3,000 Protest New York's AIDS Policies

New York — The AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP) swept through City Hall Plaza here last Tuesday with over 3,000 demonstrators and supporters to protest the city's AIDS policies under the administration of Mayor Ed Koch, according to reports in the Washington Blade.

"We're here at City Hall today because we're dying and we're angry," said ACT UP's Ann Northrop.

This demonstration was the largest ever staged by ACT UP, and was preceded by a "zap" on the Brooklyn Bridge during rush hour. The AIDS civil disobedience group used the wave format to successfully close down the bridge and its exits/entrance ramps three times during the actions.

Charles Barber, another ACT UP organizer, said the demonstration was highly successful.

"We're taking the issue of health care to the streets. It will be a major issue in this year's mayoral election," he declared.

ACT UP member Michael Nesline, who is also a registered nurse at Bellevue Hospital, said the metropolitan hospital system is in a state of crisis, largely due to New York Mayor Edward Koch's policies, which Nesline believes are criminally negligent. Charles Barber, another ACT UP member, said the Koch administration cut the city hospital budget by $20 million last year.

Koch held a news conference at City Hall while the demonstration was going on. He said that he understands the frustration and anger that the demonstrators feel. Koch also said that "New York does "more than any other city or state" to serve the needs of people with AIDS, but that the city's limited budget prohibits it from doing more.

41 Arrested Protesting S. C. AIDS Law

Columbia, S.C. — ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) staged its first major demonstration in the Deep South on Thursday when forty-one demonstrators who blocked a major street in front of the South Carolina state capitol building were arrested. Police officers quickly moved in after the demonstrators, in two separate groups, lay down on Gervais Street blocking the two east-bound lanes. They were cuffed and carried on stretchers to waiting buses for transportation to a nearby processing center.

The 41 were charged with blocking traffic — disobeying instructions of a police officer — and posted bonds of $100, the maximum fine for the misdemeanor offense. All of the demonstrators were released "within a couple of hours", according to Heather Wilson, ACT UP/Atlanta's logistics coordinator. Bob Hallman, one of two Columbia attorneys who represented the ACT UP group, said he observed only one police officer who "got a little rough" during the two rounds of arrest.

The demonstration was a scaled-down version of the one announced by ACT UP/Atlanta on March 1. At that time activists stated they intended to "take control" of the South Carolina statehouse to protest the state's new AIDS law, considered to be one of the most oppressive in the nation.

ACT UP/Atlanta backed off from that objective after South Carolina officials pointed out that any unauthorized entry or use of the statehouse carries with it a penalty of five years in prison and/or a $5,000 fine. ACT UP/Atlanta coordinated a two-hour demonstration at the statehouse before the arrests took place.

South Carolina's AIDS law, passed by the general assembly last year, prohibits confidential or anonymous HTV testing, established quarantine provisions for certain HIV-positive persons, and extends prison sentences for positive-testing inmates. The law also requires state disclosure of HIV status for persons suspected of carrying or transmitting the virus.

"Legislation such as this, which serves to foster fear and drive the disease underground, must not go unnoticed," said Chip Rowan, ACT UP/Atlanta's legal coordinator. "This action is being coordinated in protest and disgust for the most oppressive AIDS law in the country."

The street-blocking tactic apparently came as no surprise to South Carolina law enforcement authorities, who had several meetings with ACT UP coordinators during the last month. "We've watched videotapes of other ACT UP protests, and they sit down in the street completely passive," said Hugh Mann, press spokesperson for the state's law enforcement division. "You have to pick them up and carry them off."

Most of the officers wore rubber gloves during the arrests. "We offer gloves to officers in every instance where we're going to have multiple arrests," said John Spade, a Columbia police department spokesperson. "This is standard procedure. You can catch a common cold with a handshake. You don't know what people have," he said.

Although estimates of the total number of people who participated varied widely, (Cont'd Page 3)
Montrose Voice ruled that Terri Sabol could seek custody of March 16. According to reports in the

Just think what four years under Jack

my candidacy can do the same for gay people.

making his third bid for public office. He lost

Gay Democrats of America, Campbell is

the child she and her partner conceived

Superior Court Commissioner James Endman
gave birth to was supported by a judge here on

This case is an inspiration to persons who

have committed a felony.

Included with those penalties is being charged

for acting on one's gay or lesbian orientation.

with a felony, as dictated by the CAN laws.

reasonable basis to conclude that the applicant

deny housing to anyone if the landlord "has a

sexually active gay men and lesbians.

The proposal would allow landlords to

five proposals are aimed at limiting homosexuals, according to a story in The

Against Nature (CAN) laws as the

justification for limiting homosexuals. The

first proposal is an amendment aimed at

teaching school children the penalties

for acting on one's gay or lesbian orientation.

included with those penalties is being charged

with a felony, as dictated by the CAN laws.

N.C. Considers Two
Anti-Gay Bills

Gay and lesbian activists in North Carolina

are worried about two new bills recently

introduced in that state's legislature which

could lead to discriminatory treatment against

homosexuals, according to a story in The

Front Page.

Both proposals rely on the state's Crimes

Against Nature (CAN) laws as the

qualification for limiting homosexuals. The

first proposal is an amendment aimed at

sexually active gay men and lesbians.

The proposal would allow landlords to
deny housing to anyone if the landlord "has a

reasonable basis to conclude that the applicant

has committed a felony."

The second proposal would require

teachers to teach school children the penalties

for acting on one's gay or lesbian orientation.

included with those penalties is being charged

with a felony, as dictated by the CAN laws.

Who Framed Grace Jones?
Multitalented star Grace Jones spent a few days in the less-than-sunny side of Jamaica last week following an encounter with the law. Police arrested Jones after finding .006 of an ounce of cocaine in her home in Kingston and kept her in a local jail for three days.

Jones, who starred in the 007 thriller "A View to a Kill," maintains she was framed by a "third party" and vows to fight the charges in court. The hours of captivity proved productive, though. She wrote six songs, planned a music video and confounded police by asking for permission to return to the jail for artistic purposes. Jones' angular face will soon appear behind bars in an anti-drug video named "Crack Attack."

Who Was That Masked Patient?
The Lone Ranger's heart is giving some trouble to the legendary eviler of evil. Clayton Moore entered a hospital in Malibu, California for tests and observation after experiencing an irregular heartbeat. Moore, now 74 years old, galloped on his trusted horse "Silver" into American homes in the 1950s. He deftly destroyed opponents of good and the American way before disappearing into the sunset until the same time next week.

Who Was That Naked Woman?
The Santa Ana Freeway has seen few traffic jams quite like the one that snarled traffic for miles on April 10 and sent drivers into a mad scramble for flying bills and naked skin. When highway patrol officers arrived at the scene of the disturbance, they found a woman sitting on the hood of her car, naked from the waist down, tossing $20 bills into the road and swinging a metal chain at nearby cars. The woman explained she was out of gas and wanted to get the other driver's attention. Police started her car without any problem before taking her into the local psychiatric hospital.

Sun Discovers "Lesbian City" In Sweden

"Lesbian city of 25,000 bans men" trumpeted the headline over a story in the April 18 edition of the Sun, a supermarket tabloid, that asserted "each and every one of these gals is a man-hating lesbian."

The article said that the city of Sapphoberg, Sweden is surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards to protect unsuspecting men who stumbled upon the town.

"We used to have a scattering of men here," said Mayor Helga Gomblad, "but they were being constantly harassed and beaten up. We banned them for their own protection."

If a man must enter the city, Gomblad said, he is given a special day-pass so the guards will "let him pass."

Once inside the gates, the Sun reported, life is fairly normal in the city "where women fill every position from corporate executive to firefighters."

"I imagine the world would be surprised by how simple and happy our family lives are," Gomblad said. "We women know how to please our women better than some fat, beer-guzzling husband."
Arrests

Cont'd from Page 1

the event attracted fewer participants than ACT UP organizers predicted. ACT UP's Atlanta media coordinator Linda Meredith told reporters on Thursday. But the actual count of protesters was closer to 65, which was also the figure announced by police authorities. Rowan stated, "We had the numbers we expected, but he also expressed disappointment in the turnout.

Both houses of the legislature remained in session throughout the demonstration, and only a few legislators came out onto the capital steps to watch the protest. One legislator commented he thought one of the demonstration's posters was "distasteful." He was apparently referring to a placard advocated legalizing anal intercourse, using graphic language to describe the sex act.

Tom Whalen of Columbia said he came to join the demonstration, but was turned off by signs carried by some of the demonstrators. Their signs offended me. I don't think they're doing a bit of good," he said. "As a matter of fact, I think they're hurting the cause.

Many of ACT UP's tactics were intended to elicit maximum shock value. When the group first arrived at the capital they marched around the building, they chanted: 'We're here! We're here! We're loud and rude, strong and queer!' Then they staged a 'Kiss-in' on Cervat Street, coinciding with an increase in lunchtime traffic.

Support gay and lesbian groups flank at some of ACT UP's strategies, and others believe the group fills a vital need for direct action. "There's a certain level of political correctness in the AIDS epidemic droans on," said Uvash Vaid of The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force a few weeks ago. "ACT UP is not afraid to break the mould, and that's good. But tactics that confront and provoke can alienate, too."

Nearly half of the demonstration came from New York where some had been among over 200 arrested in an ACT UP sponsored demonstration that attracted 5,000 to New York's city hall on March 28. Some of the women arrested in the New York demonstration reportedly were subjected to strip searches by police there. "I'm willing to be arrested," said Maxine Wolf of New York. "But I didn't come down here to be arrested."

25 of the protesters from Atlanta and another 20 were from the Greenville, S.C. area. "There were only four or five from Columbia," said Brian Conner of the Carolina Resource Center.

One man, Scott Ayers of Atlanta, became a drop-in demonstrator Ayers was staying in a nearby town to attend a funeral. "I saw it announced on television last night, and pulled off the interstate this morning on my way home and joined in."

Joe Selby of Greenville wore a surgical mask, the same mask Selby's friend wore when he died of AIDS last year. "I'm here for those who are sick and too afraid for their own lives to be here," he explained.

Only two counter-demonstration were present, two men standing beside a lone, laminated poster which read, "There is a cure for AIDS and all other sin - Repentance to God and faith in Jesus Christ."

-Matt Moline

Jackson Continues Bid For Gay Vote

Mayoral candidate Maynard H. Jackson reiterated his campaign promise to Atlanta gays and lesbians to immediately reform the current police procedures for reporting Hate Crimes during a wide-ranging address to the Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR) April 9. Jackson's position on the documentation of hate crimes, those crimes motivated by malice toward an individual's perceived race, sex, religion or sexual orientation, is the boldest of the any candidate's early campaign promises to the gay/lesbian community. Fulton County Commission Chair Michael L. Lomax, Jackson's main opponent, has previously promised his cooperation in working with the Atlanta gay community, but only Jackson has taken issue publicly with the policies of the current administration and promised to get the issue resolved.

"No one - regardless of their race, sex or sexual orientation ever should have to worry about how they are treated by the police or anyone else," Jackson said.

"Hate crimes, by whomsoever perpetrated, if they're in this city, we need to know about them, chronicle them and we don't need to wait on the federal government to pass any kind of law. We're going to do it because it's the right thing to do," he added.

Jackson also vowed to re-establish a city-wide Human Rights Commission to replace the current City Council Human Relations Committee which the mayor plays no part in.

"It has been my commitment throughout this campaign to establish a Human Relations Commission in the City of Atlanta," Jackson said. "I think it is necessary for people of different backgrounds, different orientations, different policies, parties and so forth, to come together and talk to each other, and advise government in turn."

In a related development, Jackson said that although he was unfamiliar with the wording of an ordinance that bans city employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, he was aware that many people at the meeting felt it was inadequate.

"To whatever extent that law is not adequate, we are going to do everything that legally and ethically can be done to assure that all aspects of life for people who are qualified (are protected)," he said.

Jackson was questioned the closest, and received his greatest criticism around, housing for the homeless, in particular the homeless with AIDS. Although he admitted that he had not worked out a plan in response to the problems of homeless PWAs, Jackson said, "I've got a program that would apply to the question. Let's build housing."

His housing plan would be financed by issuing tax-free revenue bonds, that he said would place "no call on the tax payer." Jackson said that the plan he was thinking of would build four family housing that would have two homeless PWAs paying sliding scale rents with two renters paying the full price for their units, which he predicted would in turn raise enough revenue to retire the bond indebtedness.

Jackson said that the way to avoid neighborhood hostility toward housing units being built in their area was to search for a "proactive solution" that would involve all parties in the planning process.

Although Jackson offered GAPHIR a seat on his transition team if elected, GAPHIR treasurer Rick Hudson stressed that the group would remain impartial throughout the campaign.

Vote '89 To Register 3,500 Voters

When the politicians are analyzing the impact of this year's gay/lesbian voter registration drive, a snapshot of Judy Quick isn't going to be part of their heads. Gary Donult's framed portrait probably will. Quick, who is an African-American woman with a 9-year-old son is not the typical image Southern politicians conjure up when they hear the "g" or "t" words. Donult, on the other hand, fits the standard stereotype of a single, white male living in Tuscaloosa, Jim Gilkeson, a registrar working with Vote '89, a loose coalition of gay/lesbian political doen, doesn't know if either Quick or Donult are gay. And he doesn't think it will matter when the final results are tallied.

"You can't walk up to people and say 'Are you going to vote this way, good lets come register you,' so we just register everybody," Gilkeson explained. "So you go to the areas where you know your people are, you get folks to register to vote and your percentages are good."

Gilkeson and two other members of Vote '89 went out hustling the Saturday shopping crowds at Ansley Mall April 15, making sure they gave everyone the opportunity to sign up for this fall's elections. Sounding more like carnival barkers than the demure voter registrars we have become used to seeing in the malls, the three signed-up over 30 new voters before their four hour shift was over.

"Straight or gay, it all comes down to numbers for Gilkeson and the other members of Vote '89 who plan to register at least 3,500 voters in the coming months.

"What we're doing," explained registrar Rich Jones, "is getting areas and specific campaigns on the ground, that we know have a lot of gay traffic in them. There will be some straight ones in our numbers, and that's okay."

"The politicians know where we're doing our registration," he added, "and they know it's heavily gay."

The primary goal of Vote '89, according to Jones and others, is to activate the gay/lesbian community of Atlanta, and provide local activist with solid numbers to show to politicians when they are jockeying for power with other special interest groups. And votes, of course, are the key to a politician's heart - not to mention their support of any particular cause.

Long used as a means to keep minorities and women from voting, voter registration is now used prevalently by minority groups like Vote '89 to ensure their voice is heard by politicians, according to Ronnie R. Coleman with the Fulton County Registrar's office. She added that although this is not the first gay/lesbian voter registration drive in Fulton County, it is the most concerted effort in her memory.

-Chris Duncan

-Vince Perkins
PWA Housing Needed Now

Zoning Review Board
City Hall South
33 Trinity Street, S.W., Room 335-D
Atlanta, Georgia 30335-0313

Members of the Board:

I am writing to urge you to grant a Community Services Special Use Permit to Jerusalem House - a proposed residence to homeless persons with AIDS. The need for such a residence cannot be stressed enough, and the property at 831 Briarcliff Road is an excellent location due to its centrality and accessibility to public transportation.

As you are probably aware there are only 32 non-hospital beds available to persons with AIDS (PWA's) in the entire State of Georgia, all operated by AID Atlanta. According to Joan Garner, Social Services Director of that agency, some 30% of their 700+ clients will be homophobic or too frightened to love.

Garner, Social Services Director of that agency, some 30% of their 700+ clients will be homeless or have problems paying for housing within the course of their illness.

The math is simple. 32 beds cannot accommodate the current need - nor can it accommodate the growing number of homeless PWA's the State is sure to see.

All three directors of Jerusalem House have a commitment to caring for our State's AIDS population. If we are truly "the city too busy to hate" then we must first be the city not too busy, or too bigoted or too frightened to love.

Sincerely,

Joan T. Sherwood

The board of directors of Jerusalem House have a commitment to caring for our State's PWA's. The time and planning they have put into this project is indicative of that care. Their efforts bring a ray of hope into a city that is darkened by the disease and the State's woeiful response to it.

Atlanta is expected to lead the way in times of crisis. The City has a responsibility to be the "first" in dealing with AIDS in a fair and humane fashion - and in doing so lead the way for the rest of the State.

If we are truly "the city too busy to hate" then we must first be the city not too busy, or too bigoted or too frightened to love.

Sincerely,

Christina Cash
Publisher/Editor
Southern Voice

Guest Editorial

Gay Theatre - We Need More

Where is gay theatre in Atlanta? Is it still lying dormant between the Sunday arts section in newspapers or from other major American cities will tell us Atlanta is a virtual desert for this great communal need. We have to wonder how and why such a huge, diverse gay and lesbian population could fail to support its own consistently respected on-going theatre. We must (in hope) realize how important the theatre is to us. Where else can we go for such an immediate reflection of our own problems? In the theatre we are challenged to think, transported to other worlds (past, present, and future), make to laugh or cry, and taken outside ourselves for an ultimate perspective. And the focus is always on human beings; we need to learn about ourselves and the universal presence of our problems.

Someone said to me recently that gay theatre is, by definition, always political. But that is just an example of the mentality that has fixated gay theatre on one specific topic: AIDS. I cannot argue that AIDS theatre has run its course, or that it should be ignored. We have been helped through a very difficult time by works like As Is, The Normal Heart, and local AIDS plays. But in Atlanta gay theatre has become defined as AIDS theatre, and we are faced with plenty of other concerns. Education is needed on other subjects as well. For example, the change in our sexual behavior, gay bashing, lesbian motherhood, the rise of the conservative gay, and so on.

Of course, some of these suggestions are bước to the AIDS epidemic. But I would like to see AIDS simply accepted as the terrible truth that it is and see more observations of how we are growing in our own response. Let's see some gay theatre which takes for granted that we are a part of this society, rather than blaming society for our exclusion.

I believe this opening up of subject matter will shed much strong support from our community. Since the lesbian and gay population is not really centralized in Atlanta, it is more difficult to find a good location for the gay theatre. Moving forward from AIDS theatre should also encourage the support of a straight audience, "they" can learn so much about us through this forum, (by the same token, we should be open to learning from theatre that is not gay-oriented.)

Even if the audience does exist for such theatre, who would tackle the job of producing the work? I know the talent needed for ongoing production is in Atlanta, but it seems either too sensitive or too new for someone to have seen to it.

I can testify from my own experience that one person cannot do this alone. If we could break down what barriers must exist, and consolidate and organize the talent into a production team with a specific vision (and put our politics aside), I imagine the work would be important and worth seeing.

So let's not deny ourselves this beautiful gift. Collaboration, nor division (I hope we have learned by now) brings progress. The lesbian and gay community can only profit from the effort.

- Harold Leaver
PRODUCER
THE ACTOR'S EXPRESS

The Name Game Continues

To the Editor:

I was fascinated by Sherry Sinclair's letter over her indignation at being referred to as a gay woman instead of a lesbian, and I feel compelled to enter this debate.

I am a technical writer, and I am very concerned with the precise use and meaning of the words. As a female homosexual, I prefer to be called gay. Perhaps it's just the practicality of the word. GAY = G-A-Y, three little letters, short and to the point. Lesbian, on the other hand, is three syllables long and difficult to pronounce. I also appreciate the positive definition of the word gay - "keenly alive and exuberant." "Lesbian" has an almost evil connotation for me, like hissing snakes; "lesbian" recalls memories of lecherous high school boys whispering "lesbie" in my ear and laughing as I walked away.

According to Webster, the first definition of a Lesbian is a native or inhabitant of the island of Lesbos. This disqualifies me as a Lesbian, since I couldn't locate Lesbos if it was highlighted.

But I would never insist that Ms. Sinclair call herself a "gay woman" simply because I personally don't like the sound of "lesbian".

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Cole

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SOUTHERN
VOICE

Page 4

Thank You

Our special thanks to Mark Hodgson and his staff at Hodgson Photo Service for the extra time and care they spent helping us get photographs from the South Carolina ACT UP demonstration ready in time for this issue. It is a pleasure to work with such a talented group of professionals.
Nurses, Others
Should Investigate
Suspect Facilities

Buren Batson, Executive Director
AID Atlanta
1132 West Pachinchee Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3624

Dear Mr. Batson:

As a Registered Professional Nurse I was
shocked to read, as reported in the Atlanta
Journal-Constitution, March 27, of the
deplorable conditions and care administered
in a personal care home operated by Sara
Alice Brown, presumed L.P.N. If this
person is truly an L.P.N., a formal
investigation through the L.P.N. licensing
board of it's licensee is appropriate. As a
patient advocate and Professional
Registered Nurse I have requested such and
courage you to request the same.

Immediate action will prevent future patient
neglect, abuse and exploitation.

Please address your request, inquiry to:
Ms. Pat Swann, Executive Director
L.P.N. Board of Nursing
166 Pryor Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

Sincerely,
Arthur D. Krotz, R.N., CCRN
cc: Georgia Nurses Association
Southern Voice

Protection, Not
Neglect, Reader
Says To Napper

To the Editor:

I have been following the stories about
hate crimes with interest, but hadn't felt
compelled to enter into the fray until I read
the so-called statement by Public Safety
Commissioner George Napper in your last
issue.

I asked you, am I crazy or was that not one
of the most condescending and uncaring
responses to a problem since Marie
Antoinette's "Let them Eat Cake" solution
to hunger and poverty in 18th century
France.

From the very first sentence, Napper
takes a condescending air that would be
called racism if it were directed at blacks.

"There seems to be confusion among some
in the gay/lesbian community" sounds a hell
of a lot like "You don't know what you're
talking about to me."

The only thing more insulting
than Napper's opening sentence is his
closing one. Quite frankly, Mr. Napper, a four
paragraph, impersonal statement filled with
beauracratize does not make me feel that
you have any concern about the fact that my
friends and I are constantly in danger of
being killed at, spit upon, beaten and
possibly killed every time we let our guard
down.

The time has come for Atlanta's (and
other cities') gay/lesbian community to rise
down and demand that the Public Safety
Department - including both the police and
fire departments - protect us from the idiots
out society continues to produce. I have
been paying taxes for all of my adult life
Mr. Napper, and if it means that you have to
spend a little bit extra money to do it, I give
you permission to use my share to make
certain I don't have to comfort another
friend who suffered at the hands of the
moving rural bands who prow! Middrown
and other "spier" areas knowing you're not
going to act until Congress gives you a little
bit more of a leash.

Lastly, I take issue with your refusal to
be more pro-active by using the media to
decry hate crimes. I have seen the public
service announcement you filmed - once,
late at night on an independent channel. You
could certainly use the prestige and power
your office engenders to get such a "safe"
PSA aired on more channels, more often.

Your assertion that if you film an anti-
violence commerical for one group you
would have to do it for all, smacks of
insult. It sounds to me like you are more afraid of
being identified with gays than you are of filiming four or five
commercials instead of one.

Please hear the intelligence behind my
anger, Mr. Napper. I am tired of being
endangered by public officials afraid of a
little controversy. We all know the politics
that work at City Hall, and our community
is quickly learning how to play them in
earnest. Unemployment beckons to those
who continue to think of gays and lesbians
as powerless and unwilling to fight back.

And if fear of your job won't motivate
you sir, think about this. I was one of the
few white men out there on the lines with
you in the 60's because I believed that
simple humanity demanded it. This is such
a case, and you owe me and mine.

Personally,

Sincerely,
Sam Kirby

Southern Voice
' Straight-forward'
On Gay Politics

To the Editor:

I have never written to a gay paper, and
only recently gotten up the guts to began
writing to a gay paper at places like Woody's.
But I have to say that the prospect of what I
find inside Southern Voice helps to alleviate
some of my fear.

One of the things I like most about
Southern Voice is the straight-forward
approach you take to national, state and
local politics. I can pick up your paper and
make my own decision what's going on in
the world without worrying that I'm being
unduly influenced by some invisible
reporter. Keep up the good work!

I hope I'll be able to sign my real name
next time I write, until then, sign me
Sincerely,
A Faithful Reader

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.

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space.
Words Can Make You Pay and Pay

Languages which contain countless words, English is a limited language, inferior to other thinking that if indeed English is such a limited words we use, how we use them, what they important for us to understand it, to think about ourselves and the World Around Us.

I can’t ‘marry’ my partner, get a piece of paper that says forever, and take advantage of various laws and regulations designed to aid married couples. But I can pledge a strong, lasting commitment to her, one that doesn’t need a piece of paper to make it legitimate. I can hold her hand whenever I want to, shouting motorists notwithstanding. And I can sit down wish my accountant and figure out ways to get around some of those laws and regulations.

We can’t sit around waiting for the bigotry, the laws against us, to go away before we stand up and be Proud of who we are. If there is a Them that created this System, that’s just what They’d want us to do. Beg for mercy, therefore, because we’re just poor, helpless victims of injustice, and then kill each other diving the kernels of relief that occasionally get dropped out the back door. But it don’t have to be so, my Friends. We can start making changes right now, here in the comfort and safety of our own living rooms, in a seat on the train, behind our desks... just think about what you’re saying next time you feel the urge to call yourself a victim.

Oops. Looks like I got carried away with shouting motorists, and kicked out of a restaurant (owned by a Lesbian at that) by a passing motorist, and kicked victim. I used to. I’m at risk everyday. Because I’m a woman, because I’m a Lesbian, because I’m alive. But I am Proud of all that I am. I can’t be proud if my main frame of reference for myself is as a victim.

A victim looks at shouting motorists, uncompromising laws, the ugly hate leveled at us and says “I’m oppressed. I can’t be myself in this World.” Oh, so wrong. We can – and Refusing to look at ourselves as victims frees us from a mental stigma that stops us cold, keeps us from truly living our lives, hides from us even the realization that there are ways to be ourselves in spire of the everyday unfairness that surrounds us.

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The museum is located within the Center, 208 W. 13th St., Manhattan. It will be devoted to lesbian and gay history and contains the International Gay History Archive, periodicals, books, memorabilia and records of the Matunache Society, the Gay Activists Alliance and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

“This is a crucial step in preserving our heritage,” said the Center executive director Richard D. Burns.

Keith Haring, one of many artists who will participate in the multimedia exhibit

*“Imagining Stonewall” scheduled to open June 1 along with The National Museum for Lesbian and Gay History.*

The International Gay History Archive is a museum coup. It represents a major collection of material amassed over a decade by John Hammond and Bruce Eves. The archive will be stored in rooms in the basement of the Center that are now being cleaned and repainted. It will be exhibited in the Center’s meeting spaces on a rotating basis, with all of it accessible to students, scholars, historians and writers-by appointment.

“The Center will serve as a safe place to store the archive and the many items we expect to add to it in future years,” said Burns.

“But it is the art element that will be tied into this museum which makes it extraordinary,” stressed Cohn. The museum’s first independent project is a multi-media exhibition commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion. The museum is set to open, along with the exhibition, June 1. June is Lesbian and Gay Pride and History Month.

“We want the museum to be an archive for study and research,” explained Cohn. “But we also want to mount shows for exhibits here and to eventually take on the road.” The first exhibit, “Imagining Stonewall,” includes audio, video, picture and documentary displays. Among the many nationally and internationally known artists who are scheduled to participate are Keith Haring, Leon Golub, Jane Dickson, Rhonda Swilling, Judy Glantzman, Mike Glier, Group Material and Chrissy Schlesinger.
**New York Stories: Scorsese Scores Big While Coppola Fades**

Nick Nolte is a smashingly gifted actor. In the anthology film New York Stories, a compilation of three short films directed by Martin Scorsese, Woody Allen and Francis Coppola, Nolte plays an Action painter named Lionel Dobie who is obsessive about having his surroundings in the perfect order/disorder to fire his creativity.

In Scorsese's Life Lessons (45 minutes), Nolte portrays the hit the artist as sensualist. He prowls back and forth in front of his immense canvass like a tiger eyeing fresh human prey from behind protective steel bars. You feel that he'll leap into his imagination even if it breaks his face to bits.

One of the things that Dobie is obsessive about, besides the driving pulse of rock and roll played loud when he paints, is his assistant/girlfriend Paulette (Rosanna Arquette). She's roughly half his age and ready to walk away from the downed-wire emotions of their relationship, but Dobie can't let go. The downed-wire emotions of their age and ready to walk away from the paints, is his assistant/girlfriend Paulette (Rosanna Arquette). She's roughly half his age and ready to walk away from the paints, is his assistant/girlfriend Paulette (Rosanna Arquette).

As a result, his assistant/girlfriend Paulette (Rosanna Arquette) is suddenly eight years younger, and a new relationship begins. The movie concerns the battles of their wills, the working conflicts of the first half of the book; in the second half, resolutions, or the beginnings of them, become too predictable.

**Rosanna Arquette and Nick Nolte in Martin Scorsese's Life Lessons**

**The middle story, Francis Ford Coppola's Life Without Zee (34 minutes),** was photographed by Vittorio Storaro (Last Tango in Paris) and written by Coppola with his seventeen-year-old daughter Sophia. One need note only that their collaboration is the latest indication of Coppola's sad decline as a filmmaker.

**Woody Allen's Oedipus Wrecks (39 minutes)** concerns an easily wounded attorney named Sheldon, who confesses to his analyst that his relationship with his mother is unresolved.

**But when we meet his mother, we instantly understand why:** Mrs. Millstein is a walking, talking landmine. Played in a spirit near revenge by Mae Questel, Mrs. Millstein warns Sheldon's Gentle fiancée (delicately played by Mia Farrow) of his impending baldness, though his head at the moment is clearly swathed in hair. Yet she makes you believe it could vanish overnight.

**Suddenly Sheldon's mother disappears herself,** and he experiences some relief in his life. At his analyst's urging, however, he contacts a clairvoyant (Julie Kavner, brilliant as always), in whom he recognizes the qualities that more brightly complement his own spirit.

**There is a sense about Oedipus Wrecks that one has already seen all this before,** including from Woody Allen. And there is also a whirl of well-bredness that robs many of the jokes of their cheeky edge. Still, the film is a reprise from Allen's recent pretensions, and there are enough laughs even to hold some of Allen's better past comedies partly at bay.

**Anthology films are a rarity nowadays,** even in Europe where they were popular in the sixties. Reportedly there was more that the usual business hell to be got through before New York Stories could be made. One hopes the film will not be an anomaly. Working in the short form, imagine what a trio like David Lynch (Blue Velvet), Suzana Amaral (The Hour of the Star) and Tim Burton (Pee Wee's Big Adventure, Beetlejuice, the upcoming Batman) might come up with!

-Terry Francis

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**Equal Affections**

by David Leavitt

Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1989

268 p., $18.95

Louise Cooper is dying, has been for years; her husband Nat went the wrong direction in the early years of computer-does and is now having an affair to take his mind from Louise's illness; son Danny is a lawyer living in suburban New Jersey with his lover Walter, and daughter April is a "women's" music star (yes, that means lesbian).

That's the premise for David Leavitt's latest novel, Equal Affections. The story here is not about the children's homosexuality – that's an intricate part of it, but not the crux – but rather about the workings of this family-how they cope with Louise's illness, April's random, intimacy, all the other parts of this and any other family relationships.

Up to the point of Louise's death, Equal Affections moves in a web-like fashion from California (where Nat and Louise live) in the East Coast (Danny and Walter) to wherever April is, and back and forward through time to give the reader an in-depth look at the Coppola's and the inner workings of the family. After Louise's death however the novel becomes less satisfying, almost as if to say that no matter what happens, they'll work it all out. This is of course a good attitude to have in this world, but here it serves to diminish the power of the story, lessen the impact of the Coopers and their lives.

The working conflicts of the first half of the book vanish in the second half; resolutions, or the beginnings of them, become too predictable.

With the exception of April, who appears to have been drawn from the letter pages of any number of lesbian/feminist magazines instead of from real life, these characters come alive with Mr. Leavitt's clear writing. Louise suffers not only from cancer but from lost dreams, lost youth. Nat has difficulty dealing with almost everything, but yet Mr. Leavitt does not abandon him to the ogre father role of many novels of this type. Danny's shift from April's little brother to Big City Lawyer is believable, and his struggles, with Walter, to understand the complexities of their own intimacy (or lack of it) offer a telling portrait of at least this relationship.

But the real story of Equal Affections is Louise's own journey to her discovery of Faith. Throughout the novel this journey winds through the back roads as it does the back roads of Louise's consciousness coming ever closer to her realization of just what it is she has been searching for all these years. And that is worth the trip, both for Louise and the reader.

-KCWildmoons

David Leavitt, also the author of Family Dancing and The Lost Language of Cranes, will appear at Border's Books on May 2 from 7-9PM. Leavitt will read from and autograph Equal Affections.

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CALANDER

Arts

Spring Into Art Day at Emory Univ. Sun.
April 30, 1-5 P.M. Arts, crafts, enter., food,
McDough Field on Ashbury Cir. Rain loca-
tion: Dodd Univ. Ctr. 727-2787

Decatur Arts Festival scheduled for May 26 - 28 seeks performers, artists and concession stands. Call 373-9906.

Call for Artists. Midtown gallery is searching for artists to represent. Call 875-6835 or 873 - 2760 for an appointment.

MLK Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Career & Affairs Program is now accepting ap-
plications for KINGFEST ’89. Persons inter-
ested in exhibiting or vending arts and crafts
may obtain an application by calling 526-8947. Deadline is May 12.

Benefits

Seven Stages Garage Sale, Sat. and Sun April 29 & 30, 10 AM - 7 PM. Theater props, old set pieces, furniture, books and much more. Dona-
tions tax-deductible. 1105 Euclid Ave.

“Hollywood Rocks” gala fundraiser for Proj-
ject Open Hand, will be held Sat May 6, 7 PM - midnight. Music and entertainment by a multi-
titude of Atlanta “stars”; the evening will recall the heyday to Hollywood. Dress up or dress down. Fri. May 5, Hollywood! Also there will be an auction, door prizes, and an art show and auction. $10 donation ($15 at the door) covers all activities as well as food and refreshments. Morningside Chase Apts. 1445 Monroe Drive, 242-6400.

Dance

“Wqzi”, a dance/theater piece that explores the message that AIDS can be dealt with on a non-hysterical level. Fri., Sun. May 5-7. Fri. & Sat. at 8 PM, Sun. at 5 PM. Nexus Contem-

porary Arts Center, $8 for Nexus members. Reservations, 688-2500.

Opening night. May 5, will be a benefit performance with all proceeds going to local AIDS organizations. Food donated by local restaurants and catering companies. The even-
ing is sponsored by Deana Collins. $15 dona-
tion requested. For more info call 373-1872.

Louise Ryan’s Barh and Friends - Chore-
ographer Barth presents four of her works in-
cluding a new piece “Required of Us a Song” set to the music of Sweet Honey In the Rock.

The evening has a strong women’s focus, ex-
ploring the experiences of women in both child-
hood and adulthood.

Two pieces by choreographer Patty Cole Gregory and Mar ton R. Koerler will also be shown. Tues. - Thurs., May 9-11 at 8 PM. The Collective Theatre at Seven Stages, 1105 Eu-
clid Ave. $7. 932-7674 for reservations.

Festivals

Imman Park Festival & Tour of Homes - Sat & Sun April 29 & 30. Street festival starts at 11 AM on Sat. Entertainment from 12-6 PM. Arts & crafts, food, Antique market at Trolley Bns. Tour of Homes, 12:6 PM. Intersection of Eu-
clid between Waverly & Elizabeth St. 242-4985 for more info.

Film

“Bernardo Bertolucci: 1964 - 1972”, The High Museum of Art concludes its tribute to Bertolucci, the most significant director to emerge from Italy in 25 years, with two films. A brilliant stylist, Bertolucci is obsessed with politics, spirituality, and identity. Both show at 8 PM in the Rich Auditorium, $3, $2.50 for stu-
dents and senior citizens, $2 for Museum mem-
bers. Fri. May 5, The Conformist - A powerful

hypocrisy, cowardice and betrayal in Mussolini’s reign. Italian with English subtitles. Sat., May 6: Last Tango in Paris - NO ONE UNDER 18 ADMITTED. The story of an aging American (Brando) work-
ing out his aggression via an affair with a young middle-class French girl (Maria Schneider). English and French with English subtitles.

Satur., May 7-8: Lust Tango in Paris - FOR THE NIGHTS UNDER 18 ADMITTED. The story of an aging American (Brando) work-
ing out his aggression via an affair with a young middle-class French girl (Maria Schneider). English and French with English subtitles.

13th Annual Atlanta Film & Video Festival sponsored by the High Museum of Art and Image Film/Video Center will showcase outstanding new works by independent media artists. Tues. - Sun. May 9-14. All shows at 8 PM in the Rich Auditorium. $6, $4 for Image and Museum members, unless otherwise noted.

Tues., May 9: Building Bombs Wed., May 10: Feature Film Premiere (as be announced). Admission is $15, $10 for Image and Museum members.

High Hoops - a utterly funny look at Thatch-


44 Charlie Mopic - a harrowing action drama that recounts the Vietnam war through the eyes of a combat photographer. Opens May 5 at the Lefont Tara.

Scandal – details the political scandal that rocked the British gov’t in the 1950’s. Opens May 5 at the Lefont Tara.

“Required Of Us A Song” will premiere in the dance concert of Louise Runyon Barth and Friends, May 9-11 at 8 PM at Seven Stages Theatre. $7. 523-7674. Photo by Marjorie Jordan.

Health

AIDS Awareness & Action Weekend – April 28 & 30. Sponsored by AIDS Atlanta. The agenda includes medical updates, available social & educational services, living with death & dying, volunteering with AIDS Atlanta and more. Sat. 9-AM PM. Sun.: 12:30-5 PM. $30. Scholar-
ships available. 873-0600.


Mis miscellaneous

Ah, Aphrodite – Thurs., April 27. Celebrating the approach of May Eve, a time on the Wheel of the Year when we have the opportunity to renew ourselves as virgins – as women unto ourselves. Bring three small precious objects for the evenings ritual. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM Free. 524-3304. Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Voter Registration – Sun. April 30 for Fulton County residents only. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 11 AM-4 PM. 524-4167 for info.


Music

First Annual Atlanta Women’s Music Showcase featuring Lueke McGalliard, Ann Motter, Ann Dockworth, Michelle Martin & Moral Hazard for one evening only on Sat.
April 29. Funk to rock ‘n roll and a lot in between! tunes Center Stage Theatre, 1374 W. Peachtree St. $15.50 at the door. $14.50 in advance by calling 873-2500 or from Turtle’s and all SEATs outlets.

The Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Morehouse College Glee Club perform together for the first time on Sun.
April 30. The program will feature Alan Hovhaness’ Mysterious Mountain, Gring’s Land-Sighing,
Photography

Wagner’s “Pilgrims’ Chorus” from Tannhauser, Saint-Saens Symphony No. 3, and a capella selection by the Morehouse College Glee Club. Free and open to the public. MLK, JR. International Chapel on the Morehouse campus. 8 PM.

For more information call 898-1192.


Sports


Hollins Softball League – Men’s Division. Sun., April 30: 11:00 AM – Bass Ale vs Lush; 12:20 PM – Armory vs Barkhurst’s; 1:40 PM – Lush vs Barkhurst’s; 3:00 PM – Blake’s vs Barkhurst’s; 4:20 PM – Moose/Eric vs Blake’s. All Games at Piedmont Park.

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Television

“Still Ain’t Satisfied,” 5:05-6 PM. Music and interviews. “Gay Griffin,” 8-9 PM. Good music & talk by and about Atlanta’s lesbian & gay community. “Pacific News,” can be heard Mon. – Fri. at 4:30 PM.

Sports

Sundays: “What the Folk?” 3-6 PM. Folk music, topical music and interviews. “Gay Griffin,” 8-9 PM. Good music & talk by and about Atlanta’s lesbian & gay community. “Pacific News,” can be heard Mon. – Fri. at 4:30 PM.

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ORGANIZATIONS

AALFA: African American Lesbian Gay Alliance. 1st Sunday of each month. 6:30 PM. 1,740 Farnham Rd., Northwest. 30312.

ACT - Atlanta Chapter. A non-political, non-profit, educational, and social organization comprised of both gay/lesbian and non-gay individuals, with the purpose of serving the needs of the gay community and to provide a positive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome, and the goal of human equality realized. 794 BWMT.

ACT Atlanta Couples Together. A non-political, non-profit, educational, and social organization for black lesbians and gay men. PO Box 50374, Atlanta, Ga., 30302.691-5921 or 297-8815. PO Box 219392, Atlanta, Ga., 30321.

ACT - Atlanta Dyke Pride Parade Committee. 3rd Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. A community-based group with the purpose of promoting lesbian and gay rights through education, political activism, social, cultural, and educational events. P. O. Box 7817, Atlanta, GA 30309.

ACTA - Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance. 2nd Sunday of each month. 6:30 PM. A feminist community organization which welcomes all of all races, cultures, and backgrounds. PO Box 1311, Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

ACTP - Atlanta Lesbian Parent Coalition. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. A network of volunteers to provide counseling to gay/lesbian parents and their children.

ACT- Atlanta Couples Together. A non-political, non-profit, educational, and social organization for black lesbians and gay men. PO Box 50374, Atlanta, Ga., 30302.691-5921 or 297-8815. 892-0661 or write PO Box 15191, Atlanta, Ga. 30333.

ACOG - Atlanta Gay Women's Chorus. A semi-professional community-oriented chorus of male volunteers. Membership open to all homosexual men. PO Box 1787. 787-4867.

AFPA - Atlanta Lesbian Parent Forum. 2nd Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. A community-based group with the purpose of providing counseling to gay/lesbian parents and their children.

AMC - Atlanta March Committee. March 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. 7:30 PM. North Highland Branch Library. AIMS - Atlanta Inter-Media Social Action Network. 1193 Skidmore Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30318.

ANNA - Atlanta Nevada & Nevada's Atlanta Venture Sports. Activities and meetings vary. PO Box 3090, Atlanta, Ga. 30302. 432-4011. PO Box 1787, Atlanta, Ga. 30307.

ASOS - Atlanta Society of Socially Oriented Socials. A 12-step program of recovery for individuals who have been involved in marital-type situations with women. PO Box 3090, Atlanta, Ga. 30302. 432-4011.

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BASOS - Black & Asian Social Organization. 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Community Center. A community-based organization that provides a positive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome, and the goal of human equality realized. 794 BWMT.

BFL - Black Lesbian and Gay Family League. Regular meetings and events. PO Box 68, Atlanta, Ga. 30302. 662-4353.


Beverly Buthromos, Ms. T. & Linda Owens, ETC., 427 Moreland Ave. St. 700. 525-3821.

BGSU - Georgia State University. A social, educational, and sports activities. PO Box 15191, Atlanta, Ga. 30333.

BIP - Black Inter-Racial & Pansexual. Meeting times and locations vary. Bringing professional gay women together for the sake of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events. 493-3566.


BLP - Black Lesbian People. A community-based organization that provides a positive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome, and the goal of human equality realized. PO Box 3090, Atlanta, Ga. 30302. 432-4011.

BLS - Black Lesbian Society. Meeting times and locations vary. A non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, non-religious organization. PO Box 68, Atlanta, Ga. 30302. 662-4353.

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BPS - Black Political Scientists. Meeting times and locations vary. A non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, non-religious organization. PO Box 68, Atlanta, Ga. 30302. 662-4353.

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Lambda Celebrates 15th Anniversary

New York—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the oldest national lesbian and gay organization in the country, announced it will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a "Commemorative Cabaret" of music, comedy and remembrances here May 8. Lambda will also present its Liberty Awards that evening to honor AIDS activist Michael Callen, the moving force behind the PWA Coalition; Gloria Steinem, an advocate for the rights of women, as well as

Lambda's May 8 celebration.

Rita Mae Brown will be one of three presenters of the Liberty Awards at Lambda's May 8 celebration.

lesbians and gays; and a group of ten individuals who were Lambda's "Founders and Creators."

Presenting the awards will be Dr. Matthew Krim, Founding Chair of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, author Rita Mae Brown and Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's executive director. The cabaret will feature more than a dozen performers, including the comedy duo, Monti and Rand; playwright and actor Christopher Durang; off-Broadway smash John Rand as Lynxinka; pop-jazz singer Ann Hampton Callaway; Tony Award Winner Priscilla Lopez; Lavendar Light, the black and people of all color gay and lesbian gospel group; and the American Tap Dance Orchestra.

"This event will be a celebration for
everyone," said Stoddard. "Thanks to the support of our public-spirited stars and to some generous leadership gifts from friends of Lambda, we have been able to keep ticket prices within reach of almost everyone. Tickets for the event begin at $25 - $15 for students, senior citizens and those in the public sector – and are available from Lambda at 666 Broadway, NY, NY 10012. For more information, call Maggie Brown at (212) 370-5804.

Lambda was founded in 1972, three years after the Stonewall riots that launched the modern lesbian and gay rights movement. With a mission to advocate for gay/lesbian rights using test-case litigation, the organization became its own first test case when the State of New York refused to grant the group non-profit status. That ruling was appealed and overturned by the New York State Court of Appeals in 1973, and Lambda has since concentrated its work nationwide. Among their successes, Lambda led the fight to overturn New York's consensual sodomy law and won the first AIDS-related discrimination case in the nation.

Series '89 In Good Shape, Help Still Needed

The 1989 Gay World Series of Softball, to be held in Atlanta in late August, is in good financial shape and is operating on schedule, according to the Series '89 executive board. Funds have been drawn up with city officials and vendors to reserve fields and banquet facilities, and bids have been accepted to handle concessions.

Under the committee leadership of Mr. John Foutz of Bulldog and Company, fund raising is going well. It is a "very positive note" that over $5,000 has been raised...but there is still a long way to go. The Fund Raising Committee has planned several events to help raise money towards the Series budget. The Series plans to sponsor a "Mr. World Series" contest and will work with the River Expo organization for a dual effort River Expo Carnival the second week of May. The Series '89 Board is also working with all the local bars to coordinate a Series '89 Night which will be a cooperative event between all the Atlanta clubs.

Plans for the actual competition and associated events are well underway. Bob Schwartz of the Logistics Committee has produced "a very workable schedule" which will leave room for rainout games and can accommodate an expanded number of Series teams. A great achievement for the Series and the Atlanta community was reported on March 16 when the Names Project announced plans to bring the quilt back to Atlanta during World Series Week.

Individuals and groups who are interested in helping plan the tournament are urged to attend Series '89 meetings which are held every Wednesday night at the Armory Banquet Room. To become a part of Series '89 call (404) 881-0294.

Sticki Ragland and Eric, members of the group El Primitivo, performed for passersby at the Sweet Auburn Good Times Summit Festival on Sunday, April 16th. The five-member reggae percussion group entertained an estimated 5,000 people near the corner of historic Auburn Avenue and Baker Street. Musical performances and a carnival were featured at the festival which celebrated the history of Auburn Avenue, the center of Atlanta black culture at the turn of the century. Auburn was also the site of Atlanta's first black-owned businesses and is considered to be the cradle of the civil rights movement.

National Gay & Lesbian History Museum

Cont'd from Page 6

The works by these artists and others, are created especially for the Center and will be on view for six months. They may remain permanently.

A prestigious list of people prominent in lesbian and gay culture and politics was gathered to assist Bums on the Museum Committee. Among the committee members are Virginia Apuzzo, Allen Besbe, Jonathan Katz, Armisted Maupin, Joan Nestle, Mark Johnson and Nancy Seaton.

Cohn said it is hoped that eventually the museum will be a drawing card which will help raise money to build other museums and centers for gays and lesbians throughout the country, as well as for AIDS research funding.

An Atlanta resident for 22 years before moving to New York last June to accept a position with the Center, Cohn was vice president of AID Atlanta. He said Atlanta would be a great stop for the Stonewall exhibition if enough money is raised to take that show on the road.

"It's an exciting process to see...the Center is wonderful," said Cohn.

Those wishing to make donations to the National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History, should send them to Attn: Ron Cohn, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th St., N.Y., N.Y., 10011.

— Kanan Brown

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In Little Five Points

Page 11
Atlanta's Homeless PWAs May Soon Be Able To Call Jerusalem House Home

Atlanta AIDS activists charge that the damage wrought by AIDS in Georgia continues to be compounded unnecessarily by the lack of housing for people with AIDS (PWAs). It is not uncommon, knowledgeable sources say, for a PWAs' family to turn them out into the streets.

The Rev. J. Chester Grey, III, rector of Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church explains that he became involved in the fight against AIDS when he met and ministered to a parishioner with AIDS. “I visited him at Grady Hospital as he became worse, and I began to realize the plight of people who have AIDS — lose their job, who lose their insurance, who have no family or the family rejects them — and I just realized what an awful situation this creates.

“In my naiveté, I thought it would be easy to open a hospice for these people,” Grey said.

It hasn't been easy for Grey, now vice-president of the board for Jerusalem House, a proposed home for PWAs, nor for any of the other activists who try to find a place for homeless PWAs to live between the dangerous infections that are most often the cause of death.

The recent announcement by Jerusalem House that a site on Briarcliff Road near the Druid Hills neighborhood had been chosen incensed a small but vocal group of residents to oppose the plan. Generally a genial man, Grey does not waste much time trying to guess his opponents' reasons for trying to stop the proposed shelter.

“The people who have been against this project are the people whose homes are being shown on the Druid Hills Tour of Homes, (and) the gay community is one of the largest supporters of it. I think that here the gay community, again, is being exploited by the Druid Hills people. They will use the gay community to raise money, but will turn on the gay community thinking that this home is something of the devil,” Grey said.

“A number of those people (opposed to the project) are physicians who make money treating AIDS patients, but they don’t want them living in a home within miles of them,” he charged.

The Druid Hills Neighborhood Association will support the establishment of Jerusalem House, a residence for homeless people with AIDS, at 831 Briarcliff Rd.

Father Chester Grey tours the proposed site of Jerusalem House, a residence for homeless people with AIDS, at 831 Briarcliff Rd.

With the exception of 32 spaces operated by AID Atlanta, no housing is reserved for the special needs of PWAs in Georgia. Grey and others say that the majority of homeless shelters still refuse to knowingly accept PWAs, despite the fact that they allow people with tuberculosis to sleep inside.

Beginning in 1985, AID Atlanta began providing housing for PWAs with the purchase of an 8-person apartment building in the metro area. Although the agency was able to expand their number of beds to 32 by 1987, AID Atlanta's director of social services, Joan Garner, said there is an "obvious" need for more housing.

"I would say that there is a period of time at some point during the course of the illness that at least 30% of our case load will find themselves either homeless or needing support during a given period of time," Garner said. She noted that AID Atlanta's caseload stood at over 700 people as of April 3.

The spread of AIDS into populations other than white gay males has further complicated the attempt by groups like AID Atlanta and Jerusalem House to house PWAs. The rising number of PWAs who contracted AIDS through IV drug use have forced Garner and Grey to realize and confront the harm that drug abuse could cause their individual programs — they could be closed down because of the actions of one resident.

In response to his own and neighborhood concerns about potential drug abuse at Jerusalem House's proposed site on Briarcliff Rd., Grey said he has become resigned to the fact that "there will be rules of conduct and rules of living" as a condition for staying at the residence. Garner said that drug abuse was the only cause for which AID Atlanta would ask a tenant to leave one of the agency's homes.

"I think (Jerusalem House) will be essentially for women and gay men with AIDS. More and more as I deal with all of this, I realize we will have to open a facility for people with serious drug habits and problems, (but) that is a whole other set of problems," he added.

"My dream is that we would open three or four places within the city, each specializing in certain problems — like the drug addict who has AIDS. ... In a small facility as the Briarcliff home would be, we couldn't handle all of that, so I hope that we will be able to open some other facilities within the surrounding counties," Grey said.

The City of Atlanta Zoning Review Board has scheduled a public hearing for May 11 at 6:00 PM in the new City Hall to determine the relative merits of both sides in the dispute. In the end, Grey says, he believes that Jerusalem House will prevail.

"We're doing what is right, and we're doing what we need to be doing and I'm convinced that we will open there soon," he concluded.

-—Chris Duncan

Neighborhood Decides for Jerusalem House, With Reservation

The Druid Hills Neighborhood Association will support the establishment of Jerusalem House, a home for homeless AIDS patients, at 831 Briarcliff Road.

According to Evelyn Ullman, President of the Board of Jerusalem House, the neighborhood association decided at an April 19th meeting that it would support Jerusalem House's request to the Atlanta Zoning Review Board for a special use permit. The neighborhood association will not, however, support a Jerusalem House request to build an addition to the structure, a large house for homeless AIDS patients, at 831 Briarcliff Road.

"I feel like their (decision) is overall positive, but obviously it's partly negative," said Ullman.

"Because of the zoning already there, I don't see that they have a leg to stand on, but it's still up to the Zoning Review Board," she said.

Jerusalem House's permit request will be reviewed April 26th by the Neighborhood Planning Unit-N (NPU-N), which serves the areas of Poncey-Highland, Reynoldstown, Cabbagetown, Candler Park, Druid Hills, Lake Claire, the Little Five Points business community and Inman Park.

"I've talked to several people in the NPU and they feel very positive about us being there, but we have a lot more work to do before next week's meeting," Ullman said. "A huge crowd there to support Jerusalem House would be an enormous help," she said.

The Zoning Review Board will meet on May 11th to make a final decision on the permit request.

Steve Higgins, Senior Planner in the Atlanta Bureau of Planning, said the Jerusalem House application appears to conform to all zoning requirements.

"We are taking the application very seriously and we're not treating it as a casual or optional sort of thing," said Higgins.

-—Wendy Morse

AIDS FOCUS
A Dutch man visiting the United States to participate in the National Lesbian & Gay Health Conference was stopped and imprisoned in Minneapolis on April 2 because customs officials found AZT in his luggage and told him that he has AIDS.

Hans Paul Verhoef, 31, reached the San Francisco conference on April 8, after being held in three Minnesota prisons under a federal immigration law that bars people with contagious diseases, including AIDS, from entering the United States.

Verhoef spent a week in a maximum-security prison, going to hearings in handcuffs. When a local Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) official said he would make an exception and let Verhoef go, Washington, D.C. for the repeal of the law that nearly forced him to miss the five-day meeting.

"You can't stop a virus at the border any more than you can catch water with a net," Verhoef said.

"Verhoef was thrown in jail solely because he has HIV infection," he said.

Verhoef is employed as the director of the Netherlands’ Regional AIDS Information Service and represented the Netherlands’ Regional Organization for Persons with AIDS.

"I'm here to learn how to Fight the AIDS epidemic," Verhoef told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. "I'm not here to spread the AIDS virus any further..."

In May 1988, Verhoef was thrown in jail again because customs officials found ACT in his luggage, and he told them that he has AIDS.

Verhoef was a danger to public health and the law that nearly forced him to miss the conference because he has HTV infection, "he said.

"This incident has staggering ramifications for the city of San Francisco, the country as a whole and our pivotal role in fighting this worldwide pandemic," said Tim Wolfred, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

"Verhoef was thrown in jail solely because he has HIV infection," he said.

Joe E. Tomlin, a dedicated spokesman for the concerns of PWAs, died at his home of complications arising from AIDS on April 5, 1989. He was 39 years old.

Tolmin was a longtime volunteer at AID Atlanta. He worked for the AID information line for nearly two years prior to his election to the Board of Directors where he served on the Social Services and Executive Committees. Failing health forced his resignation from the Board earlier this year.

In September 1988 Tomlin was named to the founding Board of Directors of Project Open Hand/Atlanta where he was instrumental in laying the groundwork for client services. He was also active in Atlanta’s Gammon Club and Frankly Open.

Tomlin is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Tomlin, a brother, James, all of Carmel, Indiana, and by a great number of friends in Atlanta.

Tomlin requested that any memorial contributions be made to Project OPENHAND/Atlanta, 1790 LaVista Road, N.E, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Southern Voice publishes obituaries of members of the gay and lesbian community as a community service free of charge. We depend on relatives and/or friends of the deceased to notify us of the death and provide a photo, information about the deceased’s involvement in the community and plans for services. If you wish to report a death, please call 876-1819, or write to P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, Georgia 30316.
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Ruling Planets
April 27 thru May 10, 1989

ARIES - For the next two weeks pay attention to new or on-going projects. Stay on track with anything you have going and watch for new opportunities at work.

TAURUS - The New Moon in Taurus on the 5th should give you an emotional lift and an energy boost, so use it to be creative, widen your horizons or try something new.

GEMINI - Mars will be moving on by the 1st, but Jupiter will continue to expand your feelings and activities, so take time to plan before you act and stick with your schedule.

CANCER - Get ready for a little excitement, Mars moves into your sign on the 29th. Expect more physical activity and try to spend more time out-of-doors.

LEO - Your dreams may be more active and vivid now, so pay attention to the symbology. What are you trying to tell yourself? What is floating up in your subconscious?

VIRGO - If you haven't been taking care of yourself, do it now. You may need a break from your busy schedule, so take a trip, try a new sport and meet new people.

LIBRA - If you've been thinking about redecorating or making changes at home, this is a good time to start. Also a good time for healing old emotional wounds.

SCORPIO - You may meet some interesting people who could be important in your life. Communicate with relatives and plan a backyard party with your friends or neighbors.

SAGITTARIUS - If you find that you have no time for yourself, then gracefully decline a few social events, prop yourself up with a good book and enjoy some solitude.

CAPRICORN - Take a breather from pressures at work and pay attention to your health. Schedule a physical checkup and treat yourself to a massage or a weekend at the beach.

AQUARIUS - Spruce up the yard or bring in flowers for the apartment. You may need to eat more home-cooked meals, take your vitamins and get some real exercise, already!

PISCES - How are things going at work? Don't let other people's problems become your own. Plan some time for play or creative projects in the next two weeks.

Illustrations
by Liza Dalaloff

Dykes to Watch Out For
by Charles Haver

Page 14
ANNOUNCEMENTS

page, double-spaced. Send 1-4 paragraphs and a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to: T.L. Jewell, 211 W Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 48933. Deadline is August 1, 1989. Post the word out! (V2#10)

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