
8:30 p.m. \$15.00
874-7926



1132 W. Peachtree St.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309
for further information call:
(404) 874-7926

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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 gays 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, or write: PO Box 5502, Atlanta, Ga. 30307.

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 and the Ga. Dept. of Human Resources.

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.

GALA- Georgia Tech Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Every Thursday at 7:30 PM. 676-1339 or 352-9213. GALA, Programs Area, Ga. Tech, Atlanta, GA. 30332.

GANG- Greater Atlanta Naturist Group. For gay men who enjoy nude outdoor and social activities. Not a sex club. Nude camping, swimming, parties, etc. several times per month. For info send SASE to: GANG, PO Box 7546, Atlanta, GA 30357.

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. 242-2342.

First MCC Atlanta- Metropolitan Community Church. 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. Same sex Holy Unions performed. 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. 2nd Monday 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. 3rd Sunday of each month. Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage. 373-5830.

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 other women in a pleasant atmosphere. Offers timely programs of interest to the community, reaches out to older women and women with special needs.

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GAPAC News

Gá-pac (n): How It Sounds Is What We Are — Atlanta's Local Gay Political Action Committee
P.O. Box 8420 Atlanta, Georgia 30306 • 888-0510

Volume I • Number 3

Summer 1988

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UNSPEAKABLE QUOTES

. . . . in Twin Falls, Idaho, [Vice President Bush] said of the President to a Republican rally: "For seven and a half years, I have worked alongside him, and I am proud to be his partner. We have had triumphs, we have made mistakes, we have had sex . . ."

There was a stunned moment of silence in the audience, and Mr Bush hastened to add: "We have had setbacks." After a roar of laughter, the Vice President observed: "I feel like a javelin thrower who won the coin toss and elected to receive."

The New York Times,
May 12, 1988, p 10

"We must put as our priority the protection of the majority not the alleged rights of the minority." [Dr Julian "Hutch" Hutchins comments on the need to redirect the federal government's efforts to combat AIDS. Hutchins is seeking the Republican nomination to run against Rep Ed Jenkins, Georgia's 9th district congressional representative.]

The Atlanta Constitution,
May 24, 1988, p B10

The audio tape, played last week in at least two classes [in Gwinnett County's Shiloh High School] by varsity head football coach Mel Hulme and assistant basketball coach Michael McCoy, referred to homosexuals as "perverts" and said acquired immune deficiency syndrome can be transmitted by kissing and by public toilet seats. It was released by radio minister James Dobson. June 7, 1988, p B2
The Atlanta Constitution,

MARCH

JUNE 26th

Civic Center to Piedmont Park.
Look for the GAPAC
banner and join us!

ADVENT OF LESBIAN PARTICIPATION WILL IMPACT GAY POLITICS

It showed at the March on Washington. It showed at the HRCF dinner. It's showing in LEGAL's and GAPAC's new Boards and volunteer participation. Long awaited, the name of the game is: parity, sweet parity.

As critical a reception as artificially-inspired "quotas" generally receive, they seem to persist in effectiveness. Whether the March Committee was the first to insist upon gender parity or not, they became the template for such on gay/lesbian boards and committees across the country.

Aside from the more obvious benefits of diverse perspectives applied to the work at hand, the parity trend has had perhaps a more forceful impact: the increasingly visible participation of lesbians working with gay men in the political process.

Traditionally, "men always seemed to be the main players," said Diana Refsland of the HRCF Dinner Committee, "and women the cheerleaders. Women operated in a different sphere, with the larger arena being the man's domain. But as women emerged nationally through the women's movement, local participation increased."



ELECTION ODD AND ENDS START ADDING UP

By MJ Murray

As the campaigns get under way, bits of information filter into the GAPAC sphere, and alternately float around or get carefully filed away for future reference. Rather like the way particles of dust and innocuous hairs seemingly suddenly congeal into the monster dustball that threatens to obliterate your living room, these little pieces of information start coming together as the day of electoral reckoning comes closer. Loof for our "gay slate" in the Southern Voice.

One giant piece of consideration was published in a recent Southern Voice: a rather disturbing interview with Ben Jones, who seems to feel that obfuscation (or at least, lack of commitment) will suffice with the gay community. Jones left the distressing impression that gay voters are not sophisticated enough to separate the wheat from the chaff, or that we believe that dumping Swindall is sufficient reward, winning candidate regardless. (It's

The equal representation on the HRCF Board did make a difference, agreed Co-Chair Jackie Johnson. "The balanced distribution of power brought a real working together. Women spoke up loudly and clearly; each voice was heard within limits. It was a good experience."

Back in the dark old pre-March days, there were rumblings and grumblings. From the women there was criticism about lack of attention to women's issues by gay/lesbian groups. From the men, there was distress that the "/lesbian" was more the expression of a wish than a reality, because there *were* no lesbians involved, or precious few. The Great Pursuit of the Lesbian began. Some lesbians, identified as alternately cynical or realistic, muttered that this was more in the pursuit of political correctness than a genuine wish for the women's involvement.

Aside from the real sense of defeat or rage that many women and lesbians feel in a patriarchal society, at least part of the foregoing absence of popular involvement can be chalked up to early and fervent separatism, (still alive and well in the womyn's or womyn's separatist communities).

It's a logical conclusion that a segment of society traditionally closed out of the process will decide that the process is a boys' game, with little relevance to the girls' reality. So why play? Whatever argument anyone may have with this perspective does not negate its validity.

And there was, and still is to some extent, a real sense of defensiveness at a perceived male contempt for factors important in the "traditional" lesbian process: an attention to the process itself, a regard for the well-being of each one involved, an effort to have each one heard, and perhaps most important, an amazing patience to be sure all aspects are covered.

It's hard to imagine anything more directly opposite to the "traditional" male manner of addressing and resolving an issue. Get to the root of it. Forget the perimeter issues. Discuss as much as needed, not to death. Seek a solution as quickly as possible. Act on said solution. Done. Move on. The issue's the thing; the people involved in its resolution are incidental. There is little room for feelings, and less for "instinct". It's a very "left-brain", rational process.

(continued on page 4)



tempting, I admit.)

On the other hand, Nick Moriatakis is courting the community heavily, leaving good impressions and winning support. It will be interesting to see how the chips fall.

Skerry Schulman appeared at the MACGLO Open House a few months ago and announced her intention to sponsor a Hate Crimes Ordinance in DeKalb County; a response to the outrage/frustration voiced by the gay community over increased violence against us. Pretty nice, especially for someone who's not looking at an immediate election campaign.

Everyone not residing under a rock has probably heard by now of the candidacy of Gil Robison and Dick Rhodes, members of our community running for office. Attorney Robison may be the better known, having lobbied on our behalf at the State capitol for several years. Real-estate man and activist Rhodes is also one of the gay delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Voting is a personal thing, to be sure; but whatever our inclinations, they both deserve our support for their courage in taking the (financial and personal) risk to run.

The 1989 Mayoral race is already piqueing interest as Maynard Jackson maintains a low profile (choosing not to attend the HRCF fundraising dinner) and Michael Lomax vigorously courts the city's various minority communities (he did attend).

The June 13th issue of the Atlanta Business Chronicle had an interesting column speculating that Wyche Fowler is on Dukakis' very-likely list of VP candidates. After the shock wears off, the writer paints us an intriguing scenario of Fowler picking up Jackson supporters, and riding to the second seat based on his record and regional attractiveness, nominated by Sam Nunn and seconded by Teddy Kennedy. Interesting scenario. And the great thing about politics is that anything can happen... maybe even this.



AIDS COALITION PREPARES FOR '89

By Peter Whiteside

The Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition has had no time to relax and enjoy its success in stopping the worst of the AIDS legislation in this last winter's session. The Coalition is meeting monthly to gear up for next year's legislative law-making, starting in January 1989. GAPAC is a founding member of this very effective group, and continues to be involved with the Coalition's efforts.

This year's priorities for the Coalition are to resist challenges to existing good legislation, block any new bills that are not in line with leading world health policy and human rights needs, push for increased state funding to fight the AIDS epidemic, and care for those who are overtaken by it.

With the need to hire a lobbyist for a greater portion of the year (last

session our lobbyist was Gil Robison, now running for the Georgia House), the Coalition's budget has tripled, making money a critical issue. To meet the budget needs, the Coalition has won a grant to publish a book on AIDS and Georgia law, which will be sold to businesses and organizations throughout the state. The proceeds from this annual sale will help to defray much of the annual budget, but contributions are still needed if the Coalition is to be effective. If you would like to help, send GAPAC a check earmarked for the Coalition. The Treasurer for the Coalition will see that it is deposited in the Coalition's account. Please help this important and effective group.

GAPAC will keep you informed of Coalition activities in reports throughout the year.



A RUBIN BY ANOTHER NAME - JUDGE COULD SOUND SWEET TO GAY EARS

By Jose He

Dick Rubin is running for Superior Court judge against incumbent Ralph Hicks. The interesting thing about this race is that according to the Canon of Judicial Ethics, the candidates cannot address the issues: only each other's relative worthiness for the post. Obviously, that could really turn into a donnybrook, but in keeping with the dignity of the position, the firing line remains muted.

That can make such a race pretty un-sexy, but this is one we should place close attention to. Before we get into the details pertinent to us our lifestyle, let's just consider it from a taxpayer's angle. Each judge can call in a visiting judge, which we pay for in addition to said judge's salary. Hicks is by far the runaway leader in calling in substitutes. Which, when considering the Bar Association's consistent ranking of him as "below competent" in all but one issue, may not be so bad. But expensive.

And remember, this is Superior Court. Michael Hardwick was here. What would've happened with a Rubin on the bench? Considering the way the gay community has taken it on the chin from judges lately (remember Leigh

VanderEls?), it's refreshing to have a candidate for the Superior Court judgeship who has an understanding of our issues. Mind you, because of said Canon, he can't make that statement himself, but he is well enough known among the respected legal eagles in our community to have prompted several calls to GAPAC endorsing the man. And when was the last time you heard of a candidate for a judgeship going to MACGLO to introduce himself and ask for support?

Rubin has a long record of concern for minority problems, dating all the way back to the hippie days of the Peachtree Strip (he wasn't the hippy, but the attorney who represented them), to an obvious commitment to black voter issues perhaps partly educated by his past legal partnership with the redoubtable Marvin Arrington. He's also been intimately connected with Neighborhood Planning Unit issues (a cause near and dear to many in our community).

This race will be decided on August 9th. Check your sympathies, and your last tax bill, and think about Rubin when you vote.



UNSPEAKABLE QUOTES

Representatives of gay rights groups said their suspicions are compounded by their feeling that there is a link between the commission [on Civil Rights] study and hearings [legal and civil rights issues surrounding AIDS] and an internal Justice Department memorandum, disclosed in February, that urged officials to "polarize the debate" on key legal issues such as drugs, AIDS,

obscenity and the death penalty. The memorandum, which was initialed by William Bradford Reynolds, the counselor to Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d and Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division, said AIDS was not a civil rights or privacy issue, but one of "public health and safety." The New York Times, April 13, 1988, p 14

CATHOLIC AIDS TASK FORCE COMES OUT

By Steve Schmidt

Housing and education. Without surprise, those are the areas in which the AIDS Task Force of the Catholic Archdiocese of North Georgia has placed its greatest emphasis.

Created in the Fall of 1987, the charge to the ecumenical Task Force, chaired by the Revered Alan Dillman, Catholic chaplain at Grady Hospital, was to recommend to the archdiocese a response to the AIDS crisis. Discussions by the group (comprised originally of 17 individuals representing the clergy, business, medicine, AID Atlanta, government and PWAs) revolved around the great need for housing (ranging from minimal care to hospice settings), educating and sensitizing church members to the issues, and ways of getting individual parishes involved in being part of the solution to the problems wrought by the epidemic.

The report to church hierarchy submitted this Spring lists housing as the "single most pressing need." Hypothetical facilities were proposed to indicate the type of expense which would be incurred by investing in one of two "basic" facilities. The report also recommended that a position be formed within Catholic Social Services to coordinate the Archdiocese's response and serve as a resource for parishoners and clergy alike.

The six members of the education committee of the Task Force were not satisfied to leave it at that.

OMNIBUS AIDS BILL SUMMARY

Well, the "ominous Omnibus" came, lingered in its original form far longer than any of us would have wanted, and with considerable effort and help from the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition, metamorphosized into a more acceptable (not perfect) Bill when it passed the State Assembly.

Following is a summary of what we'll have governing our governors, effective July 1:

- Confidentiality fairly strict: unauthorized disclosure is a misdemeanor, and a sue-able offense.
- On testing: counselling before and after is mandated, and testing only at the consent of the testee. (But, pre- and post-test counselling can be accomplished by handing over a brochure.)
- Testing by the notorious mail services outlawed.
- People committed in mental health facility not automatically tested and segregated.
- "Reckless Conduct" provision: seropositive person soliciting for prostitution/sodomy for hire, shares needle or donates blood: felony status. 10 year penalty.

Since the submission of the report, this group has made presentations to three of the six deaneries in the North Georgia Archdiocese with the goal of educating and generating positive support for efforts to deal with AIDS. (Deanery meetings involve clergy and educators from the various parishes within the deanery.) The lengthy presentations covered the medical, theological, public policy, and most importantly, personal sides of AIDS.

Probably the most rewarding of the committee's presentations came recently in its first presentation outside the Catholic Church. The minister of a South Atlanta Methodist church which has been touched by AIDS, a fact not openly known among the congregation, asked the panel to speak to his congregation in hopes of educating and sensitizing church members. While two members informed the minister that they would not come to the meeting because of the presence of a PWA, those who did come were sufficiently moved to inform the minister afterwards that the issue would not be swept under the rug any longer. Two individuals with gay relatives (the brother of one having AIDS) "came out" during the question and answer session to seek advice and support from the panel. Visitors from other churches inquired as to the possibility of inviting the panel to speak to their congregations, validating a belief of some Task Force members that appealing directly to church members will create the groundswell needed to produce action by the churches.

- Allows Dept. of Human Resources to test and treat person considered a danger to the public health.
- Persons applying for marriage license get brochure; not automatically tested.

Etcetera:

A clause protecting PWA's from discrimination in housing under the handicapped status was stricken.

AID Atlanta received \$100,000, largely due to efforts of Representative Jim Martin. First State funding to AID Atlanta.

DHR budget cut from \$2.7 million to \$660,000, effectively gutting its educational programs to combat AIDS.

Several exceptions to the confidentiality clauses were too broad in interpretation for gay leaders' comfort.

Until July 1, a judge can, and often does, order AIDS testing. After this Bill goes into effect, if a person pleads guilty or is convicted of sodomy, prostitution, or solicitation for same, the judge can order testing only after consulting with the DHR.



UNSPEAKABLE QUOTE

To a caller who haplessly referred to his lover as his "ladyfriend": "Ladyfriend?! What are you, some kind of a HOMO? You mean, "This girl I'm dating"! Gary McKee, disk jockey, WQXI FM, Atlanta



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GEORGIA STATE GAY STUDENT ALLIANCE FOLDS

By Charles Haver

The Georgia State University Gay Student Alliance is dead.

The problems were burnout, lack of interest, and lack of support from the University and the Atlanta Gay/Lesbian community.

These were the same problems the organization was facing three years ago when I attended my first GSA

During the past three years, the GSA was fueled by a small handful of highly energetic men and women. We brought speakers, participated in marches, held rap sessions, tried

Now, any student who happens to be gay or lesbian will not have to walk up and down the hall outside our meeting room trying to decide whether or not to come in. Now, any young gay man worried about AIDS will not have a safe place to go within the university for help (if you knew about AIDS awareness at Georgia State, you'd know what I mean). Now, Atlanta will not get a look at gay students marching in the Martin Luther King Jr. March every year, or the Pride March. Now, Atlanta's Gay/Lesbian Community won't get the speakers we used to bring to town with funding from within the university. These are just some of the things that will disappear now that the GSA is gone.

It grieves me to see this organization die. The GSA provided a place for me and other

gay students to meet each other in an otherwise heterosexually oppressive environment which is dominated by frat boys and sorority sisters.

And Georgia State can be an especially lonesome place. It isn't like most schools with dormitories; the commuter school atmosphere makes it very difficult to meet people, especially if you're gay.

But keeping the group alive was an up-hill battle all the way, and I don't blame anyone for not wanting to put their energy into a vacuum, while at the same time try to keep

I wonder, though, how gay men and lesbians are going to improve their situation if there isn't some sort of support for those who are in the same place they were years before? For obvious reasons, gay people cannot easily pass what they know along to the young people who will follow. But if every young gay man and lesbian who comes along is forced to reinvent the wheel, unknowing that it has been invented countless times before, what is going to keep us all from getting run over by people who are our enemies? If the only place young gay people can go is a bar, where are our leaders going to come from? If gay people cannot even support each other, why would anyone even want to "come out of the closet" and take all the risks involved?

LOMAX LEADS MAYORAL RACE IN ACKNOWLEDGING GAY CLOUT

By Peter Whiteside

Sunday, June 11, 1988, an event quietly took place that was historic in its significance to Atlanta's Lesbian/Gay community. In the Presidential Suite of the Pierremont Hotel, Michael Lomax, Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, held a reception for the leadership of Atlanta's Lesbian/Gay community. The reason: to announce his candidacy for the 1989 Atlanta Mayoral race, and to ask for our community's support in winning that race.

To my knowledge, this is the first time a major contender for one of the most important elected offices in Georgia has, at the outset of his campaign, openly positioned himself in support of gay issues, and aggressively courted gay backing. In his presentation at the reception, Commissioner Lomax noted, "You know my record on lesbian/gay issues, AIDS, and human rights in general. I'm not coming to you six weeks before the election to make promises, get your vote, then ignore you once elected. You have over a year and a half to look at my record, watch my campaign, and know that I am serious about human rights issues, and the participation of lesbians and gays in the success of this city." Lomax went on to say that our community was one of several diverse constituencies important to Atlanta, that he had targeted for support in his campaign.

But Mr. Lomax did not put on the spread and open the bar for idle flattery. He'd done his homework. He needs the lesbian/gay vote every bit as much as we need a mayor who can effectively, creatively take Atlanta into the 21st Century with a strong human rights priority.

Lesbians and gays make up, in most conservative estimates, 10% - 15% of Atlanta's population. Lomax is facing a tough battle and close race with Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor and as-yet unofficially declared candidate. In a close race, a 10% block vote is more than enough to decide the election. Michael Lomax wants that vote.

By comparison, he is also targeting the elderly for support. The reason: their sheer numbers; they are registered and they vote — a reputation that the gay community should have as well.

Michael Lomax is only one of numerous local candidates, though certainly the most politically prominent, who have been calling GAPAC seeking lesbian/gay support. Such candidate solicitations have catapulted our community into the arena of principal players in local politics. While this phenomenon is a gratifying result of years of work by a handful of hardworking local leaders and activists, it presents a new challenge which affects every single gay man and woman in the city.

To date, our leaders have successfully convinced the straight political establishment of the

potential political power of our community — a large, cohesive minority with money and votes — but we are still a sleeping dragon.

It is unclear yet what Maynard Jackson will have to say to our community. (GAPAC will have an early rating of the declared mayoral candidates in next Fall's GAPAC News quarterly insert.) But it should be obvious that an informed, registered voting lesbian/gay community will make it impossible for any candidate, especially a mayoral candidate, to ignore us. And having two leading candidates in any race, competing to best the other on our issues, is the stuff sweet dreams are made of.

Help GAPAC have the largest campaign coffers in the city; then come on down and help us interview the hundreds of candidates we need to rate for the summer primary elections. It's fun, and it's exciting. Help make the dream come true. We're out and we're never going back in.

We've reared our heads and shocked them with a city-wide gay rights ordinance that withstood a recall challenge. We put in the strongest showing of the South at the March in Washington, D.C., and our local March committee was one of the strongest in the country. Every year, we've been successful in holding back the bigots in our Legislature who would rather legislate from fear than from reason. LEGAL (Gay/Lesbian Democratic Club) sent shock waves to Washington in winning delegates seats to the Democratic National Convention in the Georgia Caucuses. Our local HRCF committee (the national PAC), counted over 650 people (at \$150/person) at the first Atlanta HRCF annual dinner. Every summer, our city hosts a gay raft race that draws an international crowd of thousands. And this is only a fraction of our community's activity.

It is obvious that the talent is here, the money is here, and by the hundreds of thousands, we are here. The time has come for us to prove that Michael Lomax has seen the awakening of the sleeping dragon, and that every other candidate had best follow Lomax's trail to our political doorstep. To see this happen, we must raise money, we must stay informed, and *we must vote!*

If you are not registered to vote, *do so, now!* There will be registration at the Piedmont Park festival during Gay Pride Week. There will be more registration the weekend of July 9-10. If you miss all that and don't know how to register, call the GAPAC number (888-0510).

Stay informed. GAPAC is now a regular part of the Southern Voice, with a large insert quarterly and a monthly column. If you are not where you can pick up a copy of the Voice, fill out the subscription form in this issue. For \$28/year, you will get bi-monthly editions sent confidentially to your door. All the news you'll need to be an informed gay voter will be there.

And politics as a whole is possibly one of the last, most stubborn bastions of the male process existant. Thick skin is necessary; pragmatism absolutely essential; the art of compromise comes frequently not from the heart but from the scorecard.

Small wonder the girls boycotted.

But though not in the political mainstream, women have certainly not been idle. Today's patriarchal structures of such power (such as the churches, for example) would have collapsed centuries ago were it not for the female activists (they were/are called "volunteers"). Traditionally, all those service areas that call for toughness with compassion, survived on the talents of women.

So, aside from all individual talents, it would seem that straight women and lesbians have to offer the talent of a flexible survivor of a relatively hostile environment; frequently coupled with that remnant of innate wisdom (or high-speed intelligent processing) termed "intuition"; and a conscious (so natural to often be unconscious) attention to the human participants in the process. That's certainly not the whole picture, but even just this scenario stands very impressively on its own. What a valuable commodity.



UNSPEAKABLE QUOTES

... a campaign to test seven million Cubans - every man woman and child over the age of 15 - for (AIDS). In a nation that sent homosexuals to work camps as late as the 1970's, this raises the specter of possible persecution and human rights abuses on an alarming scale. Until 1985, the Cuban media belittled the AIDS threat as a product of the "degeneracy" of the West. The implication was that a disease that seemed to strike gay men and drug users was not threat to the macho socialist man. Those who test positive are asked to go voluntarily to an isolation facility. It they refuse, a special police unit brings them in by force, throwing over their heads a nylon bag with holes only for the eyes and nose before carrying them to the police car.

New York Times, Februar 11, 1988, p 25



Another theory on the sociology of gang rape is that it is a vicarious homosexual activity, with the woman simply serving as a surrogate. . . . "We don't want to know if this 19-year-old is sensitive. We want to know if he's a real man."

From the article "In gang rape, the mob rules as 'men rape for other men,'" The Atlanta Constitution, June 7, 1988, p A14



Certainly due to the women's movement, at least partly due to the AIDS crisis, and any other number of factors, lesbians are emerging to work in the political sphere, albeit with a healthy wariness. The question of "why?" is important in that the answer also indicates the interests that attract women in the first place. But that "why", I must confess, could also almost bring a resounding response of "who cares?!" from me.

The prospect of those gifts coming into a process so constrained by narrow, rational parameters; utterly divorced from the basic human needs that give rise and reason to the pursuit of mass political solutions in the first place — well, it just warms the cockles of my heart. In fact, I would dare to say, it may be the key to the solution this old world has been seeking, as we zip perilously closer to the ultimate decision regarding the continuation or cancellation of the human race.

And for the gay community in particular, it is a welcome advent: an education for both genders as to the relative strengths and weaknesses of the other. An Opportunity to merge the best of our attributes and acknowledge the rest. And most importantly, an emergence of that non-segregated "army of lovers" envisioned years ago.



But a number of political strategists, Republicans as well as Democrats, believe that the Massachusetts governor's continuing disputes with the gays may work to his political advantage because they help him project a sense of, as a leading adviser says, "being his own man."

. . . . "Every fight he has with gays make him look safe," says a Republican pollster Lance Tarrance. "If he's eyeing November, he's delighting in these confrontations." "All seven gays in America who want to adopt children are unhappy, but millions of other Americans are impressed - a classic lesson in 'special interest' politics," says political consultant Mark Siegel, a Dukakis supporter.

The Wall Street Journal, May 26, 1988, p 60



Phyllis Schlafly, who led the fight to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment, was unaware that a group representing lesbian and gay rights also was scheduled to testify Tuesday before the Republican Platform Committee.

"They are?" she asked. "Where are they?"

John Thomas of the Human Rights Campaign Fund was to speak in the late evening, at the other end of the lay from Mrs. Schlafly. "That's all right," she decided, "but the platform is not going to endorse their agenda."

The Atlanta Constitution, June 1, 1988, p A.



For me, it has been, mostly, an enjoyable learning process. From this woman's perspective, gay men generally are so far advanced of straight men that somehow Darwinism must factor in here somewhere. Of course it's chauvinistic, but I'd have to guess that this superiority is attributable to the willingness of gay men to acknowledge their "feminine" side.

Which is definitely *not* to say that there is not traditional male chauvinism in the gay male community... there is, a lot of it. "Lots of gay men are not feminist, or even aware of feminist issues," said ACLU officer Cathy Woolard. "The important issues dear to feminists, like handicapped accessibility; consideration of people of color issues, whether or not they are there to insist upon them; economic issues; alcohol dependency issues vis-a-vis refreshments served — all these and more have been long in the language of lesbians. Some men, gay men included, still roll their eyes when these considerations are even brought up."

"I believe that organizations with a strong lesbian presence, or leadership, tend to have more success, or longer longevity than those headed by men, because they will include these issues," she continued. "And women feel more comfortable working in an



**THE DEMOCRATS ARE COMING!
THE DEMOCRATS ARE COMING!**

By Jose He

It's been speculated that the Democrats and Republicans are called "parties" because they have such a love for that orgy of national celebration that's called a convention. Be that as it may, the Party is definitely coming to town.

The ubiquitous souvenirs. The funny hats. The almost feverish drive to crowd thousands of chattering people into one hall and then challenge them to hear a word the speakers say. Demonstrations. Back-room negotiations. The thrilling uncertainty... the certainly that, as LEGAL President Lee Harrington says, "it's not over 'til the convention is over."

It's a regular phenomenon, an American institution. Although the necessity for such a gathering is in question since the emergence of the dominant caucuses, it'll probably never be dropped.

And besides, says Harrington, "while things will be set in place when the gala comes down, still there's the possibility that the delegates can change or make new decisions. That's why the Jackson candidacy looms so large, and wields such a heavy influence on the platform."

Naturally, as the host gay/lesbian Democratic Club, LEGAL has been laboring for months in preparation for this national shebang. And the

environment where they don't have to reinvent the wheel yet again."

And so the Pursuit of the Lesbian continues. But now, on an every-increasing scale, she appears to be willing to engage in the game... and also, perhaps to the occasional chagrin of the male players, to change the rules to a more humane pattern of behavior. And as she is included and contributes on an ever-expanding scale, the very fabric of the gay/lesbian community's unified front will have to change. For the better. It is something to be fervently hoped for... and worked towards.



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SPEAKABLE QUOTES

On the issue of gay foster parents: "...You judge people by their conduct and their character, not their sexuality."

Jesse Jackson, Presidential candidate

"I am here when you need me"

John Lewis, Member of Congress from Georgia, at the HRCF Fundraising Dinner May 21, 1988

advent, at last, of openly gay delegates from Georgia has fueled the enthusiasm.

Events scheduled include LEGAL's welcome dinner for delegates, timed late at 9 PM to allow everyone to arrive and assemble. Barney Frank and other politicians will be featured speakers. For information call 881-5353.

On Saturday, 7/16, GAPAC is sponsoring the Raucus Caucus, an unconventional welcome to Atlanta for these folks as well as a good excuse for us to have a fundraising party in preparation for the elections. Gay politicians are invited guests. \$15/person; \$20/couple. Colony Square Hotel. Information: 881-0510.

On Sunday, 7/16, LEGAL rallies at the "Designated Free Speech Site" (don't you just love it?), on Marietta Street across from the CNN Center. It's a parking lot between International Boulevard and Techwood. Speakers are to be announced. And just as an added attraction, LEGAL is scheduled right after the White Supremacists. Won't that be fun!

Interested in working with LEGAL? Check the Southern Voice's organization listings.



LITTLE 5 POINTS

Crystal Energy

Have you ever picked up a quartz crystal only to feel a tingling in your hand? If you have, you've felt the energy of the stone. Quartz crystals have a piezoelectric energy. It's an energy that can be measured and transmitted. Scientists have learned to tap into crystal energy for such uses as quartz watches, televisions, laser equipment, computer microchips, and even the space shuttle. Metaphysically, quartz crystal amplifies one's aura. An aura is the energy field around the body, and during our daily activities parts of our energy field may become blocked. Wearing, holding or placing crystals on the blocked area, or chakra, will help to open the flow of energy. Chakras, specific energy points on the body, vibrate to different colors. Clear quartz is pure white light. It holds all the colors within itself and will balance all the chakras. Clear quartz will help to release stress and anxiety. The energy of the crystal is focused through the point of

termination. You can direct the flow of energy through this termination.

Amethyst is violet quartz. It works upon the brow chakra or third eye. Violet represents higher consciousness or spirituality. Working with an amethyst crystal will help you to get in touch with your higher self. It is an excellent stone for meditation. Amethyst will aid one to open their third eye or psychic channel. An ancient myth mentions amethyst as a good stone to help prevent drunkenness. Amethyst can also be used as a psychic protector.

The stone for the heart chakra is rose quartz. Pink is the color of the emotional or spiritual heart. Using rose quartz will enable the individual to open to love of self or of others more. Rose quartz is a wonderful stone to help heal a broken heart. One can also meditate with rose quartz for world peace and love.

Yellow quartz or citrine will help balance the solar plexus or stomach. We tend to store our emotions in our stomachs. When we become nervous or upset, we feel it in our solar plexus. The solar plexus is an area we protect rather heavily. Citrine is a soft, peaceful stone. Working with citrine will help us to release our emotional blocks.

Smoky quartz is dark. It varies in shades of light grays to almost black.

Its dark color represents more earthly tones. The darker the stone, the more grounding it becomes. Smoky quartz is a stone to use when one is feeling light-headed. Being the dark earth stone one would use smoky quartz on the base or first chakra, which is closest to the earth. Another use of smoky quartz is its aspect of absorbing negativity. Dark stones tend to absorb or reflect negativity in our midst.

There are many stones one may use in a crystal healing. Using stones for healing is an ancient art being reborn. There isn't any one technique that is better than another. It's following one's own intuition.

—Debra Albin

Debra Albin is the manager of Crystal Blue in Little Five Points. She also does resonance healing.

The Little 5 Points section covers the news, events and people of this community, gay or straight — always different, always special.

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Experimental AIDS Drugs: Should You Take Them and When?

Part 1 of a 2-part series

Most physicians and researchers I know now recommend that all gay men who have not been in 100% monogamous relationships for the past 6 to 10 years be tested anonymously for exposure to HIV. They further recommend that individuals be counseled both before and after testing, so that persons understand the issues involved with either a negative or positive antibody status. As Atlanta physician Dr. James Braude said at an HIV symposium earlier this year, "If you're HIV positive, face it. Medically, it makes perfect sense."

Medical advances in the past few years make dealing with HIV a more complicated process. One of the hard truths researchers have handed us is that probably over half of all persons exposed to HIV will develop AIDS or ARC 5 to 7 years after exposure. These same researchers also suggest that the

The decision of when to act – when to begin a high or low dose of any experimental drug for HIV—varies from person to person, and from doctor to doctor.

percentage of persons who go on to develop AIDS or ARC past this marker probably continues to increase with time.

Add to this conclusion the fact that a person can appear perfectly healthy on the outside but have a deteriorating immune system on the inside. It is no longer uncommon for physicians to report that seemingly healthy individuals have undergone T-cell counts only to discover their immune systems are seriously compromised.

But even before reaching a point of diminished immune function, individuals who are HIV positive are increasingly interested in learning what they can do for themselves in terms of "early intervention" against HIV. Along the spectrum of HIV infection from HIV positive but asymptomatic to full AIDS, individuals are asking researchers and personal physicians what their options are in dealing with HIV.

People say, "I'm HIV positive but asymptomatic (or have lymphadenopathy) and my T-cells are 800. What should I do?" The question can stay basically the same but change the T-cell figure to 500 or 300 or 100, and persons still look to their physicians for a definitive answer. "What should I do in

terms of an experimental drug and when should I do it?" they ask.

Another truth is that your doctor really cannot say for certain just what you should do. Whatever you decide, including doing nothing, involves risks. Studies are currently underway to determine whether or not certain drugs, most notably AZT and Ampligen at varying doses, can halt or slow the effects of HIV on the immune system.

Time is of the essence

But time is precious. If you're monitoring your T-cells and see over time that they are steadily falling, a wait and see attitude can be psychologically as well as physiologically costly. You want answers now. In response to this need, groups have formed across the nation that publish newsletters and supply up-to-the-minute information on the latest in experimental treatments for HIV.

The decision of when to act – when to begin a high or low dose of AZT or any experimental drug for HIV – varies from person to person, and from doctor to doctor. (I've also noticed a tendency among persons and physicians in New York City and San Francisco, where AIDS has hit hardest and for the longest time in this country, to be more open in considering some form of alternative treatment at an earlier stage of infection).

In Atlanta, physicians I have spoken with sometimes suggest to their patients that they consider some form of drug therapy at T-cell counts ranging up to 500. Others adopt a wait and see attitude and prescribe nothing for persons with T-cells above 300. And one Atlanta physician tells me that he doesn't recommend AZT to any of his patients, including those with AIDS, unless they specifically ask for it.

Such variations among our medical community account for the reason HIV positive persons need to stay current on the different approaches to treatment. Long-term AIDS survivors say to me that persons should choose a physician with whom they can work toward wellness, and whose beliefs on how this can be achieved complement their own, but who are flexible enough to consider alternatives if necessary.

A thoughtful article titled "Whether to Take Experimental Drugs: Counseling Issues," has been published in *FOCUS – A Guide to AIDS Research* (a publication of The AIDS Health Project, University of California San Francisco and the Department of Public Health). *Southern Voice* is offering a limited number of reprints of this article to persons sending in a self-addressed stamped

envelope to P.O. Box 54719, Atlanta, GA 30307. The article can be viewed as a primer to persons interested in discussing experimental drugs with their physicians. As always, no one should ever take any drug without first consulting and being monitored by their physician.

T-cells

Many persons decide whether or not to take AZT or other experimental drugs on the

Because we are all individuals and there are so many variables involved...we shouldn't necessarily buy into ...statistics. Neither should we ignore them.

basis of T-cell counts. A suppressed T-cell count does not automatically mean one will develop AIDS. But T-cell counts can be a valuable tool in monitoring one's immunological status and in deciding when to begin a drug therapy.

An article published this year in the *British Medical Journal* reported the results of a 3-year follow-up of a San Francisco General Hospital study of persons positive for HIV. In San Francisco, 78% of HIV positive gay men with less than 200 T-cells per microliter of blood developed AIDS within 3 years. Thirty-five percent of persons with 200-400 T-cells, and 12% with more than 400 T-cells at the start of the study, developed AIDS during that same period of time.

Because we are all individuals and there are so many variables involved (such as the lifestyles of the persons studied, including nutrition, exercise, rest, stress management, intake of alcohol and/or drugs, etc., and other details which could affect the course of HIV), we shouldn't necessarily buy into such statistics. Neither should we ignore them.

The following is an extremely partial list of some experimental AIDS drugs currently in use in this country. Up-to-date information on these and the myriad of other drugs can be obtained from groups such as Project Inform in California and the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City. *Southern Voice* neither advocates nor endorses these drugs.

AZT (Retrovir)

Perhaps the most intensely studied of all AIDS drugs, AZT is one about which much more needs to be learned. Though some

long-term AIDS survivors will not take it, AZT has proved to prolong the lives of some persons with AIDS. Studies are now underway to determine the effectiveness of AZT at various doses (thus minimizing toxicity, such as anemias requiring blood transfusions) and in combination with acyclovir (zovirax). Disgracefully, there are no current studies combining AZT with other drugs, such as Ampligen, Dextran sulfate or Imuthiol, to determine synergy.

A study published in *Lancet* (Feb. 20, 1988) reported that a lower, less frequent dose of AZT reduced the amount of HIV antigen in blood samples taken from 17 of 18 HIV positive individuals. And an article in *Annals of Internal Medicine* (April 1988) suggests that the anti-herpes drug acyclovir potentiates the antiviral activity of AZT. The hope is that AZT can be prescribed at a lower dose in combination with acyclovir and still achieve clinical benefits. Many physicians already routinely follow this protocol. Researchers hope to soon learn the benefits of various doses of AZT as an early intervention treatment against HIV in persons at earlier stages of infection. Available by prescription and extremely expensive (shop around for the best price).

Ribavirin

Two studies in the last year showed reduced HIV antigen levels in the presence of Ribavirin. Less toxic than AZT, there is renewed interest in studying Ribavirin. Available over the counter in Mexico and expensive. Persons taking Ribavirin, or any drug, should be monitored by their physician.

AL 721

This drug is widely used by persons at all points on the spectrum of HIV infection, especially in New York and San Francisco. It is postulated that AL 721 might interfere with HIV's ability to attach, penetrate and infect cells. The drug has reportedly been approved for sale in health food stores, but is uncertain when or if AL 721 will actually be sold in this manner. Some researchers have cautioned that AL 721 might have a rebound effect, causing a disproportionate number of persons with ARC who suddenly discontinue the drug to develop AIDS. This has not been proved, but should be taken into consideration in discussions with your physician.

-Terry Francis

See *Southern Voice*, v. 1, iss. 10 for the continuation of Terry Francis' in-depth look.

New Age Leader Puts the Blame on Shame

"Shame or the lack of love is the cause of AIDS, not anything else. It doesn't have anything to do with being gay, it has to do with love of self from the drug abuser right on through. If you can't look yourself in the face in the morning and love yourself enthusiastically, then you are in disease."

So says Atlanta counselor, teacher and author Gary Bonnelle. Bonnelle earned his Masters in psychology from San Jose State University in California and for fifteen years commanded a corporate career in art direction and marketing. Now an emerging leader in Atlanta's New Age Community as an instructor in "spiritual flight"—a technique akin to deep meditation and to the well-documented phenomenon of Near Death Experiences—Bonnelle belies the image of the sweet sappy guru. Unafraid to speak his mind, Bonnelle has definite and controversial ideas

about the origins of illness and its antidotes.

"We all seem to want the world to love us and will do anything for that, including hiding out, putting on masks so that we can't be discovered," Bonnelle contends. "I think one of the things the AIDS virus is doing is playing with the body physiologically because the body is weakened not only by drugs and alcohol but by the shame, the ideas of self that aren't quite right or complete. Most of the men that I've talked to who have AIDS in their candidness will say, I have never felt OK about me, I've always held in the back somewhere an idea that I wasn't right or that my sexuality or being wasn't accepted by my family, by friends and by other gays. I haven't found a place for myself to express freely, openly, lovingly."

"Look at the lifestyles the needle user has,"

Cont'd Page 13



Gary Bonnelle

"Living With AIDS", which normally appears on the AIDS Focus Page, will continue in future issues. Submissions to "Living With AIDS" are welcome from PWAs, PWARCs, health professionals and others affected by the AIDS crisis.

Submissions should be no more than 400 words in length, and typed or legibly printed.

Mail submissions to:
Southern Voice
P.O. Box 54719
Atlanta, Ga 30308.

Health and Healing

The gay and lesbian community is challenged to find and improve ways of maintaining our health and healing our hearts and our bodies. This column will offer insight and advice by various writers with a range of viewpoints and expertise. If you are interested in submitting an article or requesting a topic, contact Franklin Abbott in care of *Southern Voice*, P.O. Box 54719, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Self-Esteem: Building from Within

"Celebration of Life" is the theme of this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride Week in Atlanta, and if you aren't already participating in some of the events of the week, there is still time. I feel very excited about and grateful for both the week and its theme. Without the love and joy our friends and community offer us, it could be all too easy to succumb to despair and bitterness. The devastating losses to AIDS, the pains of increased homophobia with its discussions of compulsory testing and possible quarantines, its self-righteous pronouncements that AIDS is God's punishment for the sin of being homosexual are impacting us on very deep and personal levels. Many of us, afraid and ashamed, are responding by taking a step or two back into the closet. Many of us, angry and depressed, are looking for someone or something to fight. But as I talk to friends, clients, strangers, I find again and again that many of us have been touched so deeply by the love and courage of others that we stand open, vulnerable to our feelings and with a new appreciation for others' vulnerability and tenderness. Perhaps we do not know exactly what to do but we are willing and ready to say "yes" to this newly opened dimension of love, this celebration of life that seems to have the potential of transcending the judgments of others and focussing on how we want to be. What a perfect time for a focussed week of pride and how wonderful it will be when every day is a celebration of life and pride.

"Every obstacle that comes along on this planet is either an opportunity to grow and transcend our form and think differently or to use it as an excuse to believe we are all stuck...." says Wayne Dyer, "and we have never been a people who believe we are just stuck where we are."

When I think about pride, I think almost synonymously of self-esteem. With the help of many clients and friends, I have been looking at the questions of self-esteem for some time—where does it come from? Why does it seem to be there one minute and not the next? How can we develop self-esteem that is satisfying, constant, and that promotes genuine generosity and love of others?

One observation that is confirmed again and again in my experience is that if the source of self-esteem is external to ourselves it can be lost. And yet, in our culture we are taught to seek self-esteem from external sources. We are "good" if we behave in ways our parents want and "bad" when we don't. For some of us that means we were/are never good, hopelessly bad. For the rest of us it means we were/are never good enough, always seeking approval and trying to avoid disapproval. In school we were graded. Some of us were

judged "smart," some "average" and some "stupid". What child can learn in an environment that calls him or her "stupid"? What "smart" child can neglect the school curriculum to read about dinosaurs or learn how to make a garden grow?

As we grow up, more external sources of self-esteem are offered us. We are told that we can get it from our looks, our jobs, our income, our clothes, the number of friends we have or the importance of those friends. We can have it, they say, from how much we suffer or sacrifice for others without complaining. We can get it from being politically correct in any group we might belong to. In short, we are taught that we can get self-esteem from anything we do or have that is better or more than what others do or have.

When we place our self-esteem on any of the sources outside ourselves, it can be lost.

We can lose the looks, the job, the friends, the acceptability of our opinions. External self-esteem is also never satisfying. We continue to seek more because it is an inherently competitive system. How can I esteem myself based on income if my neighbor earns more? "Yes, I'm good looking," he says, "but I'm no Adonis." The comparison is always there. If we lose the source of our self-esteem we feel lost and worthless.

The lover who adored

us is gone and suddenly we are suicidal or desperate to find another. The group no longer accepts our leadership and we have no value in our own eyes.

Obviously, the only self-esteem that cannot be lost is that which comes from internal sources. The one relationship we can depend on absolutely for our entire lives is the one we have with ourselves. But it must be a choice. Lazaris, on whose talks much of this material is based, says very simply, "If you truly love yourself, you will always give yourself the best." The best self-esteem, that

which endures and satisfies begins with honesty. Honesty is the process of being brutally frank with ourselves and tactfully and gently frank with others. It is not telling the boss what an ass he is. It is about admitting to ourselves that we are projecting father onto him and finding that lo, and behold, he's being just like that father who would not give us enough self-esteem. When we see this, we can accept responsibility for it. Without blame. Blame is what we have been doing—blaming the boss for his attitudes and behaviors and blaming ourselves for not being good enough to fix him or win him over. We can't give it away if we don't own it. Honesty sees it and responsibility owns it. At this point choice is present, and we can give up the projection either instantly or through processing. If we have already chosen to love ourselves, we will choose to give it up because we will see clearly that we are hurting ourselves. After we have given it up, we may indeed choose not to work with that boss, but it will not be out of anger and damaged self-esteem, but because we don't wish to be in his environment. On the other hand, we might find that the situation has shifted and that working with him is a totally different experience. Whether we keep the job or not isn't important. What is important is the relationship we are building with ourselves.

As I continue in this process of building a loving relationship with myself, I find that my self-esteem increases without diminishing anyone else's, my sense of personal power grows and along with it my willingness to share and to take risks. My trust in my ability to handle things increases. I begin to see how we are all connected and as I desire not to hurt myself, I also refuse to hurt you. The planet I live on becomes more real as if a new dimension were added. That dimension is love, and life is sweet. So, go ahead. Be proud. Give yourself pride that can't be taken away. Give yourself pride that is only augmented by sharing. Give yourself the best.

- Sharon J. Sanders, M.A.

Sharon J. Sanders is a psychotherapist in the Atlanta area. She sees therapy as a partnered relationship aimed at manifesting potential whether it be at the level of survival, growth or spirituality. She is also a poet who loves to share her work. She may be reached at 373-0278.

Shame

Cont'd from Page 12

Bonnelle continues. "Always hiding, always trying to make excuses, wear masks, all his energy is going towards trying to be seemingly normal. Trying to fit in instead of sitting back and loving the self and enjoying the self for who he is. It's such an extreme degradation that all that energy is being pushed into one area, finally the body breaks down, finally the body can't keep out the viruses...(with gays) again the energy is not directed towards loving the self, it's directed towards lifting the idea of the lifestyle, making it more, making it approved of as opposed to loving the self."

Unlike the Born Again brigade, Bonnelle advocates profound self-acceptance of who you are exactly as you are. Parting company with political activists as well, Bonnelle does not champion campaigns for equal status though he affirms them as a 'good liberal'. Instead, he stakes out the inner playing field:

"I don't believe we come here to learn lessons, I think we come here to experience ourselves. Whatever that shows us as. Inside of me I don't believe I've come here to learn something, I've come here to be, and to love myself enthusiastically in that being is the grandest type. I think the 'lesson' is that people love themselves enthusiastically and the healing comes from that." So much for the notion of "bad karma".

Bonnelle also argues a sex-positive approach—with stipulations. "In the gay community it seemed like the only way to prove one's lovability was to be sexually active. Because the rest of the world was putting you down, you had to have a way to feel or fulfill that feeling of love and the way to do it it seemed was to be sexual...If having lots of sex makes you euphoric and gives you a place to be absolutely creative and loving of yourself and others, so be it. If it confuses you, doesn't give you any space or joy, makes you feel trapped, makes you feel like you have an addiction as opposed to an expression, then I would say you need to look at it."

In closing, Bonnelle offers his personal philosophy as a way to live. "Every being who's ever come to my door has always been completely accepted for who they are because I accept me and know that who I am is just for me and who they are is just for them. And so no threat is there."

- Dave Patrick Hayward

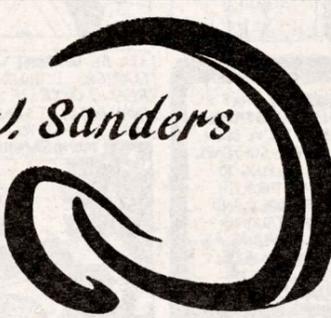
Gary Bonnelle offers classes, lectures and consultations on an individual basis. 255-7266.



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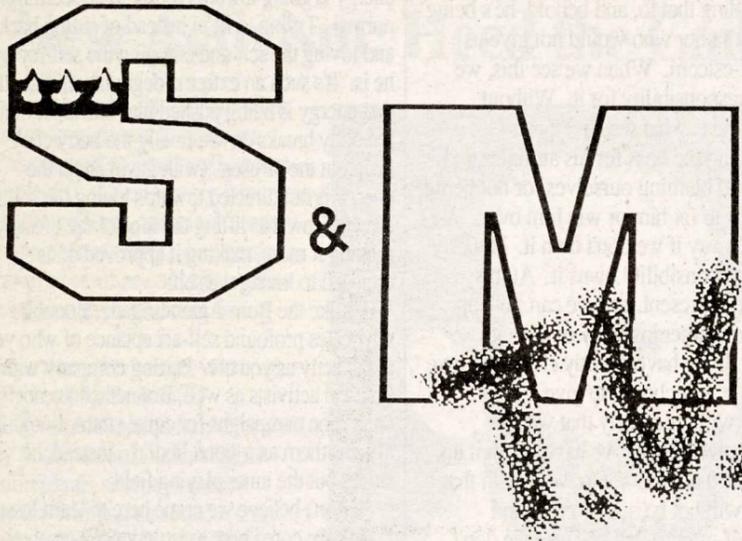
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by Martia Proba
June 23-July 5

If you've been having a succession of rapid-fire, cerebral romances that start with a bang and then go nowhere, it's just Mercury and Venus retrograde in the mind-oriented sign of Gemini. Don't worry, Mercury will turn direct on the 24th and Venus follows on the 4th. There may be more than one kind of fireworks in your life.

CANCER Wear yellow and black to impress a Scorpio with your sunny disposition as the Sun in your sign trines Pluto in theirs on the first. You could have a lot of energy for exercise on the 27th when the Moon is in Sagittarius.

LEO The Sun in your 12th house this period emphasizes regeneration and personal growth. The 29th could be a fortunate day on which to investigate new beginnings.

VIRGO After the 4th, career matters which may have seemed fussy and over-emotional should clear up. Full Moon in Capricorn on the 29th could signal the end of a long-term affair.

LIBRA All sorts of journeys are favored this period. Venus encourages you to take long trips so go somewhere with a Taurus after the 4th. Friends from all over may visit you, but it'll seem like the farther away they live, the harder they are to get along with.

SCORPIO When the Sun trines your ruler on the 1st, a long trip could prove rejuvenating. On the 30th, the Moon sextiles Mars, your co-ruler, and you are tempted to rush into something. But be careful, for Neptune could create foggy conditions.

SAGITTARIUS If you have a revolutionary idea on the 26th, it's Uranus in your sign. However, Saturn urges a lot of patience at the same time. If you have Piscean family members, they need your attention on the 3rd.

CAPRICORN The Full Moon in your sign on the 29th suggests you take it easy and remain low key, especially with a Libra co-worker. Saturn, your ruler, feels very mysterious and quietly urges you to enter a period of personal growth as it transits your twelfth house.

AQUARIUS The Moon in your sign and Uranus ruling you from a conjunction with that Moon suggest you at least think about some kinky sex. When Venus turns direct on the 4th, that Taurus you've been after will come down out of the clouds and relate with you.

PISCES A long trip might be just the ticket, but not on the 3rd or 4th when the Moon in your sign would only confuse things. Neptune, your ruler, is retrograde in your eleventh house and that's why your friends are acting so weird.

ARIES Jupiter wants to help you succeed financially, so find a willing Sagittarius and talk money. If you feel like howling on the Full Moon of the 29th, take a Capricorn along, but be patient.

TAURUS Venus, your ruler, will turn direct on the 4th and make you feel generous. Give the greatest gift - yourself - to a Pisces, but watch out for an emotional storm.

GEMINI If you need a new romance, the time to start it is after the 4th when Venus is direct in her home sign of Taurus. When the Moon opposes Mercury on the 28th, any message from a Sagittarius is unreliable.

Dykes to Watch Out For



Bittersweet

by Charles Haver



CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH METRO MINISTRY. Free counseling, pastoral care, growth groups for Persons with AIDS, ARC, their friends and families. Rev. Joe Chancey 688-6163. (V1#15)

TELEVISION ADVERTISING IS A REALITY! New York's Gay Cable Network will be broadcasting live from Atlanta during the 1988 Democratic Convention. Programming will be broadcast both locally and nationally. This is a good chance to get TELEVISION coverage for your Gay/lesbian organization or business. Call 875-6405 or 827-9678 for details. Ask for Joe. (V1#9)

There is a fundraiser planned for July 17th, during the Democratic National Convention, for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). If you are interested in working on this event, call Cathy Woolard at 377-8312. (V1#9)

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)

ACLU-NATIONAL LAWYER'S GUILD Seminar on First Amendment Rights and the Democratic National Convention Saturday, June 25, 1988. 10 AM to 1PM Georgia State University, Urban Life Auditorium Decatur Street, Atlanta Georgia. Topics include: "Calendar of Events"- who will be holding demonstrations, rallies, marches: when and where. How to apply for permits, when permits are required, and when they are not. Use of the streets, parks, and designated demonstration area across from the Convention site at the World Congress Center for the First Amendment activities. (V1#10)

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EMPLOYMENT

Writers, technical documentation encouraged; also editorial, creative. PO box 14515 Atlanta 30324 (V1#10)

SOCIAL SERVICES CASE MANAGERS Non-profit agency serving PWA/PWARC clients, educating public about AIDS. Positions require M.S.W. degree plus minimum one year experience. Knowledge of AIDS, terminal care exposure. Full benefits. EOE Affirmative action employer. \$19.7 K to \$25.6 K. Application deadline June 22, 1988. No phone calls. Resume with cover letter to Personnel Officer, AID Atlanta, 1132 West peachtree Street, N.W. Atlanta Georgia 30309. (V1#11)

HEALTH

RECOVERING CO-DEPENDENTS psychically attuned massage/body/therapy can guide you to discover-heal & re-integrate your child within. Please call 633-8338 for an appointment. Donna Green M.S.L.M.T.N.M.T. (V1#12)

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Brenda L. Hawkins, Ed. D. Licensed Psychologist, counseling, psychotherapy and hypnotherapy (404) 634-9440 (AI)

SHARON J. SANDERS PSYCHOTHERAPY 1549 Clairmont Rd. Suite #108 Decatur Georgia (404) 373-0278 (AI)

Ansley Therapy Associates Suite 120, 1904 Monroe Drive Atlanta Georgia 30324 (404) 874-8294 (AI)

LEGAL

Deborah Keefe, Attorney at law. General practice, family law, wills, bankruptcy. LaVista Center. 1535 LaVista Rd., NE. Atlanta, GA 30329. (404) 634-3835. (V1#12)

M.P. Schildmeyer, Attorney At Law. Inman 10020 Building 1020 Dekalb Avenue Suite 17, Atlanta, Georgia 30307. (404) 584-9671 (V1#12)

Gregory Z. Schroeder, Attorney At Law. General Practice, Criminal Defense, Bankruptcy, DUI. 550 Pharr Rd., Suite 333

MISC.

AIDS VIDEOTAPE Confidential, educational. Send SASE to Video offer, PO box 497, Tucker, GA 30085. (V1#10)

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GWF, 28, Intelligent and amusing, charming and eclectic. Seeking a madcap gal with brains and a passion for the great outdoors. Lets eat bon-bons in the bathtub. Reply to S.V. Box 2208. (V1#11)

Mark, You've been burned by smooth talk? I'm starting to feel a little heat, too. Really if you want to give it a shot, fine, if not, don't write back. These are not the games I want to play, so get off your neurotic little high horse and give me an answer... Over it, Brian. (V1#9)

BRIAN-The answer is Yes! Sorry about the previous ads. I can't wait to see you again. Name the time and place! Mark. (V1#10)

Oh Mark..Newsflash! Stay on that high horse. I wasn't sure before, but now I know that "Brian" is my ex. You were right, we never had an "agreement", and that is why we are not together anymore. He will say anything to get what he wants, and then destroy it. Go with your original feelings--he's trash! (V1#10)

GWM, 24, 5'10", 240 lbs, bearded seeks friends, possible more, with individuals that can look beyond unpardonable sin in gay community of being somewhat overweight. Have much to give to right friends. Photo please. Box 8674, Atlanta 30306 (V1#10)

If you like pina colodas, and getting caught in the rain, and the feel of the ocean and the taste of champagne. If you like making love at midnight--in the dew summer night. You're the one that I'm looking for. Write to me and escape. GBF, 25, entrepreneur looking for fun & excitement. Race no problem. Dont spend this summer alone! S.V. Box #2210 (V1#9)

Skinny one eyed sailor with funny voice and a spinach fetish seeks big, muscular, bearded brute who is "strong to the finish", to abuse me and maybe be my partner in a very lucrative olive oil business. toot-toot Respond to P.T. Sailorman Box 000 CIO Southern Voice.

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REAL ESTATE

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ROOMMATE NEEDED Male or Female roommate wanted for August 15th move in. Toco Hills/ Emory area (Calibre Pointe Apts.- Briarcliff Rd b/w La Vista Rd. & Clifton Rd.). 2br 2ba roommate plan with gas starter F.P., DW, Pool and Tennis court. Would have own phone line. \$365 + utilities. For more info call David Brey @ 633-6196. (V1#11)

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WANTED

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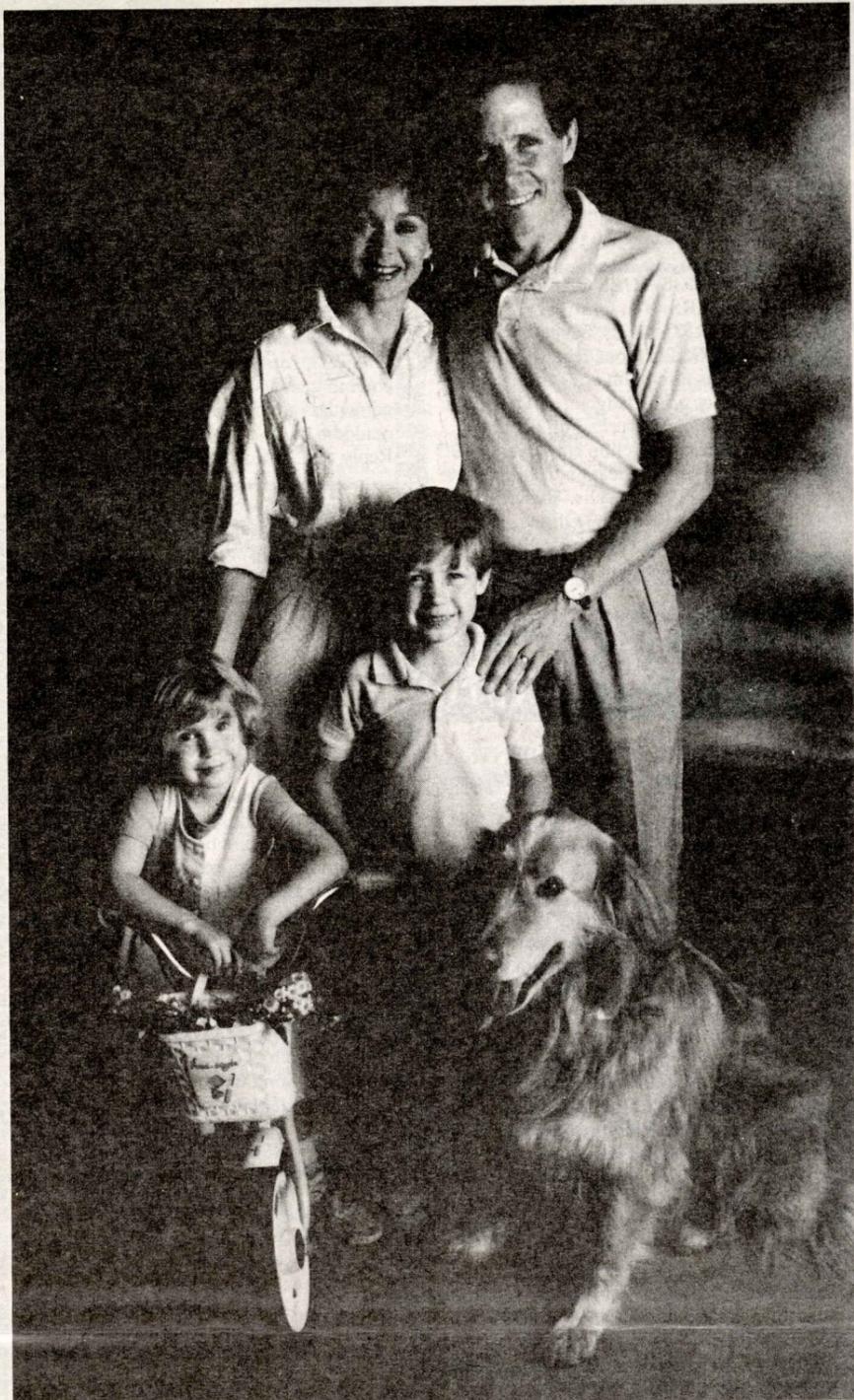
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