

SOUTHERN VOICE

Gay Films: Good Intentions Aren't Enough

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Taking Pride in Our Culture

March 30, 1989

General Assembly Comes Through at Last Minute to Aid PWAs

The last minute approval of a new one cent sales tax by the Georgia General Assembly gave legislators and lobbyists the opportunity to push through a new Medicaid program that will pay most medical expenses for indigent people with AIDS (PWAs).

The Medically Needy, Blind and Disabled Medicaid program approved by the General Assembly was targeted by the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition as its number one priority at the beginning of the session in January. The new Medicaid program will pay for medication, physician's expenses, and hospitalization costs of PWAs who qualify for the program, according to Gil Robison, Coalition lobbyist. He said that the qualification protocol for this program is less stringent than that for other medical assistance programs previously available in Georgia.

"If a person has an income of more than \$354 a month, they have an income that disqualifies them for Medicaid. A lot of PWAs are on Social Security Disability Income and they will get perhaps ... \$800/month, which isn't enough at all to pay for medical treatment," Robison said. The Medically Needy program "allows a person to subtract his/her medical expenses from their income to arrive at the figure that's used to qualify the person for Medicaid," he explained.

"The real impact (Medically Needy) is going to have is on indigent PWAs who live outside of Fulton and DeKalb, since there is a real problem with the other 157 counties picking up

medical expenses (when the patient cannot afford to pay)," Robison said. "With Medically Needy, we hope that ... the state will be able to deliver health care close to where people live."

Although the Medically Needy Program will aid PWAs to a great extent, the program was not designed specifically with them in mind, Robison said. "At this point, (PWAs) are relatively few in number, and are a small percentage of the total number of people who will be covered." He speculated that this fact may have blunted any AIDS-phobia that would have normally been directed at a program that helps PWAs.

The Georgia Department of Medical Assistance estimates that the new program will assist some 5,200 people per year in Georgia. Among those lobbying for passage of the Medically Needy program in addition to the AIDS Coalition were the senior citizens lobby, advocates for the mentally retarded, head injury victims and the Georgia Hospital Association.

The program was only funded for the last quarter of this next fiscal year, and will begin operations April 1, 1990. Robison said that continued funding for the last half of 1990 and beyond will be dependent upon "constituent input," which he strongly credited for getting the program approved by the General Assembly. The Medically Needy Program will cost approximately \$12 million per year, \$4 million of which will be funded by the State of Georgia.

-Chris Duncan

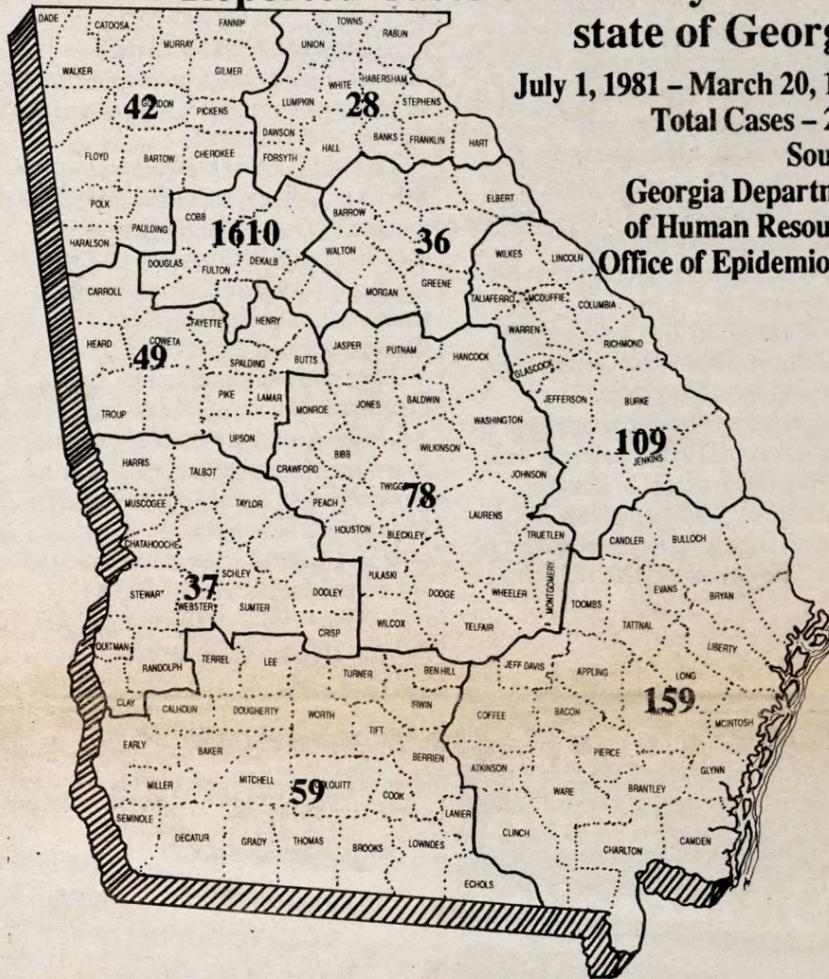
Reported Cases of AIDS by District, state of Georgia

July 1, 1981 - March 20, 1989

Total Cases - 2207

Source:

Georgia Department of Human Resources Office of Epidemiology



"Hate Crimes" Will Be A Priority, Says Jackson

Atlanta mayoral candidate Maynard Jackson made his first major public appearance before a gay and lesbian group March 20, during which he announced that if elected he will make the documentation of "hate crimes" a high priority of his administration.

"Hate crimes ought to be documented, and we don't need to wait for the federal law to pass," he said, referring to the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1989, which is currently working its way through the U.S. Congress. "We need to do it right now," Jackson continued, "Atlanta ought to be the leader (on reporting hate crimes)." He spoke during the monthly meeting of LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays And Lesbians).

Public Safety Commissioner George Napper has frustrated gay/lesbian activists by declining to change the current reporting standards for City of Atlanta police until the Hate Crimes Statistics Act Jackson referred to has worked its way



JO GIRAUDDO

Mayoral candidate Maynard Jackson told LEGAL that "Atlanta ought to be the leader" in reporting hate crimes.

through the U.S. Congress.

Jackson also pledged that "Abuse of gay/lesbian Atlantans or any gays or lesbians by any official or unofficial persons with city government will not be tolerated ... as long as I am the mayor of the city." He added that any police brutality against gays and lesbians will be "severely punished."

Jackson reminded the group that he was "roasted" by conservative elements when he signed the first-ever gay/lesbian pride proclamation during his previous two terms in office, but said that he remained "pushy on behalf of human rights ... (and) justice." Jackson served two terms as mayor from 1974 to 1982.

In addition to answering questions of particular concern to gays and lesbians, Jackson took the opportunity to distinguish himself from his opponent, Fulton County Commission Chair Michael Lomax, who has strongly courted the gay/lesbian vote during the early campaign.

Jackson established the Neighborhood Planning Units that give residents an official voice in city zoning matters, and is generally given credit for saving the historic Fox Theatre from destruction. He is currently opposed to the extension of the Georgia 400 highway inside the perimeter, which Lomax supports.

When asked how he would have handled the Atlanta Gay Center's (AGC) thwarted attempt to move into the Bedford Pine neighborhood in 1988, Jackson said he did not believe a neighborhood should have to accept a social service organization that was "inappropriate to the neighborhood." He added, however, that he would like to work with members of the gay/lesbian community to establish a pro-active method to disarm homophobic and AIDS-phobic sentiments in zoning matters.

Jackson and LEGAL have reached an "agreement in principle" to a debate between all of the major mayoral candidates late this year that will be co-sponsored by LEGAL, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, according to Jackson's campaign manager Kevin Ross. A similar agreement has been reached with the Lomax campaign.

-Chris Duncan

Jackson Announces at Birthday Party He Will Support Gays/Lesbians

Maynard Jackson, a candidate for mayor of Atlanta, announced his support for lesbian and gay rights before a crowd of over 3,000 people attending a birthday party in his honor on March 23. Campaign insiders indicate that Jackson will continue to support gay issues as part of his wider campaign platform.

Jackson promised that if elected, he would be mayor for "all Atlantans, rich and poor, young and old, white and black, gay/lesbian and straight ..."

"I will never, never, never, never let you down," he said. Jackson stressed his determination to work for a "safer, fairer, and more prosperous Atlanta for all citizens" during the party.

Jackson's remarks at the party are believed to be the first time he has mentioned gay/lesbian issues during a speech to a mixed crowd during this campaign. He has previously spoken on gay/lesbian issues to the monthly meeting of LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays And Lesbians) and a private Midtown reception.

"Gays and lesbians are a vital and integral part of Atlanta," he said, "and merit the same protection and representation as anyone else."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Immigration Bill Would Remove "Sexual Deviation" Exclusion

Washington, D.C.—March 7... The Immigration Exclusion and Deportation Amendments Act of 1989, which would end discrimination against gays and lesbians seeking to immigrate into or visit the U.S., was introduced into the House of Representatives by Member of Congress Barney Frank (D-Mass).

The bill, designated H.R. 1280, would remove the current "sexual deviation" exclusion used to block gays and lesbians from entering the U.S. The bill affects tourists, resident aliens or immigrants who wish to become citizens.

The bill also repeals or revises many other grounds for exclusion. Most of these, dating to the McCarthy era, bar immigrants—including communists and anarchists—on political and ideological grounds. The current law, for example, excludes anyone whom the State Department believes is "prejudicial to the public interest".

HRCF's Field Division urges gay men and lesbians to contact their Congressional Representatives to thank them for cosponsoring the bill or encourage them to sign on. Concerned individuals may write their Representatives at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. If you don't know your Representative, call HRCF's Field Division at (202) 628-4160.

Video Available For Male Couples Facing AIDS

Male Couples Facing AIDS is a 30-minute videotape which highlights the findings of Drs. Andrew Mattison and David McWhirter, who interviewed male couples across the country in which one or both partners have AIDS.

In *The Male Couple* (Prentice-Hall, 1984), Drs. Mattison and McWhirter conducted a clinically-oriented study of male couple relationships.

With the increasing impact of the AIDS epidemic, their research entered a new dimension: the psychosocial impact of this killer disease. The videotape features male couples speaking for themselves, sharing their stories about life with AIDS.

The tape comes with a 40-page discussion guide, which gives guidelines for building an educational session around the viewing of the videotape.

Drs. Mattison and McWhirter identified a series of common issues and concerns and grouped them under six broad themes: consolidating, rejoining, realigning, increasing dependency, caring and releasing - intended only to be starting points for discussion by any group which views the video.

"True, these stories reflect the unique experiences of male couples facing AIDS. Yet, when viewed as models of caregiving, their message encompasses more than one group of people and one disease," said Drs. Mattison and McWhirter.

Male Couples Facing AIDS costs \$150 and is available from the Mariposa Foundation, 4545 Park Boulevard, Room 207, San Diego, California 92116.



FAMOUS FACES

Jesse Jackson in a Different World

Dwayne Wayne is in for a shock. The hip college student portrayed by Kadeem Hardison in the NBC sitcom will soon receive a visit from Jesse Jackson who will step into "A Different World". Jackson has just finished taping an appearance for an upcoming show where he sets the record straight on Dwayne's claim that the presidential candidate endorsed him in his campaign for campuswide office.

Donna Rice in Disguise

Fame is not all it's cracked up to be, if you ask the former girlfriend of another presidential candidate. After the now-infamous liaison with Colorado's Gary Hart, Donna Rice complains she has become "a prisoner of perception". Rice stunned her audience at the Institute of Ethics of Journalism, when she revealed the price she has paid for her notoriety. After the affair with the fallen Democratic front-runner came to light, Rice, who blames irresponsible reporters for destroying her reputation, has taken to hiding from the masses by wearing a set of false buck teeth and sunglasses.

"Kate & Allie" Parting Ways

If Jane Curtin wants to live with a woman she'll have to find another roommate. Co-star Susan St. James has announced she will not return to CBS's hit sitcom "Kate & Allie" next season. St. James has played the role of Curtin's divorced roommate for the last six years. With most of the casts' contracts up for renewal this year, rumors that even Jane Curtin may decide not to sign have spread through the industry. St. James, who gained fame opposite Rock Hudson on "McMillan and Wife", gave no hints about future plans. Anyone need a roommate?

Presidential Words on Gay Bar Walls

If you are going to San Francisco, and you happen to find yourself at the New Belle Saloon, check the walls for a letter from former President Gerald Ford. Yes. The letter is real. Ford sent the note to the favorite bar of the gay man who saved his life. Oliver Sipple grabbed the hand of Sara Jane Moore as she fired a shot at Ford. The bullet hit a building, Ford lived, and Sipple's homosexuality came to light. In the letter, addressed to "the friends of Oliver Sipple", Ford says he will be "forever grateful" to the courageous ex-Marine. Sipple was found dead on February 2. He was 47.

- F. G.

Thatcher Greeted with Protests

Australia—Gay activists protested British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visits to Sydney and Melbourne because of the Thatcher Government Section 28 legislation, which bans the "promotion" of homosexuality by local city councils.

The Australian publication *OutRage* reported the largest police presence since President Lyndon Johnson's 1966 visit at the height of the VietNam War protests.

After rowdy receptions first in Melbourne and the following day in Sydney, Thatcher's meet-the-people walk in Sydney was cancelled.

Hong Kong Gays Seek Reform

Hong Kong—The "Hong Kong Ten Percent Club," a gay social and activist organization, announced that they are meeting with members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council as part of their campaign to reform Hong Kong's anti-gay laws.

Presently, Hong Kong law calls for a life term for a conviction of sodomy—even for consenting adults in their own home.

Julian Chan, chairperson of the "Ten Percent Club," said his members were prepared to put their jobs and family life at risk by standing up for what they believe in.

Chan said there are records of homosexuality in Chinese history stretching back as far as the Shang Dynasty in BC 1122.

European Parliament Combats Discrimination

Strasbourg—The European Parliament in Strasbourg has started the "European Centre of Gay Discrimination," also called Iceberg.

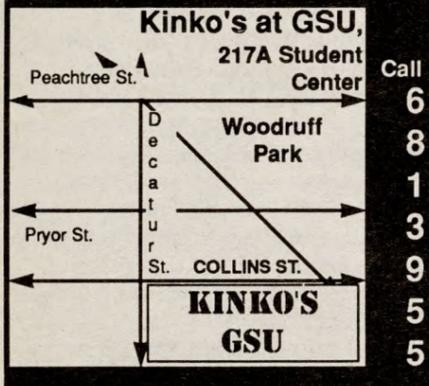
It is a project initiated by the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), who convinced the European Parliament of the need to combat discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

European Parliament members have indicated they will condemn the amendments to the British Local Government Act, Section 28, which prohibits the "promotion of homosexuality" by local authorities.

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Lesbian Conference Will Be Held In Atlanta, But 1991 Date May Not Stand

Atlanta was selected to host the first National Lesbian Conference at a national planning meeting held March 3-6 in Durham, N.C., but a decision to hold the conference in 1991 was made outside of an agreed-upon procedure and will not stand, conference organizers said.

"The only thing decided now is that it will happen in Atlanta," said Michelle Crone, one of the original conference organizers who also organized the civil disobedience action during the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

"When we were together in a large group we didn't come to a consensus on the 1991 date. At the end of the conference, late Sunday, a small group of self-selected women made the decision.

"Women who had left or felt burned out said it shouldn't have happened that way and I agree. A group of 20-25 women cannot decide for some 200 women [who attended the conference]," said Crone.

The procedure for making decisions, which was agreed upon at the beginning of the conference, called for a consensus process first. If a consensus was not reached, a two-thirds vote could render a decision. And finally, the women could break into small committees, which would render decisions to be approved by the large group.

According to Crone, most of the large group was gone when the 1991 decision was made.

"I personally think we can do it in 1990. I don't think we have to wait that long. With the quality and caliber of experience that we have, we could effectively meet the criteria we established in Durham in one year," she said.

Kay Osterberg, another original conference organizer, agreed with Crone.

"We have a lot of momentum right now, and we have to take advantage of that. I strongly believe we can bring a diversity of women together in a year," she said.

New York lesbian activist Joyce Hunter said she was also displeased with the 1991 date.

"I don't think it's fair to use women of color as an excuse not to get this conference on. We can do the outreach now. I think we have to do it now—stop talking about our rights and start doing something about it," Hunter said.

Mandy Carter, Coordinator of the Durham Host Committee, said she would like to see the conference planned for 1991 so that more regional planning meetings

could be held.

"As far as I'm concerned, the more time the better," she said.

According to Hunter, another decision made was to exclude representatives from national organizations in the selection of a steering committee.

"It's outrageous to say that we'll take their money but not their vote," Hunter said.

Jackie Johnson, an Atlanta board member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund(HRCF), said she was not happy with that decision.

"I think they ought to have representatives from the national organizations if they want to have a successful conference," Johnson said. Johnson said this was her first exposure to the "feminist process," which she found "so tedious that little got done."

According to Hunter, "the pro side of consensus is that you get to discuss things.

"The down side is that you can talk it to death and it blocks getting things done. We left Durham without a work plan," she said.

Carter said the process could use "tightening up" before the next planning meeting, which will be held in Portland, OR this July.

"There was a real attempt to make sure that all women were heard. I think the Durham meeting was a small price to pay for getting the lesbian movement going in the right direction in this country."

The idea to have a National Lesbian Conference was first discussed by approximately 40 women who met in September of 1988 in Washington, D.C. According to Crone and Carter, who were both present, women who took part represented the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Organization for Women, the Harvey Milk School and Passages, an organization for older lesbians.

Also, some women at the Washington meeting had participated in the March on Washington and some were interested in creating a national lesbian organization, which Carter said is now "quite possible."

"It's in the air. A lot of people are talking about it," she said.

"Quite a few women would like to explore what that would mean," said Crone. "The conference will provide a forum for a national discussion to take place," she said.

— Wendy Morse

AZT Bailout Bill Killed by Helms

Washington, D.C. — Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) blocked the passage of a bill on March 17 that would have extended the federal government's AZT (Retrovir) funding program by another six months. Georgia has already run out of monies from last year's extension of the program, and activists fear that the lives of people with AIDS are now in danger unless they find other help in getting the life-sustaining drug.

Officials in the Infectious Disease Clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital have said that they will pull money out of the general operating budget to pay for AZT treatments of patients who were on the federal assistance program, but say they will not be able to continue services to patients who are not patients at the clinic.

"We dispense AZT for the whole state, and of course, we're going to have to stop that," said Beverly Thomas, Director of Public Relations at Grady. "(However) we are going to ... pick up the cost of AZT for Clinic patients."

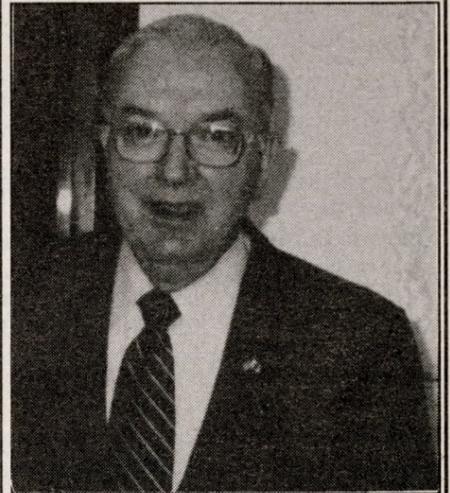
Both Thomas and Curtis Morriss, Program Administrator for the Clinic agree, however, that AZT will be dispensed based on need, not ability to pay. "Although it is obviously going to put a crimp on our budget," Morriss said, "lack of money is not reason to think you'll be unable to receive quality medical care."

The bill that Helms killed would not have allocated additional funds for AZT, but would have given the federal health services time to "reprogram already existing funds" into the AZT subsidy program.

"When we say Jesse Helms is the 'King of Killer Amendments,' we really mean killer," said Robert Bray, Human Rights Campaign Fund communications director. "More people are going to get sick and die faster because they cannot afford life-prolonging drug treatments."

Activists and lobbyists have vowed, however, to try to get around Helms, et. al., once the Congress returns to D.C. from the Easter recess. "It is still hopeful that Congress will take action on this matter after Easter," said Gil Robison, lobbyist for the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition. "(But only) if enough pressure is put on our U.S. Representatives and Senators."

In addition to Georgia, four other states —



Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) "killed" an amendment to reprogram federal funds to pay for AZT.

Kansas, Idaho, Kentucky and Utah — will lose their federal AZT funds before the end of March. Approximately 7,000 people across the United States have received government assistance under the subsidy program. AZT — which costs approximately \$8,000 a year at full dosage — is the only government-approved drug for directly fighting AIDS.

—Chris Duncan

Michael Trautmann

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New Editor of *Voice* Is In a Fool's Paradise

Nothing like a power trip to start your day off right. This is my first voyage out as the new editor of Southern Voice and man – or should I say that word? – am I excited! So much to say and so little space...

Well, first of all I had to get rid of the staff. They worked my nerves too much. Who wants to hear about the ISSUES for God's sake? They want to talk issues, let 'em run for governor.

Of course, that's all the regular politicians do – TALK. They love us when it's time to vote. They support us when it's time to tango at the polls – but face it babe, that's the one and only time they support gays.

Why?! Because we're the gays. Jesus, don't be stupid. They want in office, they'll say anything. Look at Andy Young if you don't believe me. Lomax and Jackson should at least prove interesting and much healthier for our cultural environment, i.e. history. Andy can finish Sherman's March through Georgia without my tax dollars, thanks; but then I am a smartass white woman, so I would think that.

But then, I don't understand why Sam Kinison wasn't reincarnated as dog feces. Oh, right – he was, it's just he's on two legs. Too bad his mother's name wasn't MEDEA.

Yes, yes, I love confrontation as long as I don't get hurt. Truthfully now, isn't everyone ready to rock and roll on some – there's that word again – ISSUES?

Like, aren't you tired of a milk diet in our community's arts – or art in our city in general? I would really like some meat and potatoes now that I have cut my teeth. Looking forward to *Jerker* but how many are going only because there's male nudity? And how many women – womyn? – wimmin?! – (give ME a BREAK, Mr. Webster!) are not going because there's male nudity and they just "view the penis as politically incorrect." *Jerker* deals with relationships. Life. Sex. Affection. What's wrong with that?

Besides, right now – politically speaking – and with the help of Sam the Sham Kinison who disguises hate with humor – all God's chillun AINT got wings. We as gays and lesbians, aren't correct.

Not going to see *Jerker* – a play by, for and about gays – because of political beliefs make as much sense as the announcement that our fair city wouldn't be ready for the National Lesbian Conference until

1991. That's two YEARS! The March on D.C. only took 15 months preparation and that involved 750,000 folks. The Lesbian Conference may pull 5000 and we are talking trouble in River City. Keep people hanging for two years and they'll get BORED and drift. It is human nature to want to get a show on the road.

The guys – well, they won't be there but they don't have to deal with ISSUES like – are we lesbians or are we gay women? Do we call ourselves dykes this year or do we wait for a politically correct moment and announce another conference to discuss it and discuss it and discuss it – just call me by my NAME. Like is *Southern Voice* a paper or a newspaper? Is it a gay newspaper? Is it a newspaper for the gay and lesbian community? Is it a TABLOID!? All of the above? Hey, you know what it is or you wouldn't be reading it. Unless you're codependent on books.

Do you find yourself reading everything and anything?! I love the act of reading simply itself. Unless one reads something on a billboard that throws some ISSUES into what was a pleasant little roadtrip with your sweetheart.

"Abortion: A Woman's Right to Murder" is, so far, my favorite billboard by the Right to Lifers. Well, they can call it what they want to call it as long as I DO HAVE THAT RIGHT.

I have not seen any politico take with and adopt the fetuses they say have to be born. They could always take the little tykes – I said TYKES – and put them on the White House lawn and see Dan Quayle. Or better yet, take them to Domino's Pizza and put them to work as drivers!

Well, so much for issues – this is the last time you'll see this paper deal with anything remotely related to ISSUES of importance to our community now that I've taken over as editor. From now on, it's sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll for all of us, the things that really matter.

By the way – April Fools!

–Candace Wiggins

Candace Wiggins is a local playwright and Calendar Editor of Southern Voice.

LEGAL Will Not Endorse Mayoral Candidate

Recently it has come to the attention of LEGAL that someone in the community is spreading the rumor that LEGAL is involved in the mayoral race of Michael Lomax and is going to endorse him. We wish to publicly set the record straight. LEGAL has not endorsed any candidate for any race and has no intention of doing so. As an organization we believe in the value of grass-roots politics and are working to enhance our community's voice in the Democratic Party. In a partisan race we would expect to support the Democratic candidate. In a nonpartisan race it is up to the members of LEGAL to support individually whomever they wish. LEGAL does not endorse candidates. In the mayoral race in particular, we can unequivocally state that our members are actively involved in both candidates' races.

It is important for the community to know our stance in this matter. LEGAL is actively working to sponsor a major mayoral debate this fall. As such we have received commitments from both Maynard Jackson and Michael Lomax to take part in the debate. Furthermore, we are working with the SCLC as debate co-sponsors. This would be a major step for our community in establishing this type of coalition. This would be the first time a mainline black civil rights organization publicly identifies themselves with a gay and lesbian organization. This would also be the first time a gay and lesbian organization sponsored a debate meant to appeal to the entire city population and not as a candidate's forum targeted to our own community.

LEGAL has an enviable record of success for such a young group. We wish to work with others in and out of our own community to benefit the gay and lesbian population of Atlanta. As such, we ask anyone interested in advancing common goals to work with us and not against us by spreading false information.

Richard Jones, Member

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Guest Editorial

March For Women's Equality, Women's Lives – March For ALL Of Us

"We are in for a very long haul... I am asking for everything you have to give. We will never give up. You will lose your youth, your sleep, your patience, your sense of humor and occasionally the understanding and support of people who you love very much."

These words spoken by Jill Ruckelshaus in 1977 regarding the struggle to win the Equal Rights Amendment are no less true today than they were then. For between now and next July, sometime in the next four months, American women are in very real danger of losing the gains we have made toward full participation in society. Our right for all of us to choose or not choose motherhood, and to determine the timing and spacing of motherhood may be taken from us. When the Supreme Court hears the Webster case in late April, it will have all it needs to dismantle the right to abortion, limit access to contraception and prohibit sex education. The forces behind this movement are misogynists and zealots whose goal it is to restrict women by sanctifying the fetus and re-establishing as primary, the role of woman as reproducer.

It is obvious to me that our gains toward self-determination and equality are in jeopardy and we must do all we can to safeguard them and go forward with determination. It is not enough to leave it to the leaders of women's rights organizations and pro-choice groups to speak up for you. ALL of us who support the Equal Rights Amendment, pro-choice and individual freedom to decide for ourselves must be vocal, visible and vigilant. We must all pull together from every circle to put pressure on the Supreme Court, our federal representatives, and our state representatives. And no action we could take is more crucial than to join the March For Women's Equality/Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. on April 9. This march will serve notice to the White House, the Supreme Court and Congress that the majority of citizens want abortion and birth control to remain legal, and that we will not back away from full legal equality to all women and girls by adding the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

It is crucial that Georgians be in Washington to add our voices to the hundreds of thousands of others from all across the nation as well as from France, Germany, Norway, Italy, Brazil and Canada. We must pull together a coalition of women and men to demonstrate how broad-based the support is for reproductive freedom in Georgia. It will empower us for the work we must do here to protect individual freedoms. Those who have participated in other mass marches such as this know how empowering and vitally important it is to keeping our agenda of personal freedom on the minds of elected and appointed officials.

We know that public opinion will play an enormous role in how the Supreme Court views *Roe v. Wade*, so we must mobilize the pro-choice community. If reproductive

Cont'd Page 5

**DOMINO?
DELIVERS...**



INSIDE THE WASHINGTON LOBBY

Next year's federal budget is not in the news yet, but it is in the works in Congressional committees. The game of drawing up a budget is intricate and even many Washington players have a hard time keeping up with its twists and turns. Yet the budget has an enormous impact on every one of us since it determines where our tax money is going to be spent. For those concerned about funding for AIDS research, treatment and education, it is vital to know the budget-making process and to stay on top of developments.

AIDS funding has steadily increased over the past few years, but with overall Bush administration budget cuts, AIDS lobbyists are keeping an eye on the process to ensure that funds for AIDS will continue to rise.

The budget is really a three-part process. First, the president proposes a budget. Bush's FY90 budget (FY or "fiscal year" 1990) was presented to Congress in January. He proposed \$1.6 billion to be allocated for AIDS—approximately \$1.1 billion for research, and \$500 million for education, prevention and some patient care. This figure is \$300 million more than last year's budget and demonstrates that Bush is, at this point, treating AIDS differently from other domestic programs. Almost all other programs are subject to Bush's "Flexible Freeze" approach—which means that they are frozen at the funding level they received in 1989. There is an additional catch. Bush has earmarked some categories, such as AIDS, for an increase and specified that those funds have to come out of other domestic programs. Bush leaves it up to Congress to decide what programs to cut to come up with the money for the increase.

Part two of the process sometimes seems to be only mildly related to the first part. Congress gets the President's budget and then proceeds to create its own budget. The Budget Resolution process was created in 1974 to put some sort of structure to development of the budget. Congress passes a budget resolution in the spring that establishes maximum spending levels in the broad general areas such as defense, education, and health. The Appropriations Committees then fill in the specifics, such as how much money the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control will get for AIDS research, or how much the Food and Drug Administration will get for drug development.

In the House of Representatives, the Budget Committee is broken down into task forces that make recommendations. The Task Force on Human Resources, chaired by Representative Barbara Boxer (D-CA), held hearings in March, at which invited individuals testified about the need for money for AIDS research and education. It is unusual for one disease to get this type of focused attention—and it demonstrates that, for some Members of Congress, AIDS is a real priority in the health care arena.

Outside advocates and Members of Congress presented recommendations to the Task Force. Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA), known as the "guru of health care" as chairperson of the health and environment subcommittee that authorizes health legislation, testified at the hearing, requesting \$2.2 billion for AIDS funding.

Outside advocates have organized themselves into a group called National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA), a coalition of more than 100 organizations. They have their own appropriations task force, co-chaired by the AIDS Action Council and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which proposed a budget in the name of the coalition and testified before the House Budget Task Force. Their budget called for \$2 billion in allocations for AIDS—approximately \$1.3 billion for research and and \$700 million for education, prevention and other services. NORA will propose their budget to the Senate Budget Committee as well. The NORA coalition will be an active force as the Appropriations Committee process develops.

Congress is scheduled to vote on the Budget Resolution by April 15. Although the resolution is supposed to be general, the Budget Committee also

issues a report that sometimes notes how much money it assumes will be needed for certain projects. It is likely that AIDS will be dealt with specifically in the Budget report. While the assumptions in the report are not binding, recognition by the Budget Committee of a need for increased money for AIDS could strengthen the hand of AIDS lobbyists when the Appropriations Committee ultimately decides on what amounts to allocate for AIDS research and education.

Once the Budget Resolution passes, lobbyists for AIDS funding will turn their attention to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. In the past, appropriations bills have been the source of anti-gay amendments. In 1988 it was the Helms Education Amendment. In 1989 we defeated the Humphrey Amendment that provided that no money could go to any organization describing homosexuality as normal, natural, or healthy. We can probably assume that there will be some anti-gay amendments on the floor during June and July when the FY90 bill is being debated and voted on.

The Appropriations Committees have already begun their hearings. AIDS will probably be highlighted in a separate section in the Appropriations Bill, in which funding for the different agencies that deal with AIDS will be laid out. The House should vote on an appropriations bill sometime in June while the Senate develops its own appropriations bill at approximately the same time. Differences in the House and Senate versions will then be resolved in a conference session to produce the final Congressional bill.

The game is still not over at that point. The country will not have a spending program for AIDS until Bush signs the bill, or his veto is overridden by a two-thirds majority, or another budget is proposed that meets with his approval. And looming over the whole process is the Gramm-Rudman law, which makes it illegal to have a budget that has a deficit of more than \$100 billion for FY90. If tax revenues are low and inflation goes up, so does the deficit. If it goes above \$100 billion, a system of cuts automatically kicks in, freezing everything at last year's spending level and taking a flat percentage out of all programs. This would be the worst thing to happen in terms of the AIDS budget because, even under the current Bush plan, the AIDS budget would increase for FY90.

So the budget game in Washington is full of processes and procedures, politics and personalities. In recent years, AIDS has fared relatively well in the game, with Congress, and even the President, recognizing the need for increased funding to deal with the epidemic. Constant pressure from constituents and the lobbying efforts of AIDS advocates working in coalition will hopefully result in strong final figures.

—Laura Markowitz
and Chai Feldblum

Laura Markowitz is an editor of a national magazine and a lesbian activist. Chai Feldblum is an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union AIDS project.

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

Women's March

Cont'd from Page 4

choices are limited by further restricting the access to abortion, the ERA will also slip further away. We have already seen the Supreme Court's attempts to limit affirmative action programs. "The right to abortion is a necessary...precondition to woman's full equality," reported Rhonda Copelon in a Ms. Special Report. It is more than abortion that is at stake. It is women's hard won place in the work place. Although still not on equal footing with men, we will be forced to return to a time when women were denied employment opportunities because they were "unreliable".

On April 9th in Washington, D.C., we will begin the stampede to protect women's rights and women's lives. Georgia NOW is coordinating transportation by bus, car and train for any individual and group that wishes to march for equal rights and reproductive freedom in Washington. Contact Clara Bostic or Mary Newberg at 523-1227 for reservations and arrangements. Roundtrip bus fare is \$65 and roundtrip train fare is \$112. Carpools are arranged on an individual basis.

Georgia NOW has also scheduled a rally, speak-out and candlelight vigil on Sunday, April 2, on the steps of the Capitol building - Washington Street side. Join us on the Sunday before we go to Washington for the largest women's rights march ever, to show your commitment to individual freedom.

- Betty Grant

Betty Grant is State President of Georgia NOW.

Mr. Gardocki Goes to Washington



Tad Gardocki has been selected to serve as a Legislative Intern to Rep. John Lewis' (D-GA) Washington office. He will prepare responses to constituents, research topics of interest to the Congressman, as well as follow and report on issues concerning Congressional activities.

Gardocki is a 23 year old student at Georgia State University. He is on the board of directors of LEGAL, Inc. (Legislate Equality for Gays And Lesbians) and a member of the DeKalb Democratic Party's Operating Committee.

Rep. Lewis is a second term member of the U.S. House of Congress and is a co-sponsor of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill.

heterodoxy, n.
the quality or fact of being
an opinion contrary to that
which is established or
generally received.

A monthly column by KC Wildmoon

Four Tales and Ahead

Tale #1. Once upon a time, at a Lesbian/Gay Pride March planning meeting, some well-dressed young men with conservative haircuts and no smiles on their faces halted the consensus-oriented processes of the meeting by saying they would not accept the word LESBIAN in the name of the march because it's divisive. The Lesbians on the committee, somewhat taken aback, held a brief private caucus and decided to break the stalemate by saying that if these fellows wouldn't accept LESBIAN the Lesbians wouldn't accept GAY. They never dreamed the proposal would be accepted. It was. That year the "Pride March" happened in June.

Tale #2. Once upon a time, some musicians who happen to be Lesbians made a record. Many other Lesbians in the City flocked to hear them play. One day, the owners of the Local Lesbian/Feminist Bookstore asked the musicians if they would bring some of their records in for the store to sell, because a great many women were asking for it. No, the owners were told, we don't want *that* kind of image.

Tale #3. Once upon a time, some Drag Queens were preparing to march in the Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride March. The organizers of the march thought that would be inappropriate, projecting the wrong image to the World at Large. They tried to ban the Drag Queens. Fearing that if

"appropriateness" were the criteria for being "allowed" to march, the S/M Folk sided with the Drag Queens. A long and loud battle ensued. This time, the Drag Queens won.

Tale #4. Once upon a time, some Lesbian producers were producing a concert featuring some Lesbian musicians, with still more Lesbians targeted as the primary audience. The producers and performers got together and decided not to use LESBIAN in any publicity, because *that should be obvious*. Instead they called it a concert of WOMEN's music.

So what do these tales say, or not say, about how we see ourselves and each other? Well, they all suggest that some of us have a hell of a problem accepting, acknowledging, loving, being proud of, all that we are. They suggest that beyond being concerned with how the World sees us, we just plain don't like the diversity of the peoples who are grouped together under the clinical term

"homosexual." And they suggest that we are more than willing to hide—and attempt to force others to hide—rather than risk someone thinking we are other than "normal." Guess what. We're not.

But being normal isn't the issue here. Being who we are is. Clearly, we think there's something wrong with being Queer. Notice how we quietly demur to the standards this

Great Society has set for its people. We want to show the World only our "best" side—the side that looks, and behaves, just like everybody else. It's easy. All we've got to do is never mention our girl/boyfriends by name (unless we luck out and have a partner with a non-gender-specific name, but then we've still got to watch those pronouns), keep anybody who doesn't look "normal" from the front of the TV cameras, use a euphemism or two to cover up who we really are, and tell all our friends who wonder why we're so closeted that it's nobody's business who we go to bed with. In other words, hide, hide, hide. Isn't that interesting? In an effort to convince the World we're just like everybody else, we'll do anything we can to keep that World from noticing just what it is that does make us different from everybody else. And then we call it Pride.

There's a world of difference between being ourselves, talking about our lives as they are—who we love, what we do—and brandishing our homosexuality in front of us like a weapon, or a shield. But some of us think we're better off quietly going about our business trying hard not to offend anyone. Wrong. When we do that, we make discrimination, hate crimes, and general homophobic behavior not only possible, but permissible and somehow even legitimate. *Because we are behaving as if we deserve it.*

But we don't. And the way to make that clear to the World is to act like it, to behave as if there is nothing at all wrong with being *who we are*, in all its glory. It's not going to be easy, and it's not going to change things fast. Some folks will never believe that we're OK no matter what we do. But if we believe in our inherent, and complete, "goodness," then to hell with those who don't.

This doesn't negate all the homophobia that's out there, and dangerous. But aren't we wise enough to know a dangerous situation when we're in one? Too many of us don't because we'd rather toss a blanket over it all, and hide behind safe, respectable labels and behaviors. Widely divergent actions are called for in a world that gives us widely divergent situations to act in...but notice that word ACTION, not REACTION. Reacting to a homophobic society is what we do every time we *automatically* pretend to be less than we are.

Isn't it about time we stopped treating our own selves like something's wrong with being Queer? I think so...because no amount of telling the World at Large that we're OK, that we're Proud, is going to change anything if we don't believe it.

Gay Films: Good Intentions Alone Do Not Make A Work of Art

Should a film, book or play (or any work in the arts) that is about gays or by gays be given preferential treatment? Are adverse, even threatening conditions, such as political, social and economic strictures, relevant to final judgments of a work's lasting value?

And should our assessment of a work take into consideration what we perceive to be its "good intentions," and whether or not it represents, in our view, the "right" values in a "positive" light?

The answer, I think, must always be NO. Though the above questions are not distinctive to the gay community, they generally center on works in the minority arts and works from countries in political turmoil.

A famous example. The Polish director Andrzej Wajda made two films, *Man of Marble* and *Man of Iron*, that explored courageously (but totally ineptly) some extremely sensitive political issues in Poland. The films, shown in the U.S. in the early '80's,

who lives quietly, but surprisingly openly, as a gay man within the Communist system).

He concurred that Wajda's films were overpraised in the West, largely by a lenient and impressionable American press for whom gestures of heroism sufficed to elevate the works themselves to the level of art.

The list of films praised more for the issues they've raised than for how effectively they've dealt with those issues is prodigious. But timeliness, good intentions and the daring of their makers, are of no help today in films such as *In the Heat of the Night*, *On the Beach*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Ordinary People*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *The Big Chill*, *The Boys in the Band*, and the new *Mississippi Burning*.

The recent *Torch Song Trilogy* belongs on that list, too. Harvey Fierstein's beleaguered adaptation of his fine play raises grave and serious subjects, then backs away from dramatizing them with the requisite insight or courage.

But as in the case of the Polish films, some critics, though certainly not all, are willing to look past *Torch Song's* various failures, because American films even remotely sympathetic to gays are rare indeed.

Extremely few have treated gay characters with dignity. In the last fifteen years, only a handful of American films, such as *A Perfect Couple*, *Parting Glances*, *Desert Hearts* and *Silkwood*, have viewed their gay characters as recognizable human beings.

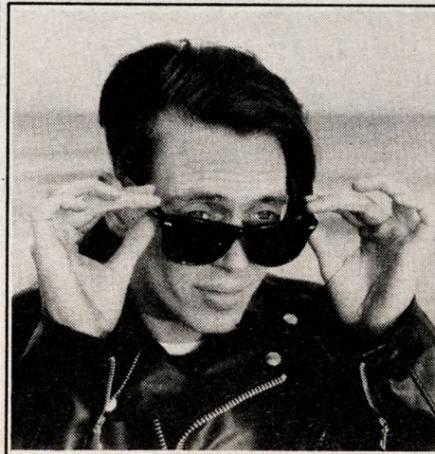
We have certainly come a long way compared to *The Boys in the Band* (1970). William Friedkin's (*The Exorcist*, *Cruising*) film flagellated across the screen a nightmarish assortment of pathetic creatures who trivialized and lied about our identities as gays.

Many gays and "well-meaning" critics were willing to swallow it hook, line and sinker. The film's characters prowled around at a party where they tell stupid jokes, talk about sex as if it were the sole basis of their existence, pray to God to be made heterosexual, wipe their tears away and go to mass, talk of suicide and finally decide that though they are pathetic gays, they'll suffer nobly and put on a brave face and somehow struggle through life the best way they know how. They lead self-hating lives of rampant gay sex, gay boos and gay bars, never getting what they really want in their clutches—a heterosexual man.

Yes, many gays admired the film and thought it brave and timely. But, like the new *Torch Song Trilogy*, are we obliged to admire a gay film basically because it's the only game in town?

Torch Song Trilogy is certainly a more

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Steve Buscemi in *Parting Glances* (1986).

were greeted by a chorus of critical hosannas.

But not uniformly. At that time conditions in Poland were near the breaking point. Yet a small number of serious American film critics pointed out that Wajda's films were deficient in nearly every sense. They suggested that the popular American press had ignored the films' shortcomings on account of Wajda and his crews' bravery in dealing with taboo subjects, and because the films themselves might sensitize Americans to Poland's very real troubles.

The reputations of the two films have since collapsed. Not because the turmoil in Poland at that time or Wajda's bravery were not real. The films simply were abject failures.

In November, I had the opportunity to attend several film festivals and retrospectives in Europe, including the East Bloc countries of Warsaw, Budapest and Prague. I was introduced to an English-speaking Polish film critic who was cogent on East Bloc film (and

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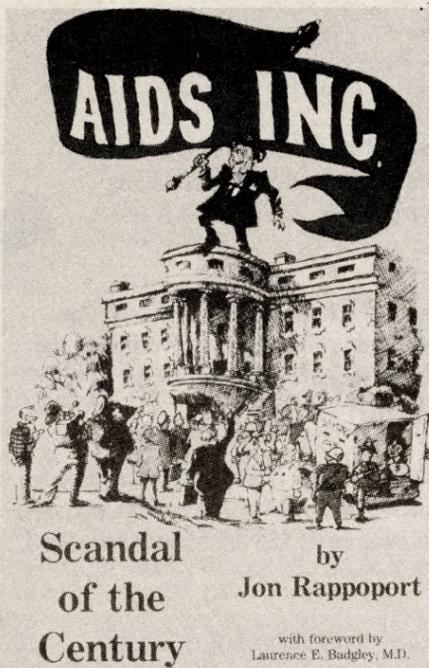
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Preaching to the Converted

AIDS, Inc: Scandal of the Century
Jon Rappoport
Human Energy Press, 1988
345 p., \$13.95

There are two extreme views that help people organize their thoughts around AIDS nowadays – for shorthand I'll refer to them as the Medical Establishment theory and the Conspiracy theory. The Medical Establishment theory has as a basic assumption that AIDS will be conquered as soon as we devote enough time and research money to it, that traditional means will be sufficient and that AIDS has always been treated by them as just another disease. The Conspiracy theory holds that, since the beginning of the epidemic, AIDS has been stonewalled, first to make sure that the undesirables targeted for elimination were all eliminated before a cure was found, and now because the huge corporate infrastructure that has arisen around the research money devoted to AIDS has made AIDS profitable. Which view you believe determines how you think about AIDS, with the undoubtedly lying somewhere in the middle.

That ambiguity about the truth hasn't stopped author Jon Rappoport, however. In his new book, *AIDS, Inc.*, Rappoport seeks to disseminate his version of the Conspiracy theory. And as usually happens when anyone argues a conspiracy, Rappoport ends up preaching only to the converted. The back cover of *AIDS, Inc.* shows you exactly where the book is coming from with its "Virus is not the cause!" "Definition of AIDS is worthless!" "Treatment is poison!" exclamations. The garish yellow cover and scare headlines are designed to attract the people most vulnerable around this issue – the grieving, the angry,



and the completely ignorant. This book is sort of like a written version of ACT-UP on a bad day – strident, angry and unconcerned about checking facts, only interested in attracting attention. ACT-UP, however, uses its guerrilla theatre tactics to good purpose – to attract the attention of the unconcerned. All Rappoport does is sound shrill and exploitative of the same overtaxed gay community whose interest he purports to represent.

This book differs radically from the best investigative journalism on AIDS, Randy Shilts' *And The Band Played On*. Shilts' book was wonderfully organized; it focused on facts rather than theories and organized them chronologically around a single thesis – that people inside government, science and the gay community attempted to deny the existence of AIDS for as long as they could, because it was unpleasant, inconvenient or did not fit into their agendas. Rappoport could certainly use some of Shilts' organizational pointers. His chapters are short and disjointed, skipping scattershot from AIDS in Africa to pesticides to poppers to prison experiments to malnutrition without giving us an overall picture. This sort of presentation makes it unlikely that *AIDS, Inc.* will change the viewpoint of anyone who has followed these issues over the years; meanwhile, it alienates readers who might otherwise be open to his thesis.

I was especially interested to see some very familiar names among the physicians he interviewed. Anyone who has followed some of the alternative theories about AIDS proposed over the years by Charles Ortleb in the *New York Native* (swine fever and syphilis, to name two will recognize names like Peter Duesberg, Joseph Sonnabend and Stephen Caiazza, doctors who have been frequently interviewed in the gay press on these topics. But in his review of these physicians' work, Rappoport does not attempt to summarize their research and make judgments about individual credibility. Instead, he simply interviews them and assumes that any disagreement between them and the Medical Establishment is a result of the Conspiracy. This is not responsible investigative journalism – it is journalism trying to hide its shortcomings.

While reading *AIDS, Inc.*, I found myself frustrated, constantly questioning the author's data and statistics, always wondering what facts he fudged here or what follow-up he didn't do there. Ultimately, a reader has to wonder what Rappoport is trying to do with this book – who is he trying to shock? America in general? To the extent that America is going to be shocked by an AIDS conspiracy, Randy Shilts has already done it. Only Gay America? But we've already been shocked by AIDS, and we are all very weary of it. What about the Medical Establishment? They won't read this book – it is too wide ranging and lacking in scientific credibility (not to mention too critical of them) to attract their attention.

I couldn't help feeling that I was reading another Kennedy assassination conspiracy book, written by a second rate writer with an axe to grind and an ego to massage. I can't begrudge Rappoport his axe, but I question whether what he seeks to accomplish with this book is worth the investment in it. Not at \$13.95, if you ask me. Give the money to ACT-UP or NAPWA instead.

– Al Cotton

Batter Up!

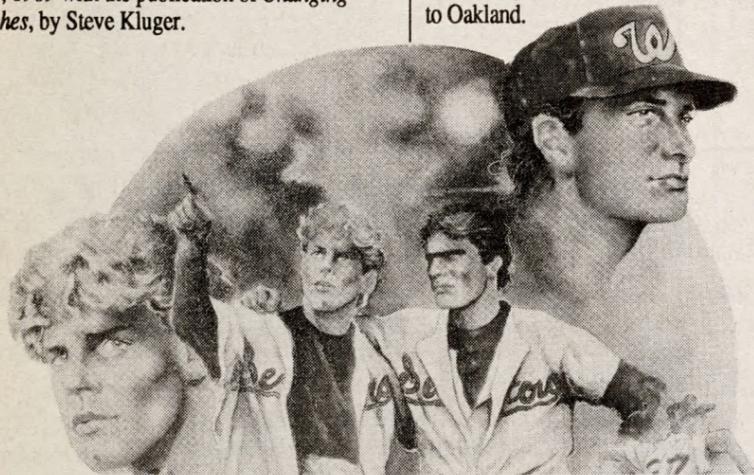
Changing Pitches
by Steve Kluger
April 3, 1989
\$7.95 in paperback

Opening day of baseball season, the first Monday in April, has never held much meaning for most gay men. That may change on Opening Day, 1989 with the publication of *Changing Pitches*, by Steve Kluger.

of public relations for the Twins.

This homophobia has also been felt by gay baseball players. In 1977 when Glenn Burke joined the major league roster of the Los Angeles Dodgers, he was touted as "another Willie Mays". In 1978, Burke was suddenly and unexpectedly traded to the Oakland A's.

Teammates, sports writers, and fans were puzzled by the trade. Burke, who had been living a closeted gay life for three years, realized that his increasing visibility in the gay community was the likeliest reason for his exile to Oakland.



In this paperback release from Alyson Publications, a pitcher's disdain for his handsome new catcher inexplicably turns into a major-league crush. Kluger shows with wry humor how a man who lives in the straightest possible environment deals with unexpected homoerotic feelings.

It's no surprise that, by and large, gay men haven't been drawn to professional baseball. The sport has a poor record in dealing with both the gay community and gay players.

In 1975, *The Advocate* approached several professional sports organizations about interviewing gay players for the magazine. One of the harshest responses came from the Minnesota Twins baseball club.

"Your colossal gall in attempting to extend your perversion to an area of total manhood is just simply unthinkable," said Tom Mee, director

Over the past ten years there has been no perceptible progress for gays in professional baseball. Since Burke was drummed out of baseball, not one professional player has come out of the closet.

Changing Pitches isn't an indictment of professional baseball. It is the simple story of one man's unexpected love for another. Yet in telling this story, Kluger manages to deflate the macho stereotype we've all grown up with and give a fresh perspective on the all-American sport and the men who play it.

When *Changing Pitches* was first released as a hardback book by St. Martin's in 1984, both gay and straight reviewers welcomed it. The *Washington Blade* called it "fastpaced, cleverly written, and hilariously off-beat". The *New York Times* said it was "spontaneous, witty and immediate... Kluger bats well over .500".

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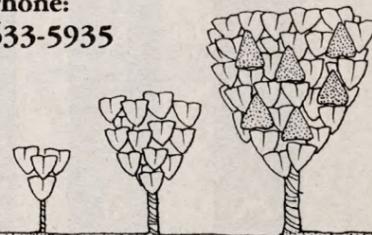
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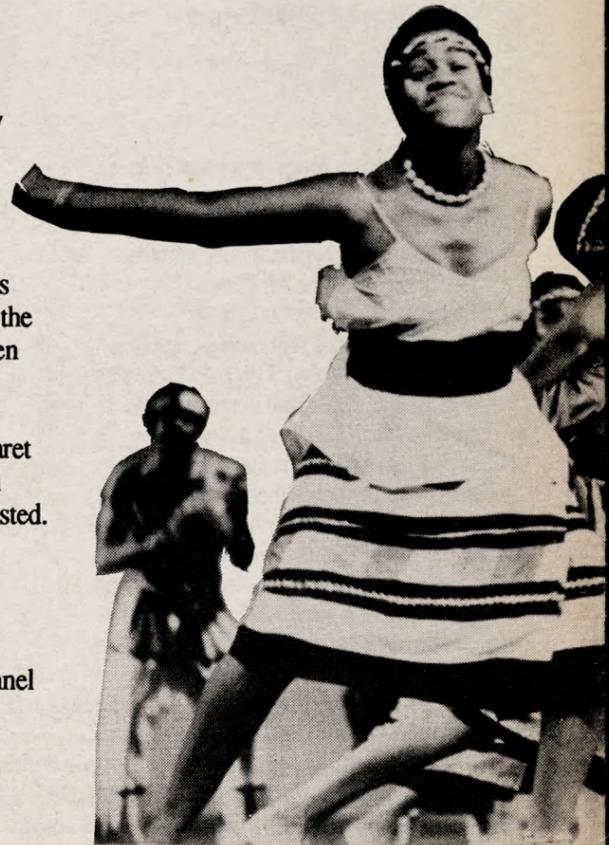
This Week's Highlights

•**Jerker** – March 30-April 16. A play about telephone sex and much, much more, from Robert Chesley. This is the play that led the FCC to rewrite its obscenity standards last year. Fantasy, frontal nudity and the difficulty of establishing relationships in the 80's make for an unforgettable evening. Back Door Theatre at Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. Thurs. – Sat. at 8PM, Sun at 5PM. \$10. Call 523-7647 for reservations.

•**Chuck Davis African – American Dance Ensemble** – March 31-April 2. "Peace, love and respect for everybody" has become the simple but powerful message of this highly-acclaimed company. Davis is a "cultural ambassador" bringing the energy, strength and spirit of West African dance from Nigeria, Guinea and Senegal to the stage. Pictured at right. Seven Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. 8PM. \$12, \$9 for seniors, students and dancers. 523-7647 for reservations.

•**Tan Shoes & Pink Shoe Laces** – April 3. The memory musical that highlights heroes of the 50's. This Broadway cabaret is sponsored by Helping Hands, Inc. and is a benefit for a host of AIDS organizations in Atlanta, including Project Open Hand, Childkind, Jerusalem House and Outreach, Inc. Academy Theater. 7 PM. A minimum of \$25 donation is requested. 892-0880.

•**Together We Can Help: AIDS Awareness Month** – Through April 9th. Public Television, Channels 8 & 30, will broadcast a total of 13 specials about AIDS. Four of these specials are locally produced and will focus on the impact of AIDS in Georgia. Programming begins on April 3 with 5 half-hour specials running Monday-Friday at 7:30PM on Channel 8. "America in the Age of AIDS" is the first major national special of the month and will run at 8PM on Channel 8 and 8:15PM on Channel 30. Hosted by Linda Ellerbee, this one-hour documentary shows how one "All-American" town is coming to grips with AIDS. See page 12 for a complete list of programs.



THURSDAY

30 Carolyn Mobley. Local lesbian activist and singer with the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus in concert. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM. Free.

"**Faulty Towers**", starring John Cleese. A hilarious Britcom, this weekly series is recommended. WGTV8. 11:00 PM.

JERKER. Thru April 16. Highly successful and controversial play opens tonight, produced by SAME. Seven Stages. Thurs–Sat., 8 PM; Sun., 5 PM. \$10. Call 523-7647 for more info.

Acoustic Night at Avondale Town Cinema—Cass Kennedy & Angela Motter. 8:30PM. \$5. 299-8265.



6 Southern Literature. Thru April 8. 5th Conference sponsored by Arts & Education Council. Guest writers include William Styron, Larry Brown, Gail Godwin and Josephine Humphreys among others. (NOTE: Registrations required.) Held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Call (615) 267-1218.

"Faces of AIDS." 7:30 PM. Channel 8.

Jacque & Joyce. These two acclaimed musicians perform a special program of acoustic folk and brassy jazz at Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM. Free. Wheelchair accessible. 524-0304. Pictured.

FRIDAY

31 Chinese Music Ensemble of Shanghai. One performance. Atlanta debut of world's leading performers of traditional Chinese music, preceded by a lecture/demonstration of the instruments. H.M.A., 1280 Peachtree St. 8 PM. \$10, \$8 for members. Call 892-HIGH for info.

CHUCK DAVIS African-American Dance Ensemble. Thru April 2. Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. 8PM. Call 523-7647 for info on tickets.

7 "Die Nibelungen" Part 1. Part 2 is April 8. Recently restored silent film classic by the renowned Fritz Lang. HMA, 1280 Peachtree St. Call 892-3600 for more info.

"Mark and Joey." 7:30 PM. Channel 8.



SATURDAY

1 ALL FOOLS DAY!
9th Annual Azalea Dance. Presented by the Boogiewimmin. ALFA benefit. Rocket Studio, 206 Rogers St. 8 PM–1 AM. \$8 donation. Call 627-5619 for more.

Angela Motter. Picasso's, 515B North McDonough, Decatur. 11 PM. 373-8255.

Little Five Points April Fool's Festival, April 1–2, Noon til dark. All day extravaganza of shopping and shows. Holly Faith, Michelle Malone, Y.U.R., Elvis.

8 Deidre McCalla and Nancy Vogl. With Lisa Busler. The Roxy, 3110 Roswell Rd. 233-8205. Pictured: Nancy Vogl.

Evita. Onstage Atlanta presents Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice's musical through April 15. Thurs–Sun. \$10 adults. 420 Courtland St. 897-1802.

1476: An anonymous denunciation accuses Leonardo da Vinci of sodomy with a 17-year-old boy when da Vinci was himself 24.

SUNDAY

2 Tory Beat Backstreet at mid-night more info call 873-1986. Pictured.

The Lenox Squares. At Toolulahs. Two shows of jazz/rock fusion at 8 and 10 PM featuring Marri Beckman, Carolyn Bennett, Kay Busbey and Penelope Williams. \$3 admission. 262-9299.

9 The Richest show! A man is revive insurance cha the do-re-mi for the "dead" man. Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. 523-7647.

The March and Rally for Women's Equality/Women Lives. Washington, D.C. at noon, rally at 1:30 PM. bus, train, carpool info call 1227 and leave your address phone no.

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ANGELA
MOTTER
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GAPAC News

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

Volume I • Number 5

Spring 1989

INSIDE

- McKinney, Steinberg Speak ...
- Journal/Constitution Vacillates ...
- Coalition Legislative Summary ...
- More Unspeakable Quotes ...
- And Much More ...

***** UNSPEAKABLE QUOTES

"Attacks against homosexuals rose 42% last year, according to a report by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The gay-rights advocacy group suggested that "negative attitudes" toward homosexuals because of the AIDS epidemic contributed to the increase in reported incidents of violence and harassment in 1987."

The Wall Street Journal, 6/8/88.

"Ken Higgins, a civic association leader, said he was a big believer in the Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) theory. "These AIDS people come from a decadent society," he said. "I'm talking about sex and degenerates passing drug needles in Newark. They don't want them in Newark... well, don't put them in our backyard. We believe in NIMBY too! NIMBY!"

Said Mike Ryan, a civic leader: "If they're drug abusers, they belong in the inner city and who knows where they're from if they're homosexual. I don't have anything against them, but why should they be next to my house? Who's going to visit a drug addict? Who's going to visit a homosexual? Another homosexual! They go after your children. I have a 4-1/2 year old son."

—The New York Times, 4/13/88.

"Oh, Lewis was a total racist. I think it's fun for him to play off racism and gay-bashing. How can you live in Atlanta and not do that?"

The former Kathy Grizzard, Creative Loafing, 2/18/89.

— Editors' Note: Why did they divorce? She seems his perfect mate!

FOR A GOOD TIME, CALL: AN OUTLINE OF THE 1988 GAPAC CANDIDATE INTERVIEW PROCESS

By Judy Colbs

If you were in Atlanta last year, we hope you saw the slate of candidates that GAPAC published before the November elections. (It was gratifying to us to hear at least one person, at the ML King Day march, tell how he took his GAPAC slate with him into the voting booth. "I wouldn't have known who on earth to vote for otherwise," he said bluntly.)

I'd like to share with you the events that led up to the slate being published. I hope that as you read this, you will put yourself into the picture. GAPAC is volunteers, and we always need more - hopefully, you!

BACKGROUND

There were a few people doing a lot of the work in the candidate interview process before last year. Do the names Marie Murray, Ed Stansell and Peter Whiteside ring a bell? Well, the people that were doing everything reached a time when they needed help. So they put out a call for volunteers. At a MACGLO meeting, they advertised a garden party, and asked people to come and consider being a part of the GAPAC team. People gathered in a beautiful garden and heard about GAPAC, and elections, and what help was needed.

At this garden party, I signed a

paper saying I would help make some phone calls.

Now, be careful. You, as I, can move from agreeing to make some calls to coordinating the candidate interviews, with just one call from Marie.

"Judy, you said you'd volunteer to call some people."

"Yes, Marie, I will."

"Great! Could you do something else?"

"Maybe. What is it?"

"Could you coordinate the candidate interviews?"

It being a Tuesday, I said yes. I think this phone call took place at 9:00 PM. The following are the steps that were taken from that moment on, until the slate was published in November.

1. GET HELP

9:15 PM... fifteen minutes after accepting the charge of coordinating the candidate interviews, I had obtained the assurance of Ned Mitchell that he would work with me. (I'm not sure who ended up working with whom.)

2. GET MORE HELP

Ned and I met with Peter Whiteside and Ed Stansell. While we were willing to work, our knowledge of politics at the local level was, to be kind, minimal.

Scene:

Judy's breakfast room table strewn with maps, lists of candidates by party, lists of district races for primaries, previous questions used by GAPAC, popcorn, coffee and soda.

Task:

We needed to sort out which district's demo-graphics indicated that a slate would have any impact. We needed to know which races seemed to be extra important. We needed to know how many races we could probably cover and how many volunteers would be required, and how much time would be needed to do the job.

3. GET FURTHER HELP (apologies to Mr. Maupin)

We all talked to as many people as we could to pinpoint the probable legislative issues to come up in the '89 legislative session. This part of the process, as well as other parts down the line, involve other names you may know: Gil Robison, Cathy Woolard, Maury Weil and Pat McCreary, to name a few.

Topics based on probable legislation and general issues of interest to the community were listed and questions were drafted. A decision was made to include "cliff notes" for the volunteer interviewers, so they could have updated information in case a candidate asked for immediate information.

(continued on page 3)

Success of GAPAC Candidate Forum is Another Significant Building Block For Gay/Lesbian Community

By Steve Schmidt

Forum: A "medium of open discussion". A "public meeting or lecture involving audience discussion" - (Webster's).

On October 4, 1988, GAPAC conducted a forum for 27 candidates from ten Georgia House and Senate races and four DeKalb County Commission races. This is an important cornerstone in GAPAC's efforts to educate both voters and politicians; important because the conveyance of information is vital for our large, complex society to function. In this, the Information Age, what we don't know can hurt us - and a politician's ignorance can hurt us as well. Information overload, however, has reduced the information conveyed to compact symbols or images. The Candidates' Forum then becomes a tool for each side to present "sound bites" (to use the current political vernacular).



Coalition lobbyist Gil Robison checks in with old City Council friends Mary Davis and Rob Pitts

The Forum as Information

We as voters and, we believe, as full-fledged citizens, need to educate ourselves about who is running and what the issues are. While there may be candidates who are generally attractive in many respects, if those candidates are indifferent, insensitive, or hostile toward allowing lesbians and gays full participation in

(continued on page 2)

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to our first 1989 quarterly GAPAC News! As ever, this edition has been interesting and fun to assemble: I doubt we could ever choose the highest point. It could be sitting around the table sifting through some truly incredible Unspeakable Quotes (and creating the editorial comments that now appear with some of them). It could've been inaugurating the guest columns of our representatives (there will be much more of this).

It could've been the justifiable pride we all felt in our contributors, both named and anonymous: the letter from the suburban policewoman; the coming out letters; the extensive research of Steve Schmidt's terrific Op Ed piece for the Journal/Constitution, that was killed at the last minute by their Editorial Board. Then there's the reports from Gil Robison on what went down in the Gold Dome; and Judy Colbs' perfect reflection of the hilarity that counterpoints the seriousness of what we do in GAPAC.

And more, of course. Perhaps what we like best about this edition is its eclectic nature. We have returned to the format that allows for three basic sections: GAPAC News, The Body Politic, and In Personal Terms. The first section discusses what specifically GAPAC's done lately; the Body Politic will concentrate on the activities of the local political arena. Now, these two sections are clearly within our organizational domain. Why the third?

In Personal Terms reflects our philosophy that purely by virtue of our sexual orientation, we are political beings. We may accept and act on this, or not; but when even the minutia of our lives is editorial material for the straight political structure which governs us... this section, in our opinion, becomes very important.

Simply put, in its chronicle of our lives, it details why GAPAC exists.

In upcoming issues, we will of course be concentrating on the City elections. But we will maintain in our editorial content the balance that all of us have to maintain in our daily lives: the personal in conjunction with the political. We hope that a great many of you will share with us the riches of your experience. □

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Dear GAPAC,

I'm not sure why I'm writing this letter. I am a twenty-two year old lesbian and am living with my lover/partner. I know that I am gay, and I

Letter to the Editor

can now accept that. I am happy being a lesbian and am passionately in love with my partner. But sometimes I get

so frustrated and angry at society for their unwillingness to accept this lifestyle. I am not "out" or "open" about my lesbianism because I am currently employed as a police officer in a suburban Atlanta township, as is my partner; and our careers could be deeply jeopardized if anyone were to find out. Some days I get so confused about whether it's best to be "out" or to be "in the closet" about my homosexuality. I'm definitely not ashamed of who I am, but the consequences we may have to suffer about being "open" are weighing heavily on my mind.

In reading your first issue of GAPAC News, I came across the "Coming Out Story" written by

Lynn Manning, a "proud lesbian". I greatly admire Ms. Manning's nerve and attitude about her lesbianism. I, too, wish I were able to be honest with everyone about who I am and my relationship with my lover. Being able to hold her hand as we walk through the mall is something I dream and pray for; to be accepted in the world for who we are, and not labeled because of our sexual preferences. Lynn Manning is lucky to be in a position where she doesn't have to depend on what others think of her lifestyle in order to survive. I envy her and her ability to be truthful and open about who she is.

My dilemma comes from this: I too am a proud lesbian. I am so proud of loving and being loved by my partner, that it's sometimes hard to suppress the urge to tell everyone about us. The love I feel for her is so immense and great that I want to share it with everyone. I can't stand referring to her as my roommate. I want so much for everyone to know how much we mean to each other. I can't even tell my family for fear of total rejection. I even used to try to deter them from visiting, because we had a one-bedroom apartment. Isn't this

situation a bummer? If you publish this - the first thing I ever get published - I can't even tell my Mom!

Loving my sweetheart us the easiest thing I've ever done, so why does society make it so hard? I would appreciate any advice or comments that you or your readers may have to offer.

Sincerely,

Name Withheld Upon Request

A GAPAC PRIMER

GAPAC (n.) (Gay'-pak);

How it sounds is what we are: Atlanta's local gay/lesbian political action committee.

GAPAC is concerned with the critical tasks facing the gay and lesbian community locally, and concentrates on work done in our own political backyard. We are the only non-profit, non-partisan political action committee serving at the local and state levels to promote lesbian and gay rights. We work to accomplish these goals through lobbying efforts, publishing this newspaper, fundraising, conducting candidate interviews and forums, contributing to supportive candidates, and publishing voter recommendations.

We need you. Everyone has a skill to offer, and we have a need for every skill. You will benefit because every little thing you do contributes to our ultimate goal: that each of us may finally not only *feel* free, but will be free. Isn't that a goal worth working toward? Call us, now. We can help each other.

GAPAC Candidate Forum (cont'd from page 1)

society, then why should we support them? To paraphrase Karl Marx, will we sell to those who fear us, the rope by which they will do us in?

The rug can be shifted under us at any time, frustrating our efforts to partake of, or even denying to us, the opportunities we believe are ours. The fear of discovery hampers, directly or subtly, the productivity of many closeted gays and lesbians. Hence, it is incumbent on us to *actively* work for congruence between what we believe is good for society generally, and what we believe is good for us specifically. The old adage that no one else is going to look out for us if we do not was never more true. We must inform candidates as much as they try to inform us.

An example at the Forum was the dialogue between the audience and Dr. Ken Hoose (who ran for CEO of DeKalb County). While Dr. Hoose was unfamiliar with, and at times insensitive to, lesbian and gay issues and concerns (a reminder of society's ignorance about the etiology of being lesbian or gay), he was willing to meet with people in the community so that he could start on the road to understanding. If that response proves to be genuine, it's a victory.

The Forum as Symbol

Today's politicians are masters at saying nothing. So, how in-depth is *your* knowledge of the issues? Is it defined by the media, by a gut feeling, by clever sound bites? Or do you vote out of habit? Symbolism reigns in this age of anonymous marketing. Because of the nature of today's political process, it is important that lesbians and gays turnabout and market ourselves to politicians. And how do we do that? Politicians need tangible, visible evidence on issues before doing anything. The *more* controversial the issue, the *more* tangible the evidence they need. (And, in case you've been asleep,



Fulton County Commissioner Michael Lomax addresses attendees at the First Annual Fundraising Dinner

we are controversial, and the "opposition" does not rest.) That evidence is generally packaged in terms of crowds at forums and rallies, mail and phone calls on specific measures; specific (usually provocative) incidents which the press seizes upon; and, ultimately, the final tally in an election. The politician looks at these to weigh the relative importance of an issue to the populace. Whether the images are those of a peaceful March on Washington, a well-attended Forum, or a sit-in demonstration, we can control the evidence to some extent.

Around 90-100 people attended this Forum. By political standards, according to Gil Robison, the gay candidate for House District 40 in last August's primary, this was a credible turnout. But was the turnout by only 11 of the 27 candidates invited a repercussion of the nonexistent turnout by gays and lesbians for a similar Forum two years ago? Or was it a repercussion of the concentrated, but overall low vote for Gil Robison in the primaries? Politicians read the tea leaves and assume that there is a small, contained group of lesbians and gays (in Midtown, where else?!) - and that they can discount our support because it has little, broad impact. (A DeKalb Commission candidate apparently

declined the Forum's invitation because he did not sense a "gay vote" in his district.) Symbolically, we do not amount to much in the minds of those who have little or no contact with us.

The efforts of LEGAL in 1988, to win delegates for the Democratic Convention and positions in the DeKalb Democratic Party structure, should have tweaked the interest of the DeKalb County Commission and DeKalb House candidates who did not show up. Apparently initial victories are not enough. We must continue to build: persistence will pay off. Politics is a grueling, long-distance race. (It is clear that the 650,000 marching in Washington in 1987 did not turn minds around overnight either).

Will candidates sit up and take notice when we show *consistent* success in gaining a niche in the political process? They'd better. What if, instead of a credible turnout for a Forum, we had an astounding turnout (the auditorium could have held 300-400 people), would candidates then be more inclined next time to appear for their three-minute "sound bite"? More than likely. And with a turnout that size, they would begin to feel our "bite" back.

Political candidates are challenging us to exercise our political strength. Let us show them that we accept the challenge.

"FROM OLD TRADITIONS TO NEW AMBITIONS" - GAPAC HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

By Hubert NeSmith

November 12, 1988 was a banner day for GAPAC, with the first annual anniversary dinner and fundraiser held at the Colony Square Hotel in midtown Atlanta.

Over 400 friends and supporters were in attendance for the gala evening which featured Fulton County Commissioner Chairman Michael Lomax as the keynote speaker.

FOR A GOOD TIME... (Continued from page 1)

Scene:

Peter's living room on a Sunday afternoon. Draft questions are ready for critique by a small group. This meeting also had a professional interviewer present, who gave suggestions about how to get good interviews.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH...

Ongoing volunteer contacts were being maintained. It was determined that interview TEAMS were the way to go. With teams we would have two people going together to talk to the candidates. That way, the team members could decide how they would feel most comfortable. They could opt to have one person ask the questions and the other record answers, or take turns. Also, they could compare notes and impressions after each interview to be sure they were reporting accurately. To use the team approach, we needed about twenty people. (We got them... refer to GAPAC's November dinner program "Passport" for the list of super super volunteers.)

Primary interviews had to be conducted by telephone because of time constraints. Training session was held.

Scene:

Judy's living room filled with volunteers who have packets of information in their hands: and are watching, listening and marveling as Peter and Ed do a role play to give us all phone interview techniques. All present were assured that no one would ask for a working definition of sodomy. (Someone did.)

Interviews for primaries took place. Volunteer interviewers returned packets, and after review by the GAPAC Board, recommendations were published.

ONE MO' TIME

After the primaries, we opted to create categories of recommendations. The process had to be repeated for the November elections. GAPAC considered and acquiesced to requests from the community that there be a slate rather than several categories of recommendations, as we had done in the primaries.

Draft questions were offered for review and comment by any individual or group. After consideration, questions were finalized.

Another training session was held, and volunteer teams received their assignments.

THIS TIME IN PERSON

As had been planned, face to face candidate interviews took place. Teams went out to speak to the candidates after they had made appointments by phone, and the candidates had received the questions in the mail. All of the volunteers reported that the interview process was not only interesting, but fun.

When the interview sheets were returned, all volunteers were invited to join GAPAC Board members to review the results and determine the slate.

WE GO TO PRESS

The slate was published in *Southern Voice* and *Etc.* Posters with the slate were printed and displayed around the community.

HOW DID WE DO?

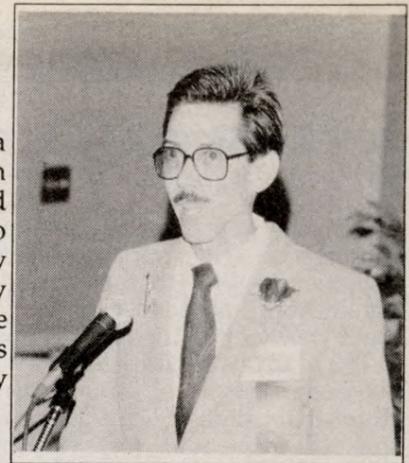
Eight of the eleven candidates we recommended were elected.

WHAT NOW?

We have the mayoral and city council elections coming up in the Fall. GAPAC plans to publish a slate again, but this can only be done if we repeat the process.

Well, that's the story... or an outline, anyway. I didn't include the parties we had to share what we were doing, swap "war" stories, and congratulate ourselves for our participation and importance. If you'd like to meet nice people, have a good time, find out who had to explain sodomy, and most important, contribute to the community, please join us in our efforts. To volunteer, just call me at 875-9440, or write to GAPAC at P.O. Box 8420, Atlanta, GA 30306. You can make a difference!

The evening began with a champagne reception in the Crown Room of the hotel, which featured many local political figures who have been supportive of the gay community in Atlanta. Particularly honored for their work in the State Legislature were Representatives Jim Martin, Nan Orrock and Mary Margaret Oliver.



1988 Dinner Committee Chairman Hubert NeSmith begins the program

"Gaiety" was redefined in the happiest of terms in the lobby, crowded with festively dressed lesbians and gay men awaiting the opening of the Ballroom doors. It was here that each one picked up their Passport, a year-round reference guide and the program for the evening. Customized with each person's name, it also contained addresses and telephone numbers important in the local political arena. "It was just a wonderful sight to ride down the escalator to the Ballroom and see all of us there," said Ned Mitchell.

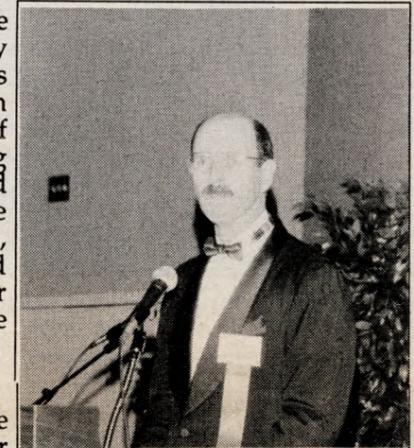


1988 Chairwoman Marie Murray prepares to present Impact Award

"I felt like I was coming home."

The scene changed with the dinner officially getting under way in the Ballroom. Each table was candlelit and decorated with flowers donated by many of Atlanta's leading florists. Gracing each place setting was a beribboned copy of MACGLO's full-page Coming Out Day ad 10/13/88, Atlanta Journal Constitution, and a copy of GAPAC's "gay slate" for the November election, showing the victory of 73% of those supported by the PAC.

Following opening remarks, GAPAC Chairwoman Marie Murray and Vice Chairman Peter Whiteside presented the first annual GAPAC Impact Award, a cash award for outstanding community service. The tied winners were the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition and the *Southern Voice*.



1988 Vice Chairman Peter Whiteside comments on GAPAC traditions.

The theme for the evening was "Moving From Old Traditions to New Ambitions", with the menu featuring old and new southern favorites.

In his address, Mr. Lomax spoke of Atlanta as the Beautiful City, and highlighted the evening's theme with references to the ongoing struggle for equality for all people. He emphasized the identical aims of our movement with those stressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of the the Civil Rights Movement.

The show, produced by Sister Sister Productions and emceed by Cathy Woolard, featured Doug Lothes' infamous "Gone With the Wind" in 22 minutes, delivered to



Maury Weil accepts the Impact Award for Georgia AIDS Legislative Council

much applause and a standing ovation. The evening was capped by the appearance of Suede, the popular vocalist of silky smooth voice and warm style, who captured the hearts of all.

Dinner Committee members were Chairman Hubert NeSmith, Janel Buchner, Ralston Cox, Walter Greer, J.D. Isaacs, Gary Kaupman, Marie Murray, Liz Ralston, Jan Sexton and David Story. Through the tireless efforts of the committee and many others, the evening was a resounding success, and will be an annual tradition for GAPAC.



Chris Cash accepts Impact Award for *Southern Voice*

A FRESHMAN'S REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE

By Cynthia McKinney

I certainly appreciate the invitation from GAPAC to deliver a few musings on what my first legislative session has been like. The invitation, itself, marks the tremendous open-mindedness of the GAPAC organization and, I expect, of the gay community at large. I am pleased that I was not prejudged by my more famous (infamous?) father.

I have survived 35 legislative days in the 1989 Session. What many had expected to be a routine Session has become quite a dramatic show. I think that various scenarios have been replayed well in the newspapers so I will share with you a freshman's impressions of the Georgia General Assembly: specifically, the Georgia House of Representatives.

In the beginning, there are committee assignments. Freshmen scramble to get their requests in to the Speaker and hope for Mr. Murphy's kind considerations. I was very lucky — I like to say that the Speaker looked down kindly on me — and got three important assignments: Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment,



Transportation, and State Institutions and Property. Since my at-large district will cease to exist after the 1992 reapportionment, I am particularly fortunate to be on the Committee that will do the carving!

The Transportation Committee basically deals with roads, rapid transit, and railroads. In Georgia politics, that means roads. The big players are Hal Rives, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Speaker. They periodically wrestle for control of the State Transportation Board, and the Speaker protects the interests and prerogatives of the House, which controls the purse strings.

Unfortunately for the Speaker, DOT funding is not controlled by the House. This makes the DOT Board even more important to those of us who are elected and have to serve a broader constituency. The "Clash of the Titans" is an appropriate title for the battling that takes place between the Speaker and Commissioner Rives. Pity the poor representative who wants a road for his district, but who has to walk the line between those two interests. And the eyeballing that goes on in those committee meetings! Staring is a very effective technique that the Commissioner and his men have perfected. I guess it's like going through Ph.D. oral exams every week. I'm developing very thick skin.

The State Institutions and Property Committee oversees all state-owned properties, including state prisons, mental institutions, and state-owned resorts, i.e., Jekyll Island. It is interesting to note that each of these might be final resting places for selected members of the General Assembly!

At any rate, I feel particularly pleased about my assignments. Mr. Speaker told me that his assignments are not something he takes lightly. He said that it takes him a long time to decide, and he does a lot of asking around before he makes an assignment. I'll take that as a compliment. It's a good thing, too, because once a member is on a committee, that member cannot be arbitrarily removed. That means that you can't be thrown off a committee for asking too many questions, but you might not be allowed to move "up" to the powerful committees (Rules, Appropriations, Ways and Means) if you lose favor with the Speaker.

If I've mentioned the Speaker too much, it's because everything I do

is watched, known and judged by him. It is very difficult for me to imagine the pervasive power and knowledge that this man from Bremen has. But, I've been told that if there's anything in this State that the Speaker wants, he gets it. It stands to be seen whether he can get a sales tax with no food exemption. In the past, the Senate has always been forced to recede from its position. The Speaker has always stood firm and won. It is very difficult for a House member to find comfort in the Legislature without the Speaker's blessings.

I've managed to carve out a niche for myself by virtue of my father's recalcitrance to complete domination by one man from Bremen. This makes the Speaker's friendliness to me all the more amazing. I suspect he's hoping that I'll be able to harness Billy's energies and turn them into friendly actions.

The father-daughter dynamic is quite interesting. I've had legislators come to me and tell me that, indeed, Billy has been corralled. He even has a tender side! Bronco Billy beams with pride when his daughter comes through with a question or a smile. That's a side of Billy that his colleagues, I'm sure, have never seen!

Don't think that the father-daughter dynamic has escaped the Speaker's perceptions. I've noticed that Billy and the Speaker have opened a line of communication and, at first, I was the conduit. That bodes well for Billy, the Speaker, and me.

You see, the Speaker is engaged in a war. Battles with the DOT Commissioner or the Lieutenant Governor are minor skirmishes compared with this war - for the Speaker's very survival.

In 1990, the U.S. Bureau of the Census will count every resident in this country. On April 1, 1990, Georgians will be counted. It is absolutely imperative that every Georgian be counted: federal dollars depend on it and state representation depends on it. Georgia is poised to gain two additional congressional seats. The face of the Georgia House of Representatives is about to change. And with it, an era of rural control of the Legislature and state government might be passing. My position on the Reapportionment Committee is pivotal. And it is purely a gift from the Speaker.

The Speaker is locked in a battle against Republican encroachment on "business as usual". An increase in the number of Republicans threatens the very core of Mr. Murphy's monolithic dominance. Blacks were never really able to crack it. We were more like those gnats that buzz around your ears: a pesky presence, but certainly not any threat. When blacks threatened a coalition with the Republicans, it was like one of those gnats getting stuck in your ear: a temporary discomfort, but certainly nothing chronic. But Georgia has undergone a transition. Many newcomers are voting straight Republican tickets and aren't even bothering to look at individual candidates. Georgia went overwhelmingly for George Bush. The only Democrats who really supported the national ticket were the Blacks. It will be difficult to contain the Republican threat to only national elections.

Recognizing the importance of the Census in my job of reapportioning Georgia's legislative and congressional districts, I began "Operation Get Counted" solely as a District 40, Fulton County effort. It has mushroomed into a state-wide effort. Now, even Black Democrats are important. Southwest Georgia could lose up to three State Rep seats. It is vital that everyone, including blacks, in southwest Georgia be counted. The population in Cobb and Gwinnett counties has grown tremendously. Their share of House seats will increase and they won't be Democrats! 1992 might sound like along way down the road, but compared to the two decades that Mr. Murphy has been Speaker, 1992 is just around the corner. All Democrats, even Black Democrats, have become very important.

In summary, this has been quite an interesting Session. Any session would be interesting, I think, to a freshman. But, with gubernatorial politics at the fore, this isn't just any Session; because of the father-daughter dynamic, this isn't just any freshman; because of the Republican threat, this isn't the same Mr. Speaker; and with the Census approaching, this won't be the same Georgia.

I am humbled to be serving the readers of GAPAC News at this time in our history. We've come a long way. We've got a long way to go. Together, we will make a difference.

Editors' Note: Cynthia McKinney was elected in 1988 to represent House District 40 in the Georgia State Legislature. As the daughter of the steadfastly homophobic Billy McKinney, GAPAC's endorsement of Ms. McKinney raised more than a few eyebrows.

"Now that the election's over who really voted? According to psychologist Steven Peterson of Alfred University in New York, people with hot sex lives are likely voters," the December issue of *Psychology Today* reports.

"In a survey of 240 college students, Peterson measured students' self-esteem, political knowledge and involvement, as well as sexual satisfaction.

"He found that satisfying sex turns on the political activist. It increases involvement in traditional politics, such as contributing money to a political cause, campaigning for a candidate, working to solve a community problem or voting in elections."

— An article entitled "So Why Isn't Gary Hart the President-elect Now?", *Kansas City Times*, 12/24/88.

— Editors' Note: So, when's the next election?

"I'm confused. No change that; I'm very confused.

I picked up my Memorial Day paper expecting to find a nice layout honoring those who died in service of our country.

Instead, there was a large color picture of some poor grieving soul weeping over a quilt honoring those gallant heroes who died from unnatural sex acts and intravenous drug abuse.

Once again, I'm really confused."

— Tony Steerman, Jonesboro, GA, Letter to Editor; *Atlanta Constitution*, 6/14/88

GOLD DOME FOLLIES '89: A REPORT FROM OUR STATE LEGISLATURE LOBBYIST

By Gil Robison

GAPAC, along with the ACLU of Georgia, the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS, Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights, and Georgia AIDS Action Council, is represented at the Georgia General Assembly by the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition. GALC's purpose is to influence legislation to create more humane and effective policies regarding the AIDS crisis.

The 1989 session of the state legislature has offered us, in contrast to past years, an opportunity to be more proactive. For the previous three years, we had been primarily opposing ill-conceived and repressive bills, such as mandatory testing for HIV infection and quarantine. Last year, with the passage of the Omnibus AIDS Bill, most of these issues were resolved, and generally to our satisfaction.

This year, our concerns were with funding as well as policy issues.

MEDICAID FOR THE MEDICALLY NEEDED, BLIND AND DISABLED

Many people with AIDS (PWAs) fall through a crack in our health care system. Often either uninsurable or unable to afford insurance premiums, many still have an income too high to qualify for Medicaid coverage. In a program that could be developed at the state's option, Medicaid for the medically needy, blind and disabled would go a long way toward assuring that indigent PWAs can still receive life-saving but expensive drugs and treatments, such as AZT and aerosol pentamidine. As this is being written, the General Assembly is still in session and has not yet decided whether to fund the \$4 million needed annually for this program.

Here in Georgia, our situation has reached a crucial point. Federal funding for AZT is scheduled to expire on April 1. Unless other funding sources are found, many indigent PWAs, especially in rural areas, will have problems.

HIGH RISK INSURANCE POOL

This proposal by Sen. Bud Stumbaugh of DeKalb County, would provide insurance coverage for the chronically ill uninsurable (including PWAs), in a method similar to SR22, which makes mandatory automobile insurance available to high risk drivers. There are drawbacks to this scheme, however. Premiums would be higher than average and benefits would be limited. In the Senate version, insurance companies would be levied for the \$3-\$4 million needed annually to fund the pool, while in the House version the money would come from the state government. Under either plan, the pool would help only approximately 3,500 Georgians. A conference committee is expected to resolve the two chambers' differences before the end of the session.

AIDS HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

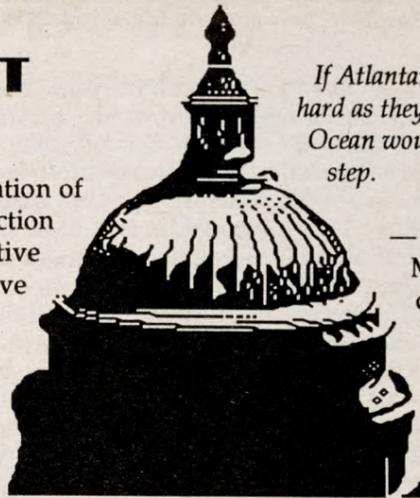
This year, the Department of Human Resources made AIDS funding its number one priority, requesting \$3.5 million for a variety of programs (education, prevention, clinics and health care) that would help us deal with the crisis. Georgia ranks eighth among the states in the number of AIDS cases, but is 26th in spending. Last year, DHR was appropriated \$660,000 for AIDS. The Governor's office cut its current request to \$1,018,806, and the House removed that amount altogether. The Senate has reinstated the Governor's recommendation, and the House sub-committee has recommended an additional \$1,900,000 for Grady's AIDS clinic, and to establish an AIDS pediatric clinic at Grady.

H.B. 974

This bill arose out of a controversy in Resaca, GA, where residents were unduly alarmed at the opening of an AIDS hospice. It would allow county boards of health to regulate AIDS hospices in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents in the surrounding areas. GALC is opposed to this bill, which will not pass this year, but might in next year's session.

H.B. 999: MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Often, when PWAs and others become too ill to make decisions about their health care, physicians and hospitals turn to family members for advice. This bill would allow a patient to designate someone in advance (other than a family member) to direct his or her medical treatment.



If Atlantans could only suck as hard as they blow, the Atlantic Ocean would be at their doorstep.

—Seth Boughton of Milledgeville, during Reconstruction

—Editors' Note: We love the beach.

H.B. 879: THE "KATE AND ALLIE" BILL

In Georgia, a divorced person who pays alimony to his former spouse can have the courts relieve him of that responsibility, if the ex-spouse is living in a meretricious relationship with a person of the opposite sex. Rep. Luther Colbert, a Republican from north Fulton County, introduced a bill that would make the law applicable to same sex couples, and would if passed be used to harass lesbian divorcees. At the behest of Representatives Mary Margaret Oliver and Denmark Groover, the bill was assigned to a study committee, from whence, it is hoped, it will not emerge.

H.B. 519 - THE "AMITYVILLE HORROR" BILL

This bill, introduced at the urging of Georgia realtors, would relieve sellers of homes from legal liability for failing to disclose to the buyer that the home was the residence of a PWA. GALC supported this piece of legislation which has passed both houses and awaited the Governor's signature.

H.B. 842

This bill would create exceptions, in some proceedings in probate courts, to the strong confidentiality of AIDS related information mandated by last year's Omnibus AIDS Bill. GALC has reservations about it in its current form, and will be working in the months ahead to assure that this confidentiality is maintained.

INSURANCE REFORM

Six bills were introduced by Sen. Bud Stumbaugh that would mandate a higher degree of ethical behavior in the State Insurance Department. Candidates for Insurance Commissioner would not be allowed to accept campaign contributions from the insurance companies they would regulate. Insurers would need prior approval for increases in premiums. The Insurance Commissioner would keep a public list of complaints against insurance companies. An advocate for consumers would be established to protect their interests. Former insurance department employees would not be allowed to work for insurance companies for three years after leaving the department. GALC supports all of these proposals; however, the insurance industry has been successful so far in preventing their passage.

SENATE BILL 318

In its original form, this bill would have allowed policemen to order HIV tests in emergencies. It has been amended to apply only to fatalities.

TUTTI FRUITI

Last, and perhaps least, is a resolution that would give Georgia an official state rock and roll song, "Tutti Frutti" by Macon's own Little Richard. Currently assigned to a study committee consisting of the sponsor, Rep. Billy Randall of Macon, Eleanor Richardson of DeKalb County and Jimmy Benefield of Clayton, chances of success are slim. The anti-boogie forces seem to be in the ascendant.

Editor's Note: As we go to press, the Legislature approved funding of \$830,000 for the medically disabled and needy, to start April 1, 1990. This will allow medications such as AZT for PWAs on disability.

—West Germany has given new meaning to the term computer virus: infecting the electronic bulletin boards of the Federal Republic are a growing number of neo-Nazi computer games. They bear names like "Aryan Test," and "Concentration Camp Manager." Players of "Cleaning Up Germany" score points by killings Jews, Turks, homosexuals and environmentalists to the strains of "Deutschland uber Alles." Though illegal... the game disks are swapped in schoolyards and circulated through computer networks. The hope is the games are too crude for anything beyond brief curiosity.

—Newsweek, International section, 1/23/89.

—These two guys that got killed wouldn't have been killed if they hadn't been cruising the street picking up teenage boys," state District Judge Jack Hampton told the Dallas Time Herald. "I don't much care for queers cruising the street picking up teenage boys," he said Thursday in an interview with the newspaper. "I've got a teenage boy."

—Judge Hampton's comments after giving the murderer of two gay men a 30-year sentence instead of the life maximum, Atlanta Journal/Constitution, 12/17/88.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I hope you will read all of this carefully and with an open mind. Perhaps you will learn more about your son, for though you may know what I do for a living and what possessions I own, I fear you know very little, by chance or by choice, about who I am.

I am a homosexual man; that is to say, I am a man who also happens to be homosexual. I do not consider this to be my most noteworthy characteristic, but simply one of the dozens of characteristics which make up the man.

It does seem, however, that I am living in a time when many people are inclined to attach especially negative shades of meaning to the word homosexual. Put more bluntly, a lot of people *hate* me without ever knowing me — for a simple fact of nature: I am gay. I can't say I enjoy this unenviable position, but it is not the purpose of this letter to indulge your sympathies in any persecutions I may have suffered. It will suffice to say that these persecutions are such that were I given the choice, my life would not have followed the path it did.

And that is exactly my first point, "were I given the choice...": I WAS NOT! The part of my nature which makes me homosexual was well established, either by environment or heredity or both, long before I achieved the ability to make choices about my nature. Where I could make choices, I believe I made good ones. However, you refuse to accept in me the one thing over which I had no choice.

I chose to be an honest person when I could have chosen to be a liar. I chose to treat people with kindness, giving them the benefit of the doubt, when I could have chosen to be uncaring and suspicious. I chose to please you through my school years when I had plenty of examples around me of a far different path. I chose never to burden you financially, or demand from you all kinds of "luxuries", just because my friends had them. I bought my own 10 speed bicycle; later, my own car. I paid for all but one half of my first year's college tuition and two years of graduate school myself, at times working three jobs to do it. I excelled in my studies, always giving my all to make you proud of me. And indeed, since school, I have chosen a path of hard work, and achieved a fair degree of what the world might call "success". But in this one thing, I HAVE NO CHOICE! That is, unless I choose to live a lie to myself just to please others; and I have ALWAYS chosen to live honestly.

What made me gay? I don't know. All I know is that it has been a part of my nature since long before I knew the "facts of life". I spent a good deal of time and energy trying to fight this aspect of my nature, so that I could create a perfect "all-American apple pie" family for you to be proud of. But I found out, with the help of some teachers, counselors, psychotherapists, and a few church people, (and no thanks to several "witch hunting" preachers,) that to live a lie, no matter how well intentioned, or WHO it was designed to please, was the greatest sin of all.

So here I am, your loving, gay son. Is it too much to ask you to make me proud to have parents who accept their son for who he is, and the important relationship in his life for what it is?

Which brings me to my second issue, Michael. He is my partner in life, my permanent relationship, my spouse; and I'm tired of skirting around this issue with terms like "good friend" or "business partner". After nearly seven years of life together, these euphemisms just don't do anymore. He is my family, and it is important to me that you accept him as such, just as you have Gary and Jan. We have absolutely nothing to be ashamed of and there is no reason you should be ashamed of us either. Now, I don't need your acceptance to continue to have a happy life, but I do consider our relationship important. And now that the issue has been pressed, our relationship has reached a turning point and there is no going back. We can grow together or we can grow apart. I have chosen to bare my soul to you; will you do likewise? Will you commit to accepting and trying to understand my lifestyle, or will you allow a lifetime of misguided righteousness, misunderstanding, misinformation, and mistakenly applied stereotypes tear us apart?

Though I may never have been so direct before, it is not as though I have suddenly sprung this on you. I've made no attempt to hide anything from you for the past 6+ years. I was quite frankly surprised, by our phone conversation the other day, as to just how little you were willing to accept my lifestyle. Had you just been polite all this time, maybe hoping it was a phase I would grow out of? Well, here it is, in black and white:

I am gay, Mike is my lover, we plan to spend the rest of our lives together, we share in all matters of business and finance, we are the beneficiaries of each other's life insurance policies and wills, we sleep in the same bed each night, he cooks, I clean, and that's that!

You will not see my face in your door again until I have clear indication from you that you are willing to accept these facts and the two of us with open arms.

Until then I remain,

Your loving son

Editors' Note: In a follow-up interview with this letter writer, we found a less than ideal situation. His family has initiated no response. When he contacted them, family members stubbornly refuse to grant any leeway in the discussion, even to the point of quoting scripture. He has sent them a book discussing the context of scriptural references to homosexuality, which indicates that these have been misinterpreted; and is contacting PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to see what help may be available there. It is a painful experience in which, he says, each family member is being challenged on their own personal honesty.

SMALL ACTS OF COURAGE

By Ned Mitchell

I read the obituaries every morning. On those rare occasions when I admit to this practice, I usually laughingly invoke George Burns' line that I'm looking for my name; if it isn't there I get dressed and go to work.

Actually, the obituaries oftentimes tell me more about what is happening in my world than the headlines. Two years ago, I was diagnosed as HIV positive, and I suppose somewhere deep in the recesses of my mind, I measure our relative success in combatting this disease by the presence or absence of the obituaries of its victims.

Many of the announcements hide the cause of death, preferring instead mysterious euphemisms, and listing as survivors only blood relatives. This saddens me, because it seems to diminish the death (and therefore, the life) of the deceased. From time to time, I run across an obituary of uncommon honesty: it will state the cause of death as being AIDS-related and will list the lover among the survivors. I marvel at these announcements. Although they are basically only composites of factual data, they seem to me to be testaments of courage and dignity. No grand gestures these, just small acts of heroism.

When I was diagnosed, one of the things that frightened me was the prospect of dying without having accomplished anything. There are no grand gestures here: the news magazines certainly wouldn't carry my obituary. It took only a short period of time and one lecture from a friend in Texas for me to realize that life is not comprised of grand gestures. Life is a continuum of smaller moments; each one precious, each one significant, and each one ripe with opportunity.

We can change the world if we seize upon these small moments and make them count. You and I, with our normal ordinary lives, have the daily opportunity to perform those small acts of courage that will make a difference in our lives, and in the life of our community. We can march in parades or offer support to those organizations fighting for gay and lesbian rights. We can do volunteer work with GAPAC or join these other organizations. We can take pride in, and demand respect for, ourselves and our relationships. We can write letters to public officials. We can register and we can vote.

We have it within ourselves to do these things and more. Small acts? When taken separately, yes. Significant acts? When taken together, you bet. All the rhetoric in the world will not effect change nearly so fast or so meaningfully, as will our commitment to take advantage of those opportunities in our lives to perform small acts of courage.

Because of your support this year we were able to support the following candidates in the November 8th General Election:

Winners
Jackie Saylor
House District 25

Jim Martin
House District 26

Ralph David Abernathy, III
House District 39

Cynthia McKinney
House District 40

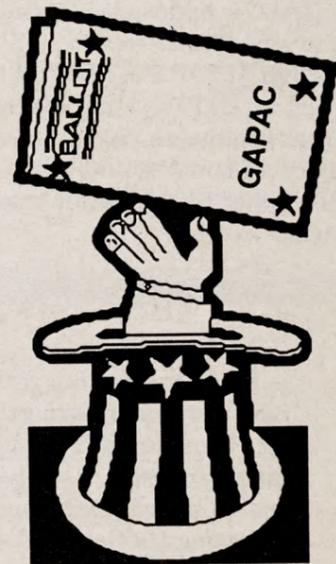
Mary Margaret Oliver
House District 43

Doug Teper
House District 46

Peggy Lehmborg
House District 47

Thurbert Baker
House District 51

Juanita Williams
House District 54



COMMUNITY DIVERSITY MAKES ALL KINDS OF FUNDRAISING EFFORTS PAY OFF

By Steve Schmidt

Fundraising. It's a pain to ask for money. It's also a pain to be asked for money. But as we all know, money talks in the American culture.

Diversity, variety. They can be appreciated. They can also be an aggravation. Because our diversity is often unappreciated in society, we must be keenly aware of the importance of understanding and accepting diversity among ourselves, as well as in society, to create a truly free culture.

Cross fundraising with diversity,



Nan Orrock . . .

Alexander the Great, TE Lawrence (of Arabia), Baron Friederich von Steuben of the US Continental Army, James I of England, and Frederick the Great of Prussia were military leaders. They were also homosexual. Misguided efforts by the US military to exclude homosexuals based on sexual orientation not only compromise the contributions of and unfairly stigmatize gays and lesbians, but also deny America the full services of able individuals.

For over a year, the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals, in the 3-judge panel and now in the full 11-judge panel, has been weighing the constitutionality of this policy in the case of Army Sergeant Perry Watkins. Watkins, who openly admitted his homosexuality, was discharged after 17 years of exemplary service. Since it would seem that under the Constitution all citizens share equally in the benefits and burdens of citizenship, what logic does the military use to justify a policy of discrimination?

In the past, the military has tried to link homosexuality with an inability to perform, characterizing it as a severe personality disorder, of uncontrollable sexual desire (also used at one time to exclude racial minorities); or with undesirable behavior, as a security and reliability risk, sexually coercive. Having found these linkages untenable at best, the military's current, and most amorphous, charge is that homosexuals impair morale and discipline. Since virtually all in the military who are homosexual (an estimated 10%) complete their service without incident (only .06% of the military are discharged for their sexual orientation), it would appear that the military is not very adept at catching the "rabble rousers". Why? Good soldiers who are able to hide their sexual orientation (greater than 99% of the homosexuals in the service) are overtly indistinguishable from other soldiers. Any disruption which does exist is *not* rooted in the general character of gays or lesbians, but rather in the *re*_action of others to

and you often get pain and aggravation, power and appreciation. As gays and lesbians, we appreciate the power of money's ability to "speak" for our rights. But as members within the subgroups of the gay rights movement (out or closeted, leather or disco, political or apolitical, blessed with good or cursed with bad taste) combined with our "membership" in the other "subgroups" within our culture (women, blacks, handicapped, job and economic status), we often find it hard to unify our efforts to make our money and numerical power speak.

Forging unity out of diversity is imperative on one key issue for all of us in the gay/lesbian community. That issue: making the American culture understand that we have a right, both natural and under the Constitution, to be who we are; to live, love and pursue a full life.

EXCLUSION OF HOMOSEXUALS DENIES AMERICA FULL TALENTS OF ITS PEOPLE

By Steve Schmidt

homosexuals. The reaction of those upset is a mixture of irrational fear (homophobia), religious aversion, and a perceived threat to society's values.

None of these offer a valid basis for military policy.

First, homophobia flows from fear, uncertainty, or discomfort regarding one's own sexual feelings. Those who don't grow and find peace within themselves will always be uncomfortable around others who are different.

Is this lack of maturity the proper basis for military policy? Further, military psychiatrists have argued that basing policy on such fears leads to confused results. Should the military discharge homosexuals who constitute at least 10% of the armed forces? Should it discharge the 37% of all males who have had a significant, overt homosexual experience (Kinsey reports)? Or should it discharge the 50% who display homosexual tendencies (a Pentagon report)? For some, there is a fear that somehow homosexuals will convert "non-homosexuals" - perhaps running through the barracks at night sprinkling "fairy dust" on everyone? That is an idea as absurd as the policy.

Regarding religious aversions, the military has laid no claim to protecting selected religious attitudes, having taken a "pragmatic" approach, for example, to the promiscuity of soldiers in the past. Given the government's foundation on neutrality toward religious beliefs, it must exercise its judgment based on the common good. Since the American Psychiatric Association has determined that homosexuality is a healthy, normal variation of human sexual

Accepting diversity within the unity of our society to some seems contradictory or offensive, but it is fundamental for true freedom. At the present, from some vantage points, it does not look like this task will grow any easier.

"History will knock us on our respective and collective cans . . ."

It is dangerous to assume that some recent legislative (Hate Crime Statistics Bill), judicial (US appeals court ruling on gays in the military), and administrative (the President's Task Force on AIDS) victories have turned the tide for us. History will knock us on our respective and collective cans if we do not keep up the vigilance and the pressure.

So doesn't everyone already appreciate this?! Reaction by some to expensive fundraisers would lead one to conclude "no". If it is

possible to raise money efficiently with a major event such as a dinner, it should not be construed as exclusionary by those whose economic status keeps them from attending. The important point is that everyone have an opportunity to contribute through a variety of means and that each contribution be recognized as valuable. In actuality, the person who has to dig deep to contribute \$50 may have as deep a commitment as someone who can afford to dash off a \$200 check as spare change.

This community must appreciate its own diversity as a first step toward getting an uptight, homophobic society bent on imposing a homogeneous culture to appreciate that diversity. We must recognize that unity in the fight for "rights" is imperative for individual as well as collective survival, as we celebrate our diversity.

expression and has eliminated all psychiatric diagnoses (i.e., it's not an illness), it behooves the military to act in the practical interests of the country, and not on the prejudices of some rigid religious figures. The truly religious need not resist greater knowledge about human behavior. The truth is only a threat to the temporal authority of church leaders, not to the spiritual authority of God.

Finally, permitting homosexuals to serve on an equal basis in the military would pose no threat to values fundamental to the well-being of American society. These values of honesty, honor, integrity, compassion, respect, love - held in high regard by homosexual and heterosexual alike - are either encouraged or discouraged by parents and society. It is fear, ignorance, and dishonesty that do more to undermine morale, discipline, and society than homosexuality ever will.

Sexual orientation is not the foundation of, but rather just another facet in, the kaleidoscope of our individuality. As complex individuals born with widely varying appearances, intelligence, and talents, it's rather perverse to assume a uniform, rigid, chosen sexuality. We don't choose our attributes; we do choose how to live with them. The military doesn't select soldiers based on whether or not they look good in a uniform. Neither should it select them based on sexual orientation. Ability to get the job done and the values of honor, integrity, and honesty would appear to make eminently more sense as criteria.

This is a pluralistic society, governed for the good of *all*, and federal policy, including that of the

military, must reflect that goal. Half the states representing over half the US population have decriminalized consenting homosexual relationships (the Supreme Court's *Hardwick* decision upholding Georgia's sodomy law notwithstanding), reflecting a growing understanding of the distinction between values, abilities, and sexual orientation. When the federal government operates in a superficial, irrational manner contrary to the facts (truth being the foundation of a free society), one has to question whose interests are really being served.

In this land of opportunity, where we ostensibly judge people on their abilities, it is profoundly disappointing to see the doors still closed to people for traits which are immaterial to their ability to contribute. Homosexuals, just as much as others who suffer from racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual discrimination, have an equal place and a role to play in this society. Gays and lesbians, who have served and continue to serve in a



. . . Jim Martin . . .



. . . and Mary Margaret Oliver address the Crown Room reception audience.

capacity much greater than the general public can imagine, stand ready and willing to protect the freedoms this society espouses - freedoms in which we do not fully share. Think about it.

... two-thirds agreed that "the best way to control AIDS is through widespread, mandatory testing."

— the most recent poll of college freshmen conducted by the American Council on Education and the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA; *Atlanta Constitution*, 1/8/89.

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YOU CAN HAVE IT TOO.**

Volunteers Needed:
Candidate interviewers (we train),
forum and debate workers, voter
registrars, secretaries, computer-
friendly people, programmers,
writers, editors, telephone callers,
table captains for GAPAC Dinner,
party throwers, coordinators to
keep us on track. Whatever your
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Call 888-0510 or 521-0630

Reagan's gut instinct was to go in a certain direction if he heard certain things. I always thought George Bush would be a bold conservative if he thought you could get by with doing it. Ronald Reagan taught him to a certain extent that you can be a lot bolder than Washington would like you to be. In that sense, I think the eight years with Ronald Reagan have done him some good. The question is how much, and who exactly would he put in his administration. The early signs are not encouraging.

— Conservative political activist Paul Weytrich in the *Village Voice*, quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, 10/12/88.

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"Zap... bigots" 

Editors' Note: Perhaps the Lesbian Avenger should look up old Jim in Marietta. (See Unspeakable Quote in next column.)

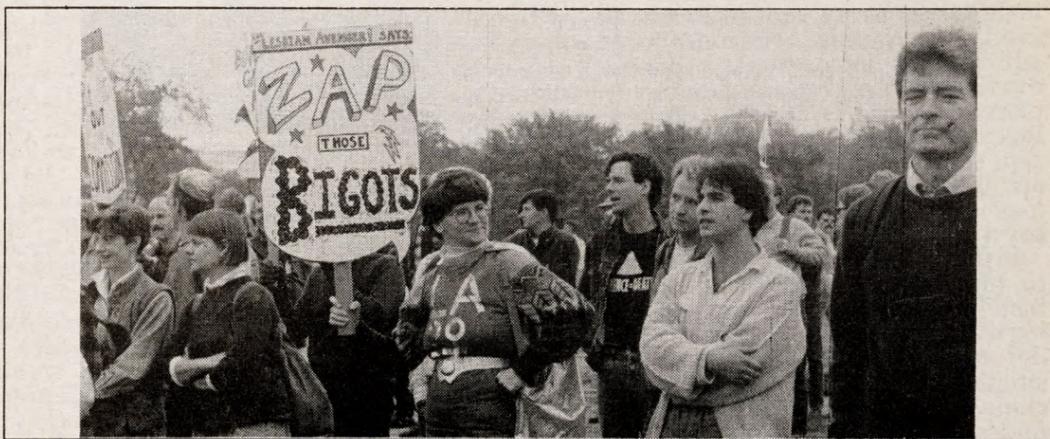
NOTICE:

**GAPAC IS SOLICITING BOARD MEMBERS.
WOMEN, MINORITIES, DISABLED PERSONS ENCOURAGED TO INDICATE YOUR INTEREST TO:
P.O. BOX 8420, ATLANTA, GA 30306
OR CALL US AT 888-0510**

GAPAC CALENDAR:

- April**
 - Dinner: organizational meeting (873-2810)
 - House Parties Committee (888-0510)
- May**
 - Candidate Interviews organizational meeting (428-0122; 875-9440)
- June/July/August**
 - House Parties held
- August/September**
 - Mayoral Debate
 - Candidate Interviews
- September**
 - Second Annual GAPAC Fundraising Dinner

The recent lengthy article on lesbian parenting made me sick. It's bad enough that such things take place at all, but I really don't think your newspaper has to glamorize them... There is nothing wholesome of natural about the homosexual community. Maybe the newspaper ought to stick to news if it can't find feature subjects to write about.
— Jim Landers, Marietta
Atlanta Constitution, 3/6/89.



In 1980, when Mr. (Anthony) Kennedy was a member of the Ninth Circuit (he's now the latest addition to the Supreme Court), it ruled that the Navy could discharge people for being homosexual. In that ruling, Judge Kennedy said that because some people in the military "despise and detest" homosexuality, the armed services were allowed to exclude homosexuals.

— *The Wall Street Journal*, 6/10/88.
— Editors' Note: Can they do this to blacks, Hispanics and other minorities, too?

The North Georgia drought, according to the Rev. (James T. "Ted") Lester (of Woodstock), is a sign of God's displeasure over the number of abortions performed in this country. The spread of AIDS and "encroachment of communism" are other signs, he said.

— *The Atlanta Constitution*, 7/31/88.
— Editors' Note: Not to mention wood beetles and killer bees.

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YES! Add me to the GAPAC list - I would like to:

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The above is a correction, not an addition.

Please send to: GAPAC, Box 8420, Atlanta, Georgia 30306

- Serve on the Board of Directors
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- Assist with the GAPAC News
- Lobby my elected officials (Write or call)
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Give: \$500 \$100
 \$50 \$25
other: _____

Next Week's Highlights



•**I'm Not Rappaport** – April 5-May 2. The Tony Award-winning play about two remarkable old men—one black, one Jewish – passing time in the park as their worlds collide in humor and pathos. One of the better offerings of 1986 Broadway. Theatrical Outfit, 1012 Peachtree St. Call 872-0665 for tickets and times.

•**Jacque & Joyce** – April 6. This exciting fresh duo brought the audience to its feet as the opening act for Lucie Blue Tremblay a few weeks ago. Their sensitive and earthy style, their selection of material and, let's face it, their incredible beauty, are a welcome addition to Atlanta. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30PM. Free!

•**Deidre McCalla and Nancy Vogl** – April 8. Two of Olivia Records' artists who were in town for Olivia's 15th Anniversary concert in the fall, return in an encore performance. Vogl's down-to-earth style and her use of history, stories & traditional music commands respect from her listeners. McCalla's new album, *With a Little Luck*, is a fine blend of smooth vocals and sunny optimism. Lisa Busler is the opening act. The Buckhead Roxy. 8PM. \$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the door. Wheelchair accessible and interpreted for the hearing impaired.

•**Evita** –through April 15. The high-powered intensity of the lyrics of Webber and Rice's musical about Evita Peron and her life, times and death alone justify running, not walking, to the next performance. One of the better offerings of art and music anytime, anywhere, ever. Onstage Atlanta, 420 Courtland St. Thurs.-Sun. \$10. 897-1802.

FRIDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY



Dead Dead Man Alive. Last term farce in which a dead man after his wife gets an accident. They decide to keep him and create a new identity for him. \$10. Men's March For AIDS Awareness and

KEEP ABORTION SAFE AND LEGAL

PASS THE ERA

3 **The Pride of Peachtree.** Atlanta's Lesbian and Gay Marching Band meeting every Mon., 7:30 – 9:00 PM at First MCC on N. Highland. Instrumentalists and color guard still needed. For info call David at 434-7826 or Susan at 951-1591.

"Tan Shoes & Pink Shoe Laces." Tonight only. A benefit for local AIDS organizations. Academy Theatre. 7 PM. A minimum of \$25 is requested for admission. 892-0880.

4 **The AIDS Movie** Channel 8. 7:30 PM

Works from the Southeast Playwrights Project. Picasso's Performance Cage. 377-7379.

Codependents Anonymous. Lambda. A 12-step program of recovery from codependency for gays and lesbians. Meeting Tues. and Wed. at 8 PM. For info and locations call 239-1657.

"CAT'S PAW". Thru April 16. A thriller, recommended for adults. A tale of manipulation, pitting a glamorous newscaster against a modern day pirate. Do tell! Sounds like "60 Minutes" to me. Theater in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. Tues-Sat, 8 PM; Sun., 3 PM and 7 PM. 422-8369.

5 **"Coast to Coast",** a Gay Cable network series highlights **"By Gays for Gays"**. Gavin Dillard is profiled and Bill Tyson reports in the changing media. 1:30 PM in Fulton-DeKalb.

I'm Not Rappaport.. thru May 7. Theatrical Outfit, 1012 Peachtree St. Call 872-0665 for tickets and times.

"America in the Age of AIDS." Channels 8 and 30. 8 PM.

Melissa Etheridge. Tonight only. Center Stage Theatre. 8:30PM. \$15. 873-2500.

1986: *The lesbian film, Desert Hearts, opened becoming an immediate and beloved part of lesbian film history.*

10 **LAMP.** The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project. 7:30 PM. North Highland Branch Library. For info 874-3107 or 872-7568.

Noises Off. Thru April 15. A hilarious British comedy about the misadventures of a ragtag acting troupe (touring England with *their* AWFUL sex farce of a play). Alliance Mainstage. Tickets, \$12-\$26. Call 892-2414 for more info.

11 **1954: 67 people were arrested in Waco, Texas for attending a homosexual wedding.**

12 **Open Mike Stand-Up Comedy.** Next City Comedy Theatre. 8:30 PM. \$3. 876-NEXT.

The NAMES Project/Atlanta. A National AIDS Memorial. Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. All Saints Episcopal Church.

ELGO (Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization). Dobbs Univ. Center, Room 363E. 7PM. 377-7421.

<p>SOUTHERN VOICE HOTLINE</p> <p>876-1819</p>	<p>ANIMAL DOCTORS at your service 24 hours every day. Conveniently located across from the Disco Kroger on Ponce. 10% off with the coupon in this issue.</p>	<p>Atlantis Connection New Age Bookstore 1402 N. Highland</p>	<p>Copies Copies Copies</p> <p>KINKO'S KINKO'S KINKO'S</p> <p>10% OFF AT GSU</p>	<p>SOUTHERN VOICE IT'S NO SECRET!</p>
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ORGANIZATIONS

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. PO Box 50374, Atlanta, Ga., 30302. 691-5921 or 297-8815.

ACLU/LG-ACLU/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. A non-political, non-religious, social organization whose purpose is to support the positive aspects of gay and lesbian relationships. Events and meetings vary. Info: A.C.T. Voice Mailbox, 365-2455, or write PO Box 723291, Atlanta, Ga., 30339.

ACT UP/Atlanta-AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power. Direct action group with the purpose of fighting homophobia, AIDS, sexism and racism. Meetings held every Tuesday. 24-hr. info line - 286-6247. Outside Atlanta, call 800-342-7038 ext. 6247.

AFC- Atlanta Faerie Circle. 1st Sunday of each month. Location and time varies. Gay men who gather to support one another and explore their connections with the earth and white light. 622-4112.

AGC- Atlanta Gay Center. 876-5372. Operated primarily by volunteers, AGC offers services for lesbians and gays men as well as educational out-reach to society as a whole. AGC Help Line-892-0661.

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. 378-9676.

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. 2nd Thursday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. Needs volunteers to coordinate this year's lesbian and gay pride March to insure its success.

AMC- Atlanta March Committee- More Than a Phase. 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. 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. DHR.

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: 662-4202.

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 PM. First Existentialist Church. The Circle is open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual.

CODA- Codependents Anonymous - Lambda. A 12-step program of recovery from codependency for gays and lesbians. Meetings Tues. & Wed. at 8:00 PM. For info and locations call: 239-1657.

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.

ELGO- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization. Meetings every Wed. at 7PM. Room 363E Dobbs University Center. Box 23515, Atlanta, Ga. 30322. 377-7421.

First MCC Atlanta- Metropolitan Community Church. Sunday Services at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM evangelistic service. Mid-week services on Wednesday at 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. Office hours Noon-6:00

First Tuesday- 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.

Fourth Tuesday- A networking organization for lesbian professionals and entrepreneurs, operating through monthly dinner meetings and a variety of special social, sports and educational events. P. O. Box 7817, Atlanta, GA 30309, 662-4353.

recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. Volleyball, bowling, dinners, theater nights, and dances are among the activities. 662-4501.

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.

Hotlanta Volleyball- Serious and amateur players are welcome to join. Members compete in tournaments and regulation league play. Clinics held during the year to learn and practice new techniques. Call 875-0700 for info.

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.

LAMP- The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project. Second Monday of every month. 7:30 PM. N. Highland Branch Library. For info: 874-3107 or 872-7568. Address correspondence to: LAMP, PO Box 301, 1579 F Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30324.

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. 289-6358.

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.

Lutherans Concerned/South Carolina- A society of gay, lesbian and non-gay Christians. All denominations welcome. We work to foster a climate of understanding, justice and reconciliation among all people. 3rd Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. 728 Pickens St., Columbia, SC. Contact: PO Box 90537, Columbia, SC, 29290. (803) 732-0838.

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 Southside- Serving the southside with positive Christian support for lesbians and gay men. 5:00 PM every Sunday. 575 Boulevard, SE. Office hours: Mon-Thurs. 10AM-Noon, and 1PM-4PM. 622-1154.

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 confronting the AIDS crisis. Membership is open to all individuals with AIDS, ARC or who are HIV positive. 874-7926.

The Names Project/Atlanta- A National AIDS Memorial. Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church. Send correspondence to: 375 Georgia Ave., Atlanta, Ga. 30312.

P-FLAG- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. 3rd Sunday of each month. 5-7 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.

Palmetto Gay/Lesbian Association- A support, education and civil rights organization in S. Carolina. PO Box 10022, Federal Station, Greenville, S.C., 29603. 24-hr. switchboard - (803) 271-4207.

Pride of Peachtree- Atlanta's Lesbian & Gay Marching Band. Every Monday night 7:30 PM-9:00 PM at First MCC, 800 N. Highland Ave. Instrumentalists and colorguard still needed. For info call David at 434-7826 or Susan at 951-1591.

Project Open Hand- Prepares and serves meals to PWAs, PWARCs unable to do so themselves. Volunteers needed for organizing, kitchen and delivery. 248-1788.

SAME- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc. Utilizes 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.

WOW- Women of Wisdom. Usually every 3rd Monday of each month. 7:30 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. 984-9929.

GAPAC Commentary*

As Missions Continue, Watch for Changes Coming Up

Ain't life's timin' just amazin'? Just the last column I was discussing burnout. Though that has no bearing here, I must announce with a combination of regret and anticipation that this will be the last GAPAC Commentary for some time.

In its beginning, we approached the *Voice* with the suggestion that we also supply a monthly column, editorializing on the political aspect of our lives. Since the *Voice* was then affiliated with SAME, and was constrained against such activity, it was a good arrangement.

But with the *Voice's* new independence, this is no longer necessary: and it's time for this space to grow along with the *Voice's* mission and the community that it serves. You will still be hearing from us, rest assured! And we will still be distributing our GAPAC News through the *Voice* as well as directly to our list. (What do you mean, you're not on the list??? Call 888-0510, or pull out the coupon in our paper and send it in now to Post Office Box 8420, Atlanta, Georgia 30306, to be kept apprised of the forces that govern your life!)

This is where the anticipation comes in. This space will henceforth be filled by columns from the various movers and shakers, organizational and otherwise, who have taken the lead in some regard. Whatever their frame of reference, this space will be available to them to share their specialty with us all.

This is a natural product as the *Southern Voice* emerges, and a very welcome one. Though we will miss the opportunity to communicate as regularly as we have with our

community, we applaud this new offering. Again, this paper has proven its readiness to provide a voice for all the various sectors of our community.

When GAPAC first began writing and printing our own *GAPAC News*, we did so with the intent of spreading not only the political information that we acquire, but also to highlight some of the ways that the very personal aspects of our lives are also, inherently, political.

We will continue to fulfill that specialized function: in fact, inserted in this issue of the *Voice* is the first 1989 quarterly issue of the *GAPAC News*.

So look for our paper (March, June, September, December). And please, do join us in our work. You can do that in any number of ways: by donations of time or money, by being attentive to what's going on around you. If you hear of something that just doesn't seem right, that affects our community (particularly if it stems from a public official), PLEASE LET US KNOW, at 888-0510. Keeping track of what's going on and seeking to affect the local political climate is our mission. The more eyes and ears we have, the more effective we can be on all our behalf. And concurrently, the more hands and feet and voices we have, the more clout we can wield.

It has been a singular honor and a pleasure to have had this space made available to our organization. We thank the *Southern Voice* for its confidence in our ability to articulate, and we look forward to the information to come.

- Marie J. Murray

GAPAC (*gay'-pak*) n. How it sounds is what we are; Atlanta's local gay/lesbian political action committee, working for us all since 1984.



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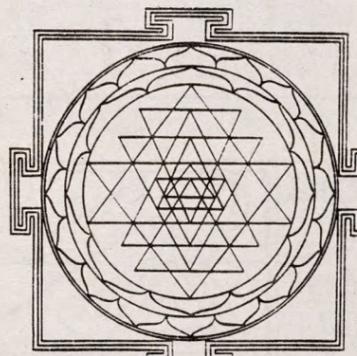
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Gay Films, continued from Page 6

perceptive film than *The Boys in the Band*. But it, too, like Wajda's films and even *The Boys in the Band*, is under the mistaken impression that merely to raise issues is to effectively deal with them.

For some people, this is enough. Typically, apologists will say, "Even if it's not very good it will start people to thinking," or that "It will sensitize people." But if the movie itself doesn't have any particular thoughts or new ideas on the issues it raises, where is the stimulus for the audience to reach any new depths in its thinking?

Torch Song Trilogy, directed by Paul Bogart, from whose past work I have never detected a single original idea (he comes from TV and it shows), has a single powerful moment, when the film's protagonist, Arnold (Harvey Fierstein), boils over at his unnerving mother. They're standing in a cemetery, praying over the graves of their dead husbands. Arnold's mother (played by Ann Bancroft in a ruinous performance described by *The New Yorker* as her "grisliest overacting" yet and by *The National Review* as "beneath contempt") explodes at him for daring to compare his relationship, his grieving, to her government-sanctioned marriage.

For some, the fact that *Torch Song* features the atrocity of gay bashing will have been diminished in this instance, and they will await a future work that will seriously grapple with the subject and will not be content to show an Arnold in profile, then in close-up (or an actor blatantly overdoing how rosy life is, as Fierstein does here, moments before a killing), as a representation of gay bashing as genocide.

Are we to make allowances and lower our standards by praising this film simply because it's a non-mainstream depiction of gay life written by a gay man? Shouldn't we more forthrightly reserve our praise for films like *Parting Glances* or *My Beautiful Laundrette* (or Pedro Almodovar's brilliant satire *Law of Desire*) that touch on some of the verities of modern gay life without all that glamorous suffering photographed and performed in retro Hollywood fashion. (Bette Midler's recent *Beaches* is equally superficial and retro.)



Helen Shaver and Patricia Charbonneau in *Desert Hearts* (1986).

In *My Beautiful Laundrette*, director Stephen Frears dexterously interweaves different sectors of poly-cultural and sexual experience. His characters are beyond the turgid self-justification that permeates *Torch Song* and *Boys in the Band*. Frears has selected what matters to the characters in their lives—minus psycho-sexual explanations—and assumed the same will interest the viewer.

His gamble pays off. Like the lesbian couple in Robert Altman's *A Perfect Couple*, you feel that although these women are aware of intolerance and bigotry in the world, they will not give in to it emotionally and have their own lives become subservient to the prejudice around them. They're simply beyond justifying themselves to others.

By comparison to *Torch Song Trilogy* I offer *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, John Schlesinger's film of Penelope Gilliatt's brilliant original screenplay. The film is the piercing account of the break-up of a relationship between a gay physician named Daniel Hirsh (played with dignity and wit by Peter Finch) and a younger bisexual sculptor named Bob. One need only note how differently the two films end to gauge the disparity between them in terms of artistry and depth of thought.

At the conclusion of *Torch Song Trilogy*, Arnold, after what seems his billionth and God knows his loudest fight with his mamma, sits in a chair, clutching a stuffed animal and a picture of his dead lover, and stares numbly at the camera inviting us to apprise his suffering. The best the poor film can come up with is to solicit our pity for poor Arnold. The appeal of the scene is as crude and as standard as Hollywood melodrama is old, and doesn't even rise to the level of TV soap opera.

Serious artists generally attempt to devise an ending scene (or sequence) that is a summation of the themes, the meanings and values that have preceded it—to distill what their film has been about. It is the

point we arrive at when all the parts of the film have been braided into their final design. The artist stakes a great deal on this concluding statement. Its effect on us can be magically powerful, like a still pond on whose surface glistens the trees, the sky, all the life around it.

Sunday Bloody Sunday ends with a brilliant neo-Brechtian turn. Daniel and Bob have split-up, with Daniel continuing to study Italian for the trip they'd planned to take together. His friends, as friends will do, assure him he's better off without Bob, and he addresses this proposition, as well as others in the film.

Daniel speaks directly to the audience. In a scene that recalls Bergman's *The Passion of Anna*, he implicates the audience which has observed this passage in his life. Here are a few words from his closing monologue:

"When you're at school and want to quit, people say you're going to hate being out in the world. Well, I didn't believe them and I was right. When I was a kid I couldn't wait to be grown up and they said childhood was the best time of my life and it wasn't.

Now I want his company and people say, what's half a loaf, you're well shot of him, and I say, I know that, I miss him, that's all. They said he'd never have made me happy and I say, I am happy apart from missing him...

"All my life I've been looking for someone

courageous and resourceful, not like myself, and he's not it...But something. We were something. You've no right to call me to account."

Without clinging to stuffed animals or portraits of past husbands or glamorously numbed gazes served in close-up, *Sunday Bloody Sunday* reflects an intellectual, emotional and artistic maturity far beyond the grasp of the film *Torch Song Trilogy*. John Schlesinger's direction, the performances of his cast, the film's script, cinematography, art direction and editing, all shine on an artistic plane leaps above *Torch Song Trilogy*. It would be a pity if our critical standards were lowered to permit the terms of praise properly accorded to Schlesinger and Gilliatt's film to others to be ladled onto inferior works, thus diminishing not only the credibility of our critics but the very language with which they equip themselves.

As poor Arnold seethes from the latest round with his mamma and clings to that stuffed animal, Daniel continues to study his foreign language, to expand his mind, for that trip he'll be taking now alone. While Arnold stares dully at the camera, Daniel locks his gaze onto our own, animate with a mixture of complex human feeling: with regret, hope, sadness, a presumed insistence on self-determination and dignity, and, most forcefully of all, the belief that ahead Daniel Hirsh has a magnificent life that might be lived.

— Terry Francis



Peter Finch and Murray Head in *Sunday Bloody Sunday* (1971).

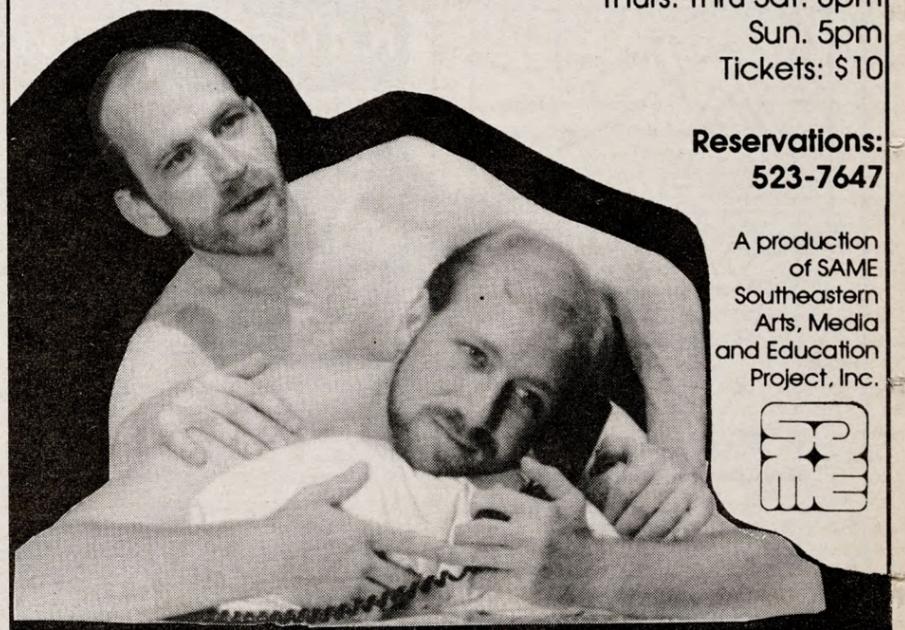
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PBS Will Highlight AIDS During April

Public television broadcasting stations across the nation and in Georgia will observe "AIDS Awareness Month" during April by airing special programming for an AIDS awareness and prevention campaign in the communities served by the stations.

The Georgia Public Television Network (GPTV) will broadcast a total of 13 programs in April directly relating to the AIDS epidemic. Four of GPTV's programs are locally produced and will focus on the impact of AIDS in Georgia. WGTV (Channel 8) is the Atlanta GPTV affiliate.

Atlanta's other public television station, WPBA (Channel 30), will air three programs during the month, one of which is a locally-produced special examining AIDS education efforts going on in Atlanta, and highlighting the organizations working with HIV-positive individuals in the community.

According to officials at both GPTV and WPBA, the centerpiece of the month's AIDS programming is the program, "America in the Age of AIDS," a Public Broadcasting Service program airing April 5 (8 PM, Ch. 8; 8:15 PM, Ch. 30).

The April 25 edition of "The AIDS Quarterly" (8 PM, Ch. 8; 9 PM, Ch. 30) includes segments on AIDS research, a profile of two doctors and how AIDS has affected their practice of medicine, and an examination of how billions of dollars of federal research money is spent.

Following is a broadcast schedule for viewers:

- Mon., April 3, 7:30 PM: AIDS: What Do We Tell Our Children?, Ch. 8
- Tue., April 4, 7:30 PM: The AIDS Movie, Ch. 8
- Wed., April 5, 7:30 PM: I Have AIDS—A Teenager's Story, Ch. 8
- Wed., April 5, 8 PM: American In The Age of AIDS, Ch. 8, 30. (Local intro., 8-8:15 PM, Ch. 30)
- Wed., April 5, 9:15 PM: Atlanta: Facing AIDS, Ch. 30
- Thu., April 6, 7:30 PM: Faces of AIDS, Ch. 8
- Fri., April 7, 7:30 PM: Mark and Joey, Ch. 8
- Tue., April 21, 8 PM: On The Trail of a Killer, Ch. 8
- Fri., April 14, 7:30 PM: Capitol Hill Report (GPTV production), Ch. 8
- Tue., April 18, 8 PM: AIDS: In Search of a Miracle, Ch. 8
- Sat., April 22, 5 PM: PrimeTime (GPTV production), Ch. 8
- Tue., April 25, 8 PM: The AIDS Quarterly, Ch. 8
- Tue., April 25, 9 PM: The AIDS Quarterly, Ch. 30
- Tue., April 25, 9 PM: Your Questions Answered (GPTV production), Ch. 8
- Fri., April 28, 9 PM: Georgia Digest (GPTV production), Ch. 8
- Sat., April 29, 1 PM: Georgia Digest (repeat of April 28 broadcast), Ch. 8

AIDS, Gay Organizations May Be Added To Yellow Pages

BellSouth is considering a request to add gay/lesbian and AIDS social service sub-headings to its Yellow Pages after receiving a letter from New York activists who negotiated a similar agreement with NYNEX, the parent company of the New York telephone system.

"We have received a letter ... from the New York Consumer Protection Board requesting that we add those headings," said Neal Clay, manager of corporate information for BellSouth Advertising and Publishing



Virginia Apuzzo

Corporation. "The letter was referred to the Headings Committee chairman," he added.

BellSouth policy on which Yellow Page headings to add, retain or delete is set by a Headings Committee, according to Clay, and the committee's decisions are "based on our consumer's need to find someone and our advertisers need to reach them."

The request came from Virginia Apuzzo, deputy executive director of the New York Consumer Protection Board, who worked with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to convince NYNEX to establish the new listings, which will appear under the category of "Social and Human Services."

The interest-specific sub-headings that NYNEX has agreed to establish include gay and lesbian organizations, women's service groups, services for the disabled, crisis intervention, and AIDS social service organizations.

"The AIDS crisis has precipitated a desperate need, and I would like to think that BellSouth, like NYNEX, will respond to that need," Apuzzo said. "It makes good business sense for BellSouth to make this service available to the community."

Although sources at AID Atlanta were unfamiliar with Apuzzo's letter, the agency made a separate request to the Headings Committee for the additional categories, and is encouraging other social service agencies to join them in the effort.

"We would be glad if BellSouth made it easier for Atlantans to obtain all categories of legitimate information," said Buren Batson, AID Atlanta executive director. "Naturally, we would be especially pleased if there were a Yellow Pages category for organizations involved in AIDS services and education."

BellSouth is the parent company of Southern Bell and South Central Bell, which provide telephone service to the nine-state Southeastern region.

—Chris Duncan

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CARING ANSWERS TO SPECIAL NEEDS

Alliance Against AIDS is a specialty program that provides nursing professionals and paraprofessionals for people with AIDS in their homes in order to maintain the quality of life in familiar, comfortable surroundings. Our program concentrates on stabilizing or improving health status, reducing stress, and developing a positive attitude. We coordinate all services, supplies, equipment and transportation.

Alliance Against AIDS is designed to offer the physical and emotional support necessary to a positive diagnosis of AIDS. We provide individually tailored care to those who often have difficulty seeking and accepting help during this confusing and traumatic time.

The Alliance "Healing Team" includes the patient, their doctor, nurses, social service workers, other health care and community organizations. Together, we provide an optimum of care, resources, referrals, services and information for those with AIDS.

All Alliance Against AIDS staff members are trained, experienced professionals. The following personnel and services are available:

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- Caregivers and Companions
- IV Therapy
- Aerosol Pentamidine
- Chemotherapy
- Nutrition (including TPN)
- Respiratory Care
- Laboratory Services
- Patient Teaching
- Therapy Services: Speech, Physical and Occupational

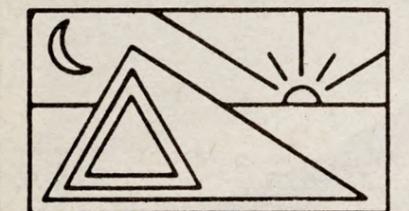
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7:00 pm

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Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men Visits "Big D"

One of the advantages about being gay that I've noticed is the access we have to so many things that are not found in "straight" society—so many unique alternatives in all sorts of areas. For example, when I first saw Lynn Lavner I was struck by how well she would have gotten along with Joan Rivers on The Tonight Show. Lavner's (and any other gay artist's) participation in our community and culture probably cost her the money and acceptance that her talent would have otherwise earned her, and this was to our benefit. The same is true for events like the March on Washington and the Quilt—they are events unparalleled outside of the gay/lesbian community and enrich our lives immeasurably. Another of those unique events is the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men (SECLGM).

Begun in 1976 by a group of concerned students and faculty members at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the SECLGM is a hodgepodge of conferences and workshops that are open to gay men and lesbians from Washington, D.C. and Maryland to the north and east, to Houston and Dallas on the west, and everywhere in between. The SECLGM deals with issues of importance to our community all across the spectrum, from religion and spirituality to fund raising for non-profit corporations to literature and history to whatever its participants find to be of interest or importance. Last year's conference had workshops ranging in topics from racism and sexism in our community to female separatism to gay spirituality to leather to massage therapy to civil disobedience to alternative AIDS therapies to—you get the picture.

This year the conference goes to Dallas from April 13-16 and the theme chosen for the first Texas SECLGM is "Southeast Meets Southwest." Co-chairs Bill Hunt and Deb Elder have arranged a stellar lineup of speakers and entertainment, including keynote speakers Virginia Apuzzo, former president of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, David Scondras, an openly gay elected official from Boston, Renee McCoy, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays and Stephen Beck, former Executive Director of NAPWA. The entertainment includes

Romanovsky and Phillips, the well-known male singer/songwriters, Kitty Barber, a lesbian blues rocker and Dallas' own Turtle Creek Chorale and Oak Lawn Symphony.

From its early beginnings in North Carolina, to its heyday in Memphis in 1982 with an attendance over 600, to last year's conference in Atlanta, the SECLGM is a wonderful opportunity for us to "network," to work on personal growth issues, to hear nationally known speakers in politics and the arts, to meet some of the most interesting and active participants in the Southern gay rights movement. At last year's SECLGM in Atlanta, the keynote speaker was Mab Segrest, a lesbian from Durham, North Carolina who is also active in the Anti-Klan Network. Her keynote speech, currently excerpted in *Southern Exposure* as well as in the new national gay and lesbian quarterly *Out/Look*, took the conference theme "Nothing's Going to Stop us Now" and asked, "What's not going to stop us?" She movingly discussed her friend's death of AIDS in the same year she and her lover had their first child. The previous year in Ft. Lauderdale I heard Robin Tyler speak with eloquence about planning to go to Washington for this "March" because she had been asked on her tour through Europe about the Hardwick decision—"What are you going to do?"—and she said, "We are going to march." I had been skeptical about attending this "March" that changed my life, and I will be forever grateful that she convinced me of the importance of a trip to D.C. to stand up for our rights as human beings. But those are the sorts of things that often happen at a typical SECLGM.

Information about how to attend can be obtained by calling 1-214-471-6040. The registration fee is \$40. The SECLGM is being held at the Sheraton in Dallas, with shuttles to be run to the bars in the "more festive" sections of "Big D" on Friday and a banquet and dance on Saturday. Special accommodations have been arranged at that hotel, as well as special discount flight arrangements with Delta through a Dallas travel agency called Fantastic Voyage (toll free telephone number is 1-800-622-6988). If you've never been to Dallas, I can't think of a "festiver" time to go.

— Al Cotton



PAMELA J. COLE

Atlanta's Pride Will Show In Ft. Lauderdale

Atlanta's Pride of Peachtree Lesbian and Gay Marching Band will participate in the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America 14th National Conference in Fort Lauderdale, April 7-9.

This will be the first conference for the 6-month-old band. The conference will include contingents from 19 cities across the country.

The LGBA was founded five years ago and now consists of 18 bands from across the country. Its next major event is participation in the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver, Canada.

"The band movement is about pride," said Mort Tonas of South Florida's Flamingo Freedom Band.

"It is complementary to the gay and lesbian chorus movement but its message is a little different. Band music has always been associated with pride in country, pride in a team; why not try to inspire gay pride?"

Pictured is Sam Adams, director of Pride of Peachtree.

OBITUARY

International Pianist/Composer Stephen Davis died in Boston, Tuesday, Feb. 28th, of complications from AIDS. He was 30.

Mr. Davis was the company pianist for the Atlanta Ballet and the Atlanta Repertory Opera Company from 1983-1985. Until he became

seriously ill, Davis was the pianist for the Boston Ballet Company and an Associate Professor of Music at the Boston Conservatory of Music.

In addition to his works in Atlanta and Boston, Davis had performed premieres in New York City; Stockholm, Sweden and Leningrad, Russia. Memorial Services were held on March 3rd at the Trinity Church in Boston.

DAN R. EASTON

Financial Service Specialist

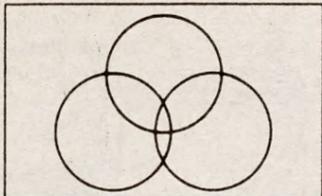
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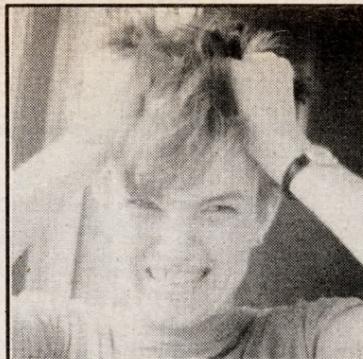
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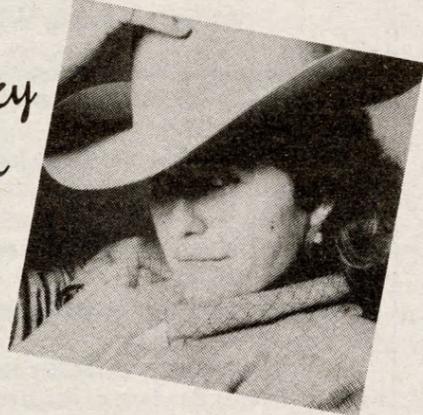
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WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE • INTERPRETED FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Ruling Planets

by Mary Bailey-Rule
March 30-April 12, 1989

ARIES The Sun, Mercury, and Venus are all in your sign for the next two weeks, so your energy and self-confidence will be high. Enjoy every minute, but remember to rest.



TAURUS Go over your tax return carefully, making sure you have all possible deductions and make a copy of your return before mailing. Be patient with all personal relationships.



GEMINI You may be on an energy high from Mars and Jupiter in your sign. Set priorities so you will be focused and on-track. Also a good time to resolve misunderstandings in old relationships.



CANCER If you feel everything around you is moving too fast, then stay home and putter around with plants. Your dreamtime may be very active, so remember dreams are symbolic, not literal.



LEO Sun, Mercury, and Venus are trine (120 degrees) to your sign, so you're in an activity cycle. Long distance travel could be fun and beneficial for you, especially with a friend.



VIRGO With the Spring Equinox Moon in your sign, you may feel more intuitive or emotional. If you are concerned about your taxes, stop fretting and get some assistance.



LIBRA There is a strong emphasis on personal relationships now, so be sure to communicate your feelings and needs to others. Keep your balance by spending quality time with yourself.



SCORPIO You may find demands at work increasing for the next few weeks, but it is probably temporary. Be patient and be aware of your stress level even though you think you can handle it.



SAGITTARIUS Jupiter, your ruling planet, is in your opposite sign of Gemini, emphasizing person relationships. Stay in touch with your own feelings and values to avoid confusion.



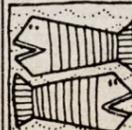
CAPRICORN Stay relaxed and try not to react to pressures on the job. You may have an opportunity for a career change that involves relocating, so be sure it fits your needs.



AQUARIUS Good time for communicating with old friends or visiting relatives. You may find you are becoming passionately involved with a new friend, so relax and enjoy spring.



PISCES Good time to make some changes at home by cleaning old memories out of the closets and trying new interior colors. Also re-evaluate your priorities for the next few months.



Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer living in Atlanta. For information about chart interpretations, call 261-9343.

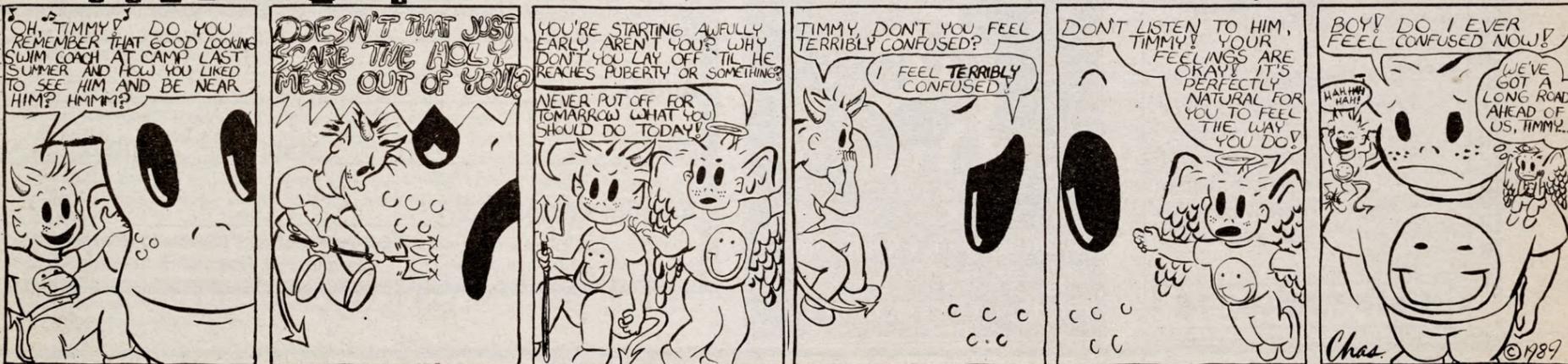
Illustrations by Liza Gollobith

Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

Seeking men for whom HIV/AIDS/ARC have been a spiritual opportunity/challenge. Also seeking men interested in meeting the physical challenges of HIV with a variety of healing responses in order to form a mutually supportive network or group within which it is safe to explore hopefulness. James Emerson, 379-6945. (V2#5).

AIDS Information Line - 9AM-9PM weekdays, 9AM-5PM, weekends for confidential, factual answers on risk, transmission, testing, medical and other referrals in Ga. and elsewhere. Atlantans call 876-9944, other Georgians dial toll-free 1-800-551-2728. Hearing-impaired callers access via TTY 876-9950. Spanish-speaking operators available. A service of AID Atlanta and the Ga. Dept. of Human Resources.

Alliance Against AIDS, a division of Windsor Home Care, offers home care and other medical services exclusively for PWA's. Call Janet at 261-6210.

Tuesday Night Dinner for PWA's will resume serving at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 48 MLK Blvd. on Tues., April 4 from 6-8PM. (V2#3).

Atlanta Gay Center Plus Groups for HIV-positive people. Fridays at 8:00PM and Sundays at 6:00PM. 63 12th St. 876-5372 for more info. (V2#5).

"Everything You Wanted To Know About AIDS But Were Afraid To Ask". Mon., April 3 at 7:30PM. Highland Branch Library. Dr. Joseph Wilber, Dir. of the AIDS Program for DHR will speak. For more info call Eli Saleeby at 874-1981. (V2#3).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GROUPS FORMING. For those who are dealing with issues related to "coming out." Informative, non-judgmental, supportive environment in which to process and explore feelings and get information. Sliding scale. Groups are: Coming Out for Women, to Parents, for Teens, Support for Families and Friends of gays, for Children of lesbians and gays. Facilitated by Connie Tuttle, M.Div. For info call 874-6591. Confidentiality assured. (V2#4)

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Hwy/Clairmont Rd. area. 636-2890. (V2#5).

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* EMPLOYMENT

Sales position, working in the community. Part-time, flexible schedule, sizable commission, vibrant working environment. Previous sales experience preferred. Call Jessi McVay at 876-1819. (V2#5).

Optometrist wanted to work part-time for openly gay business. Call Chuck at Optical Stores. 636-9727 or 636-9811. (V2#5).

RN, LPN, CNA. Experienced, loving people to work exclusively with AIDS patients on an as needed basis. Please call Dean at 261-6210. (V2#5).

Alliance Against AIDS, receptionist F/T with good communication/organizational skills to work as administrative support person for AIDS homecare agency. Typing important, opportunity for advancement. Call Janet at 261-6210. (V2#4).

FOR SALE

MON ROES ... PAPERBACKS. Now at bargain discounts. McGuire's Bookshop, 1055 Ponce de Leon. (V2#6).

Just in time for Gay/Lesbian Pride Season! So-Do-My T-shirts from NGLTF. Front reads: So Do My Friends, So Do My Neighbors, So Do My Idols. Back reads: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Available in blue or raspberry and sizes M-XXL. \$10 benefits NGLTF. 377-8312. (V2#3)

* ORGANIZATIONS

The GSU Gay & Lesbian Student Alliance, a social, educational and semi-political group, meets weekly on the GSU campus. Everyone is invited. For more info, call 352-4570.

The Atlanta AIDS Research Consortium, Inc., which is working to bring clinical trials of promising treatments of HIV disease to Atlanta, is in need of office furniture, equipment and supplies. We especially need a correcting typewriter, fax machine, computer and printer. All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. Call Jim or Maria at 876-2317. (V2#5).

* ORGANIZATIONS

The Commodore Format Users Group will meet at the Atlanta Fulton County Public Library Downtown. The meetings will start March 19, 1989 and will meet the third Sunday each month at 3PM. Contact Ted Moore at 768-2221. (V2#3)

All Saints Metropolitan Community Church offers positive Christian support for lesbians and gay men. Worship Sunday at 5PM. 575 Boulevard, SE. Office hours: Mon-Thurs. 10-Noon, 1-4PM. (V2#3)

Atlanta Gay Center, Young Adult Group, ages 13-24, Thursdays 6:30-8:00PM. For more info call 876-5372.

PERSONALS

GBF, 24, educated, attractive, growth-oriented. Enjoy movies, music, the outdoors and stimulating conversation. Desire to meet positive-thinking, supportive, feminine woman 28-35 for monogamous relationship. Reply to SV Box #2264. (V2#5).

GWM, 39, handsome, 6', 155 lbs. Sometimes funny, often reflective, father, runner, enjoys theatre, reading, cooking, intimate conversations. Desires close dependable friends. Reply to SV Box #2256. (V2#3)

GBF, 31, attractive, professional. Looking for feminine GF who is honest, serious, good conversationalist, romantic, and wants something in life. I enjoy movies, dancing, and quiet evenings at home. Reply to SV Box #2260. (V2#4)

GWM, 34, 180lb., 6' looking for a buddy to hang with, cycle, camp, hike, canoe, work out, beach. Spring's coming and there is so much to do but nobody to do it with. If you feel the same, drop me a line. 1544 Piedmont Ave., Box 44, Atlanta, Ga. 30324. (V2#5).

GWF, attractive, warm, feminine woman and a romantic at heart. Love those quiet moments, fairly new to Atlanta. Would like to meet that special woman with those qualities and more. For serious minded women only. Photo and phone number please. Reply to SV Box #2262.

Good looking PWA, 31, GWM, Blonde, blue eyes, 5'6", 130 lbs., healthy. Seeking GWM 30-40 for possible relationship. Partial to father figure types. Send letter and phone to SV Box #2258.

REAL ESTATE

Bold leather men... In town condo facing park, on MARTA. 1Br. with elaborate playroom. Must see to appreciate. 60's. Call David Spirt, Coldwell Banker Realty. 261-1666, 262-1234. (V2#5).

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ROOMMATES

Midtown - GWM, mid 30's, seeks professional as roommate to share huge 2 BR, 1bath apt. A/C. Off street parking. \$275/mo. + half utilities. Deposit required. 892-7184 after 5PM.

Housemate sought! Liberal, professional male (30's) patiently awaits soul mate but going broke in the interim. Can't afford to go it alone anymore. Share/find positive, healthy home. M/F straight/gay, prefer house, yard, room to move around. Willing to pay well for right environment. Call 350-0930 and leave message. I travel a lot, but machine is always home. (V2#5).

Responsible, non-smoking woman seeks same to share 2BR/1 1/2 bath house on wooded lot near Emory. Fireplace, W/D, screened porch are a few of its charming features. No pets. \$325 + 1/2 utilities + \$100 deposit. Available April 1. Call 248-0291 and leave message. (V2#3)

Seeking lesbian to share well-maintained 3BR, 1 bath house outside Little 5 Points. 5-minute walk to East Lake MARTA. Landscaped, fenced back yard, great landlord. Available April 1. \$325/month + 1/2 utilities. Couples considered. Call Joan at 378-5162. (V2#3)

ROOMMATES

GWM, professional seeks roommate to share 2BR/2 Bath beautifully furnished luxury apt. in Northeast club-atmosphere complex. Fireplace + all extras. \$300 + 1/2 utilities. 452-0858. (V2#3)

Lesbian seeks same to share 3BR solar duplex in Lake Claire near Little 5 Points. Move in by April 1. Prime Cable, Sprint, fenced wooded acre. Pets OK. \$275/month + 1/2 utilities. Call between 9-11 PM. Mary Ellen at 377-2443. (V2#3)

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* VOLUNTEERS

The Atlanta AIDS Consortium, Inc., is working diligently to expand AIDS research and bring to Atlanta clinical trials of promising treatments for HIV disease. This is a large project and we need help to accomplish our goals. We've implemented a volunteer program, and if you'd like to join our volunteer staff and can donate several hours (or more) per week, we can put your services to good use. Call Jim or Maria at 876-2317. (V2#5).

PROJECT OPEN HAND/ ATLANTA needs drivers to deliver meals one day per week (11:30AM-1:30PM) to people with AIDS. We also need volunteers in the kitchen and to answer phones. For information call 248-1788. (V2#3)

Southern Voice is looking for experienced news and feature writers. Volunteer for now, but will pay beginning in May. Join Atlanta's progressive paper - Today! Call Chris Duncan at 876-1819. (V2#4)

The Women's Resource Center of Dekalb County is recruiting volunteers for the following positions: crisis hotline, child advocacy and legal advocacy. Training begins April 22. For more info call 688-9436. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ENDING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. (V2#4)

Calling all daytime volunteers! The Atlanta Gay Center needs you! Weekday receptionists needed to answer telephones, greet and assist visitors to the Center. Three-hour volunteer shifts available form 9AM-6PM. Call 876-5372. (V2#5).

* VOLUNTEERS

MAKE THIS YEAR'S PRIDE CELEBRATIONS SPECIAL! Join the Atlanta Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee and help make this year's Pride Day special for you and the ones you love. No special skills required besides a willingness to work. Call 325-4435 today.

Southern Voice needs volunteer photographers. Experience and camera necessary. Dark room experience especially needed. Call Pam Cole at 876-1819 for more information.

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I Have AIDS -- A Teenager's Story

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America In The Age of AIDS

Wednesday, 4/5, 8 PM

Faces of AIDS

Thursday, 4/6, 7:30 PM

Mark and Joey

Friday, 4/7, 7:30 PM

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Tuesday, 4/11, 8 PM

Capitol Hill Report

Friday, 4/14, 7:30 PM

AIDS: In Search of A Miracle

Tuesday, 4/18, 8 PM

PrimeTime

Saturday, 4/22, 5 PM

The AIDS Quarterly

Tuesday, 4/25, 8 PM

AIDS: Your Questions Answered

Tuesday, 4/25, 9 PM

Georgia Digest

Friday, 4/28, 9 PM;

Saturday, 4/29, 1 PM

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ACT UP Attacks SC AIDS Law: "There Will Be Arrests"

Atlanta AIDS activists say they will "take control" of the South Carolina state capitol building next month to protest the state's new AIDS law, considered to be one of the most conservative measures of its kind in the nation.

The Atlanta chapter of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP) intends to disrupt the April 20 session of the South Carolina general assembly, although ACT UP spokespersons have disclosed few specifics relating to the planned action. The local ACT UP chapter estimates that more than 100 demonstrators from Atlanta, New York, Boston, and other cities will participate in the Columbia, S.C. protest, which organizers claim will be "one of the largest single acts of civil disobedience in South Carolina history."

"There will be arrests," said Linda Meredith, a member of ACT UP Atlanta. The activist group and its attorney have met twice with South Carolina law enforcement authorities to "negotiate in advance information on the payment of fines," Meredith said, and to educate officers in non-confrontational ways to arrest and jail the demonstrators. "We don't plan to surprise them," Meredith said.

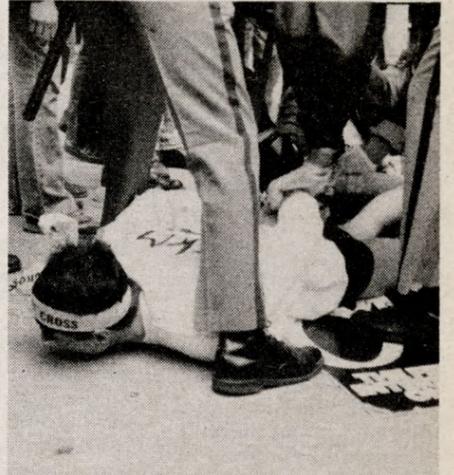
ACT UP Atlanta held a "teach-in" workshop last month for volunteers who received instruction in civil disobedience techniques that will be employed in Columbia, according to Meredith.

"This action is being coordinated in protest and disgust for the most oppressive AIDS law in the country," said Heather Wilson, logistics coordinator for ACT UP Atlanta.

South Carolina's AIDS law, passed by

the general assembly last year, prohibits confidential HIV antibody testing, establishes quarantine provisions for HIV-positive individuals, and extends prison sentences for positive-testing inmates. The law requires state disclosure of HIV antibody status for persons suspected of carrying or transmitting the virus.

"Legislation such as this, which serves to foster fear and drive the disease



RAY KLUKA

A protester is handcuffed by police officers wearing surgical gloves during an ACT UP demonstration at the FDA in Rockville, MD last October.

underground must not go unnoticed," said Chip Rowan of ACT UP Atlanta.

The South Carolina demonstration is one of several recent protests mobilized by ACT UP chapters across the U.S. ACT UP protesters in San Francisco briefly closed the Golden Gate bridge two months ago, and in New York activists were scheduled to demonstrate at City Hall March 28 to protest alleged inadequate treatment programs for AIDS patients at the city's hospitals.

- Matt Moline

ACT UP/NY Plans To Zap Koch

New York-The New York City chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP/NY) planned one of the largest single acts of civil disobedience in New York City history for March 28.

AIDS activists from throughout the metropolitan area were to besiege New York City Hall, protesting what they call "the Koch Administration's blatant negligence, disregard and mismanagement in dealing with the AIDS crisis".

According to an ACT UP/NY news release, ACT UP planned to protest "the imminent collapse of New York City's healthcare system, overcrowded hospitals, lack of baseline healthcare, lack of treatment assessment clinics, lack of beds for homeless People with AIDS, denied funding of AIDS treatment programs and services, and a myriad of other negligences".

"As the first and hardest hit city regarding the AIDS crisis, New York City represents the future of every city in America which is struggling with this epidemic," said Alan Klein of ACT UP's Action Committee.

"We must focus attention on this city's scandalous and murderous neglect."

This is the plan...

Mix with the hottest crowd of men and women in the city Thursday through Sunday nights, and dance, mingle, see and be seen amidst the sights and sounds of Atlanta's premier party place. Doors open at 10 pm. Start early Sunday with the Tea Dance at 6:00 pm, then romp with the Backstreet Girls at 8:30 pm. Join Backstreet to kick off Tory Beauty's new single "Heart Warmer" Sunday, April 2 at midnight.

Take a mid-day or after work break in Backstreet's Rooftop Cafe. The open-air atmosphere offers casual, relaxed comfort for every type of rendezvous. Rooftop hours are Monday through Thursday 11 am-10 pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am on. Call Bev Cook to reserve the Rooftop Cafe for your organizational or business meeting.

Be at Backstreet Monday nights for Ladies Night in the newly renovated tongue and groove panelled Mini-Disco. Sound brought to you by Special dj's Rhonda and Dusty. Doors open at 10 pm. Bar and Related-Service Industry Employee Membership Card Party, Wednes, April 5 at 9 pm. One time \$4 surcharge gets you in Backstreet free!

Skip brunch and stop in Sundays at 4 pm for Backstreet Burgers. They're Free and served until 7 pm. Backstreet also offers a Free late-night Buffet Sunday and Wednesday nights in the Mini-Disco, starting at 11 pm.

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Friday & Saturday \$5 non members
\$3 members
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