

# SOUTHERN VOICE

Vol. 1, No. 11

Taking Pride in Our Culture

Moraitakis  
campaigns for  
gay and  
lesbian vote  
Page 6

July 21, 1988

## Klan and Skinheads Meet with Wall of Anger, Not Allowed to March

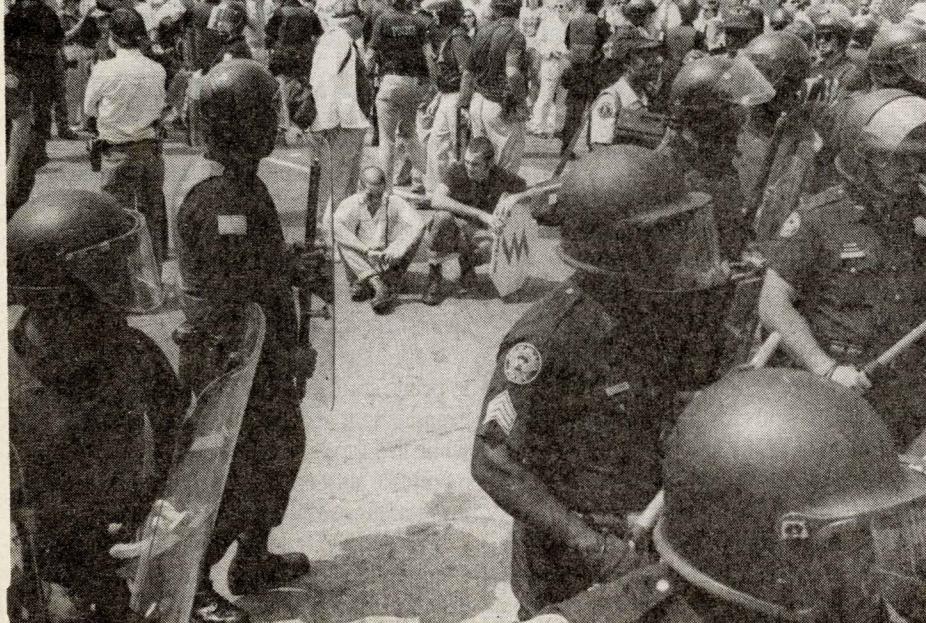


Photo by Gerald Jones

Riot police protect Neo-Nazi skinheads from an angry crowd at the site of the Democratic National Convention.

Atlanta—Beginning with a raucous counter demonstration at the Georgia State Capitol, a coalition led by the All People's Congress, including the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP), Justice for Janitors and assorted self-proclaimed anarchists, stopped a planned march and rally by the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups on Sunday afternoon.

As riot police were attempting to separate the two groups, Public Safety Commissioner George Napper issued a terse statement revoking the Klan's permits to march to the Free Speech site near the Democratic Convention site and to hold their scheduled rally there along with other white supremacist groups. Napper said he was determined to see that there was no "bloodshed on the streets of Atlanta."

The exultant crowd of counter demonstrators then headed for the Free Speech site across from the Convention hall,

where they took over the area. Upon learning that Richard Barrett, a Klan leader, was in their midst, the angry crowd turned on him in unison calling him a "yellow-bellied red neck." Although Barrett was shoved, grabbed at and spat upon, officers made no attempt to arrest any of the crowd. Barrett escaped the area when police officers dragged him across barricades to safety.

Suddenly, nine members of the neo-Nazi skinheads circled the rally sight, heading away from the convention halls. The angry crowd intercepted and attacked the seven men and two women. The media and skinheads alike were pummeled by the mob in their attempt to snatch American flags away from the nine neo-Nazis. Shouting threats and obscenities, the crowd closed in and began spitting into the skinheads' faces while those on the outside edge of the mob

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## INSIDE

The Ballot Box Boogie & B-B-Q and the Raucous Caucus were just two of the weekend's most exciting events for gay/lesbian politicos, delegates and activists in Atlanta for the Democratic National Convention. Pages 3 (Raucous Caucus) and 10 (Ballot Box Boogie).

Gay Activist and AIDS Lobbyist Gil Robison steals the podium this issue with his thoughts on the proper person to represent Ga. House District 40—himself. A strong talk with a convincing speaker. Page 13.

A new HIV vaccine is being studied by the National Institutes of Allergic and Infectious Diseases, and they need gay and/or bisexual men to complete the study. This second group of test subjects will have to travel to D.C. once a week to monitor their health status. Page 13.

k. d. lang's latest album is reviewed by local radio personality K.C. Wildmoon, who attempts to dive into the woman behind the album cover. k.d. registers a four and a half octave range, while claiming to be the reincarnation of Patsy Cline. No wonder she is often compared with the great lady. Page 7

Gay Berlin is the destination for this month's Envoy Travel feature. This informative guide tells not only what touristy things to see while you are there, but it also delivers up the latest hot spots onto the printed page. But beware, everything means a lot more in Berlin than it does in the States. Back Page.

## LEGAL Rally Draws 1,000 To Convention Site

Atlanta—Despite threats of confrontation by white supremacists, the rally sponsored by Atlanta-based Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians (LEGAL) in the Free Speech Area of the Democratic Convention site took place Sunday afternoon without incident.

Approximately 1,000 people, over half of which were from the Atlanta area, braved a broiling Georgia sun to demonstrate their solidarity and commitment to gay and lesbian issues. Mindful of threats from the supremacists—whose rhetoric includes virulent homophobic cliches—LEGAL joined the Center for Democratic Renewal, a watchdog group that tracks and documents the white supremacist movement, in obtaining an injunction against the racists last Friday. The injunction, designed to reduce the threat of harm by the supremacists to others, prohibited the supremacists from carrying weapons or replicas of weapons and carefully proscribed their movements and actions during their protest.

On Friday, police spokesperson Sandra Blount dismissed the threat of disruption saying, "We don't anticipate any trouble." Police officials could not be reached for comment Monday morning.

With the threat of the supremacists eliminated, the LEGAL Rally lived up grandly to expectations. Speakers ranging from local activists to nationally recognized politicians received warm response from the crowd as they affirmed gay and lesbian pride and discussed their political agenda.

"We have a very simple message," Gwen Craig, Co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay Caucus delegates in 1984 and emcee of the event, told the cheering throng. "Stop AIDS. Stop violence. Stop discrimination. This is America."

Throughout the rally, buttons, stickers and leaflets were distributed through the crowd.

By the end, nearly everyone present was wearing at least one "Silence = Death" sticker. In addition, lesbian/gay pride and Stop AIDS T-shirts were sold and banners floated brightly above the heads of the faithful.

Fulton County Commission Chair Michael Lomax received a rousing welcome. He stressed the role the Democratic Party can play in bringing gay and lesbian issues to the political arena. Predicting victory for the Democrats in November, Lomax said the party will re-focus the attention of the nation on human issues.

"All of us hope this week in Atlanta is the beginning of change in America," he said. "For the last eight years, human beings and the rights of human beings have been ignored."

The one sour note of the day came when members of the crowd booed Connie Curry, commissioner of Atlanta's Department of Community Affairs, who was sent as an emissary from Mayor Andrew Young's office. Young was greeting Michael Dukakis at the airport and was unable to address the gathering, according to aides.

Felicity quickly returned, however, when Pete Duttweiler, an aide to Councilmember Mary Davis, reminded everyone that Atlanta is one of only a few cities in the country in which it is illegal for the city to discriminate in employment matters on the basis of sexual orientation. Despite an effort to repeal the ordinance, it remains on the books, largely due to the united effort mounted by the gay and lesbian community against the repeal effort.

Houston activist Ray Hill sounded a cautionary note for politicians who might take gay and lesbian votes for granted.

"I predict," he said, "that in November, there will be many Democratic levers pulled by the people here today. But we are not

through teaching Democrats to be sensitive to gay and lesbian issues."

Senator Alan Cranston of California, a former presidential candidate and author of a bill to crack down on hate motivated crimes, promised more push for funding of AIDS research and more help for those who have been infected. He promised to press for faster approval of drugs that show promise in treatment and for access to those drugs for as many PWAs as possible.

"Political action," he told the crowd, "will lead to more funding. More funding will lead to more medical action. And more medical

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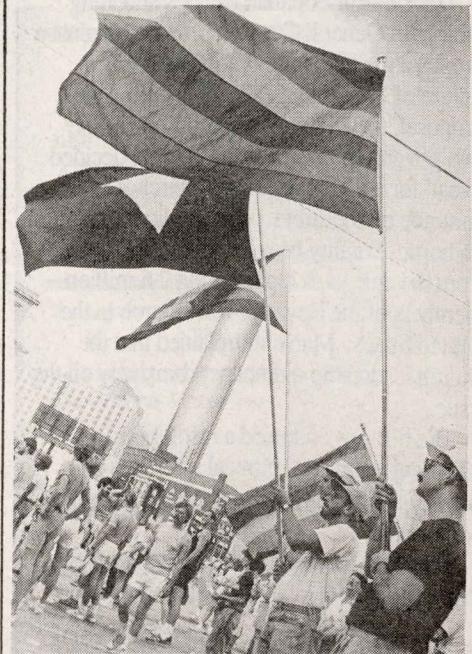


Photo by Pamela J. Cole

Attending Sunday's rally were (l-r) Palmer, Steve and Lamar Huff, acting as unofficial flag bearers.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## History-making Candidacy Announced in Ohio

Columbus—History was made in Columbus, Ohio, on June 23rd when Mike Gelpi announced his plans to run for the United States Congress. This is the first time that an openly gay candidate has announced his intentions to seek a Congressional seat. While others have announced their sexual orientations after their elections, Gelpi made the decision to announce his sexual orientation at the same time that he opened his headquarters as he wanted to run an honest, forthright campaign. The reaction from both the media and the public has been positive and supportive. Gelpi, who is running as the Democratically endorsed candidate, will face incumbent Republican Member of Congress John Kasich and Larouchite Mark Brown in the general election in November.

John Kasich has been consistently unsupportive of the issues on the social and Civil Rights agenda. Kasich's one committee assignment—Armed Services—has enabled him to address reduction in military spending for toilet seats. However, at the same time, he has voted for almost every weapons system and organization request proposed by the Pentagon.

Gelpi says, "The issue for the gay and lesbian community is the neglect of the Reagan administration to adequately address our concerns. Kasich's lack of compassion has only intensified Reagan's efforts to disenfranchise us. Are we really better off today than we were eight years ago? Can we afford to re-elect people like John Kasich? Can we build a successful Congressional coalition that will protect our rights?"

Gelpi is actively seeking support from the gay and lesbian communities across the United States. "We are asking not only for financial contributions but also for volunteers." Individuals or groups who are willing to hold fundraisers or volunteer their efforts are asked to contact the Gelpi Headquarters at (614) 464-9300. "I believe that this is an effort not only for the Twelfth Congressional District, but for gay men and lesbians regardless of where they live."

## Episcopalian Bishops Refuse to Condemn Homosexuality

Detroit—Episcopalian bishops attending their 69th General Convention voted against a proposal to condemn homosexuality as a failure of Christian ideals. In rejecting the proposal, the House of Bishops, one of the two governing bodies of the church, decided to call for a dialogue among churches to continue on the subject of sexuality. The vote on homosexuality brought mixed responses from the delegates representing 2.6 million members of the Episcopalian Church in the United States. Many complained that the church leadership did not act decisively on the issue.

The bishops endorsed a resolution affirming traditional biblical teachings on chastity and fidelity without mentioning homosexuality.

The Rev. Paul Moore Jr., bishop of New York, supported the actions taken by the

House of Bishops saying "Gay people going through the tragedy of AIDS should not be denied the strength of an intimate relationship with a person of the same sex."

The tone of the convention brought several

gestures of support for people with AIDS (PWAs), including a healing service for PWAs, and a call for church leaders of all denominations to form personal relationships with PWAs.

-F.G.

## Gay Editor Banned From USSR

Finland—It looks like Russia and Finland are close to declaring war over the gay connection. The Soviet Union is so upset at the Finnish gay magazine, *Seta*, which recently featured Chairperson Gorbachev on the cover, flying through the air, with a "sexy" Superman torso, that the *Seta* editor, Reijo Harkonen, has been refused a visa to visit Russia any more.

*Seta* has been acting as the link between Western gay organizations, including the International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA), and the representatives of the unofficial gay movement in Leningrad and other Soviet cities. The foreign ministry in Moscow, who made the decision to ban Harkonen, have repeatedly expressed their irritation with the information about the repression of homosexuals in the USSR which has been circulating in the West thanks to reports in *Seta* magazine. The Soviet policy of reform has not yet made any difference to the position of lesbians and gays in Russia.

- John Hubert

## Atlanta Police Courteous, Ineffective in Anti-Gay Case

Atlanta—Atlanta Police have made no progress on a complaint filed by four gay men after the driver and passenger of a car verbally harassed them and tried to strike them with a wooden club.

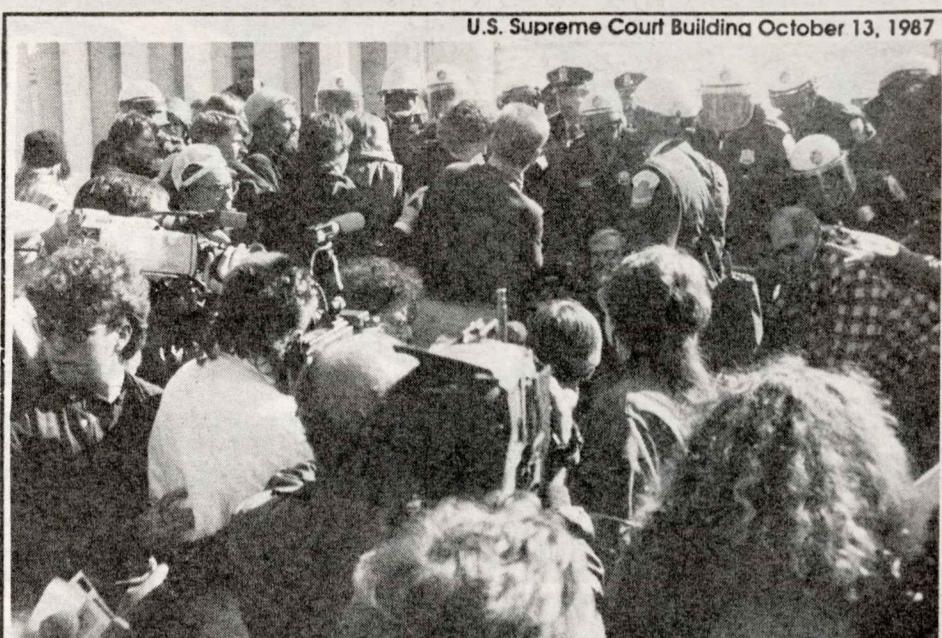
The incident took place more than two months ago when the four friends stood talking in the parking lot in front of the Midtown Six Theatre. The black Volkswagen with tinted windows approached the group, the windows were rolled down and a club was swung. Two gay men who had left the theatre only moments earlier said the same car approached them. That time, the people in the VW yelled "Faggots!" and other standard homophobic insults.

Police officers arrived shortly after they were called, and by all accounts were courteous and helpful. They took a report, including the tag number which the four men say they made a point to remember accurately. In addition to the police, the men reported the incident to activists and to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

After several weeks without police progress, Georgia ACLU Director Gene Guerrero spoke with police and, eventually, got a copy of the report. In the report he discovered that police had transposed numbers and checked for the wrong tag. Guerrero notified police of their error and the investigation resumed. Still, there has been no progress.

Detective M.L. Sanders, the man in charge of the case, told *Southern Voice* that the case is "inactivated." He says the tag number still doesn't correspond to any registered vehicle. He has found a similar vehicle with a similar tag but, he says, without identification of the driver, "we're back at square one."

-F.G.



U.S. Supreme Court Building October 13, 1987

## Two Supreme Court Protesters Singled Out

Washington, D.C.—Two of the estimated 800 protesters arrested at the Supreme Court lesbian and gay civil disobedience (CD) last October 13th have been handed harsh fines by a Superior Court judge. Alexander Willis received one year of supervised probation, 100 hours of community service and a \$100 fine. Both Willis and Michael McDonogh were found guilty of demonstrating without a permit and unlawful crossing of a police line.

According to Willis' attorney, Leonard Graff, the legal director of National Gay Rights Advocates, there is no "rhyme or reason" to singling out Willis and McDonogh from the 800 arrested at the largest act of civil disobedience since the antiwar protests of the early 70s. "The government simply decided that they had to make an example of these people. Considering the symbolic nature of

the crime, the sentence was unnecessarily harsh." The government has scapegoated his client, he said.

Organizers of the CD also decried the harsh sentences. Most of the 800 arrested pleaded guilty and paid a \$50 fine; 51 others spent 48 hours in jail.

Several women, however, were subjected to pelvic searches, other medical examinations and strip searches by police while in custody. One of the women reportedly suffered internal damage as a result of the examination.

DC civil rights attorney Nina Kraut plans a multimillion dollar suit against the city on behalf of the women to halt forced body cavity searches. NGRA plans to appeal Willis' sentence.

-Gay Community News

## Teachers Union Urges Counseling for Gay/Lesbian Students

New Orleans—Delegates to the National Education Association (NEA) annual convention voted to urge all school districts to offer counseling to students struggling with their sexual identity. After a heated debate, the delegates representing almost two million NEA members approved the resolution despite strong opposition from John Walters, Chief of Staff for Education Secretary William Bennett.

One of the strongest supporters of the measure, NEA Secretary-Treasurer Roxanne Bradshaw, spoke of her experience with a young student who is now in a coma after attempting suicide because of her anxiety over her sexual orientation.

-F.G.

## U.S. Senate Votes to Repeal Part of D.C. Gay/Lesbian Rights Law; Nunn & Fowler Go Along

In what some consider its first vote on gay and lesbian rights, the U.S. Senate voted 58–33 to force the District of Columbia to weaken its tough gay rights law.

The July 11th vote would block the D.C. '89 budget of \$3.7 billion unless the D.C. council votes to allow private schools with religious ties to deny services or support to gay and lesbian groups. It was introduced as an amendment by Senator Bill Armstrong (R-CO) on the appropriations bill for the city.

But lobbyists say the amendment will

probably be nixed in Senate-House conference as intruding on home rule.

The Vote came in the wake of an '87 court ruling that the D.C. gay rights law required Georgetown University to give gay groups the same access to facilities and funding as other groups. Georgetown, which has disclaimed any involvement in the amendment, is connected to the Catholic Church.

Leading the debate for gay rights were Tom Harkin (D-IA), chair of the D.C. Appropriations subcommittee, along with Alan Cranston (D-CA) and Lowell Weicker (R-CT).

"It is just good, old-fashioned, straightforward bigotry," Weicker said. "This should go back down the sewer from which it came."

The amendment was not intended to harm gays but to protect the rights of schools to practice their religious beliefs, Armstrong said. He compared it with the struggle of churches in Nicaragua and Poland against their governments.

Democratic Senators Sam Nunn and Wyche Fowler of Georgia voted against gays, while more of the 54 Democrats voted for gays than against (26 for). That was not nearly the case with the 46 Republicans, but 6 voted for gays, including 2 surprises: William Cohen (ME) and Dan Evans (WA), who is retiring this year.

Jesse Helms did not vote because he is hospitalized for prostate problems.

A strong reaction to the vote is building in D.C. council, the *Washington Post* reports. Chairman David Clarke said he would allow the spending freeze to take effect rather than weaken gay rights.

"I hope they (Senators) are ready for no police, no firefighters and no anything else," Clarke said, predicting his colleagues would agree.

- John Ward

# Klan

*Cont'd. from Page 1*

threw anything that came to hand—including eggs, wooden staves and an orange traffic pylon. With the riot squad protecting the Convention hall itself, three officers and an unknown security guard were left to safely remove the neo-Nazis. Ironically, the three officers were black.

The procession turned away from the Omni, but was turned back by traffic and a vendor's mall set up on a street in the Fairlie-Poplar district. The crowd, emboldened by the lack of police intervention, threw several of the skinheads to the ground, jumped on one of their backs, and even threw themselves on the ground in order to trip the fleeing skinheads. Amazingly, the neo-Nazis only suffered minor abrasions and cuts.

As the mob rounded the corner back toward the convention and rally sites, the shout went up that the neo-Nazis were only a diversion to permit the Klan, who had not heeded Napper's cancellation of their rally permit, to safely reach the free speech area.

**Any question of the combustibility of the crowd or the imminent danger present was settled when the crowd of 25 Klan members and neo-Nazis were surrounded by over 500 anti-racist demonstrators.**

The ruse failed, however, as the Klan was stopped two blocks short of their goal by police officials who refused them entry because they could not guarantee their safety.

Any question of the combustibility of the crowd or the imminent danger present was settled when the crowd of 25 Klan members and neo-Nazis were surrounded by over 500 anti-racist demonstrators. Although the white supremacists waved Confederate flags and carried racist signs, they chose to stick to homophobic chants, most notably "Thank God for AIDS." Among the Klan marchers was a young boy no older than seven, whose face was covered with human spittle. The Klan marchers were driven back into the National Atlanta Garage, where they had to await a police escort to safely conduct them out of the area.

Surprising to most observers was the unity of purpose between the odd assortment of groups. Though definitely present, gay men and lesbians did not make up the majority of anti-racists. Yet the crowd overwhelmingly backed the gay/lesbian onlookers, joining them in chants and seemingly enjoying the taunting given to the Klan members by those

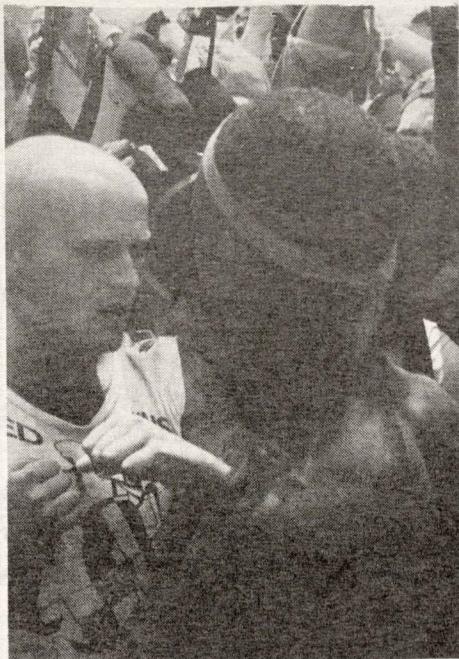


Photo by Chris Duncan

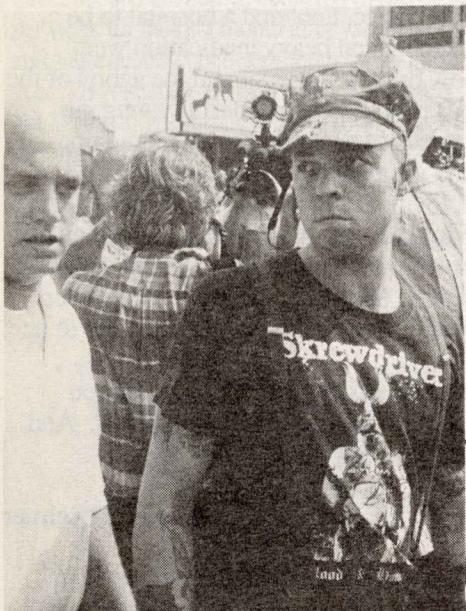
**A skinhead and counter demonstrator during the melee outside the Democratic National Convention.**

gay men and lesbians present. When one man shouted at the Klan members, "Hey, honey, I'm gay, and if you come over here I'm going to kick your a..." two elderly black women urged him on. When questioned, the women declined to give their names, and said that they weren't exactly comfortable with gay/lesbian sexuality. But, they added, anyone willing to "kick some Klan a..." had to be all right.

The groups present in the anti-Klan protest are all known for their vociferous defense of their own first amendment rights of free speech. When asked to explain the discrepancy between that position and their demand that the white supremacists not be allowed their turn to speak, they universally pointed to the international law which bans hate groups which preach genocide, such as the KKK and other white supremacy groups.

Other rallies and marches scheduled for the rest of the convention week are not expected to draw any violent counter protests. A lesbian/gay rally sponsored by the Atlanta Democratic club Legislate Equality for Gays And Lesbians (LEGAL) held a half hour after the Klan stand-off was peaceful, with many of the anti-racist protesters staying on. As one Atlanta police officer pointed out under condition of anonymity, Stone Mountain is only 20 miles east of the convention site, and the largest Klan organization in the country is based there. Said the officer, "I sincerely hope they don't come back down here, because if they do, they'll be carrying guns next time, and blood doesn't clean up nearly as easily as spit."

—Chris Duncan



Unidentified skinheads brace for trouble during a confrontation between the group of nine skinheads and an angry crowd of counter demonstrators.

## "Raucus Caucus" Kicks Off Busy Convention Week

GAPAC (Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition) kicked off Convention week on Saturday night with a "Raucus Caucus" that lived up to its name. As the first social event of a very busy week, the Caucus was well-attended by both local and national politicians and activists. More than 300 people filled the room for an evening of dancing, and political and not-so-political socializing.

Throughout the evening M.J. Murray, Chair of GAPAC recognized attendants active in the political arena. Nationally, those in attendance included Barney Frank (D-MA); Mike Gelpi, openly gay Congressional candidate from Ohio; Jean O'Leary, Director of National Gay Rights Advocates; Vic Basile, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, and Mayor John Laird of Santa Cruz, among others. Locally, Murray recognized HRCF board members.

Jackie Johnson, Ann McAllister and Stosh Ostrow, and openly gay candidates for the Ga. House of Representatives Dick Rhodes and Gil Robison.

The evening raised \$3,000 which, according to Murray, will be added to a fund designated for election contributions. "The money will go a long way to funding election efforts", she stated. "It was a tremendously successful event, and it's a real pleasure to see local organizations producing activities for a national effort which are so well attended by local and national people alike."

Murray was quick to point out that John Hausler and Phyllis DiPietro worked very hard on the Caucus and were largely responsible for its success. Hausler, President of the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild, chaired the coordination for the evening's events, and DiPietro, a local DJ, donated her time.



**Owners of Atlant's gay and lesbian clubs and restaurants met at City Hall July 7th to discuss gay/lesbian participation and strategy during the Democratic National Convention. Over \$4,000 was donated by the club owners.**

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## VIEWPOINTS

### Backlash a Product of Visibility

Lesbian and gay issues are receiving more attention in local and national politics and in the media than ever before since we recognized ourselves as a community some twenty years ago. It took the rest of the world quite a bit longer to acknowledge us, and many are still fighting it. It's easy to attribute the lack of attention to homophobia – if you try hard enough you can attribute virtually every ill we suffer to homophobia. But the world is more complicated than that. We must move beyond that simple explanation, and any other simple explanations, and begin to prepare for the attention that will inevitably come our way as we continue to become more visible.

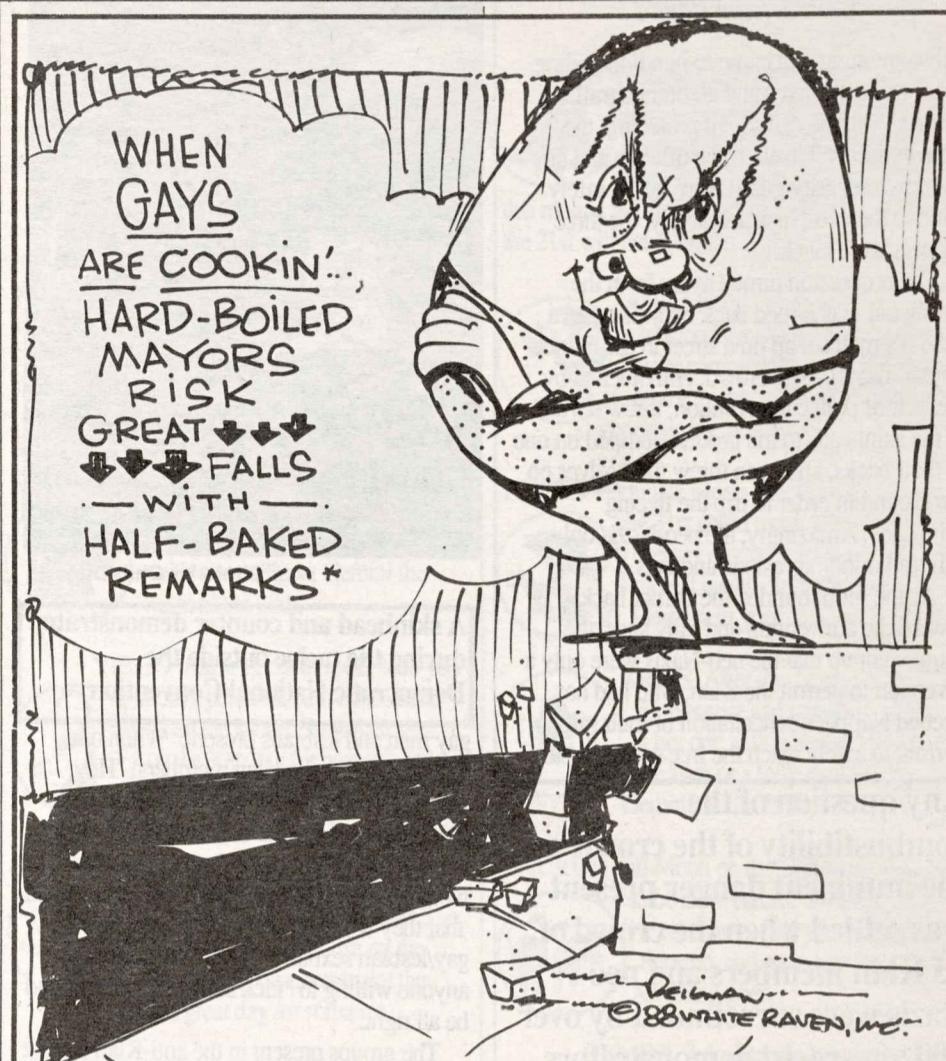
One reason we have been ignored is simply because we are just now coming into our own strength. With the AIDS epidemic taking thousands of lives and our government's complete insensitivity to it, we have been forced to grow up. We are now in the "young adulthood" of our movement in many ways. We have begun to forge an identity for ourselves, are beginning to learn to accept responsibility, and have gotten a taste of what it means to live in the "real world." Now, the world is paying attention. And that attention both helps and hurts us. It helps us because it educates people, not only straight society but ourselves as well. It brings us allies. But for every piece of ground we gain, another seems to be taken away. With every step we take toward more visibility, there is backlash.

Consider the following:

1. The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Oct., 1987 drew 650,000 and was the largest demonstration for civil rights in the history of this country. That same month, Sen. Jesse Helms introduced an amendment that prohibited the federal government from funding educational materials that "promote a homosexual lifestyle". Only two senators had the sense or the guts to vote against it.
2. As our activism around AIDS and civil rights issues has increased we stand to lose gay rights ordinances in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, and have lost proposed ordinances in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and violence against lesbians and gays doubled in 1987 with the rate in San Francisco leading the nation.
3. Locally, we have a mayor who stated that he didn't care if we "baked ourselves to medium rare" during protests scheduled for the week of the Democratic Convention, and stated he saw no reason for anybody to be protesting anything. Short memory, huh? Young had signed a proclamation less than a month ago declaring "Lesbian and Gay Rights Week". But with the eyes of the nation on Atlanta, either his true colors came forth or he felt he had to take an unsympathetic stance. It is not politically smart, yet, to appear to be supportive of lesbian/gay rights or AIDS activists.

We are in a precarious position in American society, and we need to begin to prepare ourselves for both the best and the worst of the attention we will receive. In our effort to make ourselves and our needs more visible, we must also have a unified agenda to present. We need to figure out who we are, who we want to be and how we intend to present ourselves. With a solid agenda, a visible presence and time, it will be politically smart to be allied with us.

Increased visibility has and will continue to bring increased threats, violence and backlash. How do we ready ourselves for that? The same way we prepare for the good. We find out who our friends are, vote for them and hold them accountable. We also hold individuals and institutions accountable. We do not hide. We do not run.



"...If they want to lay down in the street, they can lay there till the sun cooks them medium rare," said Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young in the July 10th edition of the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution* when asked about protesters during the Democratic National Convention. He was obviously referring to the people planning to participate in the "Die-In," an AIDS demonstration held Monday in which people symbolically die when the names of people who have died from AIDS are read aloud. A chalk outline is then drawn around the body.

#### Guest Editorial

### The Way It Was

I came out in 1956, when being a lesbian was very shameful. We were called the trash of the gutter, the psychopaths, the sick ones, the filth, the depraved, the sluts. Since we had no self-esteem, we agreed with the rest of the world, that we had no place on this earth. Consequently, we lived our lives accordingly.

Because I was a blatant lesbian, even during those times, the police and others in authority hated me. Every weekend, I could expect to be arrested and dragged down to the police station to be harassed. I would be forced to empty my personal belongings onto the table for each of them to see and then I would have to strip down to nakedness, so that they could check how many articles of women's clothing I was wearing. Having met the requirement of at least three pieces, I was released out into the darkness of the early morning to make my way back to wherever my car might have been left hours before. The charge? Suspicion of sodomy.

Mental health counseling was always available to help us try to find our way back to heterosexual living. I spent thirteen years with my lover praying that I would fall out of love with her, meet a man, have children, and become a decent human being. At one point, not altogether by choice, I entered a hospital to be cured of this LESBIAN disease. Shock treatment and heavy medication were prescribed. Somehow, I don't remember how or why, I was spared the agony of the shock treatment. My gay friends were not as lucky. One wonderful young girl, who was an excellent athlete and had high hopes of becoming a nun, could not stand another moment. She hung herself and we all admired her courage.

Two thousand proud, happy, wonderful, loving lesbians—walking hand in hand, looking into each other's eyes, hugging, loving, supporting—free to be who they are, thirty-three years later. How happy they are! Do they know the pain and suffering of the women who came before them? I want to take each one aside and tell her what it was like years before. So, that she can understand how much she has to be thankful for.

It is important for me to reach out to each one of you, hold you, and let you know that today we have so much to be thankful for. Everyone, hold hands. And in your pride, never let another lesbian be ashamed of loving.

—Marcia Zeimer

*Editor's note: Marcia wrote this autobiography during a workshop at the 1988 Womanwrites conference. This is her first writing creation. The "two thousand" mentioned refers to the Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival. Marcia resides in Florida.*

## SOUTHERN VOICE

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## South Needs to Sing A New Song

July 15, 1988

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus  
P.O. Box 77114  
Atlanta, Ga 30357

Dear Gentlemen,

One of my first memories of a gay bar occurred during happy hour at an old established bar in Kansas City. Having just turned twenty-one, I thought that in a gay bar everyone would be welcomed from our community. More quickly than I had expected, that bit of naivete was smashed to hell when a middle-aged man proceeded to tell racist bad joke after racist bad joke. This man's humor was intentionally racist. It was a painful lesson, but one I am glad I learned early on in my attempt at a gay life.

I am writing the following letter to address another form of racism that I feel occurred, not intentionally, but due to a lack of understanding and a certain amount of insensitivity. Be assured that it is with respect for Atlanta's only openly gay male choral group that I am submitting this letter. I will be up front about my motives lest some perceive this as an act of separatism. It is my hope that our fragmented community come together, if only occasionally. Our coming together will happen much sooner if we become aware of some painful historical truths and try not to gloss over their effects.

I am questioning the choice of a particular set of music performed by the AGMC in hopes that at some future point, consideration and sensitivity for our community's diversity will be made a factor when selecting music. I am questioning the medley of Southern songs performed at the Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men and also this year at Pride '88 during the celebration at Piedmont Park. My question is simply why was that music chosen?

The songs are peppy, familiar and somewhat entertaining. The trouble I have with the songs is they romanticize the "ole South" during its pre-Civil War days. For members of my paternal family, that reminds them of a time when my grandfather's grandfather was considered another man's property.

Nationally, the same period of history is shamefully characterized as a time when the South engaged in, promoted and endorsed the practice of human slavery. Historically, this is also a period when the South those songs glorify chose secession over unity and human liberty, and chose to grasp to an outdated feudal society rather than integrating with the progress of the nation.

I will not critique the quality of the performance. I will, however, say that Atlanta is nationally known among minority lesbians and gays as a southeastern haven for our culture. I am sure you are aware of the huge African-American lesbian and gay community here.

It is then very noticeable that there are no Black men in a chorus singing songs which praise the South during one of the most oppressive times in African-American history.

It is a struggle to bring Atlanta's people of color out and involved in such activities as Pride '88 and the Southeastern Conference. I make this comment based on the terrible percentages of people from my side of the tracks seen at any function. And I don't believe we will ever come in proportionate numbers to hear songs like "Dixie".

In the "Land of Cotton" many American families were severed, destroyed, and massacred. As a society, we all still suffer from racism and its ill effects even in the attitudes and practices of our lesbian and gay community.

My last point is a rather simple fact. Not only is the South of the past (and often present) illustrated with ignorance, insolence and racism but homophobia as well. Our very Chorus singing those songs would be as oppressed for being openly gay as the millions of people of color were for being born some race other than Caucasian.

As a fellow vocalist and performing artist, I encourage the AGMC to sing, but to sing a new song.

Sincerely,  
Duncan  
a.k.a.  
Amethyst Pryde

cc: Southern Voice

## Voter Mobilization A Key Task

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article entitled "Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '88: Images to Remember" which appeared in the July 7th edition of *Southern Voice*. Among the variety of activities at Piedmont Park which were reported, your paper listed a voter registration drive sponsored by GAPAC.

The voter registration activity actually was sponsored by the "Pride Committee". In particular, Dale Biggers and Gary Cox were instrumental in the organization of that drive. Mr. Biggers donated the canopy which was used for the drive, and deputy registrars volunteered to staff the voter registration table.

In addition, it is important to note that regulations in the State of Georgia prohibit sponsorship of voter registration drives by any organization with direct political affiliations (either bipartisan or otherwise).

Mobilization of potential gay and lesbian voters is an important task. I would encourage interested individuals in Fulton, DeKalb and other counties to contact the office of Voter Registration, become deputized and help register people to vote. Our votes do make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Linda Meredith  
Deputy Registrar

*Editor's Note: Our apologies to all those involved with the voter registration drive and GAPAC for the mistake. The work involved in registering voters is hard and thankless, but it is perhaps the most patriotic and "American" job around. If you are not registered to vote, then do so. Your vote does count!*

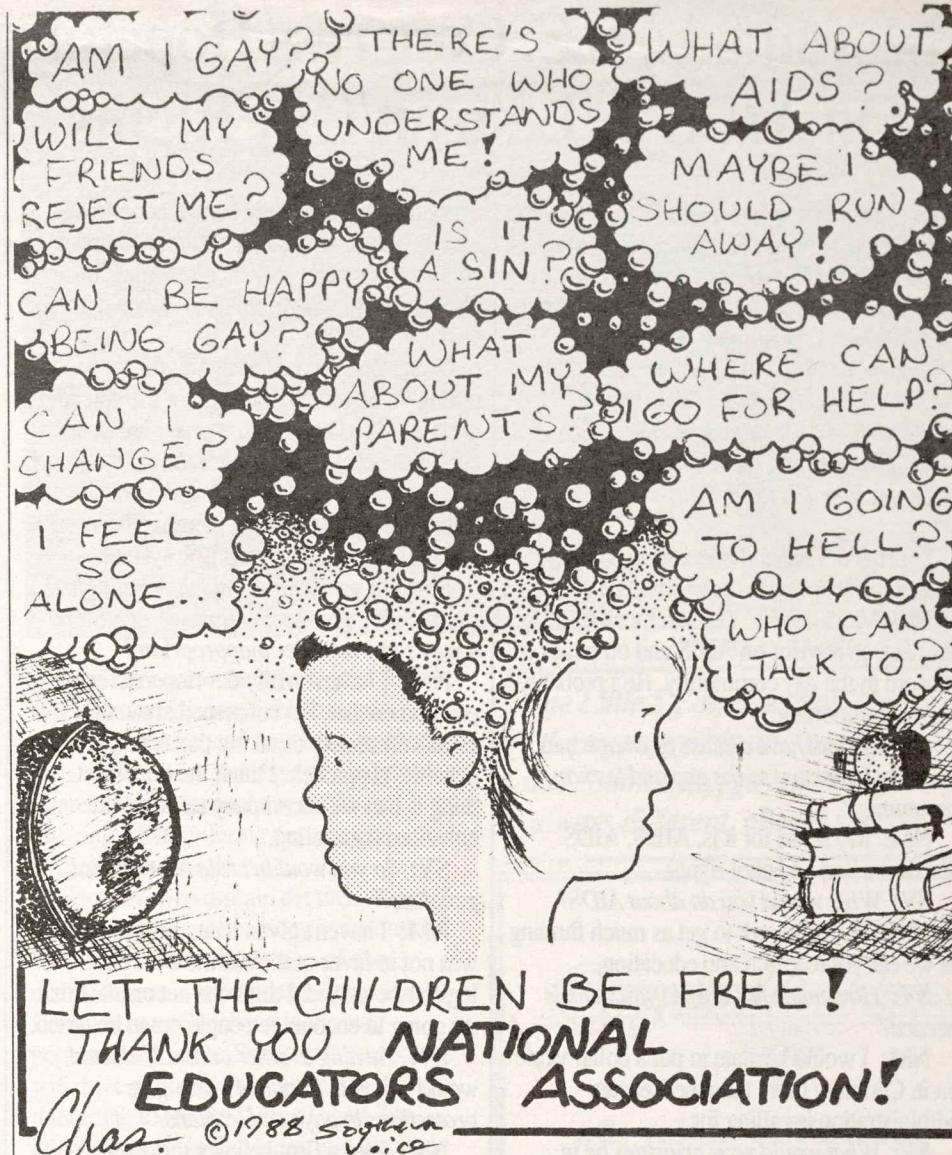
## There's More to Pride Than Beer and Wet T-Shirts

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate you on *Southern Voice*. It is informative and enjoyable to read. I feel that you make an excellent attempt to cover the issues that are important to our diverse community.

However, I was very disturbed by the picture you ran on your last front page of a woman holding a beer bottle as representative of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration. I do not feel that it was an accurate indicator of the day's events. There was no alcohol sold that day and there was a true sense of family.

The overwhelming number of people there were not drinking alcohol, and many brought along their children and other family members. It was a wonderful and peaceful day. I was touched by our ability to enjoy each other's company - despite the heat and



## Grizzard Is An Embarrassment to City

Atlanta Journal/Constitution  
P.O. Box 4689  
Atlanta, GA 30302

The Editors:

In regards to the comment by Lewis Grizzard in the Friday July 8th *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, "Feeling sorry for IRAN is like feeling sorry for AIDS."

Rhetoric of this nature serves no purpose other than to propagate unsubstantiated fear, intolerance, and ignorance.

I, along with an extremely large cross section of this planet, have been cut and scarred too deeply by this indiscriminate and unconstrained killer.

In a city struggling to emerge as an international city, and who will be in the limelight of America during the Democratic National Convention, the voice of the community should not be that of a backwoods, derogatorial bigot.

So until that time, in which Lewis Grizzard is served with his long overdue pink slip, I will neither patronize nor advertise in your publication. I also call on all others who feel as I do, to use alternative media.

Clay Miller  
Atlanta, GA

cc: Southern Voice

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

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

Southern Voice/Viewpoints  
PO Box 54719  
Atlanta, Georgia  
30308

# Moraitakis, U.S. Congress Hopeful, On AIDS & Lesbian/Gay Rights

As the controversy surrounding 4th district Congressman Pat Swindall heats up, the race for the Democratic nomination becomes more important. Atlanta attorney Nick Moraitakis is running in that race against Ben Jones and John Stembler. With the August 9 primary only weeks away, here's what Mr. Moraitakis told Southern Voice during an interview conducted at his home on June 29, 1988.

**Southern Voice:** Do you have any gays or lesbians working on your campaign?

**Nick Moraitakis:** Yes. Dr. Stosh Ostrow has been an advisor on AIDS and on issues of concern to the gay community. He's probably the most important.

**SV:** So, you have a sense of what issues are most important to the gay and lesbian community?

**NM:** My sense for it is, AIDS, AIDS discrimination and civil rights.

**SV:** What would you do about AIDS?

**NM:** I would work to get as much funding as we can for research and education.

**SV:** How much funding do you think is needed?

**NM:** I would hesitate to put a dollar value on it. Certainly more than the Reagan administration is calling for.

**SV:** What would your priorities be in spending AIDS funding?

**NM:** Research, education, treatment, testing.

**SV:** What about social services for people with AIDS?

**NM:** I include that in treatment. We need to insure that we have the capability to treat people with AIDS and care for them.

**SV:** What's your position on the need for a federal AIDS anti-discrimination law?

**NM:** I think it's a must. We need to do

everything we can to encourage people to be tested. We are not doing enough to maintain confidentiality and prevent discrimination.

**SV:** Do you favor any kind of mandatory testing?

**NM:** Yes. I would prefer mandatory testing in the military because of the potential need for blood transfusions under hastened circumstances. I would favor testing for blood and organ donors...I lean toward mandatory testing for people seeking marriage licenses and I favor testing in the prison system.

**SV:** Do you favor criminal penalties for people who, after testing positive, behave in a way some consider inappropriate?

**NM:** I haven't really developed a firm position on that. I'm concerned about the effects on society of taking that (criminal penalties) approach. I think the important thing is that we accompany testing with enhanced counseling.

**SV:** So you wouldn't rule out criminal penalties?

**NM:** I haven't given it enough thought. I was not in favor of the bill the Georgia legislature passed. I think the net result is that it's going to encourage people not to be tested.

**SV:** Turning to other areas...If elected, would you vote to extend civil rights protections to gays and lesbians?

**NM:** I am a firm believer that everyone should have the benefit of civil right laws, that discrimination should find its way nowhere. I would be inclined to favor the legislation.

**SV:** Would you favor recognizing gay and lesbian couples and guaranteeing for them the same rights heterosexual couples have?

**NM:** When you talk about discrimination, you include recognition that no one will be treated differently. I think our laws have to



PHOTO BY JEANNINE QUINTANA

apply to all members of society equally.

**SV:** Do you have any problem with gays and lesbians as parents?

**NM:** When you talk about children who are in a court proceeding, the state has to act in the best interest of the child. Based on all criteria, the state has to decide who is the best parent. Clearly, the single most important criterion is the love of the parent.

**SV:** How does sexual preference affect the parents' qualifications, other things being equal?

**NM:** I think it's a factor to be considered. But homosexuality should not be the sole disqualifier.

**SV:** Is there an area where you think gays and lesbians should be excluded...The military, CIA, teaching...?

**NM:** No. I'm anti-discrimination. That's the way I was raised. My father ingrained that in me since I was a very young child.

**SV:** Why should a Southern Voice reader vote for Nick Moraitakis rather than for Ben Jones?

**NM:** ...for the same reason everyone in this district should vote for me. I'm more qualified...

**SV:** Any parting words for the readers of Southern Voice?

**NM:** The only parting words I have is that my feeling about the responsibility of an elected official is that we must elect people who recognize that wisdom emerges from contending views. That's the way I've always felt and it's the way I've run my life. I welcome your readers to call on me with their advice and with their counsel. My number is 371-1988 and I'll be willing to do everything I can to have their input in our campaign.

-F.G.



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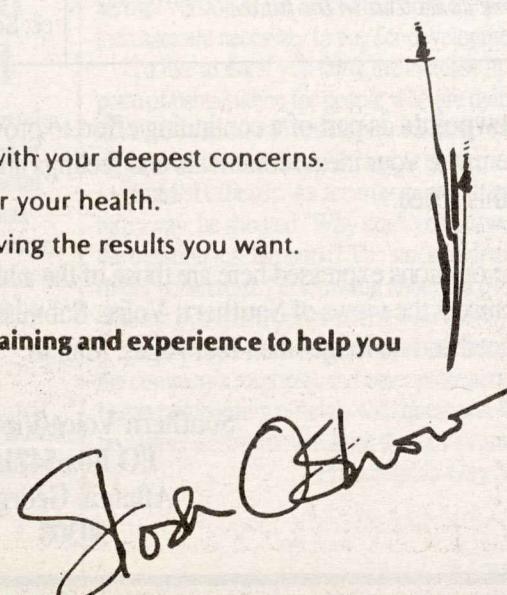
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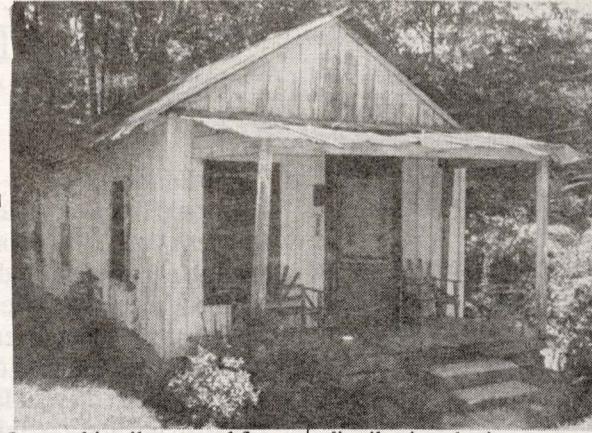
## Magazine Celebrates Southern Gay/Lesbian Cultural History With Special Issue

The Institute for Southern Studies in Durham, publishers of *Southern Exposure* magazine, has put out a call for articles that capture our past as gay and lesbian Southerners.

As lesbians and gay men throughout the South gain strength and visibility in their campaign for civil rights, it is crucial to document and cherish the history of a culture that was fostered in silence and fear. To keep these stories from being lost, the Institute is preparing a record of Southern gay and lesbian history, culture and politics.

The fall issue of the Institute's quarterly journal will feature a 30-page cover section on lesbians and gay men in the South. The essential message of the section will be that gay and lesbian culture is intricately intertwined with Southern culture.

Writers, historians, and archivists are encouraged to submit articles and ideas.



There is particular interest in oral histories of gay elders throughout the Southern states, who were born and raised in the South, who came out in the South, and whose lives are representative of the richness of the culture.

This special issue of *Southern Exposure* will be published in October of 1988. In addition to distributing the issues to subscribers, the Institute is planning a direct mail to reach gay and lesbian organizations and individuals throughout the South and the nation.

Please submit your articles and ideas by July 30 to Jim Baxter, Project Coordinator, P.O. Box 25642, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want your article returned.

Photo by Georgia Poverty Journal

## Bananaland Conjures Up Central American Circus

You will enter through the door which is open but only after the door has been opened by someone who is standing on the inside. Consider yourself an outsider in this matter. One who must by necessity buy a ticket in order to enter. Those on the inside know something which you do not know and it is your job to find out what it is.

Welcome to Bananaland! Where everything is bananas south of the border. Where Somoza smiles when he says "Frequently you will be told what to do and where to go. I like that." And he grins some more as he chews on his cigar with his teeth. George Nikas, as Somoza, has never looked better or happier in a uniform as he oversees the Plaza area where you may be seated at a few select tables and be entertained by the enchanting duo of Rodger French and Nita Hardy.

Here in the Plaza you will have the opportunity to slurp a banana smoothie or drool over a banana popsicle. You may want

from the top banana in propaganda—Edward Bernays (played by Kent Whipple) who will speak to the effectiveness of a good public relations campaign in keeping the natives quiet while stealing away their land. Let's hear it for the United Fruit Company and the capitalist way.

After the museum tour you will find your way to the tour of Guatemala, or vice versa as the case may be. And here you will find the most effective use of political theater in Neil Bogan and Jim Brooks' presentation of "Operation Success." See how the CIA replaces a democratically elected leader with a puppet government in a few easy song and dance numbers. Very imaginative work that holds one's attention with a focus and clarity that is sometimes missing in other parts of the show.

Bananaland is a multi-media extravaganza approach in creating a theatrical environment. I found it visually amazing that anyone could come up with so many different images of



Actors Nita Hardy and Rodger French appearing in "Bananaland" at 7 Stages July 7-24.

to check out the tourist hut for pre-Columbian artifacts and other good deals like authentic Panama hats and banana napkin holders. You may also want to check out the propaganda booth in an attempt to get serious. In fact, this may be a good cover. Buy a good book, a Panama hat, sit at the table with the hat pulled down over your eyes, and pretend that you are not having a good time and that bananas don't interest you a bit. Pretend you are CIA on a counterintelligence mission in enemy territory.

When you have exhausted that fantasy or another of your own choosing you will want to visit the Museum. It's not that you will want to visit the museum but you will have to visit the museum. Because that's the way it is in Bananaland. Freedom of choice is an optical illusion. You will begin to understand. Slowly. For instance we as Americans support the right to democracy in Nicaragua—as long as the Contras are in control.

While in the Museum area you will hear

bananas under one roof, but you may leave never wanting to see the face of another banana again.

Some of the show's messages get buried in the busyness of the production and I found myself wondering if those without strong background information on Central American politics would get all the references alluded to. I didn't. And I also found myself feeling sort of dazed, wandering around aimlessly waiting for the next event to begin, then marveling at the wonderful metaphor I had been presented with...because it's so very similar to what American policy is in Central America. Wandering around aimlessly with nowhere to go, waiting for the next event to begin.

Hats off to Ruby Lerner and George King for a thoroughly imaginative show/experience. Bananaland runs through July 27th at Seven Stages Theater. 523-7047 for reservations and information.

—Debra Hiers

## k.d. lang: Is She or Isn't She...Patsy?

Does Patsy Cline give you chills? Brenda Lee make you cry? Loretta Lynn get your feet tappin'? And what about Kitty Wells? Have you checked into k.d. lang? She's a Canadian—up there they call her the Alberta Rose—from Consort, Alberta (population 674—sometimes small towns produce the strangest folks).

At the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics she got the athletes on their feet dancing with a kickin' rendition of "Turn Me Round" from her "Angel with a Lariat" album. That's a fine album—lots of raucous roadhouse music guaranteed to get you dancing just like those athletes.

But hidden away on the album are two slower songs: "Diet of Strange Places" (written by k.d.) and a cover of the Patsy classic "Three Cigarettes in a Ashtray." I wanted more.

And now we've got it. "Shadowland," an album produced by Owen Bradley, arguably the finest Nashville producer ever, is out and it's everything we could have dreamed of: couple of Western-type numbers a la Marty Robbins ("Western Stars" and "Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes"), some Big City Blues ("Black Coffee" and "Busy Being Blue"), a bit of Big Band ("Shadowland") and enough classic country to make Patsy proud, wherever she is.

The first thing to mention about k.d. is The Voice. Best guess is she's got a four and half octave range; the lower register rich like "Black Coffee," the upper register crystal clear. And emotion, lots of emotion. If some of Patsy's broken heart songs tear you up, listen closely to "I Wish I Didn't Love You So" or "Lock, Stock and Teardrops." Generally speaking, I like to avoid comparison to other artists, but comparing k.d. to Patsy is inevitable. k.d. herself seems to invite it: her band's called "The Reclines," and the credits on "Shadowland" include a thanks to "patsy." Like Patsy, k.d. has remarkable control over a remarkable voice, an amazing ability to take the corniest c-w lyric and, with a careful break in the voice, turn it into a heart-wrencher. And k.d. claims to be a reincarnation of Patsy. No kidding.

She really does.

And then there's "Honky Tonk Angels' Medley," a medley of "In the Evening (When the Sun Goes Down)," "You Nearly Lose Your Mind," and "Blues Stay Away from Me." The thing that makes this a memorable cut is that it's a quartet featuring k.d., Brenda

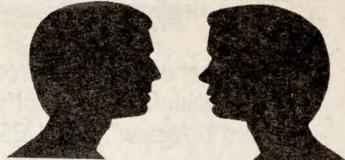
Lee, Loretta Lynn, and Kitty Wells. Only Patsy is missing.

k.d. spent two years convincing Owen Bradley to come out of retirement to produce this album. With a little help from RCA artist rep Mary Martin and an appearance on "The Tonight

Show," he did, and the result is an exceptionally well produced album. Play it loud when you think you can't possibly feel any more depressed, or just to enjoy one of the best voices on record.

She's touring the US now, but as of this writing, there is no Atlanta date set. When there is, I'll see you there.

—KC Wildmoon



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(3:00 pm)

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**AID Atlanta**

at  
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# THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

## This Week's Highlights

**The Influence of Lesbian Feminism in the Israeli Peace Movement**—July 21st. Charis Books & More. Chaya Shalom, a fourth-generation Palestinian Sephardic Jew, will speak and Beth York will present a slide show, "Motherland". Beth's slide show was inspired by her 1986 trip to Israel for the International Women's Music Festival where she met Chaya. 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**The Heat Is On**—Through July 22nd. Atlanta Photography Gallery, 495 Peachtree Street. An open exhibition of more than 40 photographers covering the Democratic National Convention. The exhibit will be updated daily and will be open from 12:00–9:00 p.m. A party open to the public on July 22nd from 7:00–10:00 p.m. will conclude the showing. Call 881-8139 for details.

**Tracy Chapman**—July 23rd. Center State Theatre. This exciting young artist brings her unique blend of new folk, rock, reggae and jazz to Atlanta for the first time. Born in Cleveland, Tracy first began singing in Boston clubs. She credits Suzanne Vega's debut for opening the door for her music. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and tickets are \$15.00. 873-2500 is the number for more information.

**Art In The Ozone**—Through August 12th. Georgia Tech Student Center Art Gallery. A playfully serious set of installations probing the issue of ozone depletion. Nine Atlanta artists have collaborated with the Georgia Tech Atmospheric Sciences Department to present current information on ozone depletion in an easy-to-understand fashion. Exhibit hours are 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Call 894-2805 for details.



### THURSDAY

**21**

- MACGLO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Peachtree Branch Library.

- Chaya Shalom and Beth York at Charis Books & More. 7:30 p.m. 524-0304.

- Summer of Love series continues at Image Film & Video with "Medium Cool" and "An Interview with Spiro T. Agnew". 352-4225.

### FRIDAY

**22**

- "The Heat Is On" Atlanta Photography Gallery. Party open to public 7-10 p.m. 881-8139.

- Arms Akimbo at Royal Peacock. 584-9842.

- Street Theater: Stonewall-The Night the Gays Fought Back. Theatrical Outfit. \$10. Tonight and tomorrow night. 875-7500.

### SATURDAY

**23**

- Paper Dolls and Indigo Girls at Avondale Towne Cinema Showcase. 299-8265.

- Big Hair (and Other Teases) with Sam Baker & Libby Whittemore. Upstairs at Gene & Gabe's. 9:00 p.m. \$12.50. 892-2261.

### SUNDAY

**24**

- "Banana Theatre. T 5:00 p.m.



**28**

- inside/OUT, the international gay and lesbian radio magazine. WRGB-FM (89.3). 6:00 p.m. every Thursday.

- Cass Kennedy Group at the Little Five Points Community Pub. 577-7767.

- The Third International Feminist Bookfair. Charis Books & More. 7:30 p.m. 524-0304.

**29**

- "Field to Factory" exhibit. The APEX. 521-2739.

- IMPROV Atlanta. Next City Comedy Theater. Plaza Drugs Shopping Center. 8:30 p.m. \$5.00. 876-6398.

**30**

- "The Work of Five Black Women Artists." Open House reception. Atlanta College of Art. 3:00–6:00 p.m. Free Admission. 898-1157.

- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. Inman Middle School. 8:00 p.m. \$6.00/\$8.00. 296-6581.

- "Sisters" opens at Academy Theatre. 3:00 p.m. 681-7315.

- Urban Bush Women at Seven Stages/Collective Theatre. 7:00 p.m. An NBAF event. 681-7315.

**31**

- Congregation Party. Cross 5:00–10:00 p.m.

- Atlanta Symphony Orc Piedmont Park. 7:30 p.m.

- Garth Fagan's Bucket D Center Stage Theatre. 4:00 p.m. An NBAF even 681-7315.

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# July 21-August 3

## Next Week's Highlights

**SISTERS**-July 30th-August 3rd. Academy Theatre. A light-hearted, contemporary drama written by Atlanta playwright Marsha Jackson and performed by Jomandi Productions. See what happens when two black women, a cleaning woman and an advertising executive, find themselves thrown together during a blackout and find they have more in common than they imagined. Performances are July 30th at 3:00 p.m. and July 31st, August 2nd & 3rd at 8:00 p.m. Call 681-7315 for further information.

**Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940**-Through August 27th. The APEX, 135 Auburn Avenue. An in-depth Smithsonian exhibition focusing on the move of hundreds of thousands of Afro-Americans from the rural South to the urban North. Included in the photopanel exhibition are oral histories and personal artifacts. Exhibit times are Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. 521-APEX is the number for details.

**National Black Arts Festival**-July 30th-August 7th. Nine days of theatre, music, cinema and a vast array of other visual arts celebrating the African-American, Black American and Caribbean American traditions. Events will take place throughout the Atlanta area and many festival happenings are free. Call the NBAF at 681-7315 for a detailed schedule and see calendar below for some specific events. A special tribute to the life and works of celebrated choreographer Katherine Dunham (pictured above during the 1930s) will be performed by the Dunham Children's Company and an ensemble of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater during the National Black Arts Festival.

**Safe Sex**-August 3rd-14th. Seven Stages Back Door Theatre. Produced by The Actor's Group, "Safe Sex" is composed of three unusually different one-act plays; each explores life, love and survival in the wake of the AIDS epidemic. The plays, "Manny and Jake", "Safe Sex", and "On Tidy Endings" were written by the Tony award-winning playwright of "The Torch Song Trilogy" Harvey Fierstein. Showtimes are August 3rd-6th and 9th-13th at 8:00 p.m. and August 7th and 14th at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 and can be purchased by calling 523-7647. A benefit for AID Atlanta. (Previews run July 27-30. \$4)

Y

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

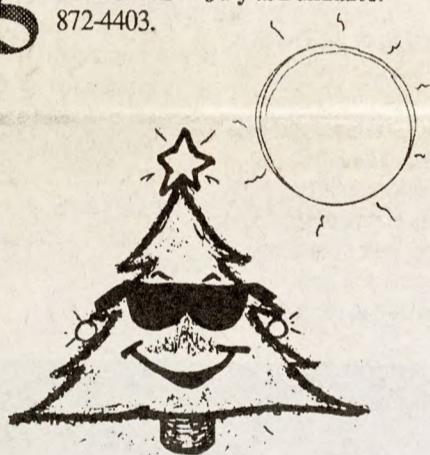
and" at Seven Stages  
this is the last night.  
523-7647.

"1776" at OnStage Atlanta.  
Through July 24th.  
2:30 p.m. today. \$6/\$7.  
897-1802.

Bet Haverim Pool  
Creek condominiums.  
m. 373-9606.  
chestra. Free Concert.

ance Theatre.

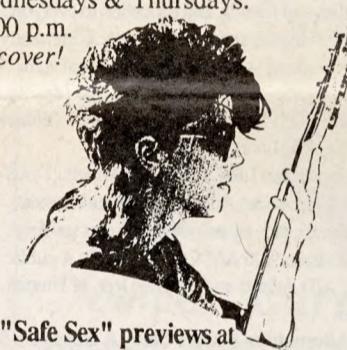
25 •Christmas in July at Burkhardt's.  
872-4403.



26 •"Art In the Ozone". Through August 12th. Georgia Tech Student Center Art Gallery. 894-2805.



27 •Angela Motter at Backstreet Wednesdays & Thursdays.  
10:00 p.m.  
No cover!



•"Safe Sex" previews at  
Seven Stages Back Door Theatre  
through July 30th. 8:00 p.m. Only \$4.  
523-7647 for tickets.

1 •Black Cinematheque at Ellis Cinema.  
An NBAF event. 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00 p.m.  
681-7315.

•Laurie Carlos & Co. Seven Stages/Collective  
Theatre. 7:00 p.m. An NBAF event. 681-7315.

2 •Dunham Children's Company and  
Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre Ensemble.  
Morehouse King Chapel. 1:00 p.m. An  
NBAF event. 681-7315.



•Catlett-Mora Family Exhibition.  
New Visions Gallery of  
Contemporary Art. Free admission.  
An NBAF event. Pictured "Seated  
Mother & Child" by Elizabeth  
Catlett-Mora.

3 •"Safe Sex" at Seven Stages Back Door  
Theatre. 8:00 p.m. \$6. 523-7647.

•"Apollo, It Was Just Like Magic."  
Fox Theatre. An  
NBAF event.  
8:00 p.m. 681-7315.



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**BitterSweet**  
By Charles Haver  
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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. 525-3376.

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.

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. Write PO Box 5502, Atlanta, GA. 30307 for more information and to request newsletter.

ALGPC- Atlanta Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. Needs volunteers to coordinate next 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 Alternatives-Buyers Club- A group plan for obtaining bulk orders at reduced cost of certain alternative products of interest to PWAs. AL-721, German enzymes and others. Participants are welcome. Meetings will be announced soon. 233-0083 for info.

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.

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.

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 892-0661 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. 875-2720.

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.

MCC of Stone Mountain- Metropolitan Community Church. Outreach program includes and actively supports those involved in various "12-step" programs. Services are at 10:30AM on Sundays, and followed, on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, by Christian education. 879-1872.

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. 8:00PM. 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.

## "Boogie" Raises \$10,000 for Lesbian/Gay Visibility



Photo by Gerald Jones

Comic Kate Clinton, co-host of the Ballot box Boogie and B-B-Q.

Atlanta- Over \$10,000 was raised and more than 300 people attended the "Ballot Box Boogie and Bar-B-Q" Sunday night at the Inman Park Trolley Barn. The money will be used to cover the expenses of staffing an "action center" at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel which will keep lesbian and gay issues in the forefront during the Democratic National Convention. The event attracted gay/lesbian luminaries including Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), comic Kate Clinton, former Army Sergeant Perry Watkins, and national leaders Jean O'Leary, Jeff Levi and Vic Basile, as well as local activists and politicos.

The tone of the evening was set by Clinton who avoided addressing either candidate's worthiness, instead stressing the importance of each individual's participation in the growing visibility of the community. Said Clinton, "You each need to come out to some member of your family on National Coming Out Day (scheduled for October 11, the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights), and you need to make sure they're alive. Sneaking into the cemetery isn't going to work."

Quoting himself from an interview that appeared in Sunday's *Boston Herald*, Frank said, "I don't think liberals should attack Dukakis until the day after he is elected." Saying that he thought a Dukakis presidency would appoint more liberal justices to the Supreme Court bench, Frank predicted that the Hardwick decision which upheld Georgia's sodomy law would be overturned within five years.

Although Tim McNeil from the Dukakis campaign received only a polite greeting from the audience with his call for unity against Bush, Randy Miller, a Jackson aide, garnered an ovation when he spoke of the sense of empowerment that Jackson's candidacy had brought to the gay/lesbian and people of color movements. Said Miller, "After traveling through bustling urban areas and rural, desolate country areas, all along the way we

have gotten the support of gays and lesbians in some very unexpected places. For that, we in the Jackson campaign are extremely grateful."

NGLTF Board member Cathy Woolard organized the event, and proclaimed it a success as the evening was winding down. Said Woolard, "As a native, I'm very proud of the way Atlanta is showing itself to the national movement."

The gala event was steered along smoothly by Atlanta March Committee members, who volunteered their time and effort to ensure the evening's success. Said Woolard of Shelly Robbins and her team, "they were fantastic. Shelly in particular worked extremely hard to not only ensure everyone had a good time, but that everyone left the event knowing the true meaning of Southern hospitality."

The hospitality suite at the Hilton will be open through Thursday. The suite is being jointly shared by an ad hoc coalition called the Gay and Lesbian VOICE '88 (Voters Organized in Coalition for the Elections), which includes the NGLTF, the HRCF and the Gay and Lesbian Democrats of America. Atlanta residents as well as convention visitors are encouraged to stop by during the week.

-Chris Duncan



Photo by Gerald Jones

Atlanta police estimated that 1000 delegates and activists from across the country joined Atlanta-based LEGAL for a rally outside the Democratic National Convention

## LEGAL

Cont'd from Page 1

action is what will win the war against AIDS."

Other speakers at the rally included New York Representative Ted Weiss and Perry Watkins, a black soldier who is currently fighting in the courts his discharge from the Army for homosexuality.

In closing remarks, LEGAL rally organizer Linda Meredith again stressed the importance of political reform and social acceptance.

Gays and lesbians are too large a part of society to be marginalized with the label "Special Interest Group," she said.

"We can't practice sodomy anywhere [in Georgia] legally," she reminded the audience, "but we can speak here today."

After further closing remarks by rally organizer Lee Harrington, who closed the gathering on a lighthearted note stressing the economic power of the gay community, the crowd joined Craig in singing "This Land is Your Land" before dispersing.

- Amanda Bates

# LITTLE 5 POINTS

## Sevenanda Serves Potpourri of Natural Goodness

Whether you are trying to quit smoking or give your favorite pet the healthiest diet, you'll find the natural way to do it in Little 5 Point's grocery store par excellence—Sevananda. Born as a service by the religious cult Ananda Marga in 1973, Sevana even today remains true to its Sanskrit name which means "service in bliss."

Sevananda incorporated itself and became a community cooperative in 1979, when the Georgia Supreme Court ruled that Ananda Marga had to sell the store to the community rather than just closing it. Since then, Sevananda has strived to operate as a business intimately responsive to the needs of the politically and socially progressive communities in Atlanta.

Sevananda defines itself as a cooperative, meaning that all of the members are in effect shareholders, and directly control the visionary path of the store through the elected officers and in annual meetings. The benefits of membership in Sevananda go beyond the politically correct, however, and reach deep down into your pocketbook. Ranging from \$10 for a single person to \$25 for a family of three or more, membership entitles you to a 10% discount. Spending only \$10 a month would ensure that a single membership was more than recouped. The application for membership is relatively simple, and the family memberships are "self-defined." You and your lover are just as welcome as Johnny

and Suzy Buckhead—if not more so.

According to Andrew Goldstein, a nutritionist and immediate past president, up to 40 people take advantage of the working member program, which gives the member an additional 10% off in exchange for three hours of work per week. (A hint to the reader, sources say that membership prices may be going up in the very near future.)

Best of all, Sevananda is a fun and safe place to shop. Said Goldstein, "We try to make it a place that is as much as the individual members and shoppers can make it." Lesbian/gay couples stroll through the produce aisles, commingling with skateboarders looking for the cold bottled natural juices and mineral waters, and latter-day hippies and yogis searching for spiritually rejuvenating herbs.

"What I hear the most, is that people like the energy in Sevananda. They feel good," said Goldstein. "What I like are the organic foods—the produce and the grains. And I enjoy talking with other people in the (Little 5 Points) community. It's like being in a huge community kitchen, you're intersecting and meeting with people who are doing their shopping. Sevananda is still small enough so that it doesn't overwhelm you."

For the curious and the serious, perhaps the most memorable aisles in Sevananda hold the selections of dried herbs and teas. According to Goldstein, it is believed to be the largest selection in the Southeast. With names like Buckthorn Bark, Bone-set, and Devil's Claw Powder that are reminiscent of the halcyon days of the *Foxfire* books, shoppers cannot help but remember their

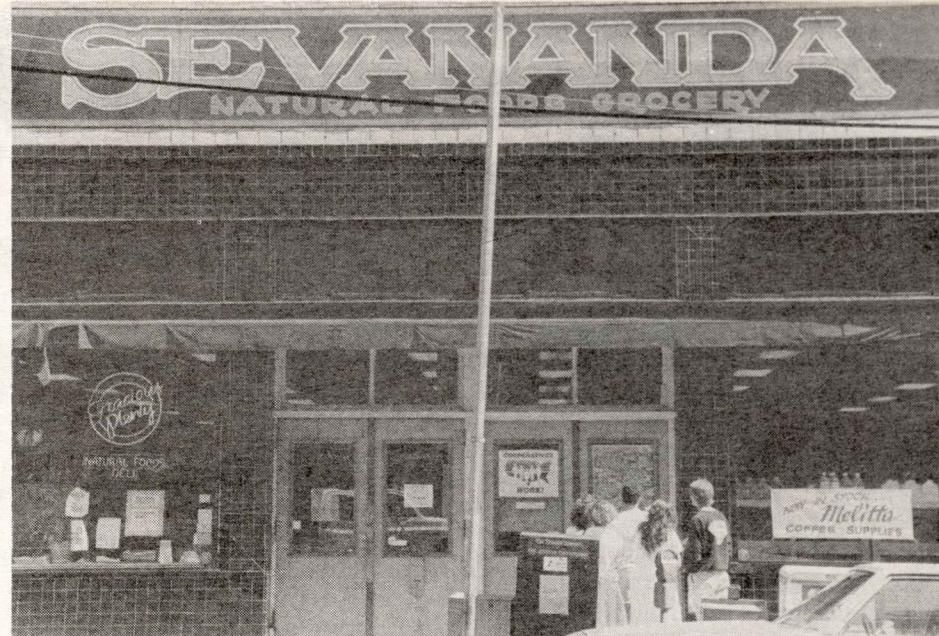


PHOTO BY PAMELA J. COLE

**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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## Living With AIDS

### A Time Of Testing

A year ago I would have said, "No thanks, no way." What difference would it make if I find out I'm HIV positive? It wouldn't change what I do sexually. That's already safe-well, almost always. And besides, I would just worry at every little cold.

Sure, I know, my doctor said, "Time for gay men to pull their head out of the sand." Now if we are positive, there are things that can be done. Doctors can monitor our status, look for early indications of change, move in early with therapy before other symptoms appear. And increasingly, there are more options than just AZT.

Finally, I decided it was time to know. I wanted to be able to plan while I'm feeling well and not suddenly be surprised when I'm not. It seems to me this is just another way of trying to take control and not letting myself be a victim of circumstance.

And so I'm sitting in the Gay Center—where testing is anonymous and only cost \$10—talking to a counselor. No matter that I've just come from the hospital. Seeing my friend there has only stiffened my resolve to be tested.

The counselor explains about the test—that it is not a test for AIDS but the antibody to the virus that almost all experts believe causes AIDS—and then talks some more with me about why I want to be tested, about my feelings about being tested. Then she tells me results are usually back within ten working days. Next a pleasant volunteer (I'd seen him the last time I'd had a VD check) takes some blood and gives me my anonymous number.

I leave the Gay Center feeling more relieved than anxious. I'd made my decision, it was now a done thing. But now the waiting begins. And worse, I know the odds. I'd just looked at a Fulton County report that said that 23% of the gay white men and 45% of the gay black men who present themselves to anonymous testing sites in Atlanta test positive. I also know that, according to the most recent research, at least half, and possibly most, of those testing positive will develop serious health problems within ten years.

Waiting, I play the scene in my mind. I know I have to be as ready to hear yes as no. Countless times a day, I imagine myself back in that room, talking to the counselor. I hear the result said, I imagine again and again—my reaction.

Ten working days later, I call. All day, I have been preparing myself. I feel honed to a high state—tense but ready. No, that number isn't back yet, I'm told. Damn, I was prepared for yes or no, but not maybe! Panic sets in. I think, of course it isn't back—the ELISA was positive and they're waiting for the confirmatory Western Blot. This is Wednesday. Because the clinic operates Monday through Wednesday, 6:00–9:00 p.m., this means I now have to wait until next Monday.

Monday comes. I call. No, still haven't located that block of numbers, I'm told. You may have to come back in for new blood. What, I think, begin a new cycle of waiting! Tuesday I call again. Yes, the results for those numbers are here, they finally came in.

Again, I'm in the Gay Center waiting room. The counselor calls my turn. She is a pleasant-looking, somewhat plump woman, short and friendly. I note the looseleaf notebook she holds. We talk for a moment—anything to delay at this point—then she asks me for my number. Of course, I think, she doesn't know yet either. I fish out my number from my pocket, she opens the book, finger running along the page, looking for my number, my result....

- R. Bakeman

## Updates

### Sunlight and HIV

Recent reports indicate that sunlight may activate the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Research suggests that ultraviolet light may cause HIV to grow as much as 150 times faster. Scientists in the U.S. and Belgium report that virus growth dramatically increased in cells "primed" by exposure to ultraviolet light. Approximately 30 minutes of sunlight rendered the same effect.

Until more is learned about the possible effects of sunlight on HIV positive persons, some doctors are strongly advising their patients to avoid tanning and to use a #15 or high sun screen (one containing p-aminobenzoic acid otherwise known as PABA, which diminishes the effects of ultraviolet radiation) during periods of exposure to sunlight.

The definitive research is not in on this subject, but until reasonable documentation is published on the possible relation between HIV and sunlight, persons should consider using an appropriate sun screen before exposure to sunlight.

For a much more in depth but readable discussion of this subject, see Ann Fettner's informative article entitled "Sunlight May Activate AIDS" beginning on page 17 of the June 14, 1988 issue of *The Village Voice* (check the public library for back issues). Medical references to Ms. Fettner's article can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to her in care of *The Village Voice*, 842 Broadway, New York City, New York 10003.

- Terry Francis

### AIDS Hysteria in Singapore Hotel

**Singapore**—The hotel room of a gay man who died of AIDS at the Tan Tock Seng hospital in Singapore on June 11 was "sterilized" by hotel management. The hotel destroyed the carpets and burned the sheets and towels from the room, despite objections from the Singapore health Ministry, which insisted that "AIDS cannot be spread through day-to-day contact." Management also ordered that the hotel swimming pool be drained.

-Chris Bull  
Gay Community News

### Japanese AIDS Cases Still Low

Latest reports from Japan indicate that AIDS has made limited inroads into Japanese society. Of the 50 cases reported, most are hemophiliacs who caught the virus from imported blood products. Japanese gay males are better prepared to take precautions because the use of condoms is widely practiced in both the gay and non-gay communities. IV drug users are not likely to become infected with the HIV because drug users do not routinely share needles as in other countries. Clean needles are readily available in Japan.

-John Hubert

### AIDS Group Disrupts Stockholders Meeting

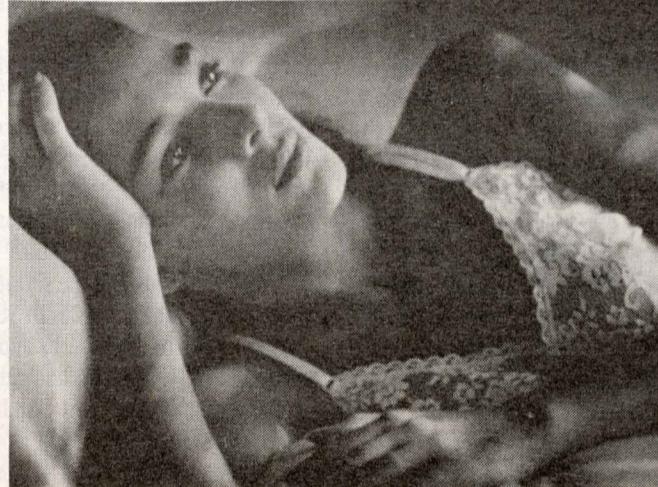
**Chicago**—The May stockholders meeting of the LyphoMed Corporation was disrupted by members of Chicago for AIDS Rights, who came to confront the company on its price hikes for pentamidine.

The protesters were angered that in the last four years, LyphoMed has initiated six price hikes on the drug used to treat pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, the most frequent cause of death for people with AIDS. The company is in a race with other drug giants to develop an aerosol version of the drug and claims the price increases are necessary to pay for development.

"I'd like to ask if you think the increase in the price of pentamidine for people who are dying of AIDS is an ethical business procedure," Ferd Eggan, member of the AIDS rights group, asked LyphoMed officials. As security guards dragged him away, he shouted "Why don't you answer the question just the same? The stockholders might be interested in knowing about the people who are dying and you're taking their money."

Other stockholders expressed an interest in the company's response, and other protesters began bombarding officials with questions. The protesters were removed from the auditorium.

-Philadelphia Gay News



### Return To Those Carefree Days When All You Had To Worry About Was Getting Pregnant, Herpes And A Bad Reputation.

Our story is simple. Just take a few precautions and you can love as normally as you did before the AIDS panic. That's it. If you know what these precautions are, then you're excused from this ad. If you don't, call AID Atlanta at 876-9944 or 1-800-551-2728 and we'll tell you. After all, the sex life you save may be your own.

AIDAtlanta

The person above is a professional model. Not a person with AIDS.

### AID Atlanta Benefits From Advertiser's

A new public service campaign, donated to AID Atlanta by the locally based ad agency of Cole Henderson Drake, Inc., targets heterosexuals, and anyone who thinks no-one gets AIDS today unless they're gay or drug addicts who share IV drug needles in shooting galleries. The message of the campaign is two-fold: anybody can get AIDS, but anyone who knows the facts about how AIDS is actually transmitted and takes reasonable precautions has nothing to fear. The groups at highest risk today are the uninformed, and especially those, including the young, who tend to think they are invulnerable.

The idea for the campaign came from Bob Morrison, who wrote the copy for all the ads. He interested artist Mark Ashley and senior account executive Sheri Haase in the project and, together, they took it up with their agency, who gave them a firm go-ahead. Checking frequently with AID Atlanta, and devoting countless hours of their own time to the project, in addition to meeting all their regular agency commitments, these three people, aided by a host of other volunteers, first produced a television commercial that, at normal agency rates, would have been budgeted at nearly \$120,000.00—and did it at no cost to AID Atlanta. Print media ads are now ready for distribution as well, thanks to their efforts, and public service announcements for radio use are expected to go on the air in the fall.

## AIDS Vaccine Study Needs More Volunteers

Additional volunteers are being sought for the AIDS vaccine study that is underway at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland. The study is designed to determine the best dosing regimen and the nature of the antibody and cell-mediated immune responses to this vaccine. At the recent Fourth International Conference on AIDS in Stockholm, NIAID scientists reported promising new results from this study—the first experimental AIDS vaccine to be tested in humans in the United States.

Dr. H. Clifford Lane, Deputy Clinical Director, NIAID, said that 20 volunteers who have already been inoculated using escalating doses of a recombinant AIDS vaccine manufactured by MicroGenesys, Inc., biopharmaceutical firm in West Haven, Connecticut. The vaccine consists of purified envelope protein (gp160) derived from the genetic material of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the suspected cause of AIDS. Participants in the study are healthy homosexual and bisexual men who are at low risk of HIV infection.

The first group of volunteers received 10 micrograms of gp160 and the dose was doubled for each successive group. Two-thirds of each group received a booster dose (either 50 percent or 100 percent of the primary dose) one month later.

The Western blot test is being used to examine blood specimens, taken weekly, for antibody responses to the various doses of the vaccine. The test can detect the specific HIV proteins against which an individual's immune system has produced antibodies.

Of the 16 volunteers who were immunized with 40 micrograms of the vaccine, 10 showed an antibody response. Four of the 5 persons who received primary immunizations and no boosters developed antibodies within 8 weeks. Six out of the 10 persons who received a primary dose and a booster at one month also showed antibodies by 8 weeks. Of the 15 volunteers who received 80 micrograms of the vaccine, 10 have developed antibodies so far. The investigators stated that immunization with gp160 appears safe during short-term followup with initial doses up to 80 micrograms.

Local reactions (tenderness, redness and swelling), flu-like symptoms, and fever of up to 24 hours duration, common in the administration of any vaccine, occurred in some volunteers. No serious toxicities attributable to the vaccine have been seen.

Volunteers must be healthy homosexual or bisexual men who are at low risk of HIV infection, and are able to come to NIAID once per week for the first month after vaccination, and subsequently once per month for the next year. Travel expenses for volunteers who are not local will be paid by NIH. To obtain more information or to volunteer, call 1-800-634-3027. Prospective volunteers may also call 1-301-496-7196.

• GAY & LESBIAN •

VOICE  
eighty-eight

## Gay Activist, Lobbyist Seeks Fulton County Seat

Well-known for his work as a lobbyist and activist on gay/lesbian-related issues, Atlanta attorney Gil Robison is currently a candidate for the Georgia House of Representatives, in one of the at-large seats representing Fulton County. Following is the text of Mr. Robison's recent interview with Southern Voice.

**SOUTHERN VOICE:** Why did you decide to run for office at this time?

**GIL ROBISON:** The need is greater for our community than it's ever been before. The federal government has, under the Reagan administration, not shown the leadership that it should have in dealing with the AIDS crisis, and so it's fallen to the states to shelter the burden to develop policies and to provide the funding to prevent the spread of AIDS. I've worked with the Georgia legislature for a number of years on AIDS-related issues and gay rights issues, and consequently a lot of folks from throughout the community feel that I'm better qualified than my opponents.

**SV:** Aside from the AIDS issue, with what other issues are you particularly concerned with?

**GR:** Where to start? One is fair planning for regional growth, another is assuring that Fulton County gets back a fairer share of state revenues than it does. The state collects more from Fulton County than it does from any other county in state revenues in the form of sales taxes and other taxes, and we never get back even half of what we pay into the state. Grady Hospital, for instance, desperately needs greater state funding. It serves people from throughout the area, not only in its AIDS clinic, but also its burn unit and emergency room. Another need we have for state funding is in drug rehabilitation and education programs to curb the epidemic of drug abuse, and the crime that it generates.

Instead, what we get from the state, far too often, are projects many Fulton County residents less than wholeheartedly support, such as the Presidential Parkway, Georgia 400, and the domed stadium.

**SV:** To what extent have you been campaigning as an openly gay candidate? Is that a feasible thing to do for someone who wants to win?

**GR:** Well, I've been described as a candidate who has nothing to hide but hide itself. Fulton County is large and has a diverse population, with a diversity of concerns. Virtually all of the electorate, all of the various communities, are primarily concerned about their issues. In order to be a viable candidate, I must address those issues. I know in the past when we've had candidates' forums, the candidates would come give a rather standard speech, and most

of us in the audience would wonder why they weren't addressing gay issues. Conversely, when a gay candidate speaks to an audience outside the gay community, I feel it's most important that as a representative, he be responsive to those issues. Here in the Atlanta area, we have a history of electing officials who we don't necessarily identify with, but who we believe would be the best person for the job. For instance, when the fifth congressional district was majority white, Andrew Young was elected congressman. When it was majority black, it elected Wyche Fowler. In the not-too-distant past, Atlanta had a Jewish mayor, Sam Massell. We have a greater percentage of women elected officials than other areas of the state and the South. I believe that we have made progress to the point at which we look at the candidate and his or her abilities, rather than other issues that most of the electorate considers extraneous.

Conversely, though, I believe my work in the gay community, the commitment to people issues, has found a sympathetic ear in various other constituencies such as the feminist, environmental, and other progressive groups.

**SV:** I understand you would like to see some changes in the way MARTA is run.

**GR:** Yes, true. I would like to see it more responsive to the public it serves. The board of MARTA is appointed, not elected by the public, and its members can be removed only by the General Assembly. This, of course, has never happened and probably never will. Having an elected board would certainly make MARTA's policy more responsive. Another suggestion has been to institute an office of a consumer advocate, similar to the consumer advocate's office that represents public concerns before the Public Service Commission.

**SV:** You've said that you believe there is a large part of the gay/lesbian community that does not vote. Why do you think that is?

**GR:** We've never had a gay candidate before. Back when I first got involved in electoral politics, in 1976, we usually had to choose between the lesser of two evils. Now, generally we choose among persons who are to some degree or another committed to equal rights for gays and lesbians.

**SV:** What would you tell those voters are your special goals for them?

**GR:** I hope that all the craziness associated with the omnibus AIDS bill is behind us, though I'm afraid it's not. There are many special interest groups who would like to see the confidentiality of AIDS-related information that was part of the omnibus AIDS bill loosened up, opened up. Many of the crazy proposals that have been around the legislature for a number of years are still going to be there, such as requiring that restaurant



**Gil Robison, Candidate for State House District 40**

workers be tested annually, all kinds of demagoguery. As I said, I hope that we concentrate on more substantial issues such as more funding. The Department of Human Resources requested \$2.7 million for its AIDS prevention program last year. They got less than 1/4 of that — \$660,000.

Massachusetts, by comparison, has fewer cases of AIDS than we do in Georgia, but their annual budget usually includes \$3-4 million to fight AIDS. Georgia now ranks 8th among states in number of cases of AIDS, yet it's 26th in state expenditures, 36th in per capita expenditures.

**SV:** Is that because the legislators from the smaller, rural sections of Georgia are reluctant to spend the money?

**GR:** Yes, exactly. Unfortunately, they seem to be like everyone else in a crisis. They don't believe AIDS is a problem for them. AIDS education, it's been said, is what happens when five of your friends are diagnosed. Of course, by then it's too late to take measures that would have been more effective earlier. I don't believe that it would be inaccurate to say that the state has written off the gay community, and is only now beginning to grapple with the problem in a meaningful way as it spreads among IV drug users, the poor, and minorities.

**SV:** And you're also still involved in attempts to see the sodomy law repealed?

**GR:** Yes. There's an attempt to repeal it close to passing the House of Representatives now. I believe many of our straight supporters in the legislature don't fully appreciate how significant this issue is to the gay community. An openly gay person in the legislature, fully committed to the repeal effort, could make our chances of success much greater.

**—David Tucker**

*Look for an interview with openly gay candidate Dick Rhodes in the August 4th edition of Southern Voice.*

• Franklin Abbott, L.C.S.W. • Jane DeMore, R.N., M.N., C.S.  
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### Dykes to Watch Out For



### bitterSweet

by Charles Haver



## Star Gays

By Martia Proba  
July 19-August 2

Shortly after midnight July 20th, all Scorpios will have cause to rejoice for Pluto, your ruling planet, turns direct. Since Pluto remains in the sign of Scorpio for nearly 3 more years, most Scorpios ought to be feeling energized and basically at peace with themselves.

**LEO** The Sun moves into your 1st house the morning of the 22nd. You will be tempted to be more generous than ever so share the golden wealth of yourself with an intelligent Gemini the night of the 28th.

**VIRGO** Ask a Pisces to speak with you about a personal, 12th house issue when the Moon enters their sign on the 30th, but for heaven's sake, don't expect a Pisces to make a decision.

**LIBRA** Friends of all sorts are accented this period after the Sun enters your 11th house on the 22nd. Venus aspects make the 29th a great day for romance.

**SCORPIO** The Sun in your 10th house of career matters should help you to be forceful and progressive in the workplace.

**SAGITTARIUS** The Moon in your sign and the Sun opposing ruling Jupiter on the 26th could make this a rough day for any long-range planning or travel. Stay at home and cuddle a Cancer.

**CAPRICORN** If you've had money questions, the Full Moon on the 28th could illuminate these areas. You may feel more stress this month, but Jupiter in your 6th house after the 21st will help you through it.

**AQUARIUS** Those already in relationships—work at cementing your commitments. Steer clear of arguments on the Full Moon in your sign on the 28th.

**PISCES** Fortunate Moon-Neptune aspects on the 31st could mean an emotional, dreamy day very good for your mental health, with the Sun and Mercury in your 6th house.

**ARIES** After the 22nd, go all out for pleasure and romance. Have a hot one with a Sagittarius on the 24th or a lofty tryst with a Gemini on the 25th.

**TAURUS** Full Moon on the 28th cautions you to be extra careful on the job. For a good time, find your opposite, Scorpio, and go out on the 22nd. Anything goes.

**GEMINI** A Leo might be attuned to your dualistic way of thinking after the 30th, when both the Sun, Leo's ruler, and Mercury, your ruler, are in Leo.

**CANCER** The Full Moon is in Aquarius on the 28th. This could mean a private financial transaction will seem metaphysical. If you don't understand, ask a Scorpio to explain, but after the 20th.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## PERSONALS

**MARK DON'T BELIEVE IT FOR A SECOND!** If I were really like that, would we have been together for 3 years? Think about it. "He will say anything to get what he wants" Look who's talking? He will say anything to make sure I am never happy. Don't let a petty ex-lover cloud your judgement. Let me know if you still want to meet. Brian (V1#11)

**Brian, I don't need this grief**-I really don't think I can trust you. Too many things don't add up. Saw you last week, by the way. You were all over some man at Burkhardt's. How did that go? Same lines? You seem truly professional. Mark (V1#12)

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# Berlin: City of Culture; Place of Intrigue

A capital of culture; The Wall; a city of East-West intrigue; a showcase of capitalism in a socialist wasteland; a wide-open homosexual scene; a bastion of the German middle class; a landscape of rubble leveled by bombs; divine decadence. Perhaps no other city in the world brings to mind so many images, creating a virtual kaleidoscope in the mind as flakes of fantasy merge with bits of fact.

Recently, we visited Berlin to sort things out for ourselves. We found that Berlin is a beautiful, modern, 40-year-old city with an 800-year history. Of all the cities on the continent, Berlin feels the least European. It could be New York, Chicago, or Tokyo. This is, of course, because Berlin was almost totally destroyed by bombing during World War II and had to be completely rebuilt.

## Part of the rebuilding

included a subway system that is nothing less than wunderbar. The trains are clean, quiet, and frequent. Color-coded maps make it easy for visitors to find their way around.

## Showcase of the West

Amid the modern city of gleaming skyscrapers is one bombed-out monument to the horrors of war: the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church of the Kurfurstendamm. This street, often called Ku'damm for short, is West Berlin's main street. It is lined with shops, theaters, and at least 125 coffeehouses, the most famous of which is Cafe Kranzler. The Ku'damm goes day and night. By day it is a wonderful place to shop for just about anything at any price. At night in good weather it becomes an enormous sidewalk cafe illuminated by neon signs that hang on almost every building.

Shopping is a wonderful thing to do in Showcase Berlin. In Berlin's west end, on a major shopping street called Tauentzienstrasse, we found perhaps the most spectacular department store in the world, Kaufhaus des Westens (or Ka-De-We), which makes Bloomingdale's look like K-Mart. We have never seen so much quality merchandise so beautifully displayed. But the centerpiece of this store was its food. One whole floor was devoted to more fish than we've seen in any fish market; more sausages than in any meat market; produce we'd only heard about, but never seen, coupled with breads, cheeses, and all sorts of confections. There were little lunch counters where we could have some of these goodies prepared and served to us. And we returned several times just to gape.

Despite its modern look and feel, Berlin carries deep within a sense of history. It has been, after all, the site of a great European capital since the 1400s, when the royal Hohenzollern family—which was to dominate Germany until after World War I—chose Berlin as the capital of its province, Brandenburg. Frederick the Great made Berlin his capital after he crowned himself King of Prussia in the 1700s. Then in 1871 Berlin became the capital of the German Empire and home of the Kaiser.

## Charlottenburg Palace

Some sense of Berlin's past glory is preserved in Charlottenburg Palace, one of the few magnificent structures dating from the reign of Frederick the Great to survive the bombings of World War II. Though it was badly damaged, the rooms have been restored to their original splendor.

The palace was built over a period of 100

years and was named for Sophie Charlotte, the first Queen of Prussia and Frederick the Great's female wife. (He was reputed to be gay.) One wing of the palace houses the art collection of Frederick the Great. His court was exclusively male; something to think about while admiring the paintings.

In the surrounding park stands the Belvedere Tea House with a magnificent collection of porcelain, not to be missed. You will miss it if you visit on Friday, however, because this is the day all museums in and opposite the palace are closed.

## Other Monuments to History

In the district of Kreuzberg, we found a fairy-tale monument topped by slender spires on a small hill. Down the hill flows a charming waterfall. This is the national monument commemorating the defeat of

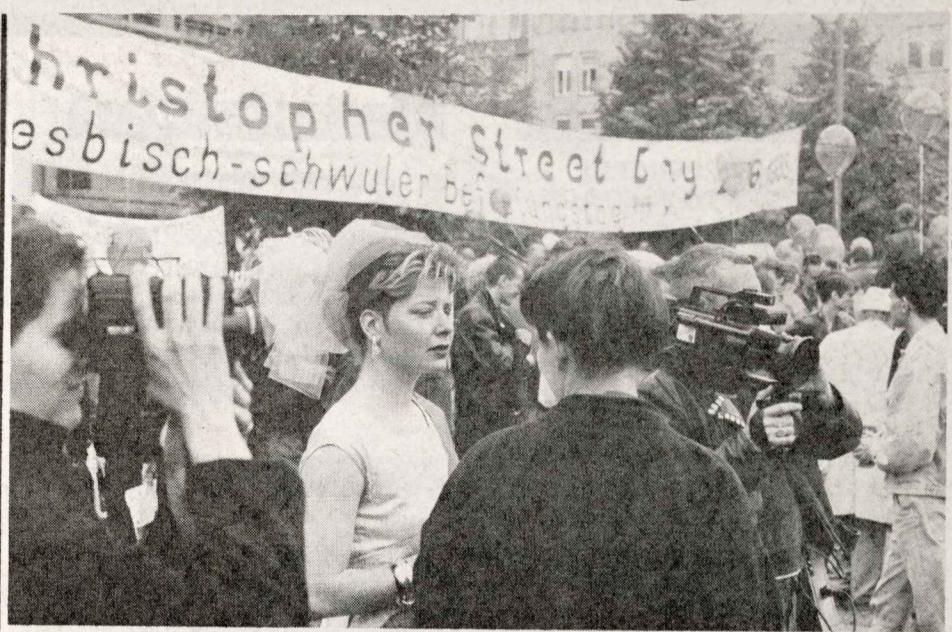
Napoleon in 1812. This district also contains houses built by wealthy merchants in the 1800s, their ornate facades being faithfully restored.

The period of greatest historical interest to gay men and lesbians centered around the so-called Weimar Republic which followed the fall of the Hohenzollerns and the German Empire after World War I. The Weimar Republic

lasted from 1918 to 1933, and during this period an impressive gay-rights movement and openly gay culture flourished. Unfortunately, so did inflation, unemployment, and world-wide depression, allowing Adolph Hitler's Nazis to gain a political foothold. In America, our impression of those Weimar days are encapsulated in the film *Cabaret*. But another film of much greater importance was created in Germany during this time called *Different From Other People*, the first known gay-liberation film. It opened to the public in 1919, but was banned by the German government in 1920. The Scientific Humanitarian Committee was Berlin's major gay rights organization for 36 years until 1933, when Nazis raided its headquarters and destroyed all its books and other records. Nazi storm troopers then crushed the gay rights movement and sent countless homosexuals along with millions of Jews and other ethnic minorities to death camps.

The Sparatu Guide listed a gay museum which we hoped would commemorate some of this history. We were disappointed to find that the "museum" is little more than a room of books with a few tables at which one can drink coffee.

To Americans, the most powerful historical images of Berlin are, no doubt, The Wall and Checkpoint Charlie, immortalized by countless spy films and novels as the spot where the hero makes a mad dash for freedom from the Soviet sector to the West. The division exists because after the Nazi defeat, Berlin was carved up into four sectors—French, British, and American (West Berlin) and Russian (East Berlin). As such, it was the main stage of the Cold War of East-West propaganda from the late 1940s through the 1960s. In 1961, the East Germans built The Wall that divides East and West Berlin. One of the most moving experiences for us was a visit to the permanent exhibition at Checkpoint Charlie, which is actually a museum that chronicles the history of The Wall and the people who tried to escape over it.



## Lesbian & Gay Pride '88—Berlin Style

At Potzdamer Platz, once the busiest part of Berlin, is a viewing platform where you can see over The Wall into East Berlin. You can also see a small hill, the site of the underground bunker where Adolph Hitler lived during the last days of the war and finally committed suicide. The Wall extends for about 28 miles and cuts off the Brandenburg Gate, symbol of the city since 1791, when it formed the western gate to Berlin.

## Gay Activities

The gay scene in West Berlin is very heavily leather. People should be forewarned that some of the shows are not for the faint-hearted. In fact, many Americans would be shocked or even offended. Some of the most popular leather bars are Knast at Fuggerstrasse 34, Horst's Laden at Rankestrasse 14, and Tom's Bar at Motzstrasse 19. The oldest men's bar is Elli's Beirbar, a pre-war establishment at Skalitzerstrasse 102. There are also several

high-tech discos, such as Querelle, at Matin-Lutherstrasse 19. For women, there is Pour Elle, a dance bar at Kalkreuthstrasse 7.

Berlin has three gay guesthouses: Pension Brenner, 15 rooms in a large house built in 1900; Petit Hotel, a classic German establishment built in 1890; and Tom's House, catering predominantly to a male leather clientele.

Berlin also has several gay restaurants. We recommend that gay/lesbian travelers to Berlin purchase a Spartacus Guide. Like all cities, Berlin has a changing gay scene, with establishments opening and closing. But Spartacus seems to provide the most up-to-date information and at least some places where a foreigner can begin investigating the gay/lesbian scene.

On our return, people asked if we had a "good time." A totally fascinating experience is a better way to describe our excursion to this modern city with a buried past.

From Envoy Travel Features

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