

# SOUTHERN VOICE

Epitaphs For The Living

Words and Images  
in the Time of AIDS

An interview with  
photographer Billy Howard

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Vol. 2, No. 10

Taking Pride in Our Culture

July 6, 1989

## VanderEls Wins Latest Round

Clayton County Judge Who Took Custody Away from Mother Because of Sexual Orientation, Removed from Case

Leigh VanderEls won a major victory June 23 in her three-year-long battle to regain custody of her son, when Clayton County Superior Court Judge Stephen E. Boswell removed the original trial judge from the case.

Boswell found that there was an air of impropriety involved when Clayton County Superior Court Judge William Ison discussed the case with VanderEls' supervisor at the time, Ann Plant. Boswell also ruled in VanderEls' favor on a question of whether or not motions in the case had been filed in a timely manner.

Commenting on the victory, VanderEls said, "I'm ecstatic. I feel it's the first positive ruling I've had since the case began three years ago.

"It certainly gives me some hope for the future," she added.

Ison was alleged to have spoken with Plant regarding VanderEls' position with the Clayton County Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) after he ordered then 7-year-old Chase Ryan removed from Ms. VanderEls' home and placed with his biological father instead.



Leigh VanderEls, who has fought for almost three years to regain custody of her son, can now seek a new hearing. In an order signed June 23, the judge who ruled against VanderEls because of her sexual orientation, was removed from the case.

Michael Hauptman, who is VanderEls' attorney as well as president of the Georgia ACLU, told *Southern Voice* that Boswell's ruling clears the way for his client to seek a new trial.

VanderEls began her legal battle in January, 1987 after Ison ruled in favor of a petition by her ex-husband to change the original divorce decree and grant custody of their son to the father.

VanderEls' appeal is based on her allegation that Ison showed undue prejudice against her sexual orientation when he discussed her case with her employer.

Ison admitted on the stand in Boswell's courtroom that he granted custody to the father solely because of VanderEls' sexual orientation. He stated that he felt the change of custody was "in the best interest of the child."

In papers filed with the court, VanderEls alleged that upon ruling against her in the custody case in 1987, Ison instructed someone

from the district attorney's office to contact Ann Plant, director of the Clayton County DFACS where VanderEls was employed as a foster care and adoptions caseworker. The person from the D.A.'s office allegedly told Plant to call Ison about the VanderEls case. Plant told VanderEls, subsequent to her conversation with Ison, that she had no choice but to remove VanderEls from her casework position.

Plant allegedly stated that VanderEls would be a detriment to the department if she was called to testify in a child welfare case and placed her in a position where she had no client contact. That conversation, VanderEls maintains, led her to leave her job at DFACS because she "had no future there."

During his testimony before Boswell, Ison denied that he had initiated contact with Plant. He maintained that Plant had contacted him to ask for "advice" on what to do about an upcoming promotion for VanderEls to a position in Child Protective Services.

Plant, however, testified that she was told to contact Ison by Bob Keller, district attorney for Clayton County, at which time they did discuss the case.

That conversation, whatever was said, was enough to convince Boswell that Ison should be removed from the case. The ruling also clears the way for VanderEls to request a new hearing.

If a new hearing is granted, Chase VanderEls could be living with his mother again before school opens this fall.

Asked about her feelings on that, VanderEls said, "I had pretty much given up hope, and now this ruling has given me a renewed sense of hope, ... and a small amount of faith in the justice system."

- Chris Duncan

## Pride '89 - USA

More than one million people participated in Lesbian and Gay Pride events held around the country this year in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots. The following is a city-by-city count of some of the celebrations held nationwide.

- ▼ Atlanta - 2,000
- ▼ Birmingham - 250
- ▼ Boston - 50,000
- ▼ Chicago - 90,000
- ▼ Dallas - 9,000
- ▼ Los Angeles - 200,000
- ▼ Louisville, KY - 300
- ▼ Miami, FL - 3,700
- ▼ Nashville, TN - 500
- ▼ New York - 150,000
- ▼ Philadelphia - 1,000
- ▼ Raleigh/Durham - 3,000
- ▼ San Francisco - 300,000
- ▼ Seattle - 20,000
- ▼ Washington, D.C. - 10,000

## 2,000+ Atlantans Turn Out For Lesbian and Gay Pride '89



JO GIRAUDO

Members of ACT UP show their spirit and pride in Atlanta's Lesbian/Gay Pride March which was described by many as "the best ever."

Superlatives flashed through the crowd gathered for the 1989 Lesbian and Gay Pride Day like wildfire—this year, they said, was the hottest, the biggest and the best Pride Day ever.

Records show that the march held on Saturday, June 24 was not quite the hottest or the biggest, but there is no denying the renewed sense of community and pride were a welcome relief to what has been a contentious year of the gay and lesbian community here. The various factions who regularly fight among themselves turned their swords to the front for the one day a year that everyone is bound by a single purpose—pride in self and others for standing up to bigotry.

The theme for this year's pride festivities was "Stonewall: Reasons to Remember," in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots. Stonewall is credited as the birthplace of the modern lesbian/gay human rights movement. The Atlanta crowd echoed the feeling of Stonewall on Saturday with more than 2,000 marchers and participants at a rally held later that day in Piedmont Park.

This year's march was one of the most integrated and representative marches ever held in Atlanta. Throughout the day, men and women walked arm-in-arm, people of color were visible in the crowd more than ever (though still not in proportion to their percent of the population), radical faeries laughed along with wimmin at themselves and each other, the local leather/levi club served as parade marshalls, and the newly-elected leatherhunks Mr. and Ms. Southeast Drummer gave a lift to drag queens when their float broke down in mid-parade.

Yes, parade.

This year marked the first time that Atlanta's celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride included substantial aspects of a parade. For the first time, Atlanta had its own lesbian and gay marching band (The Pride of Peachtree), as well as a grand marshal, Deana Collins of Deana's One Mo' Time, and several gaily bedecked floats.

As one Atlanta native put it, "We kept stepping away from the march to look back and ahead to see just how many people were really there."

"And each time we did, someone would start cheering just for the sheer numbers we had, and the crowd's energy level would go up another notch."

That energy level reached critical mass when the marchers



EVETT BENNETT

streamed into Piedmont Park, where organizers had scheduled a full day of entertainment.

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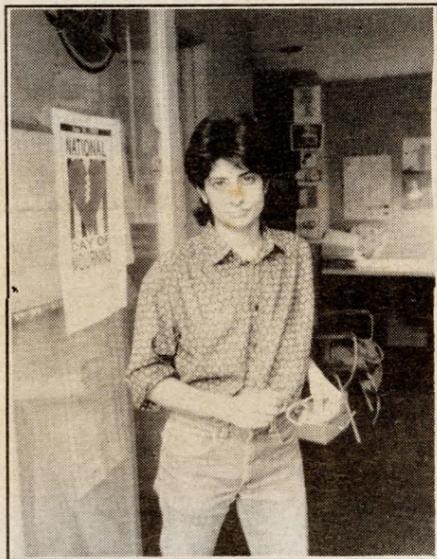
# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Vaid Chosen As NGLTF Director

Washington - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) board of directors voted June 18 to hire Urvashi Vaid to replace Jeff Levi as the group's executive director. Levi informed the board in March that he would resign this summer to work full-time on AIDS issues.

Vaid, an attorney and longtime lesbian activist has served as NGLTF's public information director since September, 1986. She was praised by board members as an energetic and very talented staff member according to the *Washington Blade*, a gay newsweekly.

Vaid is known as a fiery speaker and an avid organizer of street demonstrations. Those qualities contrast sharply with Levi's behind-the-scenes, low-key approach to politics. NGLTF board members say Vaid



CLIFF O'NEILL

NGLTF Executive Director Urvashi Vaid

has demonstrated skill in fundraising and lobbying and she has mastered the role of political tactician. She is also praised for her ability to bring together diverse groups within the gay community.

Vaid will be called upon to use all of her skills as she takes the helm of the organization at a time when it has been forced to curb the pace of its growth because it has failed to meet its fundraising goals. However, NGLTF is also highly prized by Congressional staffers and officials with federal agencies as a very effective player in D.C. politics.

NGLTF is the nation's second oldest national gay rights group. It has more than 17,000 members and an operating budget of \$957,000. The group's objectives include lobbying Congress and the executive branch on gay and AIDS-related issues, promoting public education about gays and providing logistical support for local and statewide lesbian and gay organizations.

Vaid, in a telephone interview with the *Washington Blade*, said she will maintain and strengthen the programs begun by Levi. She will also take on more fundraising and membership development tasks.

Vaid was born in India and came to the United States with her parents when she was eight years old. She graduated from Vassar College in 1979, and from the Northeastern University School of Law in 1983. She is a member of the Massachusetts State Bar.

## Killer of 16 Gay Men Convicted

Santa Ana, Calif.-Randy Kraft, 44, was found guilty of killing 16 gay men after 12 days of deliberation by a Superior Court jury here according to *The Weekly News*.

Kraft has been in custody since 1983 when he was found with the body of a dead Marine in his car. He is believed to be involved in the deaths of 40 other men and is considered by some to be the worst serial killer in U.S. history. All of the men murdered by Kraft were gay men or hitch hikers between the ages of 18 and 25. Kraft's victims were drugged, tortured, mutilated, sodomized and strangled.

Kraft has denied killing anyone and did not testify at his trial.

## School May Be Named For Milk

San Francisco, Calif.-The Board of Supervisors here has passed a resolution recommending that a city school be named after assassinated gay supervisor Harvey Milk. According to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, a gay newspaper, proponents of the idea must now lobby to get one of the existing schools to change its name.

Tom Ammiano, San Francisco activist and comedian, and one of the original proponents of the idea spoke at a PTA meeting of Douglas Elementary School which activists are hoping will make the name switch. Douglas is located in the gay Castro district and Milk worked to keep the school open during the 1970s when enrollment was down.

There was support for the change in name from the parents, however, those opposed were the most vocal.

## Koch Names Street After Stonewall

New York City, N.Y.-Mayor Ed Koch has signed into law a bill that renames a portion of Christopher Street, in the center of Greenwich Village, "Stonewall Place". The new name comes, of course, from the Stonewall Inn, the bar raided by police in 1969 which sparked the Stonewall Riots and the modern lesbian and gay civil rights movement.

The bill was proposed by Heritage of Pride, organizers of New York's lesbian and gay pride march, rally and dance. Stonewall Place is that portion of Christopher Street between Seventh Avenue and Waverly Place.

## Bachelor No. 1, Please

Palo Alto, Calif.-*The Dating Game*, featuring gay and lesbian contestants, was aired by the student-run television channel at Stanford University. The special segment was aired twice during Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week, May 6-13.

Bobbi Bernstein, a senior from Virginia and daughter of *Washington Blade* columnist, Robert Bernstein, proposed the idea to the student producer at X-TV. Bernstein and others involved with getting the program on the air said they felt it

would help break down negative stereotypes about gays, according to the *New York Times*. Bernstein said most of the response from the gay community was positive.

However, one lesbian student in the audience was opposed to the program. "This reduces us back to our sexual orientation," she said.

Bernstein stated that some other people voiced similar concerns, but believed that positive aspects of the show outweighed the negative ones.

"It's kind of a corny, stupid show to begin with," said Sharon Wachs, producer of the show. "I was worried it wouldn't come off with enough dignity."

Wachs stated, however, she was glad the station had aired the show after it received such a positive response.

## Denmark Legalizes Gay Marriages

Copenhagen, Denmark-Gay and lesbian marriages are now legal in Denmark. The Danish parliament passed the law by a 71-47 margin in late May. The law is expected to take effect October 1 with the signature of Queen Margaret II.

According to the *Philadelphia Gay News*, the law received widespread support from members of the Danish parliament with the exception of the five members of the Christian Folk Party. All five members voted against the legislation and plan to call for a public referendum.

Although gay men and lesbians are considered "legal" couples under the law, they are not granted the right to adopt children or marry in churches. Gay and lesbian activists are working to have both restrictions changed.

## Call SOS-GAYS

New York City-The National Gay and Lesbian Crisisline, America's only toll-free gay information and counseling service, has adopted a new, easier-to-remember, nationwide calling number: (800) SOS-GAYS or (800) 767-4297.

Simultaneously, the Crisisline increased its incoming call capacity by 25% with the addition of a telephone line, made possible through the gifts of private donors.

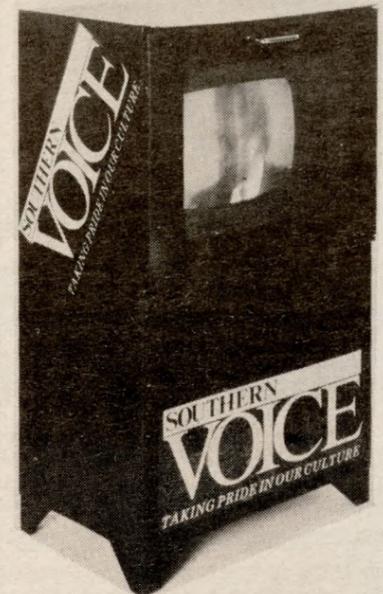
The Crisisline, which has been in operation for more than six years, is a program of the New York-based Fund for Human Dignity, the national, non-profit organization that provides and promotes better information about gay and lesbian lives.

Approximately one-third of the 30,000 calls fielded in 1988 were from persons, especially teenagers, who needed to discuss their sexual orientation, but were unaware of any other source of information and support. A computer database of more than 6,000 entries, developed especially for the Crisisline, provides local referrals to the caller for social support, information about AIDS, healthcare, legal, psychological and other services.

For further information regarding the National Gay and Lesbian Crisisline, contact Julien Maurice, Coordinator, The Fund for Human Dignity, 666 Broadway, New York City, NY 10012. (k212) 529-1600.

For direct assistance, dial (800) SOS-GAYS.

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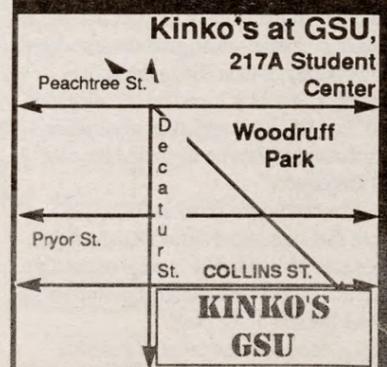
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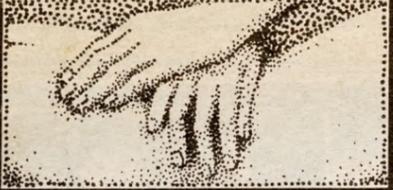
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## As Hate Crimes Bill Awaits Passage, Local Officials Promise Action

Washington—While Congress awaits action on a bill mandating the collection of statistics on bias-motivated crimes, local and state legislatures nationwide have been working on laws addressing the national increase in hate crimes.

In Atlanta, the push to count "hate crimes" gained impetus June 24 on Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, when two metro area legislators promised to introduce data collection ordinances in their respective jurisdictions.

Identified as one of the most crucial issues on the lesbian and gay political agenda, legislation which addresses the issue of anti-gay violence is currently within grasp in Congress with the landmark Hate Crimes Statistics Act awaiting action in the House and Senate.

**Types Of Bills**  
The nation's hate crimes bills are generally separated into three categories. The three categories: bills which order law enforcement authorities to collect data on hate motivated crimes; bills which increase minimum criminal penalties for crimes motivated by prejudice; and bills which allow victims of hate motivated crimes to sue for increased monetary damages.

Bills mandating data collection, like the pending federal bill, have been targeted as the first step in addressing the problem of hate violence.

Once the issue is documented and authorities have measured the levels of bias motivated crimes in their jurisdictions, the way is paved for penalties bills and civil penalties bills.

### Cities Addressing Hate

On the local front, the nation is dotted with municipal governments which have either taken, or begun action on the issue. Many cities, such as Atlanta, have recently seen an upswing in attention to the matter with the approach of municipal elections this fall.

Atlanta City Councilmember Barbara Asher recently invigorated the 2,000 plus

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## NGLTF Releases Hate Crimes Data

'Alarming Widespread' Trend  
Said To Have Increased In '88

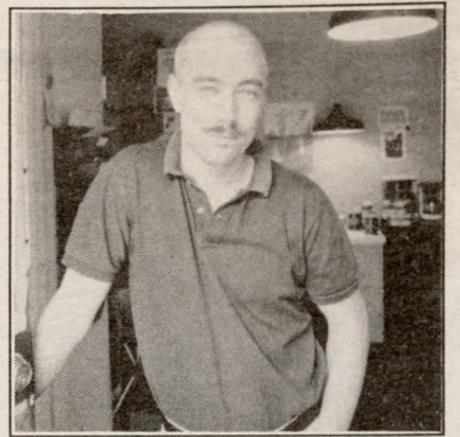
Washington, D.C.—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) issued its annual "wake-up call" to the nation June 7, announcing the release of its Anti-Gay Violence, Victimization & Defamation in 1988 report.

"Today's report is our annual wake-up call to the American people, to public officials, to the media, to teachers and to clergy," stated Kevin Berrill, NGLTF Anti-Violence Project director. "It is our reminder to the nation that the price of anti-gay bigotry is paid in human lives lost and in immeasurable suffering for the victims, their loved ones and our entire community."

A record total of 7,248 incidents of anti-gay violence and harassment were reported in 1988, an increase of 240 reports—or 3 percent—over the previous year's numbers.

The 1988 study also includes an unprecedented look at violence and harassment directed at gay-community-based Metropolitan Community Churches and gay and lesbian campus groups.

The marked increase, Berrill says, may or may not be an indication of a rise in anti-gay



Kevin Berrill, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project Director

violence nationwide. But either way, he notes, the numbers are only the tip of the iceberg.

"This report does not claim to measure the full extent of anti-gay violence and victimization that occurred last year," he stated. "Without question, the vast majority of anti-gay episodes in 1988 were not counted... We regard this report as a 'snapshot' of the problem, a picture which is not complete yet is vivid enough to dismay and outrage any person of conscience."

To help counter the national problem, activists are now looking toward the possible

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## Obituary

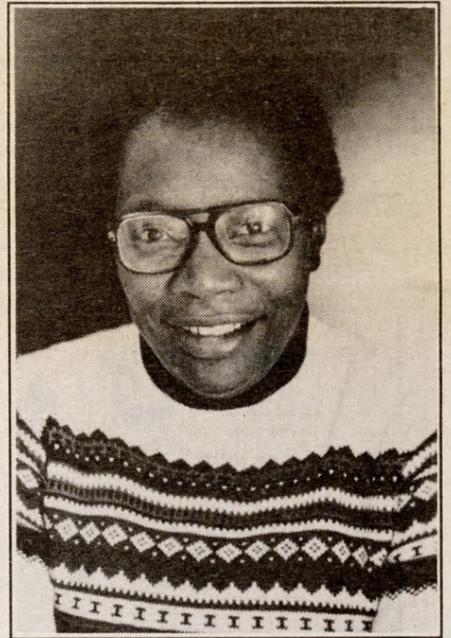
### Pat Parker, Lesbian Poet, Dead at 45

Lesbian poet Pat Parker succumbed to a three-year battle with cancer June 17 in Oakland, California at the age of 45.

The Houston, Texas native was the author of five collections of poetry—*Jonestown and Other Madness*, *Movement in Black*, *Womanslaughter*, *Pit Stop*, and *Child of Myself*—as well as numerous articles and poems published in other mediums.

Especially well known for dynamic readings of her own work, Parker was also extremely active in gay/lesbian and other human rights struggles.

Parker is survived by her partner Mary Dunham, two daughters—Cassidy, 13, and Anastasia, 6, and two sisters, Diane and Ethel.



Barbara Raboy

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DENA KAYE

# Food For the Body, and the Soul, at Open Hand

Since last September, Atlanta has had its very own meals-on-wheels program dedicated to providing two cooked meals a day to PWAs. Project Open Hand, the brain child of Atlanta Mike Edwards, is patterned after the organization of the same name in San Francisco.

Depending primarily on volunteer labor, Open Hand/Atlanta's goal is to prepare and deliver meals to persons battling the AIDS virus. All a prospective client need do is provide a physician's documentation of a positive HIV status. All records and clients are kept confidential. And, Project Open Hand will do the rest.

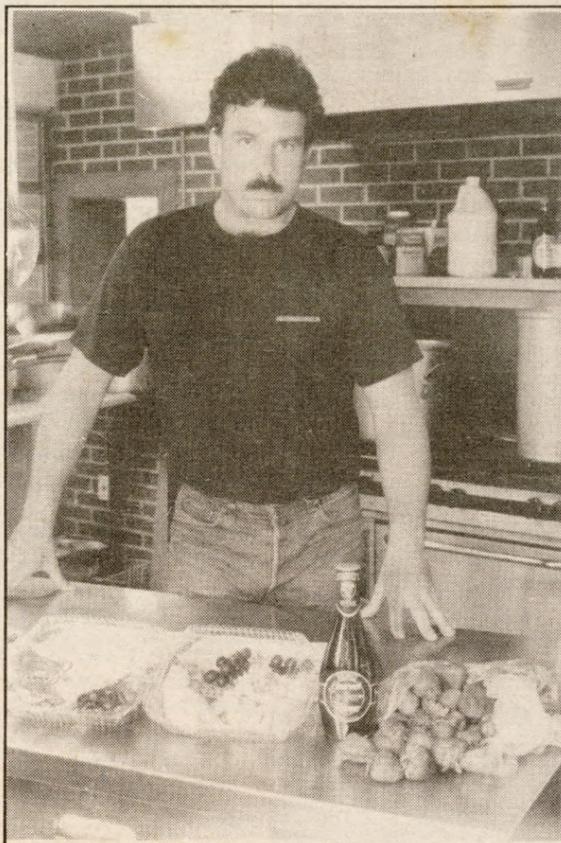
Steve Woods, jovial chef extraordinaire, is in charge of putting together the meals. He came to Project Open Hand in a round-about fashion. Although he started out at Florida State in Food Management, he finished his degree in Chemistry. Eventually he spent three years running a catering business in Key West. In 1988, he returned to his native Atlanta, and became a volunteer at Open Hand. He's been on salary the last two months.

Woods has seen the program grow from providing services to 12 clients to nearly 90 today. He also stressed several advantages to recipients of the program. In addition to providing excellent lunches and dinners, Project Open Hand also alleviates the loneliness of the homebound. Often the visit from the Open Hand volunteer may be the only human contact a client would experience during the day.

The program's objectives are simple. "We're feeding people who are diagnosed with AIDS. They don't have to be sick." In fact, anyone who is HIV positive is eligible for the service. "Our philosophy is to give them as normal a meal as possible—and if their needs dictate otherwise, we'll make arrangements."

The day I visited, lunch was an attractive tuna, bean and tomato salad garnished with pita bread and red beets and pickled peppers. Dinner consisted of spinach pasta served with chicken, broccoli, mushrooms, tomatoes and fresh parsley. Chunks of garlic-cheese toast were on the side, and dessert was chocolate and peanut butter cookies.

Steve Woods was also putting together a package of soups for a client on a liquid diet; and had already prepared



Chef Steve Woods, Project Open Hand

EVETT BENNETT

special bland meals for those with sensitive stomachs.

It's hard work. According to Woods, the lack of storage space in their donated kitchen necessitates shopping every single day of the week. Currently, they're looking for new quarters complete with a functioning, industrial kitchen. Recently, he looked at the kitchen in the old Bass High School in Little Five Points. "It's exactly what we need."

If things work out, Open Hand may be moving next month. And Steve Woods will be there, cooking his heart out for Atlanta's PWAs.

— Molly McGuire

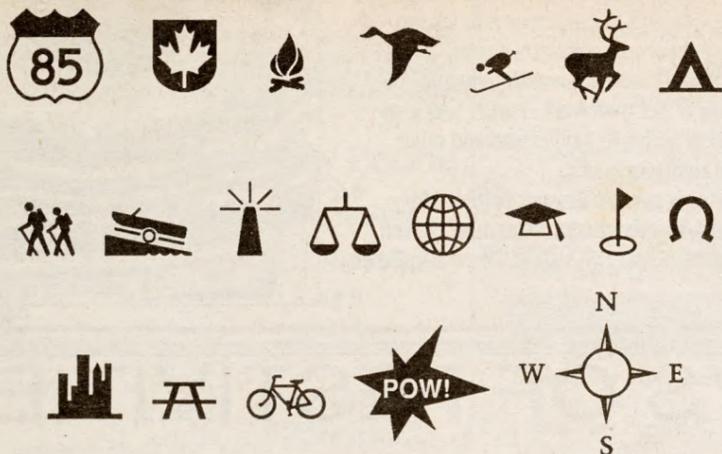
## Project Open Hand Needs YOU to Help Feed Atlanta's PWAs

Project Open Hand is in desperate need of assistance. Volunteers are needed to help cook, pack and deliver meals seven days a week.

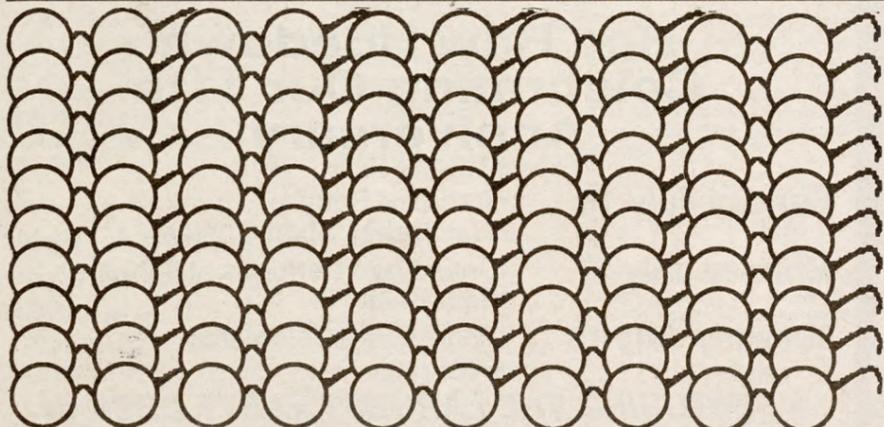
In addition, financial support is needed to help cover the cost of the program. A contributing membership is \$35 a year, but any amount will be gratefully accepted.

Volunteer orientations are held every other Saturday from 10:00 a.m. til Noon at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Call (404) 248-1788 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or leave a message.

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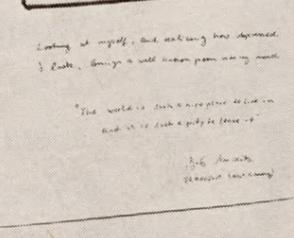
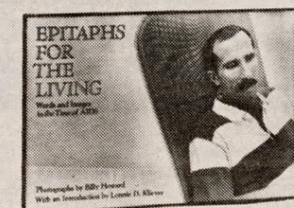
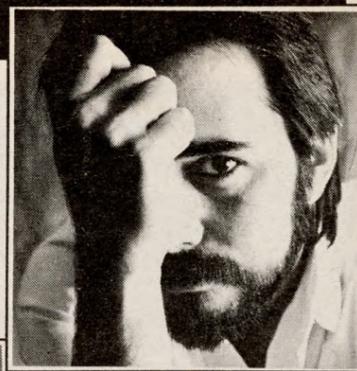
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 All of us. D.



My mother gave me a surprise birthday party for my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. She wanted red candles on my cake, finding them only after going to three different card shops. I didn't even notice that there weren't any candles on the cake. Later she told me that when it came time to put the candles on the cake that she decided against it. She thought that some of the people wouldn't want me blowing on the cake.  
 It has been especially difficult for me being a woman. It's different. I'm afraid of some things, but not of life. I've finally been able to fulfill some of my dreams. Sometimes I feel like a little girl starting all over.  
 RB

## Epitaphs for the Living: Howard's Photos Give Voice to PWAs

Billy Howard worried when repeated attempts at contacting his long-term dentist and friend boomeranged, carrying return-to-sender postal notices. Finally, a family member answered his incessant inquiries, confirming Billy's greatest fear...his beloved peer had died from AIDS.

"It was a shame he had to drop out," Billy recalls the loss of communication. "He had to go away because of the nature of the disease, frightened by a presumed rejection from his own friends and community.

"Unfortunately, he wasn't able to share feelings and emotions with those closest to him, with the people around him," Billy continues, explaining initial motivations for his insightful photographic documentary entitled *Epitaphs for the Living: Words and Images in the Time of AIDS*, released last month by Southern Methodist University Press.

"It is not fair fighting out the battle alone," he declares, recalling his own sense of loss. "This book is how I chose to express myself to him, and to thousands of other people with AIDS. The loss is really ours, we are missing the opportunity to learn from them, for PWAs to teach us about life...what's meaningful and what's not."

When he began the project in 1987, Billy had not determined the final format for presenting his images of men and women across the country living with - and dying of - AIDS.

The final product, an 11 by 14-inch coffee-table book, contains 68 photographs in black and white which Billy describes as a collaborative effort between himself and the more than 75 PWAs he photographed from Atlanta to Washington, and from New York to San Francisco, over the past two years.

"*Epitaphs for the Living* is a channel for their voices to be heard while they are still with us," Billy says of the many new friends and subjects he has collected in this profound, prophetic and meaningful exposé. "This is a way for them to speak to other PWAs, to society and to themselves with dignity and insight into their special challenges in dealing with both life and death."

Encouraged by friends and associates following the applauded publication of *Can You See Me? Images of Atlanta's Homeless*, a photography collection depicting Atlanta's street people which he edited and produced, Billy quickly acquired supportive endorsement for his second publishing endeavor.

"I knew this project needed a human touch, the human hand of those involved," Billy details his approach. "I wanted readers to get to know the person in each photograph." Consequently, the former newspaper reporter discarded his own inclinations for editorializing, and asked each of his subjects

to write about what they were thinking in the images.

If a photograph is worth a thousand words, each living epitaph underscoring Billy's images is worth a novel-length dissertation. Hand-written, unedited statements by the PWA subjects "allow them to take themselves out of their conditions, lets them tell exactly what they are thinking and feeling, for all the world to hear and learn from," Billy concludes.

Public and professional reaction to Billy's *Epitaphs* has caused local book stores to hasten rush reorders and photography experts to stand back in awe. Acclaimed Atlanta photographer and philanthropist Lucinda Bunnan responded with a grant which purchased first edition copies for every PWA photographed.

"That's when I really feel the most emotional response to the project," Billy admits, "from the people when I take the book by and show them what we did. I actually didn't have that much to say...I just provided a catalyst for their story."

"I am not the same person I was when I started this book," Billy says in his brief introduction to *Epitaphs*. "After the depth of the statements these people wrote I am embarrassed to add my own words. They reached deep into their souls for what I can only describe as truth. This book is their gift to you."

- John Blizard

OPENS FRIDAY, JULY 7!

# 'DIFFERENT'

The new and expanded production of last year's musical hit moves to  
 7 Stages Mainstage, July 7 thru July 30.

Reservations Advised: 523-7647

(Tickets: Tue, Wed, Thurs, & Sun-\$12.50; Fri and Sat-\$14.50. All shows: 8:00 pm)

This program is supported in part by the City of Atlanta, Bureau of Cultural Affairs.

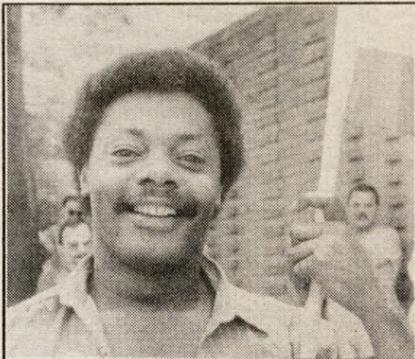
# VIEWPOINTS

## Lesbian/Gay Pride Day '89

We asked as many people as we could on Pride Day to tell us what the day meant to them. Here is a small representation of the responses we got.

Quotes compiled by Candace Wiggins and Tia Nikolopoulos.

All Photos by Tia Nikolopoulos



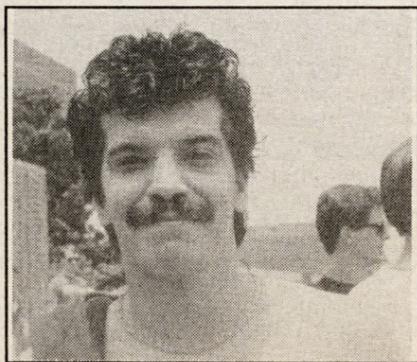
Gene Holloway

"A day of liberation, a day when we should all stand together. We should march for those who cannot so when we get old, things will be better for younger people coming out."



Judy Kolb

"...To declare to the world that one of my daughters is a lesbian, the other is straight and I love both of them. I'm proud of them and they're proud of themselves."



Louis Giroux-Castillo

"I was one of the dancers at Stonewall, I was the youngest one. If not for that riot, there would not be Gay Pride. It is an honor to be here in Atlanta."



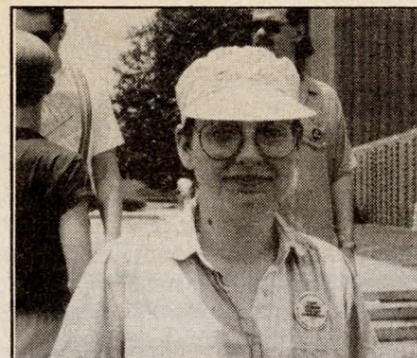
Roz-TDA/Atlanta

"To me, Gay and Lesbian Pride means expressing, reinforcing, and living who and what I am—as a woman, a lesbian and an American."



Scott Ayres

"... freedom for ourselves and all our brothers and sisters; it means a lot of love for our PWAs... a feeling of pride in the community and what we do, how we support each other."



Candace Chellew

"Gay Pride? It means I can live my life and breathe the same air as anyone else. It means I can walk down the street with my lover just like anyone else does."



David Armstrong, Mr. Southeast Drummer

"Gay Pride is being responsible to yourself, caring for yourself and respecting who you are and others and their rights. It's important to respect all rights of all people."



L. Casey

"Gay Pride means to me — empowerment of a group of people that's coming together and going to take it over—eventually."

### Staff Editorial

## VanderEls' Victory Will Set Precedent

Will Help Pave The Way For  
Other Lesbian and Gay Parents

Leigh VanderEls is one step closer to regaining custody of her son — thanks to her own determination and perseverance, her attorney Michael Hauptman and the fairness of Judge Stephen Boswell. Today, in sharp contrast with the past two and a half years, Leigh has reason to believe that there may be justice for herself, and all lesbians and gay men who are parents — in our judicial system. Her victory is a victory for all of our community, and her celebration is one which all of us can enjoy.

Leigh's case is not unique. Many lesbians and gay men face threats to custody of their children by ex-spouses and other family members. And it's an effective threat. Most of the time, if taken to court, these parents lose their children. The court system in most states do not look at lesbian and gay parents as adequate or "fit" to raise their own children. The courts often rule that the heterosexual parent can provide the best home — even if that parent has alcohol/drug problems and is not the parent with which the child has the closest emotional ties. Because of the prevailing prejudice against them, most lesbian and gay parents give up and give in to threats before they will face the courts. They silently and sadly give up their children.

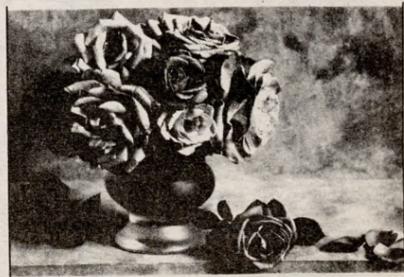
This is where Leigh's case is unique and why it is so important to all of us. She didn't give in to the threats. She didn't lie about being a lesbian, hoping it would not be an issue. She maintained, from the start, that she was a lesbian and the best parent for her son. And she kept pushing the slow and complex legal system until something happened.

Leigh's refusal to deny her lesbianism is the key here. If she had won her case as a closeted person, it would mean nothing to our community, although it would have meant a great deal to Leigh. She would have kept her son and would not have had to go through the emotional and financial drain she has experienced for more than three years. But if she had done that there would be no *VanderEls v VanderEls* case to which attorneys of lesbian and gay parents throughout the country will hopefully be able to refer in defense of their clients. And there will be no precedent setting case for lesbian and gay parents in the state of Georgia.

That is what Leigh's potential victory means. It means we will have a better chance. It means we will be one step closer to being able to live our lives as open lesbians and gay men and as parents.

Thanks Leigh, from all of us.

— Christina Cash  
Managing Editor



## Thanks For Trying

To the Editor:

I was looking forward to attending the gala festivities during *Southern Voice's* open house.

What a neat opportunity to meet you troopers and to see where you make it all happen.

So I picked up my favorite lavender business suit from the cleaners, had my hair "done" and made all the necessary plans to go.

And how proud I was of myself, mustering up the courage to get out and get involved in the community.

But unfortunately, as I made my turn on Virginia Avenue around 6:30, I suffered a severe attack of "homophobia" and had to rush home and convalesce.

— M.S.,  
Smyrna

...No flowers or cards, please.

**SOUTHERN  
VOICE**

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## Do Lesbians and Gay Men Pose A Threat to the American Family?

Jesse Helms Says "Yes"

The Human Rights Campaign Fund Says "NO"

□ Helms is counting on killing the "Hate Crimes" bill by passing an amendment proclaiming America's 20 million lesbians and gay men a threat to family. The Hate Crimes bill represents a key first step in stopping violent crime motivated by prejudice—including "gay bashing." A recent Justice Department study found that lesbians and gay men are "probably the most frequent victims" of hate crimes.

□ The Helms amendment—based on bigotry, ignorance and fear—could actually encourage the anti-gay violence the bill's trying to stop. The Helms "hate crime" is an unprecedented assault on American diversity and pluralism.

□ He's counting on the fair-minded majority across the country not learning of or not speaking out against his amendment. Most of all Jesse Helms is counting on your silence!

### What Do You Say?

Help Defeat the Helms amendment and pass the Hate Crimes bill!

Call 1-800-257-4900, Hotline 9188

to send a Western Union Message to:

Senators Fowler and Nunn (Ga.)

\$4.95 for a Message to one Senator  
\$7 for Messages to both your Senators

Ask for Hotline Operator 9188. Choose a prepared message. Charge it to your telephone bill. If you don't know who your Senators are, the operator does.

The Action Hotlines are sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. To take additional steps to help defeat Helms amendments or secure general info, contact the Field Division, HRCF, P.O. Box 1723, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4161.

## HOME REMEDY FOR THE TEMPORARY RELIEF OF SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH "HOMOPHOBIA":

- (1) **Avoid quarantine** – Frequent exposure to "family" members is essential throughout the duration of the illness; (Don't fret about their catching your "disease." First of all, it's not YOURS; they've probably had it dozens of times – and will again, but while they're in remission, allow them to "do unto others.")
- (2) **Once you've identified the symptoms, plan a "family" gathering** – Call your "sisters and brothers": invite them over for the evening. Run to the local Big Star and pick up a six-pack of V-8 Juice—or a keg, depending upon the number of kin you plan to expose.
- (3) **After their arrival, find a comfortable spot, grab a pen and pad and make a list of all the neat things that have happened to you since you came out of the closet** – If you're not quite out yet, list the positive experiences you've had since you cracked the door; (Read them aloud; expound upon them; share them with your attending sisters and brothers. It's good for them! Helps keep up their resistance.)
- (4) **Flip the page and make another list** – Jot down all the reasons that make you proud you're gay. (Refill your pen if necessary.)
- (5) **Ask for volunteers** to describe last attack of homophobia and encourage them to share the remedies they used that resulted in remission.
- (6) **Laugh and cry** – and laugh and cry again; (Crying rids your system of poisons; laughing speeds the healing process.)
- (7) **Allow warm hugs** to be administered by your "attending physicians" at least every hour.
- (8) **Re-read all your back issues of Southern Voice** that are stacked in the closet – Pass 'em around; (Note the numerous articles describing "our" progress during the past few years.)
- (9) **Then...sing "Song of the Soul"** at least 99 times and pass around the V-8 can. These are sure-fired remedies for alleviating the symptoms of homophobia. But, like the common cold, there is no known cure.

--Martha M.,  
Atlanta

## Lomax Political Ad Explained, Defended

To the Editor:

Although I found KC Wildmoon's column ("Pay No Attention to the Endorsement Behind that Curtain") somewhat unfocused and unclear, I still think it is worthy of a reply.

Ms. Wildmoon is under the impression that a paid political advertisement in the June 8, 1989 issue of *Southern Voice* has some underlying (i.e., subversive) intent. In fact, she accuses the supporters of the ad of thinking that "we understand it all so you don't have to."

Let me clear the air and tell you exactly what I had in mind by agreeing to support the ad. The ad was in support of mayoral candidate Michael Lomax. Mr. Lomax is a candidate who very early on in his campaign sought the support of the gay and lesbian community. He has repeatedly asked for our ideas, appeared at our functions, and spoken to our issues. He was the first candidate to develop a position paper on gay and lesbian issues and is able to speak knowledgeably about matters concerning our community.

I, for one, am sick of candidates who think that because they show up at our events they deserve our support. There are too many people in office who have done absolutely nothing for this community, yet we consider them a "friend" of the community (or worse, someone who is "sympathetic" to our cause as if we all have a disease.) I am putting my full support behind a candidate who I believe will truly be an advocate for gays and lesbians of Atlanta and who is not making empty promises.

I resent Ms. Wildmoon's assertion that we assumed that the community is "too busy/ignorant/apathetic/etc. to understand." I am not assuming anything of the sort. I am telling the community the person I am supporting and urging you to examine his record and platform for yourselves. I urge each of you to also become involved in this mayoral race and support the candidate of your choice.

Sincerely,  
Karen Geney

## INSIDE THE WASHINGTON LOBBY

### Hate Crimes Bill Coalition Faces Strong Opposition From Helms

There were 7,248 incidents of violence against gay and lesbian Americans – from harassment to homicide – reported during 1988, and probably more that were never reported, according to a study on hate crimes statistics released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The number of bias-related crimes (anti-Semitic, racist, homophobic, etc.) has never been determined in an official government study. Gay and civil rights activists are fighting to get accurate statistics on how many bias-related crimes are being committed in the United States. Once advocates have objective numbers to prove the extent of the problem, they may be better able to convince the legislatures to pass laws prohibiting prejudice-based violence. Currently, no such national laws exist. Some states, such as Massachusetts, have laws that allow a private citizen to sue the perpetrator of a crime that violated the citizen's rights on the basis of, among other things, sex or race. The Massachusetts law was designed to deal with racially-motivated hate crimes. (Remedies against violence based on sexual orientation are not provided by this law.)

Since gay and civil rights activists need to have statistics as arguing points, they are lobbying Congress to pass a bill to authorize a study of hate crimes. The bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), would "provide for the collection of data about crimes motivated by race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation." The Attorney General's office would be responsible for compiling the data, and its findings would carry the authority of the federal government. The bill does not create any new rights, but merely authorizes a study. The bill is backed by several staunch conservatives such as Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), and Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN). The House version of the bill, introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) and Rep. Hamilton Fish (R-NY), similarly has broad support.

Last year, the Hate Crimes bill was overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives, but the session ended before the Senate could act. This year, the bill is expected to move relatively quickly given the strong vote count it received in the last Congress. The bill was approved by the full Senate Judiciary Committee on March 9 and is now ready to be taken up by the full Senate when a time slot opens (possibly during July). The bill has also already been approved by the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, and is expected to be considered by the full House Judiciary Committee by the end of June.

There may be trouble, however, when the Hate Crimes Statistics Act goes to the Senate floor for debate. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) has informally circulated an anti-gay amendment providing that "The homosexual movement threatens the strength and the survival of the American family as the basic unit of society. State laws prohibiting sodomy should be enforced. The federal government should not provide discrimination protection on the basis of 'sexual orientation.' School curriculums should not condone homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle in American society." An ongoing educational and lobbying campaign is taking place to let members of Congress know that amendments like these are unacceptable and only obstruct important work.

If the Hate Crimes Statistics Act passes, it will be because of a strong coalition effort within the broad civil rights community, including the ACLU, People for the American Way, NAACP, the American Jewish Committee, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Such coalition building raises awareness and consciousness, helps build a common history, and reinforces mutual goals.

The Hate Crimes bill coalition has existed for two years and represents a major breakthrough. We will be drawing on the bonds formed as part of this coalition in our civil rights work for years into the future.

– Chai Feldblum & Laura Markowitz

Chai Feldblum is an attorney for the ACLU AIDS Project. Laura Markowitz is an editor of a national magazine.

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  
P.O. Box 18215  
Atlanta, GA 30316

## Hate Crimes

Cont'd. from Page 3

crowd at Lesbian and Gay Pride Day when she announced her intention to introduce legislation during July Council meetings to force Public Safety Commissioner George Napper to record and investigate crimes motivated by prejudice against the victim.

Napper has said that being forced to change the system now, when Congress is expected to pass the Hate Crimes Statistics Act within the year, would put too great a strain on the department and his budget.

DeKalb County Commissioner Sheri Sutton also said she plans to introduce hate crimes legislation this summer, although she does not have it ready for introduction.

And if the Atlanta ordinances do not pass council, both mayoral candidates Maynard H. Jackson and Michael L. Lomax have promised the gay and lesbian community that they will change the current system by administrative order if necessary.

Leading all the nation's cities, however, with the most comprehensive law on the issue of hate motivated crimes, including anti-gay crime, is St. Louis, which just this year passed a comprehensive hate crimes bill.

If the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act passes Congress intact this session, it makes moot pending state and local statistics bills by ordering the U.S. Justice Department to collect data on hate motivated crimes, including anti-gay crimes.

However, that does leave open the issue of state and local penalties bills, clearly the more "controversial" of the pieces hate crimes legislation faced by state lawmaking bodies.

- Cliff O'Neill

## Three Years After Hardwick:

# Community Revitalized, Refocused For State Sodomy Law Challenges

Part 2 of a 2-Part Series

In part 1 of this story, NGLTF's Privacy Project Director Sue Hyde called the odds a "snowball's chance in hell" of the Supreme Court revising its 1986 decision to uphold Georgia's sodomy law. Instead, NGLTF and other national and local groups are planning a state-by-state legislative fight. In part 2 of our story Cliff O'Neill examines the latest efforts of activists to decriminalize adult consensual sodomy.

### Legislative Challenges

The (other) place in which to challenge these laws, Hyde says, is the state Legislature. But there, things have been even tougher.

In fact, the only real change since Hardwick has been a change in Tennessee's sodomy statute which dropped the "crime" from a heterosexual/homosexual felony to a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a \$25 fine.

This, according to legal activists, although continuing to stigmatize gay and lesbian sex, could open the door to a court challenge to the statute on equal protection grounds.

Otherwise, nothing has really changed since 1986.

In many states, legislative repeal efforts have met with stiff resistance from skittish lawmakers. Maryland, seen as the state with the best chance for repealing such a law, saw its state Senate give quick approval of a repeal bill in 1987, only to have it die in the state House Judiciary Committee that year. The following year, efforts were concentrated on

that committee, but proved fruitless after a committee member held up a brochure from the North American Man/Boy Love Association as an "example" of the sort of behaviors which would become common in the state should the sodomy law be repealed, and quickly killed the bill.

In Minnesota, a repeal bill, sponsored by openly gay state legislators Sen. Alan Spear and Rep. Karen Clark, suffered a similar fate in that state's lower chamber.

A comparable bill was introduced this year into the Texas Legislature, although, it did not see substantial action before the session's close.

In the District of Columbia, the local sodomy statute is entangled in the district's thoroughly unique battle over home rule versus congressional powers over the local government. In 1982, the District Council passed the Sexual Assault Reform Bill, which lifted the district's sodomy law and lowered the age of consent from 16 to 14. However, Congress bowing to immense pressure from the Rev. Jerry Falwell-led Moral Majority, pulled the entire law.

"You have to remember, when we're asking people to vote for these bills, we're asking them to vote on sex," Hyde says. "They don't like doing that."

But regardless, Hyde feels that sodomy reform should continue to be a top agenda item for the lesbian and gay community.

"The reason that the Hardwick decision was such a watershed was not only did the Supreme Court declare that gay men and lesbians have

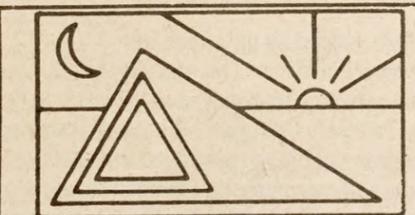


Sue Hyde, NGLTF Privacy Project Director no constitutional right to privacy," she says, "but it...made the issue of sodomy laws more real in people's minds. It was a very rude awakening for this community. It sort of shocked us back into the reality of institutionalized homophobia. What's changed is that people now think about it."

And since sodomy laws are used by anti-gay forces to de-fund AIDS educational programs, deny lesbian and gay parents custody rights and to repudiate basic civil rights protections for lesbians and gay men, she feels the fight against these laws should be a basic part of every gay-related issue from AIDS from AIDS funding to foster care.

"[This puts] our work and our contacts with legislatures in a broader context," she adds. "I think it's very important for state legislators to realize that simply because they have dealt with AIDS legislation in their state, that it doesn't mean that the gay and lesbian community goes away. We actually have several items on our legislative agenda and we will be back."

- Cliff O'Neill



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## NGLTF Report

Cont'd from Page 3

passage of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, a federal measure which would mandate the Justice Department to collect statistics on crimes motivated by bias based on race, religion ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Last year, the bill survived two attempts to delete the bill's "sexual orientation" provisions to pass by an overwhelming majority in the House. The bill died in the Senate, however, due to a last minute tactic from Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC).

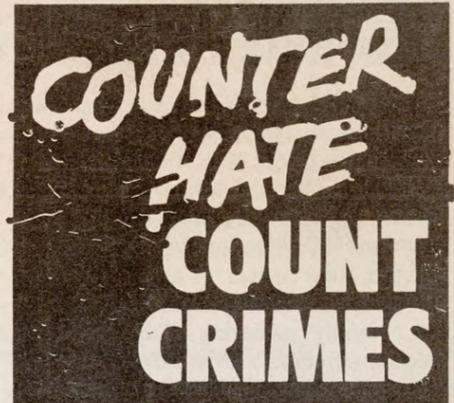
At present, the House bill is expected to see committee action in late June or early July. The Senate version of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL), is now being held up by lobbyists who are delaying a vote on the bill until they have enough votes

to defeat an expected Helms amendment to the bill.

The non-binding "sense of the Senate" amendment would put the Senate on record as being against ever passing a bill banning anti-gay discrimination; mandate the enforcement of state sodomy laws; ban pro-gay public school curricula; and declare the "homosexual movement" a threat to the "American family."

Berrill cited an incident in which a Connecticut disc jockey named "Sebastian" stated that gay men spread AIDS and deserved to be castrated, after which a gay man with AIDS was savagely attacked by three teenagers who shouted that "Sebastian says queers spread AIDS and don't deserve to live."

"There is a connection between irresponsible public statements and violence," asserted Berrill. "When they call us 'dyke' and 'faggot' and 'queer' in the media we will hold them accountable. There is no minority that is



more smeared and demeaned than the lesbian and gay community. And I believe that in a large part it facilitates anti-gay violence.

"It dehumanizes us; it trivializes our experience; and it has to stop."

- Cliff O'Neill

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Speaking of Hairdos...

## The Latest Cuts From Phranc and k.d. lang

The album is called *I Enjoy Being A Girl*. The liner notes proclaim the artist a "Daughter of Bilitis." It's Phranc. Just your "average All-American Jewish Lesbian folksinger" who puts her song lyrics where her hair cut is.

Consider "Take Off Your Swastika," a song that displays Phranc's late 70s Punk roots. I'm impressed by the anger that so very cleanly comes out in this song—anger at punks wearing swastikas because it's cool...its proclamation that *Fascism isn't anarchy*. Phranc's surprisingly sweet voice on this cut becomes almost venomous, and the lyrics explain that venom, unlike some of Michelle Shocked's unfocused "anger for anger's sake" political songs. The same is true on "Bloodbath" (*in the land of Zola Budd*), possibly the best song on South Africa to come from a white girl. The song ends by exhorting us to *think about the color of your skin*.

Phranc's lyrical talents amaze: the tender "Myriam and Esther," a tribute to her grandmothers, is a bonafide tearjerker without being remotely sappy; and "The Ballad of Lucy and Ted," about two polar bears at the Zoo who were needlessly killed by police when they ate an 11-year-old who took a swim in the polar bears' pool after closing, is often painful to hear (*I'm on the side of the polar bears*).

All is not serious on this album. There's "Toy Time," about all the fun toys at Toys R Us; M-A-R-T-I-N-A, about guess who; "Double Decker Bed," a sweet little tune about losing a girlfriend because the girlfriend isn't into bunk beds.

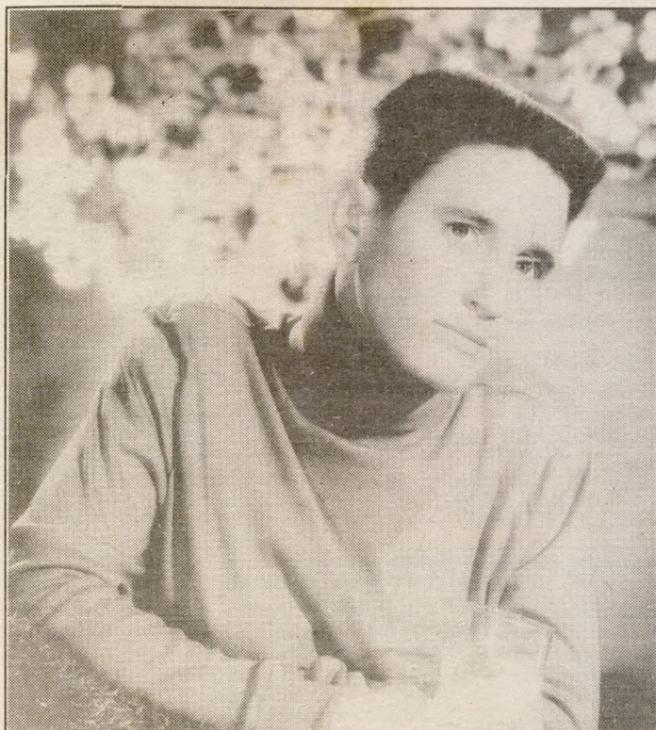
Most of the songs on this album are just Phranc and her guitar, but some cuts are accompanied by Mrs. Fun (Connie Grauer and Kim Zick) a quite fun jazz duo from Nashville. Connie's keyboards and arrangements and Kim's drums are a superb compliment to "I Enjoy..." "Toy Time," and the Johnny Burke/Jimmy Van Heusen composition "Moonlight Becomes You."

A lot of folk music abounds in pretension. Perhaps Phranc explains it best in "Folksinger": *Androgeny's the ticket/at least it seems to me/just don't wear a flatland mention sexuality*. Phranc does. And she got that record contract anyway.

"I Enjoy..." fairly rips along with a twinkle in its eye...and that's precisely what's missing from k.d. lang's new release, *Absolute Torch and Twang*. The songs, mostly written by k.d. and co-producer/recline member Ben Mink,



k.d. lang



Phranc

are just the right combination of quirk and c-w. The musicianship is good, and k.d.'s vocal is, as always, rich, deep — gets you right in the gut.

But something is missing here. At times, k.d. and the reclines sound a little like they all just met. There's no sign of the raucous exuberance that permeated *Angel with a Lariat*, almost as if k.d. has brought that tight control she used to perfection on *Shadowland* and attempted to apply it too heavily to the reclines.

"Big Boned Gal" starts like a reclines-of-old number, but seems too slow to really rock like "Turn Me Round." The slower songs work better... "Trail of Broken Hearts," "Wallflower Waltz"...as much as I hate to say it though, the girl sounds tired.

Most interesting are the lyrics and the musical phrasing, close enough to country-western to be recognizable, but always doing the unexpected. The musical changes are delightful, and there are some intriguing techniques used on the mix: slip on a pair of headphones and note k.d.'s breath on your ears in "Didn't I."

The usually un-political k.d. includes a haunting number called "Nowhere to Stand," a paean in opposition to corporal punishment/child abuse: *a family tradition/the strength of this land/where what's right and wrong is the back of a hand...but the rights of the children have nowhere to stand*.

*Absolute Torch and Twang* is not bad. But it doesn't compare to *Angel with a Lariat* (although the production is far superior) or *Shadowland*. In "It's Me" k.d. sings *on them shiny pages/all that hairdo/it ain't me/I am showing just what I am*. On this album what she is—sounds not quite there.

—KC Wildmoon

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ALMANAC

THIS MONTH  
In Gay & Lesbian History

JULY, 1948: "Bachelors for Wallace" formed, ostensibly to promote Henry Wallace's presidential campaign. It was also one of the earliest gay organizations, though it never developed beyond its rudimentary beginnings.

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FAMILY TREE

Amelia Earhart

b. July 24, 1897  
d. July, 1937(?)  
U.S. aviator

Earhart was the first woman to solo the Atlantic, a feat which won her the nickname "Lady Lindy." She soon established other aviation milestones. In the summer of 1937, as she attempted to fly around the world, her plane disappeared over the South Pacific.

There is considerable speculation about Earhart's sexuality. It is all based on circumstantial evidence: her masculine dress and appearance, her fierce independence, and an ambiguous letter expressing reluctance to marry her eventual husband, publisher George Putnam.

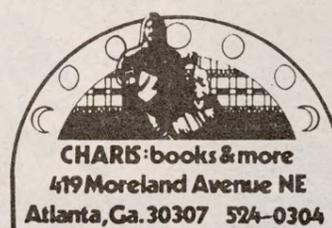
ABC

Many words have been coined to describe non-conventional types of sexuality. Here are three:

ANDROTROPE and GYNAECOTROPE. A gay man and a lesbian, respectively. Kurt Hiller suggested these terms in 1946, because of what he considered the negative connotations of "homosexual." They never caught on.

BOSTON MARRIAGE. A living-together relationship involving two women. This term was mainly used in nineteenth-century New England; it sometimes referred to lesbians, sometimes to independent heterosexual women.

VICE ALLEMAND. A nineteenth-century French term for homosexuality. It translates as "the German vice."



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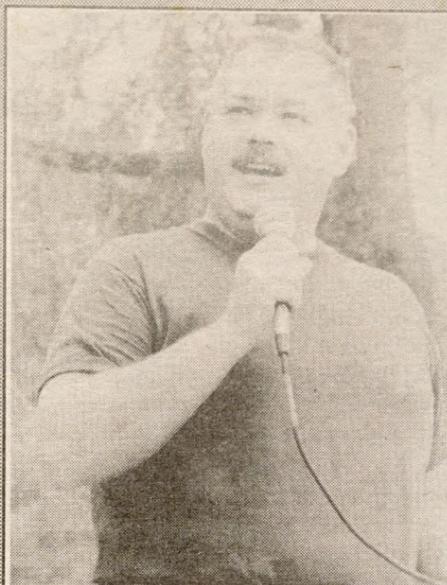
First  
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of Atlanta.

"The Gay Pride Service  
on Sunday, June 25  
was the first time I've  
ever been applauded  
for being Gay!"

*It Felt Great!*

Tom Patterson

# CALENDAR



Sam "The Voice" Baker will appear at Petrus, 1150 Peachtree St., on Sunday, July 16 for a fundraising auction for GAPAC and the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition. 4-9PM. \$5. Also appearing: Carolyn Mobley and the cast of Lipstix.

"THE CAMERA AND THE IMAGE, 1880-1932". Mon., July 10-September 21. Part of the 150th anniversary of photography's advent. High Museum of Art at the Georgia-Pacific Center. 133 Peachtree St. 577-6940.

## Fundraisers

**DIFFERENT** presents an evening to benefit Project Open Hand. Tues., July 11, 8 PM. Seven Stages Theatre. 523-7647 for reservations.

**FUNDRAISER—"WOMEN FOR WORLD SERIES."** Fri., July 14 at 7:30 PM. An auction to raise funds for Series '89 Atlanta held by the women's division of the Atlanta Softball League. Lanier Plaza. 892-8682.

**GAPAC & PETRUS** present **LAGNIAPPE**. Sun., July 16, 4-9 PM. Fundraising auction to benefit "GAPAC News" and Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition. Food, drink and entertainment including Sam Baker, Lipstix cast and Carolyn Mobley. \$5. Petrus, 1150 Peachtree St. 368-7420.

**DIFFERENT** presents an evening for Southern Voice readers. Tues., July 18, 8 PM. Seven Stages Theatre. 523-7647 for reservations.

## Literature

**SCANDANAVIAN WOMEN WRITERS.** Thurs., July 13, 7:30 PM. Translating the best of contemporary works by women writers, this program is sponsored by the Scandinavian-American Foundation of Georgia. Charis Books & More. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

**BOOK SIGNING.** Fri., July 14, 4-6 PM. Photographer Billy Howard will autograph copies of his book, "Epiaphs for the Living: Words and Images in the Time of AIDS". Oxford Books. 2345 Peachtree Rd. 262-3333.

**BOOK SIGNING.** Wed., July 19, 4-6 PM. Kay Gibbons will sign her new gem of a novel, *A Virtuous Woman*. Oxford Books. 2345 Peachtree Rd. 262-3333.

## Meetings

"SHARING OUR COMING OUT STORIES". Thurs., July 6, 7:30 PM. Enrich your sense of 'herstory' and culture by telling your rite of passage of coming out. Connie Tuttle, M. Div., will facilitate. Charis Books & More. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

**CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM.** Fri., July 7, 8:30 PM. All Saints Episcopal Church. 642-3467.

**ACT UP.** Tues., July 11 & 18, 7:30 PM. 131 Ponce de Leon, Suite 233. 286-6247.

**CIRCLE OF HEALING.** Sun., July 16, 4 PM. First Existentialist Church.

**P-FLAG.** Sun., July 16, 5:00 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Church. 961-6085.

**PLGC.** Sun., July 16, 373-5830.

**LEGAL.** Mon., July 17, 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. 289-6358.

**WOW.** Mon., July 17, 7:30 PM. N. Highland Branch Library. 984-9929.

**ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter.** Wed., July 19, 7:30 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. 231-5991.

**CHRYSALIS WOMEN'S CENTER.** Every Fri., 7-8:30 PM. Professionally lead support group for lesbians. Call for directions. 881-6300.

## Movies

**THE ROARING TWENTIES.** Sat., July 8, 8 PM. Action packed black and white gangster classic stars Cagney and Bogart. \$3. Rich Auditorium, High Museum. 1280 Peachtree St. 892-3600, ext. 434.

**NINOTCHKA.** Sat., July 15, 8 PM. Delightful political satire starring Garbo, who does more than look mysterious in this one, and Melvyn Douglas. \$3. Rich Auditorium, High Museum. 1280 Peachtree St. 892-3600, ext. 434.

## Music

**THE COOLIES.** Fri., July 7, 10 PM. Cotton Club. 1021 Peachtree St. \$7. 874-2523.

**HOLLY FAITH.** Fri., July 7. With Steel Blue Sky. The Point. 420 Moreland Ave. in Little Five Points. \$4. 577-6468.

**DRIVIN' 'N CRYIN'.** Fri., July 7. Supposed to be great. At the Fox. \$14.50. 881-2000.

**INDIGO GIRLS.** Sat., July 8. Holly Faith opens. Fresh from their success as national touring/recording artists in an exclusive engagement at The Roxy in Buckhead. All ages admitted. 3110 Roswell Rd. 231-5811.

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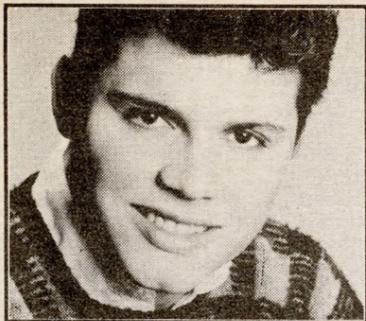


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**Tony DeSario**

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**Claim to Fame:** Performed with Liberace



**Lauren Colby**

**Occupation:** Professional Impersonator  
**Claim to Fame:** Miss America 1985, 1986

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## Art

**19TH CENTURY ROCOCO REVIVAL DECORATIVE ARTS.** Sat., July 8, 2 PM. Docent Rosalind Magargoe discusses the High Museum of Art's permanent collection, including the set attributed to John Henry Beller. HMA, Second Floor, 1280 Peachtree St.

**CARLTON COBB GALLERY AT TULA.** Fri., July 14. New works by Kathy Ammon, David Mott, Marvin Markman, Arturo Lindsay, Michael Simpson and Mark Vinci. 75 Bennett St. 355-5676.

**LOCAL ARTISTS.** There is a call for local artists to exhibit their work this September at the annual Olde English Festival. A major portion of the 1989 profits will go to support Atlanta's Jerusalem House, a residence for homeless people with AIDS. For more info, contact Tom Broyles at 455-1902.

**THE TOWER.** Sat., July 16, 3 PM until: Patio Pool Party and Special Surprises! Every Tues: Cool jazz and hot wings. Every Wed: Pool Tournament and Pizza. Open to all members of the gay/lesbian community. 735 Ralph McGill Blvd. 688-5463.

**BULLDOG & CO. HEE HAW HOEDOWN.** Help us celebrate our ELEVENTH anniversary! Sun., July 16: Tom Levi and wet jockey contest. Mon., July 17, 7 PM: Deia Kaye performs. Tues., July 18: Anniversary Celebration and Cook-out. Open daily. 872-3025.

**BUDDIES.** Every Sat., Noon-8 PM: Free tacos with pitchers of margaritas. Every Sun., 4 PM: Cook-out. Open daily at Noon. Cheshire Square, 2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 634-5895.

**CLUB 551 DOWNSTAIRS.** Features Live Entertainment. Fri. & Sat., 11 PM & 1 AM: Female Impersonation. Tues. & Thurs., 10:30 PM & Midnight: Bare Expressions. 551 Ponce de Leon Ave. 873-4052.

**LIPSTIX.** Female Impersonation in Atlanta. Wed., Thurs. & Sun., 10 PM & Midnight. Fri. & Sat., 11PM & 1 AM. Reservations suggested. Cheshire Square, 2329 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 633-0452.

**THE GREAT SOUTHEASTERN LAFF-OFF.** The Punchline Comedy Club, June through August 22. Sponsored by Abbadabba's and Birkenstock. Winners of the laff-off receive a pair of Birkenstock comfort footwear and more. For more info call 252-0394.

## Comedy

**ZOO ATLANTA.** Sat., July 8: Help celebrate Willie B's 31st birthday. New outdoor habitat, *Masaimara*, recreates an African Savannah in Atlanta. Weekdays, 10AM-4:30 PM. Weekends, 10 AM-5:30 PM. Adults, \$5.75. Children, \$3. Age 3 and under, free. Group rates, reservations and advance tickets available. Grant Park. 624-5600.

## Exhibits

# 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

Summer 1989

## INSIDE

Jackson/Lomax Interviewed...

Davis, Steinberg Speak...

GAPACComments...

City Council Demystified...

... And More!

## UNSPEAKABLE QUOTES

... Dan Quayle appeared less than impressed by the turnout (for the abortion rights march in Washington). The Vice President said the march was "nothing unusual in this town."  
— 11 April 1989, *New York Times*, p7

... Sen. (Dan) Quayle had told Mr. Fenno: "It doesn't do any good to take a pure position against government when there are national problems that have to be solved." He said he wanted to steer clear of the Judiciary Committee. "They are going to be dealing with all of those issues like abortion, busing, voting rights, prayers. I'm not interested in those issues, and I want to stay as far away from them as I can."

What, I (Tom Bethell of *The American Spectator*) asked, about that avowed avoidance? "I very much decided not to get on the Judiciary Committee," he said. "There were a lot of very sensitive, divisive social issues and I didn't want to spend a lot of time. I knew where I stood on those issues; and I think that they are issues that don't take a lot of debate..."

Editors' note: That's it, Dan, don't cloud your perceptions with thought.

"... I was far more interested in Armed Services."

Editor's note: Except when he was draft age.

— from a commentary piece about interviewing Vice President Quayle, 31 March 1989, *Wall Street Journal*, p A14.

## GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY WINS MAYORAL ELECTION

On Tuesday, May 16th, 1989, GAPAC conducted interviews with both announced candidates for the office of Mayor of Atlanta: Maynard Jackson and Michael Lomax.

Though GAPAC has been interviewing and evaluating locally elected officials for over four years, these mayoral interviews are an historic milestone in the political coming of age of Atlanta's gay and lesbian community. Never before have candidates for mayor of the largest city in the South publicly, aggressively and early in their campaigns solicited the support, concerns and votes of their gay and lesbian electorate. Both candidates have, or will soon have, a published gay and lesbian agenda as part of their official platforms, and both have sought the advice and guidance of our community's best and brightest in developing their human rights agendas. In addition, both have appeared serious and sincere in these efforts.

Along with this exciting recognition of our political significance, comes an enormous responsibility for our community. While our political strength (money and votes) has been recognized, it is, as yet, only a potential strength. True political power, and a legitimate place in the power structure of this city, can only happen when we step forward and claim that power. This we do by participating in the political process. How do we participate? We stay informed, we support with time or money the candidates that favor our issues, but most importantly WE VOTE!—and when possible we vote together.

A good example of group voting power is the senior citizens of our country. They are not only one of the fastest growing political groups, but statistically they are informed on their issues, over

80% of their group votes, they vote in every election and they tend to vote as a bloc. Informed politicians see this same potential in the gay and lesbian communities. Our time to be recognized has arrived.

GAPAC presents these mayoral interviews to help you, the gay and lesbian voter, intelligently participate in this process.

We as a community have been challenged to be a determining factor in the outcome of Atlanta's mayoral race, and we have been assured by both candidates that our issues are of major concern to them.

While this historic phenomenon is exciting, it will remain short-lived if we do not meet the challenge with active participation in the political process.

Read these interviews, assess the facts, and listen to these candidates over the next few months. Both candidates will be speaking at gay fundraisers, as well as MACGLO and other events. Use these interviews to formulate questions that are of special interest to you and help make the candidates accountable for their statements.

It is important that we do not lull ourselves into a sense of complacency by thinking that whomever wins, our community wins. While we are certainly fortunate to have two strong human rights advocates as candidates for mayor, it is still incumbent upon us as citizens to determine who can best run the city.

GAPAC conducted these interviews for your information without critical commentary. The mid-September edition of GAPAC News will be a critical assessment of our look at the candidates for city government. Watch for this edition to be inserted in *Southern Voice*, or in your mailbox, if you're on our list.

By Peter Whiteside

## CITIZEN INPUT IS KEY THAT OPENS POLITICAL DOORS AT THE LEGISLATURE

by Cathy W. Steinberg  
Special to the *Journal Constitution*

When the 1989 Georgia General Assembly convenes tomorrow, I will return to private life (at least for the time being) after serving in that body for 12 years.

During those dozen years, I have often thought about how and why I ran for public office. Now as this life change occurs for me, I find myself thinking about the critical importance of staying involved in the political process.

I've talked with hundreds of people about this topic during my tenure in the General Assembly. I've come to learn that many people feel no connection with the political process.

The responses I hear include such comments as "The issues

don't pertain to me."; "My input doesn't make any difference"; "I don't know who to communicate with"; "I can't follow what's going on"; or "I'm too busy with other things."

Well educated, enlightened individuals will reluctantly admit that they don't know who their legislators are or don't really understand what is going on at the state Capitol. These folks are often uncomfortable and perhaps even embarrassed to try to get basic information about the state law making process, feeling that they "should know".

There are several reasons for this limited interest in the state legislature, especially among metro Atlanta residents.

It is harder for Atlanta area residents to know who their legislators are because there is often

more competition for elected office in their communities and thus more turnover in legislative ranks.

Also, many Atlantans are new in their community and have not had time to familiarize themselves with the names of all their local officials.

Moreover, legislators in urban areas are much less likely to interact with the public on a daily basis. In rural communities, the local legislator might be at the downtown coffee shop almost every morning, or might be the town's pharmacist or funeral director.

In rapidly growing communities, issues addressed by city government or county commissioners often take precedence. When families do

(continued on page 3)

# Letter to the Editor

April 6, 1989

Dear Editor,

I very much enjoyed reading your spring '89 edition of GAPAC News. It was highly informative and very well done.

I am confused on one point, however. On the front page you mentioned the Journal Constitution vacillating on some issue that I expected to find inside the news. The only reference I think I found was your comment that the Journal Constitution killed an op-ed piece written by Steve Schmidt.

If this is true, I would appreciate an elaboration. The Journal Constitution should encourage the submission of articles such as this.

Sincerely,  
Shirl I. Humphrys, Atlanta, Georgia

EDITORS NOTE: On June 19, 1988, the Journal Constitution ran an editorial opposed to gays in the military. When a letter responding to the editorial was delivered by a GAPAC representative, an editor suggested submitting an op-ed piece which would permit more room to develop a "pro" case. This was done, and it was finally set to run in early October (ironically, about the time Sgt. Watkins' case was being heard by the full 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.) When the op-ed piece didn't appear, inquiries were made directly and indirectly. Directly, GAPAC was told the paper ran out of space. Indirectly, GAPAC found out that the piece was killed for reasons which have never been explained to us.

## 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 COMMENTARY

### - A HOUSE DIVIDED -

Creative Loafing recently ran a cover story on gay bashing. The article explored the upsurge of incidents, going into the harrowing details of a recently documented case. The victim, a gay man, intimately experienced the horror of believing in his imminent death. He was probably right: he came very close. His physical wounds will undoubtedly heal much faster than his psyche as the emotional toll of this battery remains lodged forever in memory. This story, however, reveals a community wound as well.

We have a guerilla war on our collective hands. This nasty little war threatens not only to damage our internal community with divisiveness, but worse, risks a scenario in which those of our community who depend on their representatives to speak in their defense, find these folks too busy challenging each other for turf rights.

And it goes beyond this: it threatens to damage our political viability. When government officials are bewildered as to whom they should speak, or with whom they should coordinate, they end up speaking and coordinating with no one. This war makes us look silly and petty, like a group of errant children who just can't make up long enough to keep our eyes on the prize.

The author of the Creative Loafing article said that he had never heard of the Police Advisory Committee, the group guided by the Gay/Lesbian Chapter of the ACLU. Not only that, he had never heard of even a whisper of a group known as MACGLO, the Metro Council of most gay/lesbian organizations in Atlanta.

The only gay organization to which the author was steered by his editor was the Atlanta Gay Center. This is the organization which has made a power bid to be the voice of the community in police affairs. Not surprisingly, they did not apprise the author that there are other sources of information from our community.

Also not surprisingly, this is the same organization whose newspaper printed a cartoon showing the ACLU Police Advisory Chair-person, Cathy Woolard, depicted as a dog on the Commissioner's leash. This has been pluralized to include the Laymon cartoon. GAPAC is the first to acknowledge that we must defend the rights of publications to print editorial cartoons. We also recognize that public persons taking positions on controversial issues must expect to be the subject of criticism. That criticism, however, must be legitimate, factual, and, in especially in matters of such great import, constructive.

Questions of lousy taste and dubious intent aside, the major point of this shocking display of malice is that it vividly reinforces a growing suspicion within the community that the Gay Center is too heavily invested in its own position to join in a settlement of whatever differences started this mess. What it betrays is a frustrated institution, laden with scores to settle (real or imagined).

The Gay Center Board has dug its trenches and loosed its volleys; and thus far the community, in fear of publicizing a serious breach among the bastions that are our organizations, has kept mum.

It's a petty, confusing, long drawn-out battle between an entrenched Gay Center and the rest of the community as represented by MACGLO. The Gay Center and MACGLO must work to resolve this problem.

We think the whole situation stinks. As a community under siege from right wing forces, we cannot afford this kind of absurdity. This problem must be resolved and resolved now.

It will take great fortitude on our community's behalf to endure what could well be an excruciating self-examination, and courage by the participants to honestly examine their motives. If it takes a complete house-cleaning of our community officialdom as a demonstration of pure intent, then so be it. It may be better to start off with a clean slate than to have to translate old history that has been so often rewritten to support the positions of the aggrieved.

The potential power of a truly representative Gay Center, capable of uniting the whole community, was amply demonstrated when it served MACGLO as the clearinghouse for the resistance to repeal of the Gay Rights Ordinance. They have a facility that should be home to us all; they have hotlines to conduit information that should be shared with the other organizations working on all our behalf. They should be central to the community, not adjacent to it.

We have enough to keep us all busy. We certainly don't need to be sniping at each other. Let's get this resolved, NOW.

## UNSPEAKABLE QUOTES

"I won't make a blanket indictment of any group ever again in my life," said Mr. (Morton) Downey, who offered to tape television spots decrying violence toward gays... He said he has a brother and at least 20 gay friends with AIDS "Who I will bury."

— 24 April 1989, *Atlanta Constitution*, p A2

Meanwhile, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation asserted that Mennen (Company) had "bowed to pressure from Christian fundamentalist groups" and ended its advertising on "Heartbeat" because the series included a lesbian nurse. It cited a letter by Mr. (Rev. Donald E.) Wildmon (head of the American Family Association in Tupelo, MS) to his followers that it said "expressed incredulity that ABC would introduce a lesbian character 'at a time when AIDS is killing thousands of homosexuals.'"

— 11 April 1989, *New York Times*, p45

Editors' note: All gays and lesbians look alike, too.

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## GAY AND LESBIAN POLITICAL POWER - A COUNCILMEMBER'S VIEW

*Along time friend of and advocate for the Lesbian/Gay community, Councilmember Mary Davis represents Council District 6. Serving her third term, Ms. Davis chairs the Zoning Committee.*



I've been asked to write about my perception of the lesbian and gay community's political power in Atlanta, and I must say I am excited by the successes of the past few years, and pleased to have been able to support the lesbian/gay community through my work on the Atlanta City Council.

Among my efforts through the past years to raise consciousness and achieve real change within the City Hall bureaucracy and the broader community are:

I was an original sponsor of the Atlanta ordinance barring discrimination in city employment against gays and lesbians. The ordinance was passed in 1986, and we withstood a repeal effort later that year, with only 3 of the 18 councilmembers voting for repeal.

I also worked hard when I came on Council in 1979 to end police discrimination against lesbians and gays, and I served on the initial Lesbian/Gay ACLU Police Advisory Committee. I am still working with the department to end any continuing harassment and encourage lesbian/gay recruits.

I was the first councilmember to sponsor legislation proclaiming Lesbian/Gay Pride Day. I sponsored AIDS training for city employees and serve on the state AIDS Task Force.

And in 1988, I sponsored an ordinance to rename the Virginia-Highland Park after the late John Howell, my friend and a respected leader of the lesbian/gay community. I believe that John was the first openly gay appointed official in Georgia, and that the park is the first in the Southeast to be named for a lesbian or gay person.

But the success of the lesbian/gay community has not been limited to City of Atlanta affairs. Atlantans attended the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay Rights in record numbers.

The first local Human Rights Campaign Fund gala was held in 1988 at the Marriott Marquis raising tens of thousands of dollars for national lobbying, and was attended by national civil rights leaders and politicians.

GAPAC distributes candidate questionnaires in many parts of the metro area with increasing levels of responsiveness. The lesbian/gay Democratic club, LEGAL, successfully placed a lesbian and a gay man as delegates

to the Democratic National Convention from the Fourth Congressional District and ten members on the DeKalb Democratic Party Steering Committee. The Metro Council continues to grow, Lesbian/Gay/Pride events multiply, and lesbian and gay friends, couples, and families continue to move into and improve neighborhood after neighborhood.

This growing openness is not entirely new. In the neighborhoods I represent, lesbian and gay citizens have had neighborhood and political influence for many, many years. I know that I was first elected to Council back in 1978 largely because of the support I received from the lesbian/gay community plus other neighborhood activists. John Lewis openly courted the lesbian/gay vote and came-from-behind to win the Fifth Congressional District in 1986. The impact of organized lesbian and gay support continues to be important in many campaigns, including the current mayoral campaign in which both major candidates are actively courting gay and lesbian support. In political terms, Atlanta's lesbians and gays have much to teach other lesbian/gay communities in the Southeast.

Yet when compared with San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York, or even with Midwestern cities such as Chicago and Minneapolis, Atlanta has much left to do.

It is still a felony in Georgia, punishable by up to ten years in prison, for persons of the same sex to even ask one another to have sexual relations. Lesbians and gays too often remain sadly invisible in corporate and community affairs. No laws protect lesbians and gays from discrimination in the private sector anywhere in Georgia. (By the way, state law does not allow cities to pass anti-discrimination ordinances relating to the private sector. Counties must pass such ordinances.) Many suburban and state politicians still find it acceptable to openly denounce gays and lesbians, creating an atmosphere that encourages violence.

I'd like to offer my encouragement for your efforts, and my suggestions for your continuing the development of long-term political strength for the lesbian/gay community:

1) Develop a strong local lobbying fund. National gay lobbying groups are successful because they have money to contribute to candidates. The lesbian/gay community needs to develop local and state political relationships, especially on the state and county level where there is real power to pass anti-discrimination laws and reform the sodomy laws. Campaign contributions help politicians "come out" and support lesbian/gay rights. (So does volunteer support.)

2) Be open. I'd like to see 30,000 people or more at Lesbian/Gay Pride Day, and I believe that's possible with the large community here! People usually change long-held prejudices based on their personal experiences, so it is very, very important that lesbians and

gays be visible born as a community and in the community. This takes great courage, but it is very important to success. Continue to stress community-building social, religious, and artistic events and make activism fun. Most of all, be confident of your strength as a community!

3) Broaden your involvement. Become involved in grassroots non-gay political structures throughout the metro area, wherever you live. Develop

coalitions with other groups-neighborhood, health, educational, feminist, and environmental groups often share similar concerns as lesbian/gay organizations. Together you can build leadership experience and political clout. Repeat present successes elsewhere. Lobby for municipal ordinances in smaller cities such as Decatur and Marietta. Lobby for county ordinances in Fulton and DeKalb.

*Let them know you are there!*

### KEY THAT OPENS DOORS...*(continued from page 1)*

become involved, it's usually with local school or zoning issues. What goes on "down at the Gold Dome" 40 days a year seems much less significant than the daily traffic problem outside their subdivision.

Of course local issues are of immediate consequence to our daily lives. But let me suggest that the laws passed at the Statehouse do affect us profoundly.

The General Assembly passes laws pertaining to domestic violence, child abuse, child support, divorce and inheritance. On health care issues, legislators decide everything from what optometrists can do to who should be tested for AIDS. (The lawmakers also tackle insurance reform, environmental problems, criminal justice issues, homelessness, and business concerns.)

The state budget of more than \$6 billion affects everything from teachers' salaries to funding for Zoo Atlanta. And our tax structure affects every dollar we earn and most every penny we spend.

Should Sandy Springs be incorporated? Should Gwinnett County have a different form of government? Should citizens be allowed to recall their elected officials? The very structure and operation of our local governments are in fact authorized by the state legislature.

State lawmaking is truly the heart of so much that makes a difference to us. To assure that Georgia's quality of life is maintained, I believe we must be involved not only with our jobs and our family but with all levels of government.

Here are some observations that I hope will encourage more active citizen involvement:

1. It's easy to find out who your state legislators are. Just call your county voting registration office. Upon giving your name and address, you will receive the names of your state representative and state senator.

2. You can make a difference. I have sometimes formulated my position on a legislative issue based on one individual's input. On most issues it's unusual to hear from more than a handful of people. Legislators often are forced to make decisions without input from their constituents and thus have to guess

their district's point of view. Only afterward might the legislator hear criticism for voting the wrong way.

3. Lawmakers do care. Politicians are not regarded very highly as a class. But most lawmakers want to properly represent their constituency.

4. You are entitled to be involved. Citizens may perceive public officials as unapproachable. But remember, they are elected by the people and for the people. State lawmakers are accessible if given a chance. They will return your phone call, answer your letter or meet with you.

5. Your input assures sound decision making. Legislators hear frequently from people with special interest in an issue. It's important that all sides of an issue be heard- consumers as well as businesses, patients as well as doctors, parents and teachers.

6. You don't need to know a lot and it's OK to ask.

The political process is not as complicated or as hard to understand as it seems. Most legislators themselves are not professional politicians but rather come from the same walks of life as you and I do- they are homemakers, business people, farmers, even service station owners. When I was first elected to the Georgia House in 1976, I was the mother of two young children, I had lived in Georgia only five years and, I reluctantly confess, I had never been to the state Capitol.

Lawmakers gain a great deal when they experience a lot of give-and-take with the general public. They grow by being exposed to all sides of an issue. Continued citizen input assures better representation and thus a better Georgia.

*Former State Rep. Cathy W. Steinberg gave up her Seat last year to run for the Public Service Commission and was defeated by Bobby Rowan in the Democratic Party run-off election.*

*(This article first appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution FORUM. It is reprinted with the permission of the Journal Constitution and the author. FORUM is an outlet for commentary by Georgia residents on issues of local, state, or national concern.)*

## HELP WANTED !!

Volunteers wanted to interview City Council candidates.

No experience needed — will train.

If interested, call Ned Mitchell at 428-0122, or Judy Colbs at 875-9440.

## UNSPEAKABLE QUOTES

*But then state Sen. David Scott, railing against a request for a special use permit that will allow the operation of a medical waste incinerator, galvanizes the crowd as he warns of AIDS being released into the air and contaminated blood being spilled on the streets. Murmurs and a loud "boo" greet his rhetoric.*

— 27 May 1989  
*Creative Loafing*, p14A

Editors' Note: As our friend Dick Rhodes pointed out: "We must educate Sen. Scott!" We agree. Call to wish him a happy birthday on June 27th—and educate him on AIDS.

His office number is 656-0900. Or write him at the State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334; or at 190 Wendell Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30315.

## 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**

## WHO ADMINISTERS YOUR CITY

### ... AND HOW

*Information serving as the basis of this article is contained in a publication titled "Your Atlanta City Council", which was provided by Robert E. Anderson, Director of Communications, Atlanta City Council. You may obtain your own copy of this publication by calling 330-6030.*

The city council was established in 1974 by a change in the city charter. Prior to that time the legislative branch of city government was called the Board of Aldermen, with each alderman standing for election city wide.

The 1974 charter changed the board to the City Council, named the vice-mayor as president of the council, and established twelve district-wide seats and six at-large seats.

The most significant change in the 1974 charter transferred responsibility for the daily administrative operation of the city from the council to the mayor, vesting legislative authority in the council. The council became responsible for the development of policies serving as the operational standard for city government.

The legislative process provides that legislation may be introduced either by councilmembers as a "personal paper", or as a committee report. As a general rule all legislation is referred to a committee for evaluation.

Legislation is introduced either in the form of an ordinance or a resolution. An ordinance establishes a permanent rule of government. Every official act of the council having the force of law must be introduced in the form of an ordinance. Resolutions express

the intent of the council to support projects or to establish policy of a general nature.

The full council meets on the first and third Monday of each month. As many as 150 pieces of legislation may be considered.

Committees meet at other times during the month to consider legislation and to make recommendations to the full council.

The council may, by majority vote, either accept or reject committee recommendations. If legislation is approved by the council, it is sent to the mayor for his signature. The mayor has eight days to approve or veto legislation. If the mayor does nothing during this period, the legislation automatically becomes law. If vetoed, the council may override with a two-thirds vote.

The council consists of 18 members. Twelve of the members are elected from single member districts. Six are elected at large. The president of the council is elected in an at large election. The president presides at all meetings and votes only in the case of a tie. Other duties include the appointment of chairpersons and members to committees, and the authority to act as mayor in the event of a vacancy, or disability of the mayor. Council members are elected for four year terms and are paid an annual salary of \$18,400. The president earns \$21,800.

All members stand for election at the same time. The (next election is scheduled for Oct. 3, 1989.

Council operates under a committee system with nine standing committees. These

committees are:

**Committee on Council...** acts on matters relating to the operation of council, executive branch appointments subject to council approval, elections, rules, and ethics

**City Utilities...** exercises responsibility over public works, streets, sanitation water, and cable TV

**Community Development...** considers issues relating to planning and development, land use, housing code enforcement, and urban redevelopment

**Executive...** recommends on matters regarding personnel and civil service, contracts, and inter-governmental relations

**Finance...** handles matters relating to taxation, public revenue, licensing and pension funds

**Human Resources...** manages matters related to parks and recreation, health and welfare, and community services and consumer affairs

**Public Safety & Legal Administration...** considers matters regarding public safety, the Bureau of Police Services, the Bureau of Fire Services, city courts, and the city prison farm

**Transportation...** recommends on matters pertaining to the airport, traffic engineering, parking facilities and MARTA

**Zoning...** handles issues relating to zoning and the Bureau of Buildings.

## ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL 1989 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Marvin S. Arrington, President

### City Utilities

Ira Jackson, Chair  
Myrtle Davis  
Victor Maslia  
Robb Pitts  
Barbara Asher  
Jim Maddox  
Dozier Smith

### Community Development

Robb Pitts, Chair  
Victor Maslia  
Archie Byron  
Hosea Williams  
Myrtle Davis  
Bill Campbell  
Ira Jackson

### Committee on Council

Archie Byron, Chair  
Buddy Fowlkes  
Elaine Valentine  
Dozier Smith  
Jabari Simama  
Debby McCarty  
Ira Jackson

### Executive

Carolyn Long Banks, Chair  
Jabari Simama  
Mary Davis  
Elaine Valentine  
Bill Campbell  
Barbara Asher  
Morris Finley

### Finance

Myrtle Davis, Chair  
Barbara Asher  
Jim Maddox  
Dozier Smith  
Thomas Cuffie  
Bill Campbell  
Robb Pitts

### Human Resources

Hosea Williams, Chair  
Jabari Simama  
Carolyn Long Banks  
Mary Davis  
Morris Finley  
Jim Maddox  
Robb Pitts

### Public Safety & Legal Adminis.

Thomas Cuffie, Chair  
Archie Brown  
Buddy Fowlkes  
Morris Finley  
Dozier Smith  
Victor Maslia  
Hosea Williams

### Transportation

Buddy Fowlkes, Chair  
Debby McCarty  
Hosea Williams  
Bill Campbell  
Ira Jackson  
Thomas Cuffie  
Victor Maslia

### Zoning

Mary Davis, Chair  
Barbara Asher  
Archie Byron  
Jim Maddox  
Elaine Valentine  
Carolyn Long-Banks  
Debby McCarty

# THE BODY POLITIC

## GAPAC INTERVIEWS MAJOR ATLANTA MAYORAL CANDIDATES

The Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition, your gay/lesbian political action committee, interviewed the two current contenders for the mayoralty of Atlanta, Maynard Jackson and Michael Lomax.

Of all the functions that GAPAC serves for our community, one of the most enjoyable is to educate said officials about our community. The format of our questions reflects this intent: that the candidates, and the community at large, remember that we

are concerned about all the issues that face our city. After all, we are citizens of the larger community as well as our own... and pay the taxes to prove it.

Therefore, though the questionnaire appeared long (and the interviews ran well over an hour), the final draft that follows is a very pared-down version of all our concerns. Should you find something missing that you feel should certainly be included in future, please write us. We welcome your input.

### I. ETHICS

a. How do you propose to take the lead in strengthening standards of ethics for City employees administrative aides, department heads, and members of Council?

JACKSON

"During my administration, in 1981 I charged Felker Ward and Randy Thrower with developing a code of ethics for the city. If you do not have a copy I will be happy to make one available to you."

"I believe we should always focus on avoiding major conflicts of interest. What we need now is a mechanism to find problems and ferret out the truth and an ethics commission that has power."

LOMAX

"I have been a leader in developing standards of ethics in Fulton Co. I sponsored the new and strengthened Lomax Code of Ethics, which closes loopholes."

"As an elected official I am required to disclose my campaign contributions while my opponent is not. Whether required or not I believe in full, regular, complete disclosure. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution investigated ten years of my campaign contributions, approximately \$700,000, and found only five contributions to question."



MAYNARD JACKSON

Maynard Jackson was born in Dallas, Texas, in 1938. At age seven his family moved to Atlanta where his father became pastor of Friendship Baptist Church.

Mr. Jackson graduated from Morehouse College as a Ford Foundation Early Admission Scholar with a B.A. in political science and history. He later graduated cum laude from the North Carolina Central University School of Law. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a Trustee of Morehouse College.

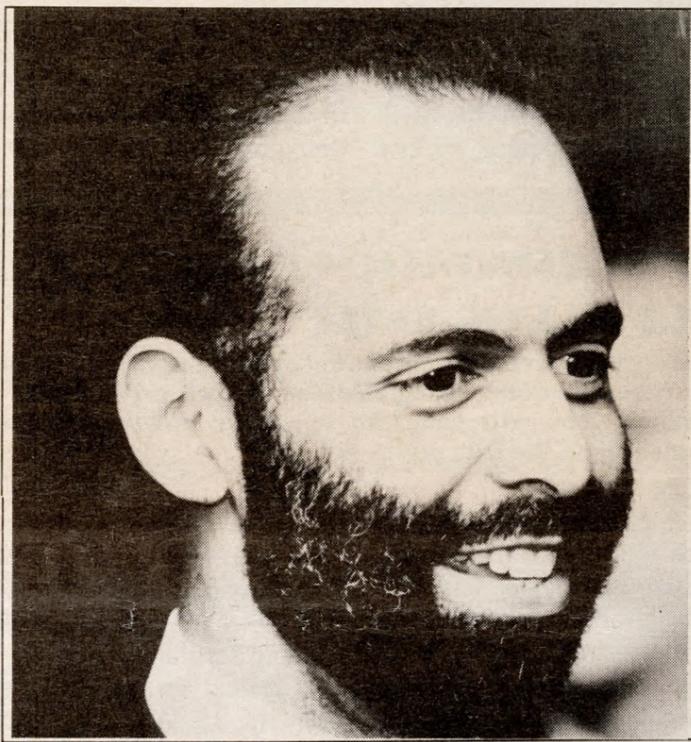
After law school Mr. Jackson practiced law in Atlanta, at first with the National Labor Relations Board, and later in private practice with the law firm of Jackson, Patterson, Parks and Franklin.

After the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, Jackson ran for the U.S. Senate seat held by Herman Talmadge. Talmadge won but Mr. Jackson carried Atlanta by a majority of 6,000 votes. A year later, at age 31, he was elected Vice-Mayor of Atlanta.

In 1973 Mr. Jackson was elected the first black mayor of Atlanta. In 1977 he was re-elected to a second term. Prohibited by law from running for a third consecutive term, Mr. Jackson returned to the private practice of law as Managing Partner of the Atlanta office of Chapman and Cutler—a firm specializing in corporate, municipal and state finance.

Mr. Jackson is a member of the Executive Committees of the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Party of Georgia. He has served as President of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, Chairman of the U.S. Local Government Energy Policy Advisory Committee, Founding Chairman of the Atlanta Economic Development Corporation, Chairman of the Urban Residential Finance Authority of the City of Atlanta, and he is a member of the President's National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Mr. Jackson is the father of four daughters and one son and is married to Valerie Richardson Jackson (M.B.A., Wharton School of finance and Commerce), a marketing professional and President of Jackmont, Inc.



MICHAEL LOMAX

Michael Lomax entered Morehouse College at age 16 as part of the early admissions program. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and went on to earn a masters degree from Columbia University and a doctorate from Emory University. He currently teaches English at Spelman College and at the University of Georgia. Mr. Lomax serves as Chairman of the Fulton County Commission.

His major community affiliations have included Leadership Atlanta, United Way, the Atlanta-Fulton County Library, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and the Fulton County Board of Health. Nationally, Mr. Lomax is a member of Sigma Pi Phi, the prestigious fraternal organization of black leaders, and of the School of Advanced International Studies, part of Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Lomax lives in Adams Park in southwest Atlanta with his wife, Cheryl (C.P.A. with the Coca-Cola Co.), and daughter, Deignan. They attend the First Congregational Church downtown, where Mr. Lomax is a deacon.

This biographical background on the two announced candidates was provided by their campaigns.

## II. ORDINANCES

b. Would you support a stronger City ordinance governing the following areas:

- length of time after leaving office before entering into business with the City and
- limits to campaign contributions by groups with a financial interest in City policies or actions?

JACKSON

"When one is in public office anything you do that is wrong or unethical opens you to the most serious kind of scrutiny. If you're not prepared for that then don't be in public service.

"At present one must wait six months after leaving office before entering into business with the city. I agree with this and would be open to making the amount of time longer.

"Campaign contributions from those with city contracts, as well as from individuals, should be regulated with a maximum amount set. Incumbents should be prohibited from receiving donations from city contractors.

"In addition, as mayor I will propose that campaigns for city

office be limited to 90 days with a cap on both campaign and individual donations. Unfortunately I cannot do this now voluntarily while Mr. Lomax is receiving large donations from people such as Holder and Portman."

LOMAX

"I not only support but will take a lead in lengthening the period of time between leaving office and doing business with the city. I further support there being a one year waiting period between doing business with the city and running for city office. Currently my opponent and his relatives are doing business with the city."

## IV. REPRESENTATION / DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

a. As history has proven, minorities not openly employed by a police force run the risk of not being afforded the full protection of that force. What steps will you take to ensure openly gay/lesbian representation on the City police force?

JACKSON

"The city should recruit everyone who is qualified. I am not familiar with the city's current recruiting process, but it should recruit to ensure the absence of discrimination. I am not opposed to advertising for recruits in the gay and lesbian press."

LOMAX

"As mayor I will issue a directive prohibiting discrimination in hiring, training, and firing of officers based on sexual discrimination.

I intend to see that the city recruits in all of Atlanta's communities."

b. What is your opinion of George Napper's statement to the gay press that he would not recruit gays for the police department?

*INTERVIEWER'S NOTE: Both candidates were familiar with, but lacked detailed knowledge of, Napper's statement. Nevertheless, Both indicated that they would include the use of the gay press recruitment was done through local publications.*

c. How will you insure that qualified gays and lesbians serve on the city's Boards and Commissions?

JACKSON

"I am committed to including gays and lesbians in city appointments. I intend to seek recommendations from the community for names of qualified gays and lesbians to serve.

LOMAX

"I have demonstrated sensitivity in appointing the first paid gay liaison on a campaign staff. If elected I will have one person on my staff with direct responsibility. I will appoint empowered members of the gay and lesbian community when appropriate."

d. Do you support training of city department heads on their role in ensuring the success of the Non-Discrimination Ordinance?

JACKSON

"I believe there needs to be periodic training of managers on new and existing policies. Managers should know their mission. I will not tolerate abuses. All civil rights must be respected and enforced. It is important that people understand the desirability of the city's support for non-discrimination."

LOMAX

"Managers should know the law, and know that as mayor I would demand strict compliance of the Non-Discrimination Ordinance. Training should take place at all levels and include sensitivity training. Training could be done through the Personnel Department."

## III. REPRESENTATION/CIVIL RIGHTS

a. What steps will you take to ensure equal employment opportunity for gays and lesbians by the City or its contractors? How will you ensure the City's fair handling of any grievances concerning hiring or harassment due to sexual orientation?

JACKSON

The mayor must ensure that there are equal employment opportunities by sending a strong signal from the top that discrimination will not be tolerated. Employee morale is based on trust in the system.

In the past, the Personnel Board has been the vehicle through which grievances were aired. As mayor I would have those procedures reviewed by a panel that I guarantee will include several members of the gay and lesbian community. I would look to MACGLO or whoever is appropriate for recommendations of gay and lesbian city residents to serve on this and other panels. I wish to emphasize that I will look to the gay and lesbian community to share their ideas in addressing this and other issues affecting their community."

LOMAX

"I view gay and lesbian discrimination as a civil rights violation. Gays and lesbians should be protected as a class."

"As mayor I will ensure that all city publications, stationery, contracts and subcontracts will include the words 'sexual orientation' in the non-discrimination statement."

"In addition I will extend to gays and lesbians a strongly enforced statutory protection against discrimination in all city directed, or city related employment, housing, or public accommodations."

b. Will you support the strengthening of the City's Non-Discrimination Ordinance? How?

*INTERVIEWERS NOTE: Both candidates expressed strong support for strengthening the city's non-discrimination ordinance. Following is that part of each candidate's Gay and Lesbian Platform that speaks to the ordinance.*

JACKSON

Jackson fully supports, and would vigorously publicize, the "Gay Rights Ordinance" as it now stands. He also is in favor of strengthening its provisions, and has encouraged input on this from the gay/lesbian community. Whatever its provisions, Jackson envisions putting teeth into its implementation by ordering the Office of Contract Compliance to not only monitor and receive, but also investigate discrimination complaints. It would then expedite a report to the Mayor, who would decide the case. Any appeals would then be referred to the Human Rights Commission, which would be invested with subpoena power.

LOMAX

All vendors and contractors with the city of Atlanta will be required to meet the anti-discrimination standards set forth by the City of Atlanta and to have statements of non-discrimination stipulated in any contract with the City of Atlanta. By executive order, the Office of Contract Compliance will be mandated to monitor and receive discrimination complaints. Such complaints will be forwarded to the Human Rights Commission as recently established by the Atlanta City Council.

e. How would you have the City respond to human rights/grievances?

JACKSON

"I intend to reactivate the Community Relations Commission and will insist that it include several members of the gay and lesbian community. I feel that it is important to consult the gay and lesbian community on a regular basis in an effort to adopt a comprehensive plan in the area of human rights. Tell me what you as a community feel is needed and I will be responsive."

LOMAX

"I intend to re-convene a five member Community Relations Commission to investigate alleged violations and impose sanctions when appropriate. I guarantee at least two representatives of this commission will be from the gay and lesbian community. In addition I will appoint a commission liaison who will report directly to me."

## V. AIDS

Do you plan to take an aggressive leadership role in developing Atlanta's response to the current AIDS crisis? Specifically, how will the City support Community Based Organizations activities in general education, and care for people with AIDS? What will be the City's role in providing housing for indigent PWAs?

JACKSON

"I understand that the Gay and Lesbian community is concerned that the perception is that AIDS is a gay issue. The reality, of course, is that it is not. Even if it were a gay and lesbian issue it would still be a concern of mine. We must provide prevention, cure, care, comfort and rehabilitation. As mayor I will provide both personal and official leadership on this issue."

"Although the state and the county have been charged with providing health care for the metro area, I would organize a mechanism to assure that the state and counties be responsible to all people, and that they will have a plan to deliver services needed in the metro area. I intend to be an organizer in AIDS prevention and an advocate for those who have AIDS."

"As mayor I would expand the mission of the Bureau of Human Services to include specific responsibilities for dealing with the AIDS crisis."

"I have a comprehensive plan for providing low cost public housing in the city without the use of tax dollars. I will consolidate all public housing under a new Department of Housing. The housing needs of indigent people with AIDS could be addressed here."

LOMAX

"AIDS is not a gay white male issue. It is about to wreak havoc with the black community, especially black women and babies."

"Local city government has an obligation to seek regional coordination and cooperation in the fight against AIDS."

"For ten years I have been the leading locally elected official speaking out on the AIDS issue. Fulton Co. health services have served as a model for county governments responding to the AIDS crisis. I have pushed for funding for Grady Hospital's AIDS Clinic and for its current move to the Hughes Spalding Center."

"I will push for increased funding for community based organizations addressing the needs of the AIDS epidemic. In addition, as mayor, I will commit the city to supporting at least ten multi-unit residences for PWAs in the first four years in office. In addition, I support the establishment of an emergency housing fund for PWAs."

## VI. POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

a. Do you support the role of the gay/lesbian Police Advisory Committee? How can that role be improved?

b. Will you support the requirement that both police cadets and officers receive sensitivity training about gays and lesbians? Will you solicit recommendations from the Police Advisory Committee and MACGLO as to who should provide that training?

JACKSON

"I don't think the Advisory Committee goes far enough; the system needs to deliver. I look to the community for advice on strengthening its role."

"Training needs to be for all, from top to bottom."

LOMAX

"This is important but an insult to the gay and lesbian community if it is the only area of concern. The issue goes beyond police and public safety, and involves employment, parenting, and other issues to which I and the city need to be sensitized."

"I believe in sensitivity training for cadets and officers on a regular basis."

## VII. HATE CRIMES

Understanding and publicizing the existence of hate crimes highlights bigotry and helps to combat it. As Mayor, will you demand consistent and accurate records of all hate crime data?

JACKSON

"I want an immediate hate crimes reporting system. We can't wait for federal legislation. This should include a scheduled periodic review with the gay and lesbian community. If reporting rules are broken, then those responsible will be fired."

I will bring to bigotry against Lesbians and Gays the same determination I brought to discrimination against blacks."

LOMAX

"My platform is strong on hate crimes."

*INTERVIEWER'S NOTE: The following is from Mr. Lomax's platform on hate crimes. Within thirty days, Mr. Lomax will require the institution of hate crimes as a reporting category. He will direct the formation of a permanent Hate Crimes Intelligence and Tactical Unit. This Unit will contain a 24-hour 'crisis hotline' for reporting of hate crimes.*

## XIII. RELATIONSHIP BENEFITS

Several cities are developing, and one city has adopted, ordinances extending the same fringe benefits afforded married city employees to unmarried couples in committed relationships. Assuming a workable definition of "committed relationship" is established, would you support a similar ordinance? Why or why not?

JACKSON

"I would consider it. My reluctance is based on the capacity for abuse of the system where there is no marriage license. If the city would recognize common law marriages, this could be a basis for recognition of same sex relationships. I will be guided by law and not by discrimination. I am willing to explore the idea of domestic partnership benefits."

LOMAX

"I am not a lawyer, but I am personally disposed toward recognizing different approaches to relationships in the world in which we live. This issue has a monetary impact on the city which makes it financially sensitive. The current case in Seattle could serve as a precedent."

## IX. NEIGHBORHOODS/ENVIRONMENT

a. What kind of working relationships do you have with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)? What is your opinion of its importance and effectiveness in planning for the City's future growth and development?

JACKSON

"The city must protect and improve its environment. While the ARC can assist this process, we have to consider if it is the proper mechanism or if a stronger authority is needed. Currently, ARC can legally only review and comment."

LOMAX

"The good news is that we have the ARC, but it does need overhauling. However, it is the most valuable forum for metro elected officials to interact."

"The Lesbian and Gay community needs to take strong exception to the ARC since it has never acknowledged their existence. In fact, your community has been invisible as far as the ARC is concerned."

*INTERVIEWERS' NOTE: The following three questions were answered by the candidates as topics that are interrelated, and therefore were not answered separately.*

b. We are concerned about the quality and diversity of Atlanta's neighborhood life. How do you plan to balance the neighborhood's continued viability and diversity with the city's need to grow? Please include your position on proposed roads through established neighborhoods.

c. There are difficult choices to be made regarding recycling versus incineration and landfill disposal. In what direction do you intend to lead the city on these issues?

d. What are your plans for improving the City's poor air quality, and for ensuring high air quality standards for the future?

JACKSON

"We need to protect the neighborhoods. I oppose both Georgia 400, which erodes air quality, and the Presidential Parkway. Where the Presidential Parkway stub is now, I envision a 2.6-mile linear park."

"Another result of the city's expansion is the loss of 50 acres of trees per day in metro Atlanta. I will stop this loss through implementation of a tree preservation board."

"Recycling is absolutely necessary. We have no choice. The situation, however, presents opportunities for entrepreneurial government."

"I oppose the reopening of the Hartsfield Incinerator."

LOMAX

"Neighborhood planning is too micro for the ARC - it is not the vehicle for neighborhood concerns. I will rely on a good, professional planning staff instead."

"I support the consolidation of Fulton and Atlanta governments into one."

"I oppose the Presidential Parkway, but support Georgia 400 with the MARTA component and a program to reduce impacts."

"On the Parkway, I support building an access road from the (Stone Mt. Freeway) stub to the Carter Library. What has been built beyond that should be torn down, the land being used instead for housing and open space."

Regarding air quality, we can look to Los Angeles to see what happens if we wait. I will put together a strong local initiative to ensure better air quality in the future. I oppose the opening of the Hartsfield Incinerator."

"I'm also concerned about Combined Sewage Overflows which are killing the Chattahoochee River south of Atlanta. Fulton County was the first to ban the use of phosphates."

# IN PERSONAL TERMS

## Profile: Sabrina Sojourner

By Marie Murray

Cafe-au-lait completed, black hair shot with gray, Sabrina Sojourner sat in the spotlight, contemplative. Lost in her art, she was also energized, acutely aware of her audience in the darkness. Her dark dignity was complemented by the color of her garments, the bright dangling sparkle of the stones gracing her ears. "Twelve beautiful women came to me: come to me, Sa-Bri-Na", she intoned, reciting in her poetry the powerful dream that conferred her name.

She is, indeed, a sojourner, a traveller of the human experience, who adopted her second name in honor of another who might be a patron saint: Sojourner Truth. Her naming process is a telling reflection of her complexity: the political, spiritual, and artistic side seen by many, the very personal seen by just a few.

*Her political notoriety and sometimes abrasive methods have cost her potential allies.*

Well known as an activist and political figure, she is of course much more than that. Her political notoriety and sometimes abrasive methods have cost her potential allies. She's been called "a thorn in my side" by a gay male activist who accuses her of using ambush tactics rather than the traditional diplomacy of the political arena.

Others, including myself, have been similarly disconcerted. When I first met Sabrina (and I was most anxious to meet her), she left me standing in my mid-sentence when she

wordlessly left me to speak to someone else. It took quite a while for my bruised ego to grant that there might be anything more than rudeness to Sabrina Sojourner.

These two examples are not untypical, and are certainly not rare initial reactions to her. But the one reaction you probably will never get in connection with Sojourner is dismissal.

She is certainly complex: a woman who has created herself as a person of considerable strength, presence and personal power. To be so distinctive is frequently a lonely path to follow, but to all outward appearances, Sojourner doesn't seem to mind. She has wrestled with many demons, defeated more than a few, and found the inner voice that guides her through the challenges to be faced... and sometimes, created.

An articulate person whose reputation for bluntness begins the intimidation that her personal presence can (sometimes intentionally) finish off, she is known as a mover and shaker in political circles.

And yet, she is also a candidate for ordination (not surprisingly, at the "radical" First Existential Church), and a counselor of



almost palpable, magnetic empathy. Of the many women I have met, on an emotional level Sabrina Sojourner perhaps most qualifies for the descriptions Earth Mother and Amazon. I have come to respect her intelligence and strength, and appreciate the readily apparent failings that keep her well removed from Goddess status. They are the failings of a redoubtable woman, and as such, are bound to be more noticeable. However you look at her, she is certainly not a person with whom to trifle.

(Continued on next page)

## GAPAC MAYORAL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

### X. METRO VICE SQUAD

What do you understand to be the role of the Metro Vice Squad? Do you think it is fulfilling that role? Does the city directly participate in planning its policies, activities, or direction? Should it? If so, how?

JACKSON

"It is supposed to be a coordinating mechanism that deals with vice and shares intelligence. In reality more is needed in the sharing between police departments. We need to analyze what it does and what it is supposed to do. It should not be a tool of any individual. I welcome advice and will not tolerate discrimination. I pledge that between October 4 and inauguration whatever involvement the community wants in helping me set up a program will be in place."

LOMAX

"City should participate in planning activities of the Metro Vice Squad. They should not harass any group. I am concerned about and will vigorously oppose prostitution, male or female. Prostitution is not a victimless crime. The Mayor's Task Force did not even focus on the health issues. We need a comprehensive approach."

### XI. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Will you appoint a Mayor's advisor to the gay/lesbian community?

JACKSON

"Sure. I will appoint a staff level advisor."

LOMAX

"I will hire a paid special assistant to the Mayor."

b. What do you see as the greatest contribution the gay/lesbian community makes or could make to the city?

JACKSON

"Make yourselves available, be creative, volunteer your time. Lesbians and gays must focus on discrimination, but must also use their talents in fighting all issues. Broaden your agenda."

LOMAX

"Lesbians and gays have been urban pioneers. They have invested in the central city. We all owe them a special debt. I hope the 1990's will see the lesbian and gay community treated with respect."

c. Do you see any hurdles impeding the integration of the gay/lesbian community with the City at large?

JACKSON

"Yes. I see parochialism, a lack of intelligent contact (i.e., not rising to a broader level of thinking), discrimination in hiring which perpetuates discrimination in other facets of life, and stereotyping which reinforces a narrow view of the community, all as hurdles that impeded integration."

LOMAX

"There has been an unwillingness on the part of the Lesbian and Gay community to step forward and claim its space. Negative attitudes, homophobia, and fear of AIDS all impede integration. I will work to overcome those. I will not tolerate discrimination."

d. You and your opponent have a track record of extensive experience in the political arena. You have both been outspoken on civil rights. What do you see as singling you out as the better candidate?

JACKSON

"I am a proven administrator, the only proven one. My opponent is a part-time policy setter on a commission. I will be a more effective change agent with the City Council. My opponent will have a horrendous time with the Council."

LOMAX

"I was the first to approach the lesbian and gay community in this campaign. I've had an open door ever since. I have a strong platform."

"I have a low taxer, low spender record."

"I'm not looking for a stepping stone."

"I issued the first Gay Pride proclamation, and took heat for that from both black and white churches alike. Issuing it was the right thing to do."

"I just want to serve Atlanta, to show how great the city can be."

"My opponent was Mayor for eight years with the opportunity to rewrite history. His tenure was instead one of disharmony which was self-created and self-perpetuated."

"I have 16 years of public service, a time in which I have taken a laughing stock county government of Atlanta and strengthened it with professional management."

"I have a practical, pragmatic approach to government."

# IN PERSONAL TERMS

Sabrina - (Continued from page 8)

She grew up a native Californian, and in the mid-70's settled in the Bay area, where for two years, she taught at San Francisco State University in the Women's Studies program. There, she became the first black co-chair of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day, a position that she did not seek, but found her anyway. "I was hostess to half-million people," she says now with a shake of her head; and she wound up in Parade magazine's Personality Parade when they used a stock photo of her leading the march, with a paragraph about the gay community. It was just the beginning of her notoriety as a black lesbian.

*"Someone once said that my pen spits fire when I write editorials and speeches, and I think that's probably true,"*

"I've always been something of a fringe person, but it's never been a great concern," she says. "In the 70's, there were few lesbian or gay politically active people of color. It was dangerous enough to be out in the larger community, and impossible in the black community. I didn't fit in with the black community because of the sexism," and naively

hoped that acceptance would be complete in the Bay area gay community. But rather than acceptance, she found herself confronted with the same sexism and racism. She dealt with it, and earned the respect that comes to a person of obvious talents. "There are still quite a few people there who remember Sabrina Sojourner," she laughs.

Now, any memory lapse could be jogged by past readings of the feminist publication "Off Our Backs", or current issues of "Etc", or the upcoming publication of Intricate Passions, an anthology by Tee Corinne which will include Sojourner's work. Two publishers are soliciting samples of her work to consider for future publication. She is pursuing her own literary presence. If she achieves notoriety, it will be at least partially because her heart is in her work. "Someone once said that my pen spits fire when I write editorials and speeches, and I think that's probably true," she commented thoughtfully.

Considering the clear importance of her self-expression, it's hard to imagine her muse silenced, but it happened when she moved to Kansas City, MO with her lover. "I arrived

12/21/81 and left 2/5/86", she said, laughing uproariously. "I remember the exact dates. Does that tell you anything about how I felt about the place?"

Small wonder. Here again she found the same racism exacerbated by a stunning provincialism. During her stay, she managed a bookstore, went into therapy, was counselled to stop her writing "because it was too linear", came to grips with being a survivor of incest, had a nervous breakdown, sent her son back to her California family, and endured the disappointment of non-supportive friends. It was a painful time.

"I focused on just surviving," she says now. "It was a period of intense self-study. I read everything I could get my hands on. Would you believe, I couldn't find anything anywhere about what it's like to recover!" Having started

*"... To be who I am is to be political.*

*But I take all of who I am to the table. I cannot leave my blackness, my womanness behind, because to leave one of those ... is to be less effective. You'd be amazed how many people want you to do that, though."*

(Editor's note: This is reprinted from BAY WINDOWS, made available by Ganymede Integrity/Chicago. It was reprinted again from the W.N.C. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Newsletter, June 1988; and now yet again, with permission of the Atlanta Chapter PFLAG. Enjoy!)

## MIXED FABRICS SHOULD BE NIXED

(BAY WINDOWS received a copy of the following letter, sent to the Rev. Earl W. Jackson.)

I am writing to thank you and congratulate you for your diligent work that helped defeat the 1987 Massachusetts Gay Rights Bill. People who, like gay men, break laws casually mentioned somewhere in The Bible shouldn't be given civil rights protections. More Christians should be as dedicated as you to fighting basic civil rights and human dignity. Good work, Reverend.

However, I am concerned that many people break other laws mentioned in The Bible, and yet do not suffer just discrimination for their mere existence. I am specifically concerned about people who break the law outlined in Leviticus Chapter 19, Ver. 19: "Neither shall a garment mingled of different fabrics come upon thee."

Yet you can see people out on the streets every day shamelessly wearing flannel shirts with wool sweaters, acrylic blended with cotton, and all manner of other sinful combinations one could imagine in a nightmare. This sort of disrespect for the Laws of God is leading to the moral decay of our society.

And what's even worse: they flaunt their perverse mixed fabrics in front of children. (I've even heard that some of them like to dress children in mixed fabrics, but this sin is just too perverse for further elaboration... and, of course, ALL people who wear mixed fabrics have a secret or overt desire to dress children the same way.)

If a mixed fabric wearer wanted to become a foster parent, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts would allow it. There are no questions on the application referring to this sin. No one asks if the child will be exposed to mixed fabrics or might even be forced to wear them. We should spend some tax dollars to

study the effects of mixed fabrics on children, though I am sure it has a negative impact.

Furthermore, there are people who eat bacon for breakfast, which is outlawed in Leviticus 11:17, and Deuteronomy 14:8; rare steak for supper, which is outlawed in Leviticus 17:10-14, and cheeseburgers for lunch, which is outlawed in Exodus 23:19, Exodus 34:26, and Deuteronomy 14:21. (This must mean that cheeseburgers are three times as sinful as gay sex, since the former is mentioned thrice.)

Now there are so-called Christians who want to liberally "interpret" the Word of God or leave out certain parts of it. They say that Jesus came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:18), and that His message of love is far more important (Matthew 19:19, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27, and I Corinthians 13:13) than mixed fabrics or cheeseburgers. I point out that there is a curse on anyone who completely leaves out any part of it (Revelations 22:18). Besides, it's all right to call yourself Christian, just don't try to be TOO MUCH like Jesus. After all, look where it got Him.

For the sake of Christianity and the children, Earl, I want you to join me in restoring some morality to government. Together we can take away the civil rights of homosexuals, mixed-fabric wearers, and unclean meat-eaters. Next, we can persecute barbers (haircuts are outlawed in Leviticus 19:27), and veterinarians (outlawed in Leviticus 22:24).

Then we can enforce all the Biblical laws and directives! I can't wait until we will be able to apply the death penalty for adultery as Leviticus 20:10 mandates. Because you have never committed adultery, Earl, and lived without sin among us, you should be the one to cast the first stone (John 8.7).

Sister Polly Ester  
Christian Coalition Against Mixed Fabrics,  
Boston, MA

to write again, she chronicled her healing process as well as her trials, and in the process developed her first play, "Finding My Way Back Home" (which may become a book).

But she came through her crucible and settled in Atlanta. Now, happy in a comfortable support network, she knows that she is "not responsible for racism or sexism or homophobia. To be who I am is to be political. But I take all of who I am to the table. I cannot leave my blackness, my womanness behind, because to leave one of those ... is to be less effective. You'd be amazed how many people want you to do that, though."

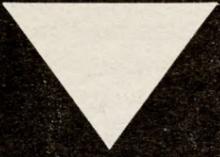
Her matured perception is a universal one in which there is no monolithic agenda; not for the black gay/lesbian community, not for the gay community, and not for society as a whole. Her world view reflects the blend of politics integrated with spirituality that rules her life.

The racism is still out there, of course, but she sees things changing. The recent conference held in Durham, N.C. to plan the 1991 National Lesbian Agenda Conference to be held in Atlanta presented a case in point. In a meeting of twenty women of color and 30-40 white women, racism was addressed as a part of the agenda. When one woman complained that she was "tired of confronting and working on this," Sojourner responded that though she understood, that woman must "also understand that there are a lot of us who are tired of living with it."

"More than half of them got it," she mused. "About five women got defensive, but tried to talk through it. Even that I admire. What was wonderful about this was that it was the first time a large group dealt with this, so some of us can now move on to the next step."

*There are "a lot of myths that both the black and white community operate on, (like namely that) there is a monolithic black church ..."*

Part of the next step is dealing with the closetedness of the black gay community, and the white community's perception of the black



## IN MEMORIAM PAM MARTIN

One of the rarest of dedicated radical lesbian feminists: she had a great wit, an open mind, a courageous heart, and the practical mind and indomitable spirit that fought for those causes dear to her.

She challenged the establishment political structure, including gay/lesbian "establishment" organizations like GAPAC. She challenged us to examine not only our goals but the means we use to achieve them.

The lesbian and gay community is diminished by her loss. We will miss her.



## IN MEMORIAM RAY KLUKA

Ray was an unceasing source of good humor and inspiration among our lesbian and gay activists.

We in GAPAC will particularly miss Ray's canny advice and great courage. With his passing, we all lose a great friend.

Our renewed dedication, to continue our political work for our community, will be our permanent memorial to all the Ray Kluka's whose passing we have mourned.

## Profile: Sabrina Sojourner (Continued from previous page)

church tie-in. There are "a lot of myths that both the black and white community operate on, (like namely that) there is a monolithic black church. I wasn't raised in the black church: I attended many churches.

"The black church as an institution has been the means of socialization, welfare, (and) survival of black people since before the abolition of slavery, and certainly since. But that's not the only place we are, or the only spiritual contribution we have... but in large part, that (perception is)... a new stereotype and a way not to see the larger picture.

"At the Durham meeting, the women of color caucus wanted spirituality incorporated into the conference, and one that's not Eurocentric. An indigenous people, we have a spiritual tradition that's much older, and we want that respected. It includes the premise that there is no difference between what is sacred and what is secular."

This universal view extends to her vision of what the gay/lesbian community needs to do to prosper. "It's important to have a link between the black, white and Hispanic segments. I dislike the word 'outreach'," she mused, as the writer acknowledging the power of words. "You are not inviting us in, we are here, part of the community: we are the community. Link, bridge, networking are much better terms, because they don't imply that someone's on the outside and the other's on the inside."

As undeniably true as such a statement might be, this is the kind of blunt assertiveness that has gotten her into trouble before. When Sojourner decided to settle into the Atlanta community, she "brought all of herself to the table".

With her vision of a better world clear in her mind, and accustomed to a leadership role, she set to work in the Atlanta milieu. The abrupt self-infusion of this strong black lesbian into the circles of gay leadership ruffled not a few sensitive feathers of those who considered her presumptuous.

Ask her if she cared. Well, maybe she did. But it didn't stop her from raising the lesbian feminist issues, such as racism and gender parity, that many a lesbian activist has flung into the teeth of the (largely) white gay male leadership structure. Not in the beginning, not up to now, and no time in the foreseeable future.

Her upfront criticism will spare no quarter... not even her radical sisters. "I've never been able to tolerate hypocrisy," she flared, pointing to separatist feminism as a culprit. "Radical women rejected biological destiny as it is defined in regard to women on one hand, and yet use biological destiny as an argument to hate men and keep them separate. It doesn't make sense to me that an oppressed people also seeks to oppress. "Those kinds of contradictions actually keep me going, because that's the ground for my anger... and it pervades everything: fundamentalism and white politics and conservatism.. It's the mean spiritedness of sameness. I'm not interested in being a party to that." At the bottom line, Sojourner

believes that there is not just one way to do anything: everything is important and interdependent. "Each time a gay person is bashed or a cross is burned in a yard, they're that much closer to us. The privilege of being white is that you can make this (threat) an intellectual exercise— it's my life. It's our lives. Maybe that's why there hasn't been a lot of interaction between the various ethnic gay/lesbian groups. Maybe it depends on your frame of reference.

And maybe that frame of reference has everything to do with whether or not you are heard. She spoke of one frustration in Durham when a white participant asked the handful of black representatives "where are all the women of color?"

"That's like being in a roomful of men with a smattering of women, and having a man ask 'where are all the women?', and not get it that they are denying us. We want to talk about racism, but not if you're going to make us invisible."

A lot of people don't understand this. "We people of color already know a whole lot about white people. We have to, to be (certified as) intelligent and receive certain pieces of paper. We have to know about white people, white culture, white thought in order to pass standardized white tests. How much do white people know (about us)?"

As evidenced by her role in the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA), working is a natural response for Sojourner. "Working for our community is just like working on a relationship: it takes work, person to person. Most people don't want to work that hard," she says bluntly. "I understand that— and I choose to do the work.

"The women in Durham who dialogued about women of color and disabled issues were women who had not stopped doing the work; who somewhere along the way understood that this is a life commitment, and have been open to criticism as well as praise. That's what radical feminism is all about: making the commitment to do the work."

And the work encompasses all. "We really need to educate people on a heart-to-heart basis about what it means to be a human being... validating the subjective. It amazes me how many people separate spirituality from their politics. That makes it an intellectual exercise. My way of being in the world, my philosophy, is that there is no separation between what is political and what is spiritual.

"There is no one way to do it. Everything is important, integral; everything is interdependent... and necessary."

In her performance, Sabrina Sojourner recited her self-definitive poem:

*"I rise a woman  
strong in the love of another woman  
I rise..."*

Indeed.

LET US KNOW WHAT  
YOU THINK. WRITE US!  
WE VALUE YOUR INPUT.

## 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.

## The GAPAC BOARD

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## GAPAC CALENDAR:

### June/July/August

- Candidate Interviews Committee  
(428-0122 or 875-9440)
- LAGNIAPPE" - GAPAC PARTY/  
AUCTION  
July 16 / 4-9 PM  
Club Petrus  
1150 Peachtree St.  
- \$5.00
- Fall 1989 Gala Committee  
(873-2810)

### August/September

- Mayoral Forum
- Candidate Interviews

### Fall

- Second Annual GAPAC  
Fundraising Gala

*Editors Note: Because of this issue's increased circulation, the article "Small Acts of Courage" has been reprinted from the Spring 1989 issue of GAPAC News.*

## IMPACT.

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, fundraising helpers, party throwers, coordinators to keep us on track. Whatever your talents, we can use your help.

## HELP WANTED !!

Volunteers wanted to interview City Council candidates.

No experience needed  
— will train.

If interested,  
call Ned Mitchell  
at 428-0122,  
or Judy Colbs  
at 875-9440.

## GAPAC's Fall 1989 Fundraising Gala

Committee is  
now meeting ...  
Have some fun & join us!

Call Hubert at  
873-2810 or 888-0510

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

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Please keep my name confidential

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The above is a correction, not an addition.

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Give:  \$500  \$100  
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*Present*

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Lagniappe (Lan'-yap) (n) (Fr.) A special treat... that extra something.. "a baker's dozen"... etc.

# JULY 16, 1989

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*at the sensational new*

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*Come join us for an evening of  
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*Mark your calendar for a fabulous evening!  
(and support your local PAC  
in this very important election year.)*

For tickets and/or information  
call 368-7420 or 888-0510

# July 6 - July 19

**SUEDE.** Mon., July 10, 8 PM. Atlanta's favorite songstress. Be there for another powerful performance. Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. in Little Five Points. \$9, advance. \$11, door.

**BRUCE HORNSBY.** Mon., July 10, 8:30 PM. Part of the Chastain Summer Concert Series. 231-5888.

**k.d. lang and the reclines.** Tues., July 11. Great! Y106 presents this songbird from Canada, known as "The Alberta Rose" by her compatriots. Center Stage, 1374 W. Peachtree at 17th St. \$17.50 reserved. 873-2500.

**ANGELA MOTTER & GAIL PEARSON.** Wed., July 12. Little Five Points Pub. 1174 Euclid Ave. at Moreland. 577-7767.

**1989 BEETHOVEN "SUMMERFEST".** Thurs. July 13 - Tues., July 25. Thurs., July 13 & Tues., July 18. Yoel Levi conducts all Beethoven programs. Both concerts at 8:00 PM. Symphony Hall, 1280 Peachtree St. 892-2414.

**ANGELA MOTTER BAND.** Fri. & Sat., July 14-15, 8:30 PM. Joyce and Jacquie open. Picasso's Performance Cafe. On the square in downtown Decatur. 373-8255.

**ANN REED.** Mon., July 17, 8 PM. DeDe Vogt opens for this dazzling guitarist who wows one and all with her lyrics and melodies. Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. in Little Five Points. \$7, advance. \$11, door.

**CAROLE KING.** Tues., July 17, 8:30 PM. Hot, hot, hot! Chastain Summer Concert Series presents a winner. 231-5888.

**ELISE WITT & SMALL FAMILY ORCHESTRA.** Fri. & Sat., July 21-22. Atlanta's favorite folk band! Plan now to attend! Picasso's, 515-B McDonough St. in Decatur. \$7. 373-8255.

**CARIOCAS.** Every Wed. & Thurs., 5-8 PM: The Mose Davis Trio. Every Fri., 5-8 PM: Bernadine Mitchell with the Mose Davis Trio. Sat. & Sun., 9 PM until: Big screen videos with V.J. No cover. Rio Plaza. North and Piedmont Aves.

**OPAL FOX QUARTET.** Every Sun. in July, 2-4 PM. Brunch with a twist (or a twisted brunch, perhaps). Little Five Points Pub. No cover (really, Opal!). 1174 Euclid Ave. at Moreland. 577-7767.

## Sports

**HOTLANTA SOFTBALL GAMES-WOMEN'S DIVISION**  
July 9-11:00-Armory vs Sportspace;  
12:20-Toolulah's vs Tower Pub; 1:40-Backstreet vs Sportspace; 3:00-Burkhart's vs Tower Pub; 4:20-Rumblefish vs Backstreet  
July 16-Makeup and Playoff games  
**HOTLANTA SOFTBALL GAMES-MEN'S DIVISION**  
July 9-12:20-Armory vs Moose/Etc.;  
1:40-Bulldogs vs Moose/Etc.; 3:00-Blake's vs Armory; 4:20-Bulldogs vs Burkhart's  
July 16-Makeup and Playoff games



Ann Reed, guitar and vocal sensation, will appear in concert on Monday, July 17 at Seven Stages Theatre. 8:00 PM. \$7 in advance, \$9 at the door. Tix available at Charis Books and The Boy Next Door.

## Theatre

**DIFFERENT.** Fri., July 7-Sun., July 30. Last year's musical surprise is this year's summer smash! Don't miss it! Seven Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. All shows at 8 PM. Tickets \$12.50 Tues.-Thurs. & Sun.; \$14.50 Fri. & Sat. Reservations: 523-7647.

**THE VISION.** Fri. & Sat., July 7-29, 8 PM. Sat. matinee, 2 PM. A new age satire by Atlantan Ronda K. Bowe, presented by The Actor's Express. Believe us, you won't want to miss this one! \$10, \$5 seats on opening weekend. The Dorsey Studio, 3593 Clairmont Rd. 634-3602.

**HAROLD WHO? An Evening of Short Works by Harold Pinter.** July 7-16. Thurs.-Sat., 8 PM. Sun., 5 PM. Seven Stages celebrates this award-winning Brit whose works are seldom seen in Atlanta. \$5. Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. in Little Five Points. 523-7647.

**AN ANSWER OF LOVE.** Fri. & Sat., July 21-22. Atlanta playwright Chip Coffey brings us a story of a young man who decision to dramatically end his life changes the lives of those left behind. Part of Dunwoody Stage Door Players' One Act Festival. \$6. \$12, Festival. North DeKalb Cultural Center. 5139 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. 451-1502.

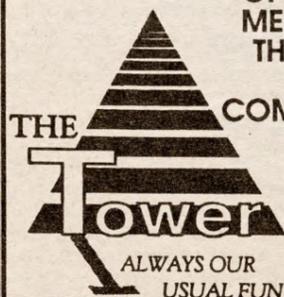
**COTTON PATCH GOSPEL.** Thru July 30. A musical retelling of the Jesus story by Matthew and John, wild and crazy disciples of the Lord. Alliance Mainstage. \$13-28. 892-2414.



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# ORGANIZATIONS

**AAALGA**- 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 at 7:30 PM at 131 Ponce de Leon, Suite 233. 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.

**ALACC**- Atlanta Lesbian Agenda Conference Committee. A diverse group of lesbians helping to organize the 1st National Lesbian Agenda Conference to be held in Atlanta in 1990 or 1991. For info call 378-9769.

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

**AMC**- Atlanta March Committee- More Than a Phase. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. 7:30 PM. North Highland Branch Library. A community based activist organization that works toward promoting lesbian and gay rights through educational, social, cultural, and political events. 377-8312.

**AVS**- Atlanta Venture Sports. Activities and meetings vary. An association in which the membership enjoys recreational, social, educational, and sports activities. 242-4899.

**AID Atlanta**- A community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to all people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. 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.

**Chrysalis**- A women's center providing social, educational and informational programs and services for the community. 2045 Manchester. For info call (404) 881-6300.

**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. All Saints Episcopal Church. Proudly serving the lesbian and gay community. Information line: 642-3467.

**COOR**- Coalition Opposing Operation Rescue opposes any individual or group trying to limit women's rights of reproductive choice. Meetings every Thursday at 7:00 PM, Inman Park Library, 447 Moreland Ave. 365-5311.

**ELGO**- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization. Meetings every Wed. at 7PM. Room 363E Dobbs University Center. Box 23515, Atlanta, Ga. 30322. 727-6692.

**First MCC Atlanta**- 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 PM. Tuesday-Friday. A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment for individuals and couples. Same sex Holy Unions performed. 872-2246.

**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.

**Friends Atlanta**- Activities and meetings vary. A social, recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. Volleyball, bowling, dinners, theater nights, and dances are among the activities. 662-4501.

**Friends of Zoo Atlanta**- Support organization for Zoo Atlanta. For info regarding corporate sponsorship, membership, volunteers and adopt-an-animal call (404) 525-9936. Mon.-Fri., 9AM-5PM.

**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 Naurist 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. 888-0510.

**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: 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 All Saints**- Serving metro Atlanta 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. Regular meetings and events. 131 Ponce de Leon, Suite 233. 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. For info call 434-7826.

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

**SESA**- The Southeastern Sports Alliance is a fundraising, awareness and organizer for sports and cultural events leading up to Celebration '90 Gay Games & Cultural Festival, Vancouver, British Columbia. 875-0700.

**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. N. Highland Branch Library. Facilitates 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.

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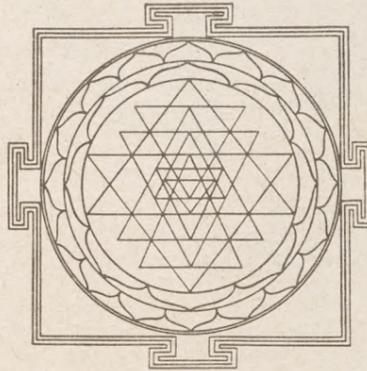
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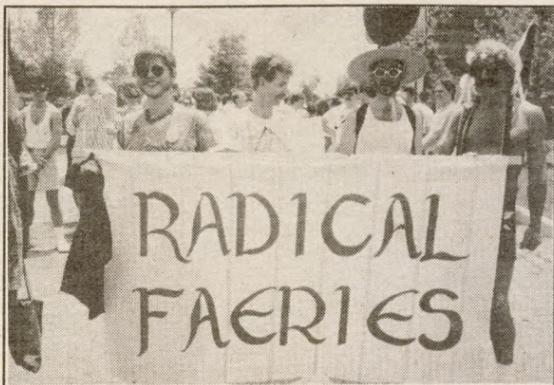
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# Atlanta's Lesbian/Gay Pride Day 1989



NANCY TOPPING



NANCY TOPPING



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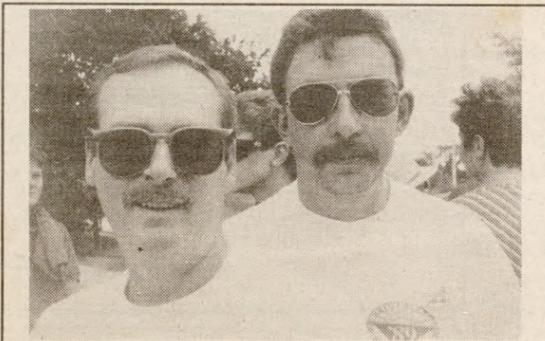


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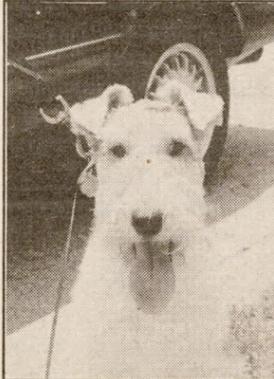
Photos clockwise from top left: The "Pride of Peachtree," Atlanta's lesbian/gay marching band; Radical Faeries, along with more than 30 other groups marched; many claimed 1989's march was Atlanta's "best ever"; on the Rally Stage at Piedmont Park; 7-month-old Bevan Gerber-Siff with "aunts" Connie Hoes and Ann Leverette; the heat set many panting in the dog-day afternoon; Bill Dockery (L) and Bill Romaine marched to support their rights as parents; mayoral candidate Michael Lomax marched and later spoke along with opponent Maynard Jackson.



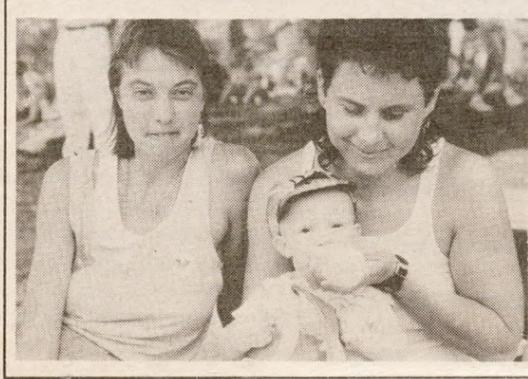
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TIA NIKOLOPOULAS



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EVETT BENNETT

## Another Side of Pride Gay & Homeless in Atlanta

Gary L. Joiner is 21, gay and a "throw-away kid." In spite of being homeless for more than three years, however, he slept beneath the Rally Stage the night before Lesbian and Gay Pride to ensure that nothing would stop him from participating in this year's events.

Gary's parents kicked him out of the house for being gay shortly after his high school graduation three years ago. Kicked out of the army for the same reason five months later, Gary hit the streets to join the uncounted thousand other gay throw-away kids.

Although he tried at first, Gary said he doesn't try to get involved in Atlanta's organized gay community much anymore.

"People look at you funny when you tell them you are homeless," he explained. "I always felt uncomfortable whenever I tried to go to the group meetings."

"Imagine being out," he added, "and not having anywhere you can go."

But that didn't matter to Gary on Pride Day. He made sure he was in Piedmont Park for the Pride rally, even though it meant sleeping under the stage all night, and spent the greater part of the day as a volunteer with Maynard Jackson's campaign for mayor of Atlanta.

For now, Gary says, the future looks just a little bit brighter. After learning of his situation, officials with the Jackson campaign have assisted him in finding temporary housing and are providing him with a stipend for volunteer work while he tries to get back on his feet.

In the future, Gary says, he wants to get active in finding housing alternatives for other gay and lesbian "throwaways," as well as developing a career teaching computer science. For now, though, he has his pride. And he has every reason to have that.

-Chris Duncan

## Gay Pride '89

Cont'd from Page 1

an 8-hour marathon of speakers and entertainers. Among the politicians who addressed the crowd were: State Representative Nan Orrock; Atlanta City Councilpersons Barbara Asher and Mary Davis; DeKalb County Councilperson Sherri Sutton; and Atlanta mayoral candidates Maynard Jackson and Michael Lomax.

The most quoted and referred to speech of the day was not delivered by a politician, however, but by Chip Rowan of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP). Rowan drew the crowd to its feet with a passionate demand for liberty and an uncompromising cry for an end to government inaction on the AIDS crisis.

"People may think this isn't a political town, that the gays and lesbians here are more interested in what's happening at Lenox Square than at Grady Hospital," Rowan said. "If that's

true, then it's time for that to change.

"And like those at Stonewall, it's time for us to fight back," he added.

The march and rally were held for one purpose: to show the gay and lesbian community at its best—proud of who we are and who we can be, with or without mainstream society's approval. We don't have to change or make ourselves look like you, the marchers said, to co-exist peacefully and equally in the 20th century. We are everywhere, they added, and we're not going back.

Also speaking in the park was John Kappers of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). Masters of ceremony were Leigh VanderEls and Jeffrey Laymon. Entertainment was provided by: Sam Baker; Tory Beatty; Bev Cook; the Lambda Chorale; the cast of Lipstix; and Angela Motter.

- Staff members Candace Wiggins and Tia Nikolopoulos contributed to this article.

## Hot-Weather Luncheon with Sam and Steve

### Menu

#### Sandwiches

Organic Cucumber and Watercress with Neufchatel low-fat Creamcheese on Masada Bakery's Sourdough Bread

#### Pasta Salad

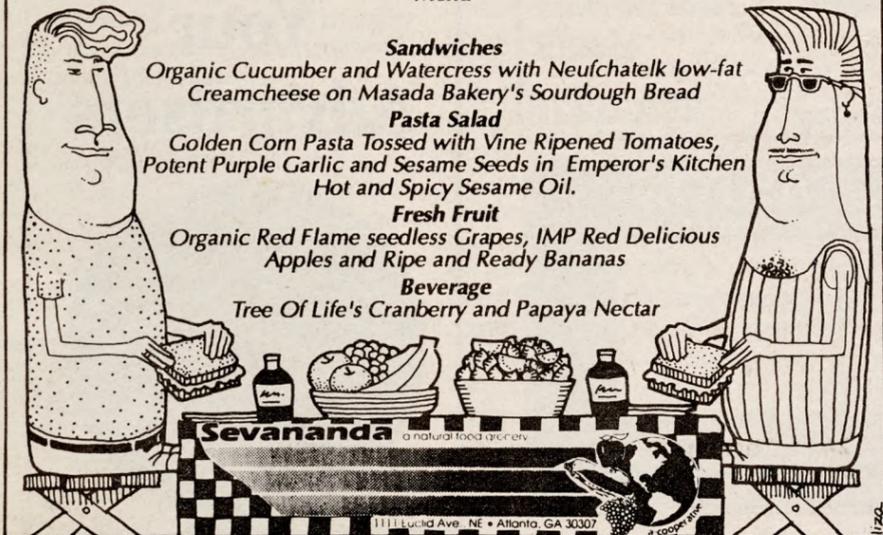
Golden Corn Pasta Tossed with Vine Ripened Tomatoes, Potent Purple Garlic and Sesame Seeds in Emperor's Kitchen Hot and Spicy Sesame Oil.

#### Fresh Fruit

Organic Red Flame seedless Grapes, IMP Red Delicious Apples and Ripe and Ready Bananas

#### Beverage

Tree Of Life's Cranberry and Papaya Nectar



*I am valuable to life • I am willing to change • I can ask for help • I deserve Love • I deserve recovery*

*I am valuable to life • I am willing to change • I can ask for help • I deserve Love • I deserve recovery*

*I am valuable to life • I am willing to change • I can ask for help • I deserve Love • I deserve recovery*

"What does the daughter inherit?  
In-her-it lives.  
In-her-it becomes  
The secret to remember...  
In-her-it truths  
In-her-it feels  
In-her-it talks  
In-her-it pushes on reality  
In-her-it can no longer be denied..."

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• TO HONOR THE ORIGINAL DREAM • TO EMPOWER THE PRESENT • TO CREATE THE FUTURE • TO FEEL LOVE •

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# AIDS FOCUS

## Pet Care - Guidelines for People with AIDS

It has been shown that pets can improve the quality of life for individuals who are ill or aged. There is a potential concern for persons with AIDS in having a pet. Because of their altered immune state, individuals with AIDS are at risk for acquiring infections which, in the healthy individual, would not ordinarily produce infection of disease. Pets have the potential to carry such infectious agents. Individuals with AIDS should consult their physician and veterinarian concerning their specific health issue and their pet.

There are some general guidelines for pet care which can minimize the risk of disease transmission. No one has reported the transmission of HIV infection (and therefore, AIDS) to or from common household pets.

### General Principles for Your Pet

It is important to maintain good health and nutrition for your pet. A healthy pet is less likely to spread disease. Pets should have a veterinarian. For currently owned pets, regular veterinary check-ups and indicated vaccinations need to be obtained. For new pets, an initial veterinary consultation is necessary to establish a regular program of health checks and indicated vaccinations. Regular check-up time provides an opportunity to discuss specific precautions for you to take with your pets. If your pet becomes ill, especially with diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, or excess salivation, the veterinarian must be consulted. Remember to inquire about additional precautions for you at that time.

A proper nutritional program needs to be established and changed with aging and other circumstances. Generally, it is advisable to use a commercially available pet food. Raw (or undercooked) meat, fish or eggs and unpasteurized milk should never be fed to your pet. Pets, as well as humans, can acquire disease in this manner. Be certain that your pet's eating and drinking areas are kept clean. Old food and water should be discarded. Do not allow your pet to drink from the toilet.

Keep your pet indoors and, when outdoors, walk him only on a leash. You must prevent him from eating other animals' excrement and vomitus. Keep him away from other animals, particularly those who may be diseased.

A regular program of flea control will prevent scratching and secondary skin infection.

Do maintain a clean and separate sleeping environment for your pet.

### General Precautions for You

It is advisable to wash your hands after handling your pet. This is imperative prior to eating, drinking or smoking.

Since a pet may spread infection through feces, urine, saliva, blood and vomitus, precautions must be taken when handling their body fluids. Disposable latex gloves should be worn when cleaning up messes involving these body fluids. After being cleaned, the messed area should be cleaned with a disinfectant. After removing the latex gloves, hands should be washed with soap and water. No pet should lick your face or any open wounds.

It is wise to keep your pet's nails short. If you are scratched or bitten, the affected area should be cleansed with soap and water and then with disinfectant. Should the involved area become reddened, swollen, infected or fail to heal, your physician should be consulted.

Exotic pets which are not ordinarily domesticated should not be chosen. They are more likely to be wild, bite, scratch or carry disease.

### Principles for Specific Pets

**Cats:** Cats may acquire infections (e.g., toxoplasmosis) by eating other animals such as mice. It is important to keep your cat indoors and keep



the indoor environment free of rodents.

The cat's litter box should be kept out of the kitchen and eating areas. Disposable litter box liners should be used, discarded each day, and placed in a sealed plastic bag for disposal. Cat litter boxes should be cleaned by someone not at risk. If you must deal with the cat litter box, disposable latex gloves and a disposable face mask must be worn. To minimize the chance of infection with toxoplasmosis, cat litter should be changed daily. It takes 24-48 hours for toxoplasmosis eggs to become infectious.

To minimize scratching, have your cat declawed and keep the back nails short.

You must find another home for a cat who is infected with feline leukemia. Cats with feline leukemia have an altered immune system and are very likely to be ill with other infectious diseases.

**Dogs:** Do keep your dog indoors. When necessary to walk your dog, do so on a leash. Prevent your dog from eating other animals or raw food (see above). Prevent your dog from eating other animals' excrement or vomitus (see above).

**Fish:** When changing fish bowl water, disposable latex gloves should be worn. Hands are to be washed after gloves are discarded. Fish bowls or tanks should be kept clean.

**Birds and other caged pets:** When cleaning cages, disposable latex gloves and disposable face masks should be worn. Hands should be washed after gloves are discarded. Cages and pets must be kept away from cooking, food preparation and eating areas.

### Planning for Emergency Situations

It is important to have a designated person to care for your pet when you are away from home. Establish a means for notifying them in time of emergency. Having such a mechanism in place will insure that your pet is not neglected and will minimize your personal anxiety when you are away from home. It is wise to find a permanent home for your pet in advance should you be unable to keep it.

The person with AIDS must take additional precautions in pet care. It is best to consult with your veterinarian and physician concerning issues specific to your health status.

- The Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights

## International AIDS Conference Findings Look Promising

On Thursday, June 22, in the Civic Center, Atlanta was treated to a three-hour condensation of the Montreal AIDS Conference, courtesy of the Atlanta AIDS Research Consortium, Inc.

Not your average stodgy conference summation, the entrance of the auditorium contained a large assortment of local AIDS organizations. ACT UP was most prominent with its T-shirt display. AID Atlanta had a table, and The Emory AIDS Network was represented. Outreach, Inc. was also present. There were pamphlets for Childkind and Jerusalem House, and free condoms, buttons and posters for the taking.

The Atlanta AIDS Research Consortium is a grass roots umbrella organization of health care professionals and patient advocacy groups representing persons infected with the AIDS virus. A goal of the consortium is to develop promising clinical trials as a more extensive means of fighting the AIDS virus. As a result, five local physicians who treat PWAs were available to give a roundup of the findings presented earlier this month in Montreal.

Moderator Melanie Thompson, M.D. described the mood in Montreal as "upbeat." James Braude, M.D. gave a special salute to ACT UP's unexpected opening to the program in Montreal. All in all, all five presenters felt that the situation was encouraging. For the first time in years, the future seems promising.

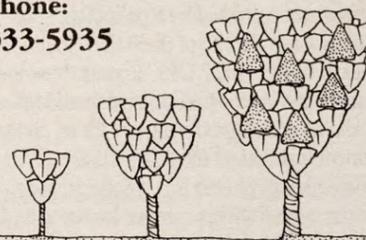
Cont'd on Page 15

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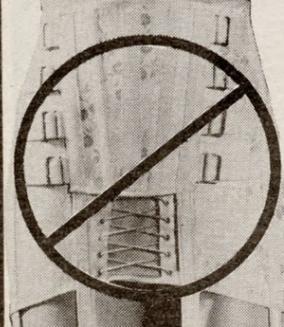
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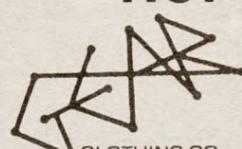
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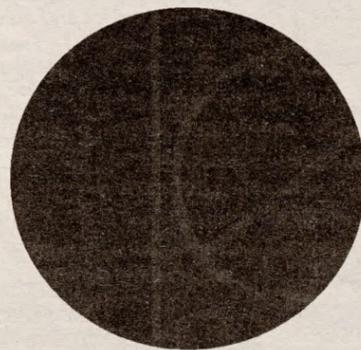
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# Health and Healing

The gay and lesbian community is challenged to find and improve ways of maintaining our health and healing our hearts and our bodies. This column will offer insights and advice by various writers with a range of viewpoints and expertise. To submit an article or request a topic, contact Franklin Abbott in care of Southern Voice, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

## The Homophobic Psychotherapist

There is a growing belief that the best therapist for any given problem is the therapist who has experienced first hand the problems to be addressed by the client. Increasingly, alcoholics seek the recovering therapist, blacks seek black therapists, and gays and lesbians seek the homosexual therapist. Unfortunately, the logic of "birds of a feather" has dire consequences for the gay client who chooses the homophobic gay therapist.

No matter how healthy or out we are,



Jackie W. Johnson, Ph.D.

homophobia is a pervasive and ongoing issue that robs us of our aliveness and psychically wounds us. It lowers self-esteem, interferes with our ability to be truly intimate, causes self-hate, anxiety, profound depression, and suicide. Homophobia is usually the main underlying issue in the widespread problems of alcohol, drug, and physical abuse in the gay community. Also, it leads to our scapegoating each other as enemies rather than seeing each other as brothers and sisters.

It is the task of the psychotherapist to help clients heal these wounds while traveling through the world of personalized dragons to the REAL SELF. This journey requires the client's courage to stand in the center of his/her truth as well as the therapist's courage to do the same. Thus, the client who begins to address identity issues can be hindered or even harmed by

the therapist who is not willing or unable to follow the same path.

Because there are few guidelines for choosing the right therapist, the following list is offered to help lesbians and gays to recognize homophobic therapists in order to become knowledgeable consumers of mental health.

### THE HOMOPHOBIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

can be recognized by one or more of the following:

- doesn't acknowledge to the client that he/she is gay; may say "sexual orientation is a choice" rather than admit that sexual orientation is not a choice;
- doesn't address the healing that will occur in coming out to family, friends, and colleagues;
- doesn't recognize the differences between gay and lesbian and straight relationships; may say, "the dynamics are the same in all relationships";
- ignores sexuality issues;
- doesn't acknowledge that it is crucial for gay and lesbian parents to be out to their children;
- ignores the relationship between being out with positive self-esteem;
- ignores the relationship between homophobia and the high rate of drug and alcohol abuse in the gay population;
- encourages clients not to call themselves gay or lesbian;
- pretends to be bisexual or straight;
- is rarely seen at gay events;
- is not listed in his/her professional referral directories as working with gay and lesbian issues.

Ultimately, the homophobic therapist unknowingly colludes with the client's unconscious to perpetuate issues of self-hate. Thus, the choice of a therapist is crucial for the individual who seeks health and wholeness.

If the gay community is ever going to claim its rightful place as equal in society, then lesbians and gays need competent therapists who are developmental role models. The psychotherapist must be out, aware and open.

— Jackie W. Johnson, Ph.D.

Jackie W. Johnson, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Atlanta. Thanks is given for the contribution of Sherry McHenry, Ph.D. to this article.

## Atlanta Prepares for Return of Quilt

The NAMES Project/Atlanta Chapter, has announced that the AIDS Memorial Quilt will return to Atlanta on August 26 and 27. The Quilt will be displayed at the Great Mall of China Exhibit Hall, located on Ponce de Leon Ave., across from the Sears building. The Chapter anticipates the showing will contain more than 600 panels, along with a display of local panels now being made.

The local chapter is encouraging those who have lost loved ones to AIDS to express their grief and loss in a positive and creative way by making a panel for the Quilt before it returns to Atlanta. Quilting sessions are held each Thursday evening at 7:30 pm at The First Metropolitan Community Church, 800 N. Highland Ave., N.E. New panels must be received by August 4th to be displayed in the local showing. Quilting Bee coordinator Dan Lewis states that panels can still be completed in time and instruction and assistance are available during the sessions. No sewing skills are required, and donated fabric is available. Dan Lewis can be reached at 875-2217 to answer any questions panel makers may have.

Admittance to the showing is free and all donations received will go to assist local AIDS service organizations and to help defray the cost of sending the entire Quilt to Washington, D.C. in October.

Volunteers are needed to help with the local and Washington showings. For information on volunteering please contact Denny Davis at 874-6517 (daytime) or Angie Wallace at 442-3961 (evenings).



## AIDS Conference

Cont'd from Page 14

Among the findings presented was the possibility of changing the current HIV definition to a more expansive spectrum of disease. Hopefully this would allow greater access to benefits and treatment.

Results of the drug trials for the anti-fungal Fluconazole were impressive. So impressive in fact that Carlos Del Rio, M.D. described it as "flirting with the idea for curing the disease."

Preventive medicine was the high point of the evening. According to Toni Rossi, M.D., there were 44 abstracts presented covering prophylaxis in HIV disease. Apparently, a maintenance regime of preventive medication goes a long way in improving the quality and life expectancy of an HIV infected individual.

Dr. Del Rio then discussed the promising Salk vaccine study. Almost half of the 19 ARC patients showed an increase in T-helper cells. It is thought that this experimental vaccine may be "changing the progression of the disease."

— Molly McGuire

The Atlanta AIDS Research Consortium can be reached at: 965 Virginia Ave., N.E., Suite B, Atlanta, GA 30306, (404) 876-2317.



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## Ruling Planets

July 6 - July 19  
by Mary Bailey-Rule

Venus and Mars join forces in Leo on July 12 which should activate creative expression as well as heightened interest in environmental or social causes.

**ARIES** - Mars is joined by Venus in your 5th house on the 12th, so enjoy the extra energy and creativity. Make note of insights and sudden inspirations for future use and have fun.

**TAURUS** - Mercury and the Sun are in your 3rd house of communications, so be verbal, check in with friends, advertise your business.

**GEMINI** - Jupiter continues to give expansive energy, while Venus and Mars in your 3rd help create opportunities. Just be sure you are getting enough rest!

**CANCER** - The Sun nurtures your self-esteem, making this a good time to go after that overdue raise. Make new friends, and let others know what you are feeling and thinking.

**LEO** - Use the energy of Mars and the harmony of Venus to get special projects going at work or at home. Invest your money wisely, and try not to overload your credit cards or buy things on a whim.

**VIRGO** - If you are feeling unfulfilled at work, this is an excellent time to network and find a better situation. If you love your work, look for opportunities to expand, but be sure to schedule play time.

**LIBRA** - You may have opportunities to move ahead in your career, so be prepared by analyzing your skills and talents, or find ways to acquire new ones. However, don't neglect your home or loved ones in the process.

**SCORPIO** - Your instincts and intuition may be very clear, especially for personal insight, so expect a period of growth and learning. Try not to resist any unexpected changes; see them as opportunities.

**SAGITTARIUS** - Mars and Venus can bring wonderful opportunities, so try doing something new or vacation in an exotic spot. You may also have to deal with taxes or legal matters now.

**CAPRICORN** - Mars and Venus may be stimulating your interest in the mysteries of life, so allow yourself to be a little cosmic. Also a good time to make a will, if you haven't already.

**AQUARIUS** - You may have an opportunity for advancement at work, just make sure you aren't taking on too much responsibility. Let your intuition be your guide, and allow your creativity to work on sticky problems.

**PISCES** - You may feel the need for solitude, so find a good book and a quiet spot and enjoy yourself. If you feel like entertaining, have friends over for a pot-luck dinner.

Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer who specializes in birth chart analysis, relationship charts, and career counseling. For more information or an appointment, call 261-9343.

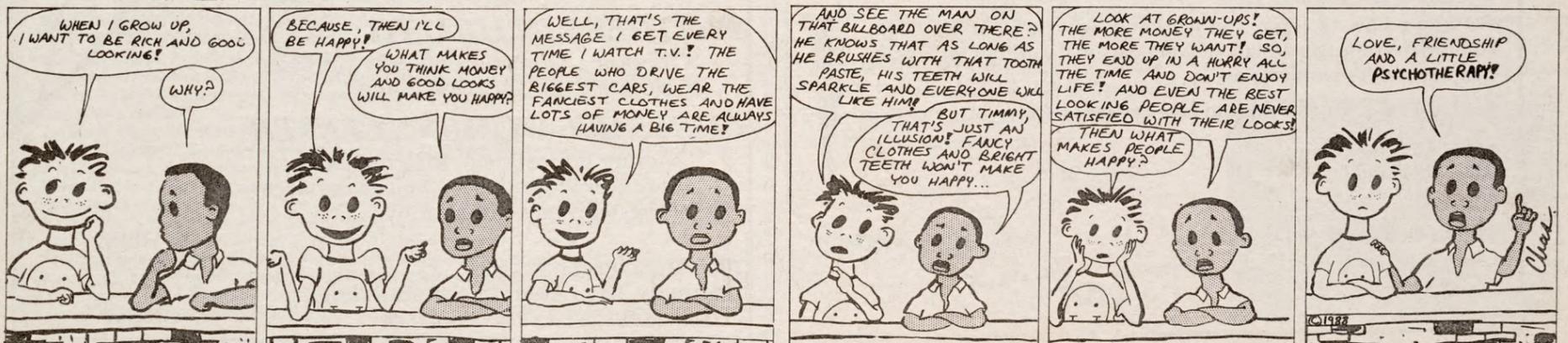
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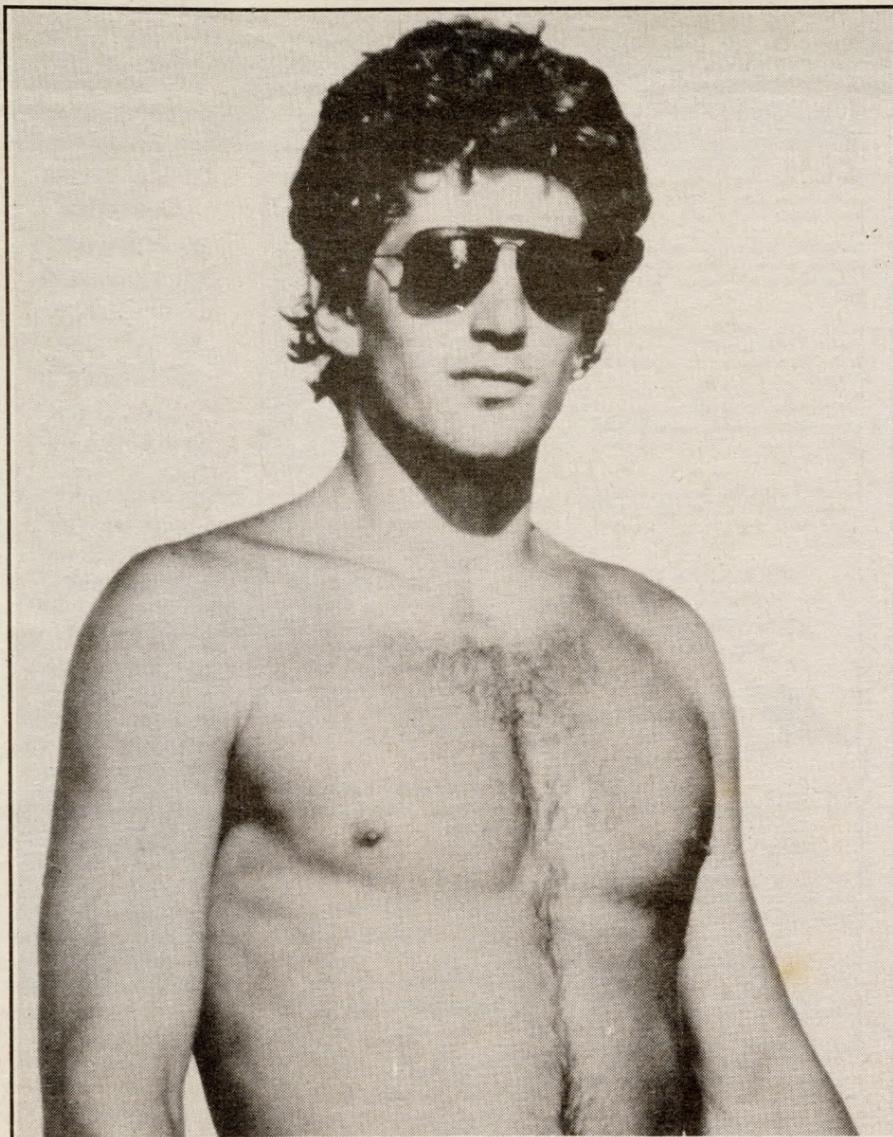
## Dykes to Watch Out For



## bit.t.e.r.s.w.e.e.t.

by Charles Haver





## FAMOUS FACES

### John John Goes to the Big Apple

The salary will be only \$30,000 for the male idol of the decade. John Kennedy Jr., who caused many an Atlanta heart to flutter during his visit to the Democratic convention, will soon begin orientation for his new job in New York. The young Kennedy will join a new group of assistant district attorneys in Manhattan. John has made a commitment to remain in the position for three years.

### Ride, Sally

The first person to prove that not even the sky is the limit for women is moving South. To Southern California, that is. Former Astronaut Sally Ride has announced she will leave her post at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Arms Control to go to San Diego where she will head the California Space Institute at the local University of California branch. Ride captured the imagination of the world when she flew in the 1983 space shuttle. Her prestige and reputation soared even higher as a member of the panel that investigated the fatal explosion of the shuttle Challenger in 1986. In case you're interested in stealing her away, Georgia Tech, her salary at UCSD will be \$64,000.

### Johnny Sure Be Good

Lady luck is finally smiling on the two Georgia women who have been sponging off each other for twenty years in order to save money. Viola Crow, 79, and Carolyn Freeman, 70, the two sisters (hmm...) from Statham, Georgia, tried for years to tell the city that their water bill included their neighbors' usage. After two decades, the city agreed and reimbursed them \$800. Johnny Carson invited Freeman to tell the amazing story on his "The Tonight Show." When he asked how they would use the money, she said they would buy a new refrigerator and stove. Johnny replied he would buy them. Ain't he sweet?

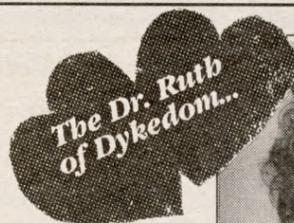
### The Biggest Do

Where could the tallest hairdo in the world be constructed? Where else? A stylist in California heard that the record-setting bouffant measured a mere six feet five inches in height. She declared that was not enough and decided to create a masterpiece big enough to leave a queen speechless. Betty Witherspoon of Fairfax, California then set out to tease and coil yards of synthetic hair on top of model Windy Villasnor. When she completed the coiffure, Villasnor stood and, without toppling, sported a head of hair measuring nine feet seven inches.

- F.G.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lesbian of color seeking poetry from other lesbians of color for October issue of national women's newspaper, *Sojourner*. Each poem must be no longer than 1-page, double-spaced. Send 1-4 poems and a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to: T.L. Jewell, 211 W. Saginaw #2, Lansing, MI 48933. Deadline is August 1, 1989. Pass the word on! (V2#10)

The Atlanta Team Tennis Association, located at the Glen Lake Tennis Center in Decatur, is beginning a membership drive for players of all levels. This Gay and Lesbian tennis organization meets Saturdays at 1:30 pm. For more information, call Eric Keys at 350-9952. (V2#12)

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Lakeside Cutie. Charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath, brick home on hill overlooking 1973 W. Lakeside Dr. A bargain at \$56,900. Special financing available.

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Whatever crushes individuality is despotism, by whatever name it may be called.  
-English Philosopher  
John Stuart Mill

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\$3 PER  
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TO APPEAR ON  
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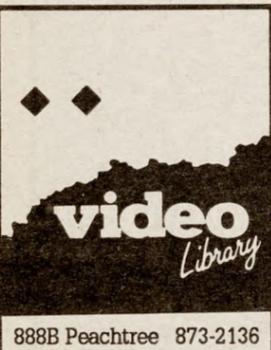
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"We Provide 24 Hour Service on All Brands, and All of Our Work is Guaranteed!"

SAME DAY SERVICE CALL: 624-3486

Once a philosopher; twice a sodomite!

-Voltaire



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THE ART OF LIFE LIES IN TAKING PLEASURES AS THEY PASS, AND THE KEENEST OF PLEASURES ARE NOT INTELLECTUAL, NOR ARE THEY ALWAYS MORAL.

GREEK PHILOSOPHER ARISTIPPUS

HANDY MAN

- Installation of ceiling fans & track lighting
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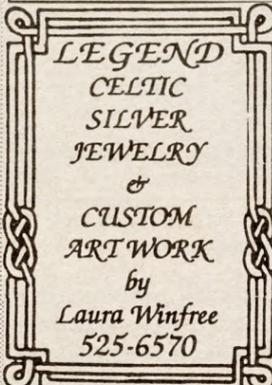
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Shame

Isolation, Alienation, addiction, co-dependency, compulsion, depression and neurosis. All have an underlying shame base. In an 8 wk group beginning week of July 11, we will use Bradshaw's book to understand and feel our feelings in order to heal our shame. For information contact

Dr. Russell Brooker 873-6178



\*VOLUNTEERS

SOUTHERN VOICE CIRCULATION

Join us distributing Southern Voice as a volunteer. We have single copy box and route distribution where your involvement can help us reach the Atlanta lesbian and gay community. It's fun; it's fulfilling, and you get to read the paper first! For info call Jana Tyson at 876-1831. (V2#10)

Senior Citizen Services - Needs Volunteers. Senior citizen services is in dire need of dedicated volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Fulton County. For more information, please contact Gertha Lowe at 881-5982 or 881-5983.

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#12)

FREE

Bold

Ital

ALL CAPS

Even a FREE

Personal Box

But the best NEWS is... 40 word for \$5.00. Yes, still 40 words for \$5.00 and we'll kick in FREE Bold, Ital, ALL CAPS or a personal Box.

The Plain Ol' Summer Classifieds Sale is on for only 4 more issue of SOUTHERN VOICE!

Through August, 1989. For More Information, Call Bill Medlock at 876-1831

\*VOLUNTEERS

ALACC; Atlanta Lesbian Agenda Conference Committee, a diverse group of lesbians who are helping to organize and plan the 1st National Lesbian Agenda Conference seeks volunteers. The next meeting is June 21st, 7:15 pm at 64 Clay Street, Atlanta. For more information on this and future meetings call 378-9769. (V2#11)

Classified Directions

1. Print your classified or personal on a separate piece of paper and enclose order form. We must have your phone number to verify the ad.
2. Style Information-Southern Voice will make the first five words bold, italicized, or ALL CAPS, for \$1.00 per style, per issue. Or ALL THREE FOR \$3.00 per issue.
3. Personal Ads Can Be Confidential - Boxes are available for replies to your personal. Southern Voice will forward all replies to you if you check the forwarding box on the order form and enclose \$1.00 for each issue in which your personal ad is to appear.
4. To Respond to a Southern Voice Box Number Is EASY - Put your reply in a stamped sealed envelope and write the box number on the lower left corner. Mail your reply envelope in a separate envelope to Southern Voice, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, Ga., 30316. We will forward your reply to the appropriate party.
5. Free Classified Space is limited to 35 words. Free ads will run for three consecutive weeks unless otherwise requested. Check appropriate box for category on order form. Southern Voice reserves the right to refuse or edit all classifieds. Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

Next Deadline: July 11, 1989

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\$5.00 for 40 Words per issue

\$5.00 Sale Price

Over 40 wds at 25¢ per wd

Subtotal

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FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Check Box, Please

- AIDS ED. & Services
- Child Care
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (for Verification)

Please mail to: Southern Voice P.O. Box 18215 Atlanta, GA 30316

# Duh-da, Duh-da, Duh-da, Duh-da ...

*Batman*, Warner Bros.' new epic action adventure, opened June 23, creating a furor as theatre after theatre sold out with some adding on an extra showing.

According to publicity, *Batman* has been creating a furor even since Jon Peters first started trying to bring it to the big screen back in 1979. Another clamor arose over the casting of Michael Keaton as Batman — many longtime fans protested the choice. Then Jack Nicholson was cast as the Joker—people began to rave.

People are still raving. "Jack Nicholson, as the Joker, steals the movie." Excuse me? How about: Jack Nicholson, as the Joker, was given the movie? Served up to him on a silver platter, even.

The ad campaign stated the film "recounts the beginning of Batman's career as a lone crimefighter". How interesting. Is there another version out we haven't seen? The movie we saw recounts the origin of the Joker and his climb up the criminal ladder of success.

Despite the campaign's previously-mentioned promise, nowhere do we sense the desperation and psychosis in the character of Bruce Wayne that compels him to don an armored batsuit and appropriate weaponry. Oh sure, in a much later flashback we see why when he views his parents' murders while still a child. We just don't see the trauma and guilt and vindictiveness in Keaton's adult interpretations. He's more a mildmannered Clark Kent than a tortured recluse named Bruce Wayne.

Don't take the friendly neighborhood reviewers wrong! We love Jack Nicholson and what he can do with any role. However, it was disturbing to see the imbalance in this potential classic between the protagonist and antagonist. It boiled down, not to a battle of wills, but whoever had the better one-liners and mugged expressions got the biggest



The Joker (Jack Nicholson) appears in a commercial for his own highly toxic "Smylex" line of toiletries in Warner Bros.' epic action-adventure film *Batman*.

audience response.

Also, why waste stars/talent like Billy Dee Williams? As District Attorney Harvey Dent (originally a white male), his onscreen appearances total maybe 5 or 10 minutes with as many lines. Pat Hingle fares little better as Commissioner Gordon, and Jack Palance as crimelord Carl Grissom makes the delectable most of his brief time in the film.

Kim Basinger as professional photo-journalist Vicki Vale (sounds like a lounge act, huh?) walks very nicely through a so-so role. And wow, is this girl a pro! She gets drunk and sleeps with Bruce Wayne her first night out. Oh me, these hets!

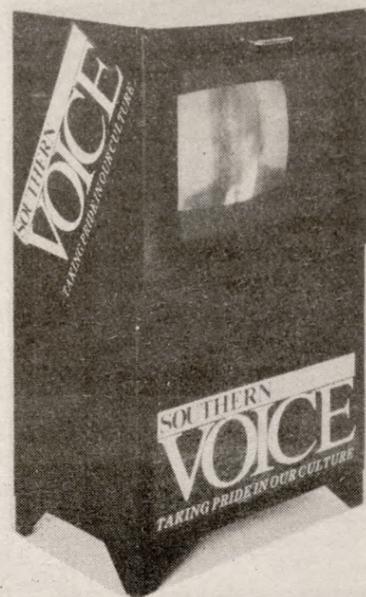
The Batmobile though is here in all its glory. The car seems to be able to withstand anything thrown at it—bullets, bombs, explosives, toxic waste—the Batmobile is

indestructible. So what happened to the Batplane? It looks to be made of the same materials as the Batmobile and, I would presume, given the same amount of thought, care and time. So how come one bullet takes it out? Come on, guys. Either we have to believe Batman really screwed up in his calculations on the Batplane's protective devices or we can believe you screwed up in allowing such a glaring inconsistency to be contrived into the plot. I prefer thinking you screwed up, not Batman.

We enjoyed the movie. Our main complaint is we went to see a movie titled *Batman* because we wanted to see a movie about Batman. But what we got was a movie titled *Batman* that was about the Joker.

—Tia Nikolopoulos  
& Candace Wiggins

And Now For The News...



SOUTHERN VOICE Single Copy Boxes Are Now At These Locations:

**Julian's Cafe**

Dekalb Ave and Hurt St.

**Little Five Points Pub**

Moreland and Euclid

**Dunk 'N Dine**

Cheshire Br. Rd. and Lenox Rd.

**Tortilla's**

Ponce across from Kroger

**The Colony Square Market**

Peachtree and 12

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PRESENT

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*(Lan-yap) (n) (Fr.) A special treat... that extra something... "a baker's dozen"... etc.*

Sunday, July 16, 1989, 4-9 pm

at Petrus

1150 Peachtree St.

Join us for an evening of dancing, live entertainment, and a FUNDRAISING AUCTION

*(items for auction include: decorator accessories - fine art - dinners for two - Hotlanta raft race tickets - a date with a former Mr. Hotlanta... and much more!)*

MC — Dina Jacobs

Entertainment by:

**Sam Baker • Michael West • Carolyn Mobley  
Cheryl Tarkington • The Cast of Lipstix  
The Cast of Slammer Girls  
and a Fashion Show**

Support your local PAC during this election year.

Advance tickets available for \$5.00 at: Charis Books in Little Five Points; Atlantis Connection in Va. Highlands; Boy Next Door at Ansley; or call (404) 368-7420.

**Do Lesbians and Gay Men Pose A Threat to the American Family?**

Jesse Helms Says "Yes"

The Human Rights Campaign Fund Says "NO"

□ Helms is counting on killing the "Hate Crimes" bill by passing an amendment proclaiming America's 20 million lesbians and gay men a threat to family. The Hate Crimes bill represents a key first step in stopping violent crime motivated by prejudice—including "gay bashing." A recent Justice Department study found that lesbians and gay men are "probably the most frequent victims" of hate crimes.

□ The Helms amendment—based on bigotry, ignorance and fear—could actually encourage the anti-gay violence the bill's trying to stop. The Helms "hate crime" is an unprecedented assault on American diversity and pluralism.

□ He's counting on the fair-minded majority across the country not learning of or not speaking out against his amendment. Most of all Jesse Helms is counting on your silence!

**What Do You Say?**

Help Defeat the Helms amendment and pass the Hate Crimes bill!

Call 1-800-257-4900, Hotline 9188

to send a Western Union Message to:

**Senators Fowler and Nunn (Ga.)**

\$4.95 for a Message to one Senator  
\$7 for Messages to both your Senators

Ask for Hotline Operator 9188. Choose a prepared message. Charge it to your telephone bill. If you don't know who your Senators are, the operator does.

The Action Hotlines are sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. To take additional steps to help defeat Helms amendments or secure general info, contact the Field Division, HRCF, P.O. Box 1723, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4161.