

S O U T H E R N

# VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

NOV 24 - NOV 30 / 1994

## Remembering Milk



Harvey Milk, slain 17 years ago this week, paved the way for today's gay and lesbian candidates.

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BILLY HOWARD

## A Day to Remember

World AIDS Day is an occasion for reflection, rage and renewal. Atlanta marks December 1 with a wide range of events, both cultural and educational.

by JAMES FITCH

This year, Atlanta's nod to World AIDS Day aspires to more than symbolism. Because of a collective effort from city entities—spanning activist groups, city government, corporations, and the High Museum of Art—Atlanta residents on December 1 will have little choice but to sit up and pay attention.

Among this year's World AIDS Day highlights in Atlanta: a nationally broadcast conference on "HIV/AIDS in the Workplace" at the Hyatt Regency Hotel; "Electric Blanket," a 90-minute slide presentation described as the electronic equivalent of the Names Project Quilt, which will be projected onto the facade of the High Museum; and a range of events around town (see page 19).

"Educating the workforce about this disease is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of the disease," Mayor Campbell said at an October press conference announcing details of "HIV/AIDS in the Workplace," a conference for business and labor groups which he asked to coincide with World AIDS Day. "We must act now to develop partnerships to prevent the spread of HIV and to protect our citizens and protect our social and economic health," he added.

The Dec. 1 conference will provide business and labor leaders in Atlanta with guidelines for comprehensive programs dealing with HIV/AIDS in the workplace. They will also be instructed on what resources are available to them for implementation, both through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local community organizations.

Lou Dobbs, senior vice president and managing editor for CNN Business News, will serve as moderator of the four-hour program. Mayor Campbell will give opening remarks and talk about the situation in Atlanta.

Enoch Prow, executive vice president of NationsBank and honorary business chairman for the conference, will speak about the challenge of HIV/AIDS to Atlanta business. Prow was recently

named board chair of the National Leadership Coalition on AIDS in Washington, D.C.

Other speakers include CDC director Dr. David Satcher, who will talk about the international and national challenge of HIV/AIDS, and Georgia State Epidemiologist Kathleen Toomey, who will talk specifically about HIV/AIDS in Georgia and Atlanta.

"We have done this [type of conference] in other cities throughout the nation, and we have received tremendous feedback from the business and labor communities—very positive feedback," says Angie Hammock, director of the CDC programs Business Responds to AIDS and Labor Responds to AIDS.

"[Participants in previous conferences] came looking for guidance and they felt they got it," Hammock adds. "That's what we're hoping to do in the Atlanta business and labor communities."

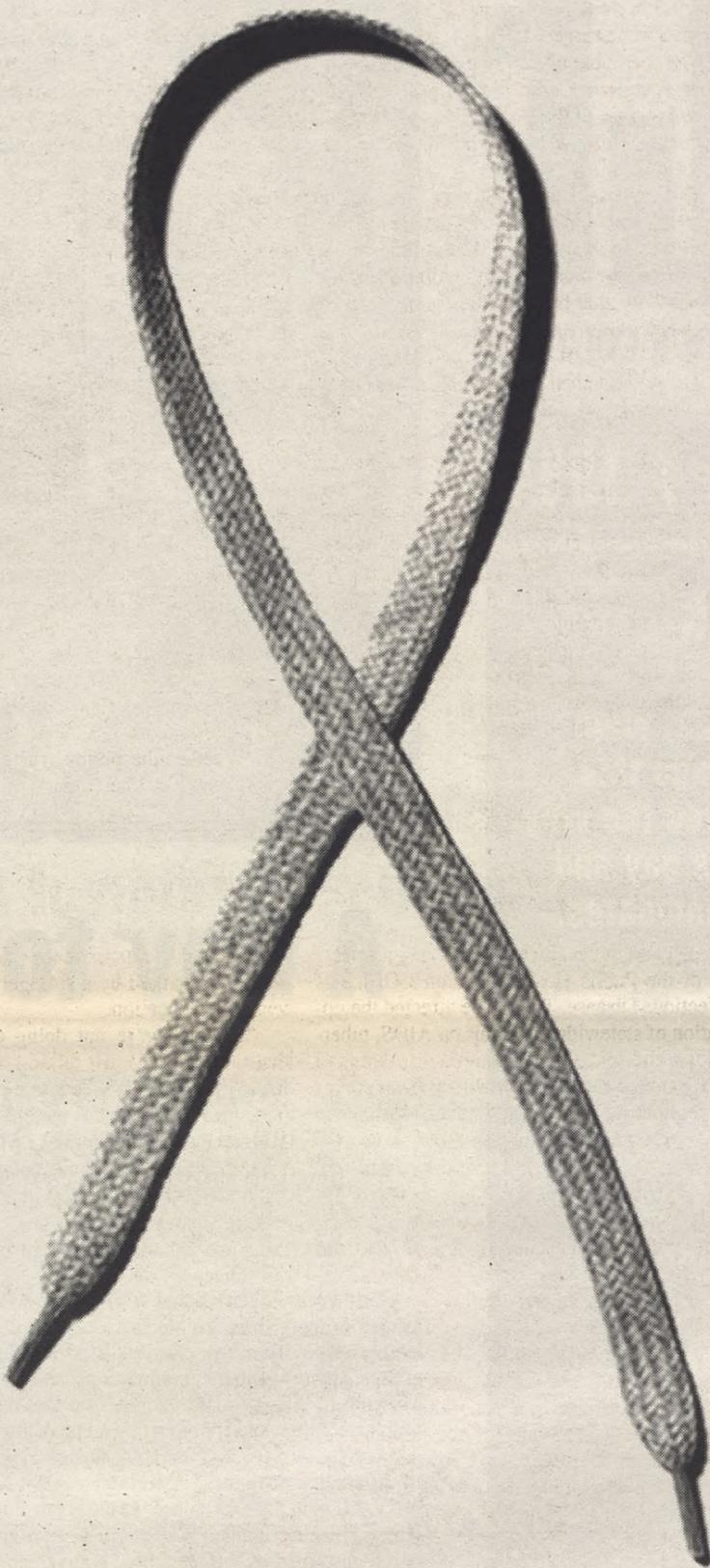
Though the conference is being offered on site only to business and labor professionals, it will be beamed via satellite to anyone with the necessary equipment to receive it. Hammock expects it to be viewed en masse by professional groups and businesses across the country.

The broadcast will actually start with the luncheon speaker, with the pre-taped morning sessions to follow. "That way, for those on the East Coast—let's say at a Rotary Club meeting—they would just have their regular luncheon meeting and watch the broadcast," Hammock says. "For West Coast folks it could be a breakfast meeting."

While the "HIV/AIDS in the Workplace" conference will impact business and labor leaders on a national level, the event most likely to impact Atlanta the most on World AIDS Day is the visual centerpiece at the High Museum of Art, entitled "Elec-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Pictured: The late Tom Fox of Atlanta, from Billy Howard's book "Epitaphs for the Living." Howard's portraits are part of "Electric Blanket."



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## Marietta gay bar raided; two arrested

**Marietta**—Less than a month after its opening, Players Good Time Emporium, Cobb County's new gay bar, has become the target of a police stakeout operation, resulting in the arrests of two patrons and a citation for the bar's owner, Wayne Dennard, for violation of the city's adult entertainment ordinance.

Johnny Shiflet, 24, of Marietta, and William Jack, 28, of Smyrna, were released on \$330 bond each and ordered to stand trial on January 26 because they exposed their buttocks without a permit, considered unlawful in an establishment that serves alcohol. The incident occurred during the bar's weekly "hot body" contest on Nov. 15. Dennard was cited, but not arrested, for presenting the contest without an adult entertainment permit.

Shiflet has filed a complaint with the police department, charging that the arrest violated his constitutional rights.

Undercover officers from the Marietta Police Department entered the bar around 9 p.m., and waited until the contest began around 10 p.m. Three people appeared in the contest, but the third removed only his shirt and was not arrested.

The raid prompted a protest at Marietta City Hall on Nov. 16, along with charges that the action represented selective enforcement of the 2½ year-old ordinance.

"We feel that we are being targeted because we are an alternative lifestyles estab-

lishment and the majority of our clientele is gay," said Gail Forbes, a Players bartender.

Marietta police officials denied that the bar was being targeted.

"As we routinely do, we send in folks to check compliance with city ordinances," said Capt. Tim Fant of the MPD. "We do this whenever there's a new establishment that serves alcohol."

But Fant said that to his recollection, no non-adult entertainment establishment has ever been cited for violation of the ordinance. He said the department has monitored "lingerie contests" in other bars, but those contests were not deemed in violation.

ACT UP's Jeff Graham, one of about 15 people who marched outside City Hall Wednesday morning, termed the action "clearly harassment."

"What was obvious isn't so much that an ordinance was broken—that may have been the case—but this is the first time the Marietta Police Department has enforced it," he said.

Fant said that the decision to arrest or not arrest is at the discretion of the officers on the scene. "In my opinion, if it were a person who did not possess a permit, I would bring them in," he said. "If they did, I would not. I don't think they were treated any differently."

David Mayersky, treasurer of the Cobb Citizens Coalition, said that the police may have gone too far.

"In all fairness, they could have warned the guys," he said. "It's no different than a speed limit violation—how many times has one of us gotten pulled over for that and gotten a warning?"

Co-owners Wayne and Brenda Dennard opened the bar in late October, announcing in ads that "Cobb County will never be the same."

The Dennards said they started the business to give Cobb County's sizable gay community a place to go, and that the action against them was not a complete surprise.

"Although we knew this raid was going to happen eventually, we're disappointed it did," said Wayne Dennard. "It's sad it had to come to this."

"I was expecting the raid on grand opening [Nov. 5], said Brenda Dennard. "Tuesday was a surprise."

Fant said that some discussion was now ongoing within the police department about the appropriateness of the arrests.

"Whether the policy will change, I can't speak for that," he said. "I've talked to the



LISA GEIGER



Capt. Tim Fant said the undercover operation at Players was "routine."

chief about it. In my personal opinion, I think a copy of the charges would suffice."

Cobb County's gay residents hope the incident is not repeated.

"We do want this bar to survive," said Mayersky. "We'd hate to see them driven out because of something like this."

KC WILDMOON

J. Leigh Mishoe contributed to this article.

## Jane Carr named new executive director of AID Atlanta

**Atlanta**—AID Atlanta has chosen Jane Carr, a registered nurse and certified family nurse practitioner with 25 years experience in nursing and public health administration, as its new executive director.

Carr fills the post left vacant in August when Becky Clayton Burton resigned abruptly after less than a year on the job, saying she wanted to devote her time to post-graduate studies.

"[Carr's] knowledge, experience and compassion make her ideally suited to guide the agency in its mission to provide services, education and advocacy for persons affected by HIV/AIDS," said Ted Haslam, president of AID Atlanta's board of directors. "Her familiarity with the agency will allow her to 'hit the ground running' and the board looks forward to working with her in her new capacity."

A former AID Atlanta board member, Carr spent 20 years with the state Department of

Human Resources, including serving as director of the Public Health Division's Office of Infectious Disease. There, she directed the operation of statewide programs on AIDS, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases, and had extensive contact with AIDS agencies throughout the state, including AID Atlanta.

Carr, who currently serves as executive director of Central Health Center, a clinic offering primary health care for underserved inner city residents, said that her years of experience will be beneficial to the 12-year-old agency.

"The next five years will be very critical for HIV advocacy, education and care," Carr said. "It's going to be important to have people with experience and connections in the state. Those kinds of collegial associations are going to be very important for our survival, because we are not going to get any real universal health care coming out of Washington."

Carr said that her tenure at AID Atlanta would be marked by a stronger focus on preventative education.

"I know we're not doing a good job of that, and I'm not just talking about AID Atlanta," she said. "It's clear to me, coming from [Central Health Center], where we see people every day and a number have STDs. What that says is that if people are hearing the message, it's not causing behavioral changes. We have to take some different approaches. The only thing we can do is prevention, because we don't have a cure."

Carr added that she would like to see the agency become more involved in collaborative efforts with other community-based organizations and have more of a statewide presence.

"AID Atlanta has 10 years of experience that other agencies in the state could benefit from," she said. "We need to export some of

that expertise."

Carr also said she would work to ensure that the agency's services are provided efficiently and effectively.

Local AIDS advocates reacted positively to the news of Carr's appointment. Jeff Graham, interim director of the AIDS Survival Project, which is also searching for a new director after the departure of Mark King last month, said that Carr "certainly has her work cut out for her."

"I don't know much about her," he said, "but I've been very impressed with Central Health Center and the quality of services people receive there. That speaks well of her. I hope she can bring that kind of fine services to AID Atlanta."

Carr is currently working half-days at AID Atlanta to acclimate to the job. She begins full-time on Dec. 1.

KC WILDMOON

## Top spot at Project Open Hand vacant once more

**Atlanta**—Just two days after AID Atlanta named a new director, another executive director of an Atlanta AIDS service organization stepped down.

On Nov. 16, Project Open Hand announced the resignation of Ava Diamond, who took over the helm of the agency last February following the resignation of Karen Broyles in November 1993.

Diamond is the third AIDS agency director in Atlanta to resign since August—AID Atlanta's Becky Clayton Burton has been replaced by Jane Carr, and the AIDS Survival Project is still seeking a replacement for Mark King.

POH vice president Paul Horning said that the organization is in a much better position now than it was a year ago when Broyles abruptly left. At that time, POH was scrambling financially, and just two weeks after the resignation of Broyles, Aubrey Bowie, POH's development director, died suddenly of a heart attack.

But this year, the agency began plans to move offices and got back on track financially, including hiring a new development director two weeks ago.

"Ava's accomplished a lot in the last year," Horning said. "There have been a lot of changes—all for the positive."

Diamond said the decision to leave now (she will still work with the organization until Jan. 31 to finish some projects that are under way) was spurred in part by POH's pending move from its Bass High School location to City Hall East, and the capital campaign that will be needed to raise the funds for the construction and move.

"It's been an evolutionary process as I've gotten the agency closer to where I wanted to go," she said. "I just need to do some other things. They're facing the capital campaign and the move, and they need somebody else to take them through that."

On Nov. 15, before her resignation was announced, Diamond said that the organiza-

tion had selected a contractor for the City Hall East construction. Horning said that about 90% of the plans for the new location were complete, and that construction would begin when the plans were finished and the capital campaign is under way. Horning estimated the campaign should begin within the next 30 days.

The executive committee of the board—Horning, president Richard Dailey, and secretary John Spickerman—have taken over the



Departing executive director Ava Diamond.

day-to-day aspects of Diamond's job, and a search for the new director has begun. Horning said the board hopes to have the position filled by the middle of January.

The agency's new development director, Ken Stein, comes to Project Open Hand from Houston, Tex., where he served as director of marketing and business for a major hospital and development director for the Bering Community Service foundation, a community-based AIDS service organization.

Diamond, who was the director of the Atlanta AIDS Fund of the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation before taking the POH position, said she hopes to continue working in the HIV/AIDS field in Atlanta, possibly in a consultant role, and that she hopes to continue working with Project Open Hand in the future.

"Project Open Hand is an incredibly wonderful organization," she said. "This is the best time for me to leave an agency I dearly love."

KC WILDMOON

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## New lesbian center opens in Durham

Durham, NC—Janice Vaughn and Wanda Floyd have taken another step toward inclusion of all people in the struggle for lesbian/gay civil rights by opening the Center for Non-White Lesbians in Durham. The Center, with monthly meetings, will be a place for lesbians of color to come together to share their experiences and resources.

"It's rare we get to sit down and talk with each other," said Vaughn, who also organized an African American lesbian group last January that has since grown from five members to 45. "We're always lumped in some group."

Vaughn said that the idea for the new center grew out of her experience at the People of Color Institute of last year's Creating Change conference, held in North Carolina. The Center will hold monthly meetings at Our Own Place in the basement of The Professional Building in Durham after a grand opening on Nov. 20. The opening, said Vaughn, offered a sampling of what to expect from the center.

The Center showed "My Castle's Rocking," a film about lesbian blues/jazz singer Alberta Hunter, at the opening. Hunter, who began her career in the early 1900s, retired from performing to become a nurse, and launched a comeback in the 1970s, came out publicly late in life.

"Not only is that an important image for women, but as African Americans we need to see these images," said Vaughn. "We need to know there's life later on."

Vaughn said that response from the Durham community has been strong and positive, although she has received some negative feedback, mostly from men, over the organization's choice of a name. Vaughn responded that the idea was to include all lesbians of color, and not just African Americans.

"When you say lesbians of color, it's like one lump," she said. "During our travels, we noticed that Asians, Latinas, all these other



Janice Vaughn (left) and Wanda Floyd of the Center for Non-White Lesbians.

groups are not really identified with being lesbians of color."

The Center will also offer some programs open to white lesbians—their first monthly meeting in December will focus on interracial relationships.

Vaughn fends off criticism that the group excludes white lesbians, likening the need for a Center for Non-white Lesbians to the need for women-only space.

"We need that space to come together as a coalition," she said. "That's what this is for. And it's only once a month."

KC WILDMOON

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## Judge ok's HIV tests in Miss. murders

Laurel, MS—The attorneys for a teen accused of murdering two gay men have been granted their motion to have HIV tests performed on the victims.

Attorneys for Marvin McClendon, 16, asked Judge Billy Joe Landrum to allow the state Crime Lab to perform the tests. McClendon is charged with capital murder in the Oct. 8 slayings of Robert Walters, 34, and Joseph Shoemaker, 24, both of Laurel. Both were shot execution-style.

McClendon pleaded innocent to the charges. His bond was set at \$100,000 during the Nov. 10 arraignment.

Defense attorney J. Ronald Parrish said if either of the victims had HIV, "it would be no different than if they had a loaded weapon and pointed it at an individual."

Parrish has suggested that the teenager was

subjected to sexual advances by the two men.

District Attorney Jeannene Pacific said the AIDS issue is "totally irrelevant. It has no other purpose than to inflame jurors."

Gay-rights advocates agree.

"Calling for an HIV test is AIDS phobia beyond the grave," said Peri Jude Radevic, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "I think it is a tactic by the defense to continue to confuse people about the truth behind these murders."

Gay-rights organizations have claimed the murders were a hate crime. They have asked for federal intervention in the case. Jones County authorities have said the motive was robbery.

The trial has been set for Jan. 30.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Southern gay Christians gather in N.C.

Wilmington, NC—An estimated 500 members of the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Church from six Southern states gathered Nov. 12-13 at a Wilmington hotel for their district meeting. Speakers at the meeting included Mayor Don Betz and state Rep. Karen Gottovi (D-New Hanover).

MCC has about 5,000 members in Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee. The Christian group claims about 42,000 members in 16 countries, making it the largest organization that ministers mainly to gay men and lesbians.

Founder Rev. Troy Perry said more lesbians and gay men have flocked to the church in

recent years because of the AIDS epidemic.

"AIDS has been a double-edged sword," he said. "The church has grown in the middle of this."

Perry said MCC also has had other struggles, including firebombings at 12 of its churches and the murder of an MCC minister in California.

The church has gained strength in the South because Southerners are less prone to subtle discrimination, Perry said.

"Southerners have a sense of fair play: if we don't like you, we tell you," he said. "People who are honest with you, you can educate."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Lavender Sweep in San Francisco Elections:

Despite a Republican landslide and GOP gains in the state assembly, San Francisco elected a slate of openly gay, progressive candidates in the Nov. 8 elections. According to the San Francisco Sentinel, Supervisors Carole Migden, Tom Ammiano and Susan Leal won easy victories, as did Leslie Katz and Lawrence Wong for San Francisco College Board. Said Wong: "I'm very happy that at least in San Francisco there's an oasis of sanity and we've elected progressive Democrats."



Lavender sweep winners (L-R) Susan Leal, Tom Ammiano, Carole Migden, Leslie Katz and Lawrence Wong.

**Paramount Extends Domestic Partner Benefits:** Paramount Pictures announced Nov. 11 that it will extend medical and dental benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of its employees, beginning in the new year. The decision places Paramount among a growing number of entertainment companies that offer such benefits. Fox and Disney are now the only major studios yet to extend the benefits, and Hollywood Supports, an organization that lobbies for workplace rights for lesbians and gay men, said it expects both of those companies to sign on. "We know they're both working on it," said Richard Jennings, Hollywood Supports' executive director. "I think Disney's getting very close."

**Transit Company Must Carry Condom Ads:** A federal appeals court on Nov. 9 said that Boston's transit system violated the First Amendment when it refused to run AIDS prevention ads promoting condom use with racy slogans. The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that said the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority discriminated against the AIDS Action Committee by holding it to a different standard than other advertisers. MBTA lawyer James Reardon said he hadn't decided whether to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**AIDS Agency May Have Been Used For Money Laundering:** A former administrator at a Utah retirement center is accused of forging close to \$30,000 in checks from elderly residents and laundering them through a charitable AIDS organization he ran. Eight second-degree felony counts of forgery have been filed against Sidney R. Johns, according to a story in the Ogden Standard-Examiner last week. Johns shut down the Northern Utah AIDS Society in August when police began to investigate. Ogden police Det. Randy Lythgoe said Johns allegedly did not deny forging the checks, but said the money was used to cover legitimate expenses at the AIDS Society.

**Gay Man Charges Gay Boss Harassed Him:** A gay construction worker and waiter in Philadelphia has filed a lawsuit charging that his manager fondled him and repeatedly pressured him to have sex. In the suit, filed Nov. 10 with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Warren Swage said he was fired in September after complaining to the president of the two companies he was working for about his manager, "Spike Doe." Swage said that his manager, whom he knew only as "Spike," made daily advances and comments despite Swage's refusal. George Lutz, president of Creative Remodeling and The Inn Philadelphia, said the charges were "absolutely not true."

**Lawsuit Challenges Hawaiian Gay Marriage Commission:** The rules governing the formation of a Hawaiian commission to decide what—if any—benefits should be extended to same sex couples have been challenged in court. A Catholic businessman and a Protestant minister have filed a lawsuit claiming that the commission violates the U.S. Constitution by discrimination against some religious groups. Members of the commission include representatives from the Catholic, Mormon and Quaker faiths, and Hawaii Deputy Attorney General Steven Michael said he believes the suit is without merit.

**Minn. Man Charged In Murder Of Lover:** A Minneapolis man faces first-degree murder charges in connection with the drowning death of his lover, whose body was found in Lake Minnetonka in August. According to Focus Point, a Minnesota gay and lesbian paper, John Paul Bloom, 26, was previously charged with second-degree murder in the death of 19-year-old Jason Roerick, but an Oct. 25 grand jury returned an indictment on first-degree charges. Bloom told police that he and Roerick went out on the lake in a pontoon boat and Bloom handcuffed Roerick to two anchors, which fell over the railing. Bloom remains in custody at the Hennepin County Jail.

**Initiatives Aren't Dead Yet:** Despite defeats of anti-gay ballot initiatives in Idaho and Oregon in the Nov. 8 elections, far right forces in three western states vow to continue their push to deny basic human rights to lesbians and gay men. In Idaho, Idaho Citizens Alliance leader Kelly Walton says the group will likely pursue a new initiative for 1996, while in Washington, where two different far right groups failed to get enough signatures to put their measure on the ballot, a new group associated with anti-gay activist Rev. Lou Sheldon has promised another attempt in 1995. And the Oregon Citizens Alliance will continue its efforts to pass local anti-gay ordinances—26 have already passed—while gearing up for another attempt at a statewide measure. According to exit poll data, Oregon's measure was supported mainly by middle-income people who did not attend college and also tended to be Republicans who oppose abortion and support Sen. Bob Packwood in his fight against sexual harassment charges.

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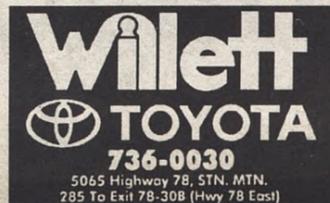
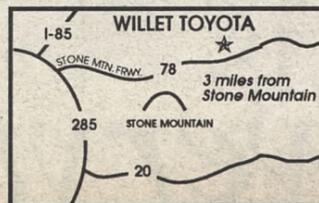


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## World AIDS Day

Continued from page 1

tric Blanket.”

“Electric Blanket” is a photographers’ response to AIDS. Presented from city to city in a slide show compilation since its inception in 1990, it incorporates music, statistics and facts with photographic work documenting AIDS from around the world. This year’s installation at the High Museum is presented in collaboration with Visual AIDS and the City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office.

Memorial photographs in the presentation range from fine art portraiture to family snapshots. Other photos show images of AIDS demonstrations, protests and marches, including work from top photojournalists. Complete photo-essays cover such topics as AIDS in prison and AIDS among the homeless in New York City, as well as affirmative depictions of people surviving and living with the disease.

The 90-minute presentation will be projected, beginning at 7 p.m. on a giant screen

parallel to the facade of the High. Streets will be blocked off to accommodate the mass viewing.

“As soon as I read the description and the press coverage from cities where it had been presented, I knew that this was the kind of program that would have a tremendous visual impact on our community,” says Ellen Dugan, curator of photography for the High Museum.

“In some ways it’s like an electronic extension of the Names Quilt,” she added. “I think that it will be a very moving and extraordinary evening of images, music and text.”

Like the Names Quilt project, one of the things that makes Electric Blanket a unique addition to the growing number of art projects dealing with AIDS is that it is continually updated and personalized. In each city it visits, local images are edited into a new version of the program.

Many Atlanta submissions will make it into

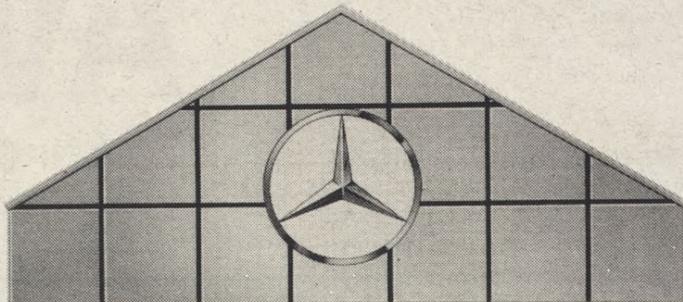
CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



ALLEN FRAMME

Last year’s installation of “Electric Blanket” in Washington, D.C.

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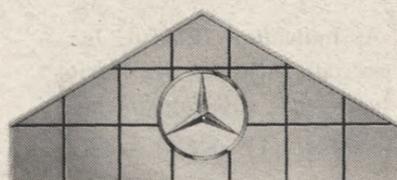
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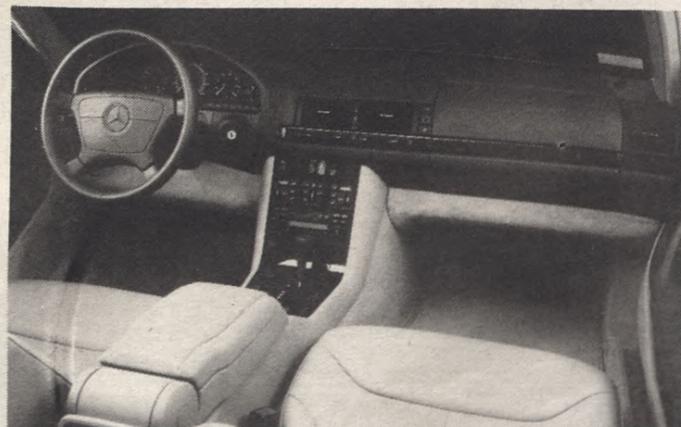
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## Creating Change conference draws gay, lesbian leaders

Dallas, TX—In the wake of stunning GOP victories on Nov. 8, local and national gay and lesbian leaders vowed to forge alliances with blacks, Hispanics and women at the seventh annual Creating Change conference held Nov. 11-13 by the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Though pessimistic in their assessment of election results indicating a conservative swing, the activists expressed determination to persevere with important gay- and AIDS-related initiatives and, ultimately, to win.

"Now more than ever is the time to stand in coalition with our other civil rights movements to stop any further erosion of our civil rights in this country," said Peri Jude Radecic, executive director of the NGLTF Policy Institute.

The conference, held annually in different cities across the United States, primarily provides activists and volunteers with nuts-and-bolts training. Dozens of workshops, from fundraising to dealing with the media, were offered to help attendees improve organizing skills.

By the end of the meeting Nov. 13, over 1,200 gay and lesbian leaders from 47 states had attended the conference at the Southland Center Hotel.

The recurring theme at dozens of panels and workshops was that gay men and lesbians must work to stop a Republican-controlled Congress from destroying decades of civil rights advances.

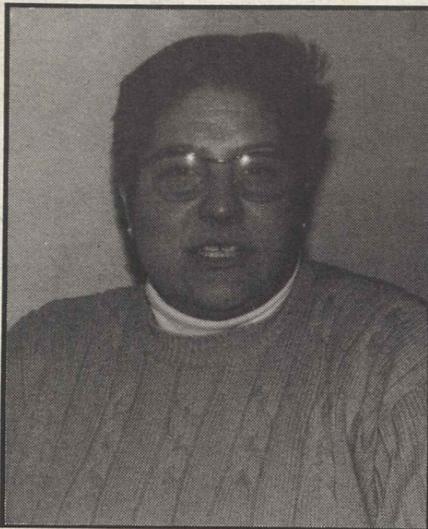
"I believe the radical right has used ballot measures and amendments as a strategy because they didn't control the legislatures and the Congress," said Radecic. "They certainly can move their agenda through the legislatures now."

Gay leaders, among them Dallas City Councilman Craig McDaniel and state Rep. Glen Maxey (D-Austin), joined speakers discussing fundraising and organizing, as well as responding to the right wing.

"Over the last several days, it has been a time of mourning," Maxey said. "But, growing up, I was always taught that a good wake lasts three days. Well, the wake is over. It's time now to move forward and go on with our lives."

Valerie Wagner of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum was among many who said a coalition with other groups is essential.

"If the oppressor's foot is on my neck, my concern is not whether it's there because I'm black or because I'm a woman or because I'm a lesbian," she said. "My concern is to remove the foot from my neck."



**NGLTF's Peri Jude Radecic called for a coalition between gay activists and other civil rights movements.**

Letitia Gomez, executive director of the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, asked for more inclusion of minorities within gay and lesbian communities.

"I as a Latina lesbian have added gay and lesbian civil rights to my plate of civil rights issues," she said. "Have you added Latino civil rights to your plate of issues?"

In a concluding meeting on Sunday, NGLTF representatives outlined plans to restructure the organization in an effort to deliver services more efficiently. Melinda Paras, the group's chief operating officer, said the "internal crises" that NGLTF faced this year "have caused some serious re-examination of what the Task Force is and what it could be."

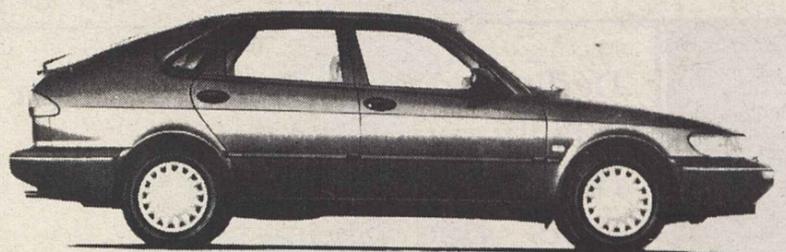
The group's first priority, she said, is to create a "first-rate field operation" which will focus on well-chosen priority issues, even if some other matters receive less attention in the future.

Officials also plan to invigorate NGLTF's Policy Institute, creating under its banner a "think tank" where research, analysis and training can be centralized and then disseminated to state and local activists.

Notorious anti-gay crusader Fred Phelps made a brief appearance at the conference on Saturday afternoon, after picketing Friday evening and Saturday morning at Cathedral of Hope MCC, the world's largest gay and lesbian congregation.

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Tammye Nash  
contributed to this story

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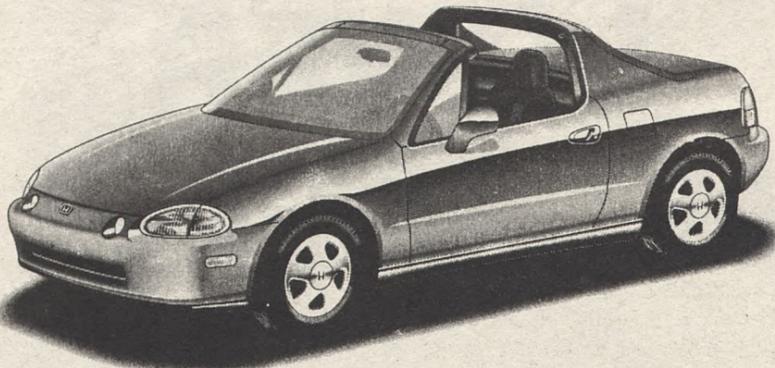
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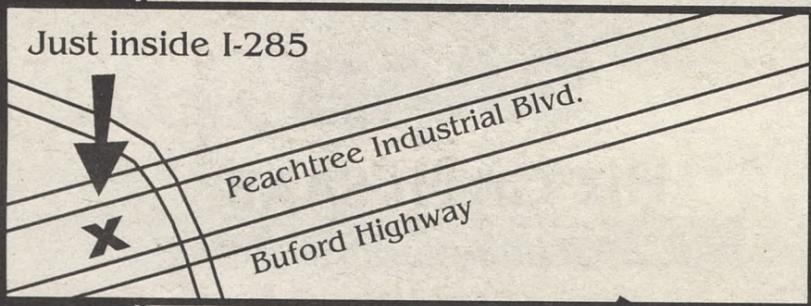
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## President to meet with gay elected officials

**San Francisco**—San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal has been selected by the Clinton Administration to coordinate a meeting between President Clinton and gay male and lesbian elected officials nationwide. Leal's office announced the appointment on October 31.

"I am honored by this appointment, and I look forward to working with my colleagues nationwide," Leal said in a statement. "Our community gave critical support to Bill Clinton's campaign, and it's important that we continue to have a seat at the table to shape national policy."

Leal, a 44-year-old Latina lesbian, was appointed to the S.F. Board of Supervisors in 1993 by Mayor Frank Jordan to replace Roberta Achtenberg, who had resigned to be assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Leal was re-elected on Nov. 8.

In 1976 Leal was named Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and

Commerce Committee, where she conducted drug safety investigations of the Food and Drug Administration. Just prior to joining the Board of Supervisors, Leal served as a health-care management executive. According to Kathleen DeBold of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the search for someone to fill this appointment "had been going on for some time."

"We have been trying to arrange such a meeting since Clinton came in office," she said. "We were asked by the administration, and I'm sure they asked others to go through our list of people and recommend someone suitable. We felt Susan Leal was the best choice. She is experienced with Latino rights, and gay rights. She brings a broad base of knowledge to the position."

Leal said administration officials "wanted to hold the meeting prior to election day, but I was in the middle of my campaign and a number of other gay politicians were doing the

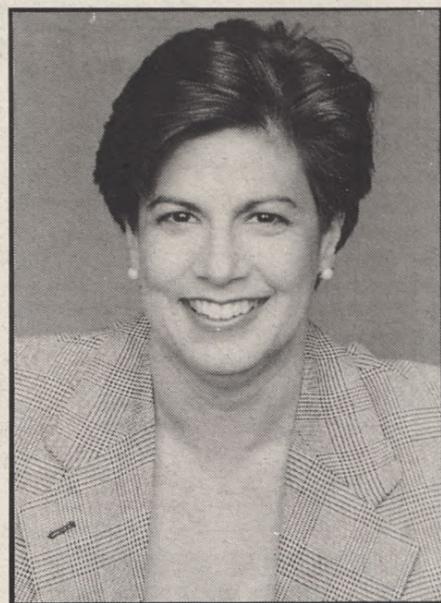
same. I wouldn't feel right pulling them away at this time."

According to the Victory Fund there are currently 102 gay elected officials nationwide. Leal said the meeting between them and the White House will take place in Washington, D.C., before the end of the year. No agenda has been set but Leal said it will include a range of topics of concern to the gay community.

Leal made clear that she is not serving as the official liaison between Clinton and gay politicians, and didn't know at this point if this will be a one-time meeting or the start of an on-going dialogue with the administration.

"Being a Supervisor is a full time job so I couldn't do this on an on-going basis," she said. "However, if the administration wanted to set up a meeting every three or four months I would be more than happy to do that."

SIDNEY BRINKLEY



San Francisco Sup. Susan Leal

## Brain study adds to evidence linking sexuality to biology

**New York**—A passageway between two parts of the human brain may be bigger in gay men than in heterosexual men, according to a study that offers new evidence that sexual orientation is at least partly a matter of biology.

The size difference appeared in the communication conduit between parts of the brain used for understanding speech and perceiving objects. The finding suggests that sexual orientation may be part of a larger package of brain characteristics, so that gay men as a group may have a different pattern of mental skills than heterosexual men, said researcher Sandra Witelson.

Witelson analyzed the brains of 21 living men, including 10 heterosexual men, using magnetic resonance imaging. She and a team of researchers found that in gay men, the corpus callosum—associated with verbal, spatial and motor skills—is significantly larger than in heterosexual men.

Witelson stressed that her study was small and must be confirmed by further work. She also said its results and implications apply only to groups and not individuals.

Witelson, a psychiatry professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, discussed the work before presenting it last week in Miami Beach at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

Studies in 1991 and 1992 reported size differences elsewhere in the brain that were related to sexual orientation.

Roger Gorski, co-author of the 1992 study on brain differences between homosexual and heterosexual men, said the discovery of another difference comes as no surprise, but he cautioned that it is unclear whether the brain differences influence sexual orientation or may even be results of it. Nor is it clear, he said, whether the brain differences affect mental functioning.

Peri Jude Radevic of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was quick to caution that data indicating a biological basis for homosexuality must be used "in the most ethical ways, and precautions must be taken to ensure that the studies are not used against any individuals or groups."

"We know that the right wing will use any research results against gay and lesbian civil rights, because theirs is not a movement based on seeking the truth, but on perpetuating bigotry," Radevic added.

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## NEXT WEEK

## Margaret Cho

All-American Girl sets the record straight on her sexuality

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Republican sweep not a mandate against gays and lesbians

by TIM MCFEELEY

Despite grandiose claims by the Christian Coalition and other conservative political groups, the Republican sweep in the midterm elections was not a mandate for the social agenda of the party's extreme right wing. Where voters spoke directly on the subject of equal rights for gay people, they sent a clear message that their vision of change does not include an agenda of intolerance. Anti-gay initiatives and extremist candidates were defeated in the midst of the Republican rout—and the lesbian and gay community emerged from the elections with some high-profile wins under our belt.

In conservative Idaho, where Republicans swept Congressional and state elections, GOP voters provided the margin of victory over anti-gay Proposition 1. The entire Republican Congressional delegation opposed the measure, and both parties' candidates for attorney general paused during their campaigns to hold a joint press conference denouncing Proposition 1 as unconstitutional. This is hardly the stuff of which mandates are made.

In Oregon, the Christian Coalition dumped 650,000 "voter guides" directing voters to approve Measure 13, which would have written anti-gay discrimination into the state constitution and denied basic rights to lesbian and gay Oregonians. Voters rejected Pat Robertson's agenda and sent a clear signal that they oppose discrimination and support equal rights for all people.

Gay issues played a highly visible role in the most closely watched Senate race. Early in the Virginia campaign, Senator Chuck Robb spoke to a Human Rights Campaign Fund fundraising dinner, and took a stand for the fundamental value that all Americans deserve dignity and equal rights. Oliver North branded Robb the "point man in the Senate for the radical homosexual lobby" and pounded the incumbent for opposing discrimination against gays in the military.

Newspapers throughout the state reported on the active involvement of Virginia's gay community in the campaign. The Campaign Fund worked with our Virginia members to field hundreds of volunteers who contacted more than 15,000 moderate voters—equivalent to more than 29 percent of Robb's margin of victory. North lost despite the millions of dollars pumped into his campaign by radical right groups nationwide. In Robb's victory speech, the Senator emphasized "inclusion" and said that "Virginia will continue to be tolerant rather than intolerant."

Robb was one of 13 Senate incumbents up for re-election who opposed the ban on gays in the military and backed the gay community's top legislative priority, a bill



to prohibit job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. All 13 won re-election. Of 120 House cosponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, 110 will return to Washington, and 11 new Members were elected who pledged to cosponsor the bill. While the environment in Congress has obviously shifted, the base of support behind equal rights for lesbian and gay Americans remains intact.

These results confirm trends that have surfaced in public opinion polls over the past several years. In a national survey conducted by Mellman Lazarus Lake, Inc., 77 percent of respondents opposed job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Most Americans believe that people who want to do their jobs, pay their taxes and contribute to the community should not have to live in fear of discrimination.

The most recent study released by the respected Times Mirror Center for The People & The Press reported that the most important swing voters in the electorate—representing 20 percent of registered voters—are "highly tolerant of homosexuality." As for the general public's values on social issues, Times Mirror wrote, "We found at least one important change in public tolerance in the last four years—a sharp decline in homophobia."

In a national poll released by People for the American Way, 62 percent of respondents said intolerance and discrimination against lesbian and gay people is a serious problem, and 65 percent said "the government should not concern itself with the morality of private activity, such as sexual orientation." A poll conducted for U.S. News and World Report found that two-thirds of voters favor ensuring equal rights for gays,

with a majority of every demographic subgroup supporting the idea—including those who voted for Clinton, Bush and Perot.

Perhaps this is why none of the right's social issues appear in Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America." The GOP leadership knows that these extreme views will not help consolidate its base among swing voters. Rather, the future of the party lies with moderates like the up-and-coming GOP star Christine Todd Whitman, the popular governor of New Jersey who may figure on the party's 1996 Presidential ticket. New Jersey is one of eight states whose laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"I am proud to be the Governor of a state which recognizes that 'equality' applies to all citizens unconditionally," she wrote in a letter endorsing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. "Ours is a state of many faces, but one family. At the heart of this family is the principle of inclusion, meaning that no person is cast aside or denied equal opportunity for any reason."

The voters have not signed a *carte blanche* for the right's social agenda, but rather expressed frustration with and alienation from an unresponsive government. The values expressed by Gov. Whitman are the best antidote for these feelings. They are sentiments that lesbian and gay Americans know only too well. We must work to tap into the good will that exists for us and appeal to the values that we share with fair-minded Americans. From a position of strength and unity, we can move forward into the uncertain days ahead.

Tim McFeeley is Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

## LETTER

## Newt's contract

WHOOOPS! We thought we had a contract! The offer promoted by Mr. Speaker-designate Newt Gingrich promised to address the disproportionate concentration of money and power in the national government.

As it turns out, there are other contracts. Like the School prayer Constitutional Amendment Contract. Who made that deal? Is that a contract with America or with some other group?

Rather than worry about the undisclosed "deals" made in pursuit of party power, let's remember the Basic Agreement, which is made and sworn to by all who serve as representatives of the People: "...to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America."

Very truly yours,  
Joseph L. Kelly

## Let's talk about the real gay agenda

Have you got your copy of The Gay Agenda around? I can't find mine.

I'm sure I must have one around here somewhere, in a stack someplace, but my office is a mess right now, and I was wondering if I could borrow yours. Could you fax it to me?

What, you don't have a copy either? Damn. I know that everybody in the Harrassgayterian Church got one. I'm pretty sure they were also sent out to all the members of Jerry Falsewell's and Jim BaKKer's congregations. And I think Senator Sam Dumb distributed copies to the entire Senate Armed Services Committee. None of whom I'm speaking to this week.

Well, isn't that odd. Since it's OUR agenda, you'd have thought at least one of us would be able to come up with a copy. Would have one lying around in the corner of a hard drive or a filing cabinet somewhere. Hmmm. I can't seem to find a one of us with her own Xerox®. As I said, "Odd."

You see, I've been in far too many corporations for far too long, to proceed without one. I've lived too long in unfocused conference rooms, participating in aimless, egotistical exercises in futility, lead by senior members in the service of their own ambition, to think that we can accomplish much without one.

It seems to me to be a waste of everybody's time and attention to show up for even one more triangle conference, or rainbow committee meeting without a copy.

So I guess there's just nothing for it, but to write up a new one, right now, and distribute it to everyone, so we'll know ex-



### Cleaning Out My Closet

by SHELLY ROBERTS

actly what the purpose of the gathering is, what's scheduled, and what time we can get out of the meeting and get back to getting some real work done.

For Your Information:

#### THE GAY AGENDA

I. Call the meeting to order twenty minutes late.

This is Gay/Lesbian Standard Time, and to presume anything different would be to defy Standard Operating Procedure. Proceed.

II. Reading of the minutes.

They proposed. We disagreed. We proposed. They disagreed. DC al Coda.

III. Additions or Corrections.

Well, the US Parks Department was off by about seven hundred thousand. Approximately. Give or take a couple of guys in corsets, and a few bare-chested women.

97% of all the child molesters are heterosexual.

We don't recruit, we're an all-volunteer army.

Because it is more than likely, probably, doubtlessly, presumably, apparently, believably, feasibly genetic, it was your parents fault.

The uniform of the day for most of us is not tutus and goatees.

Contrary to the popular wish-fulfillment beliefs of most married heterosexual females, most lesbians do not hate men, unless they have ever masqueraded as married heterosexual females. Or daughters. Or employees. Or voted.

The only other people's children we want, thank you very much, are the helpless, the abandoned, the ones with AIDS, and the ones they don't seem to want unless we ask to adopt them.

Minutes approved as read and amended. Amen.

III. Unfinished business.

Housing and Urban Development.

Shut Up and Salute.

Insurance Benefits and Beneficiary Rights.

Job Security and Tax Equality.

Legal Marriage and Universal Spousal Prerogative.

Custody and Adoption.

Will The Real Queers Please Stand Up.

And why-the-hell-don't-your-folks-put-me-on-the-Christmas-card too?-We've-been-together-eighteen-years.

IV. New business.

Perpetrating the following:

The Golden Rule

The wisdom to know the difference.

Family Of Wo/Man Values.

A balance of beams and notes.

V. Tabled to a future discussion.

World domination and/or demoralization (At least any more than it already is).

VI. Vetoed

Subornment of Children.

Seduction of Housewives and Truckdrivers. (Unless volunteering)

Satanic Ritual. Bestiality. Unnatural Acts.

VII. Meeting adjourned.

There you have it. The entire Gay Agenda. From an entirely gay person for a change. Not a religious fanatic of any describable wing. Because, it seems to me, if we don't get our real agenda out on the table loud and clear, they'll just keep following their hidden one.

## LETTERS

### Bush and big hair

What we have just experienced is one of the saddest days in a potentially very long series of bad episodes...Election '94. I had a very profound sense of loss and even terror as I watched the election returns come pouring in like a tidal wave. As a native Texan I was particularly sickened by the governor's race in my home state. Oh no! Another Bush!

I was further saddened to discover that many of my friends and acquaintances did not vote. Hello?! If our community only realized how organized the religious right and Republican party were we would be racing to the polls. A prime example is the infamous Nancy Schaefer. Jesus Christ, how far can the first runner-up to Miss Georgia 1940 go! First she runs for mayor and gets 11% of the vote (almost as much as Myrtle Davis who actually has knowledge and experience). Then she runs for Lieutenant Governor and gets 42% of the vote. The woman is a big-haired, bigoted lunatic. She knows as much about government, politics and liberty as Miss Congeniality 1940. No, Nancy did not win that title either.

Next time, let's turn out in droves. I can't help but look around at some of these "Sally Bowles" that don't vote. My girl

kept on singing "Cabaret" while the Nazis moved in and took over. Well, I don't want to end up like Elsie or Ann Frank!

David C. Willis  
Former President, Atlanta NAPWA

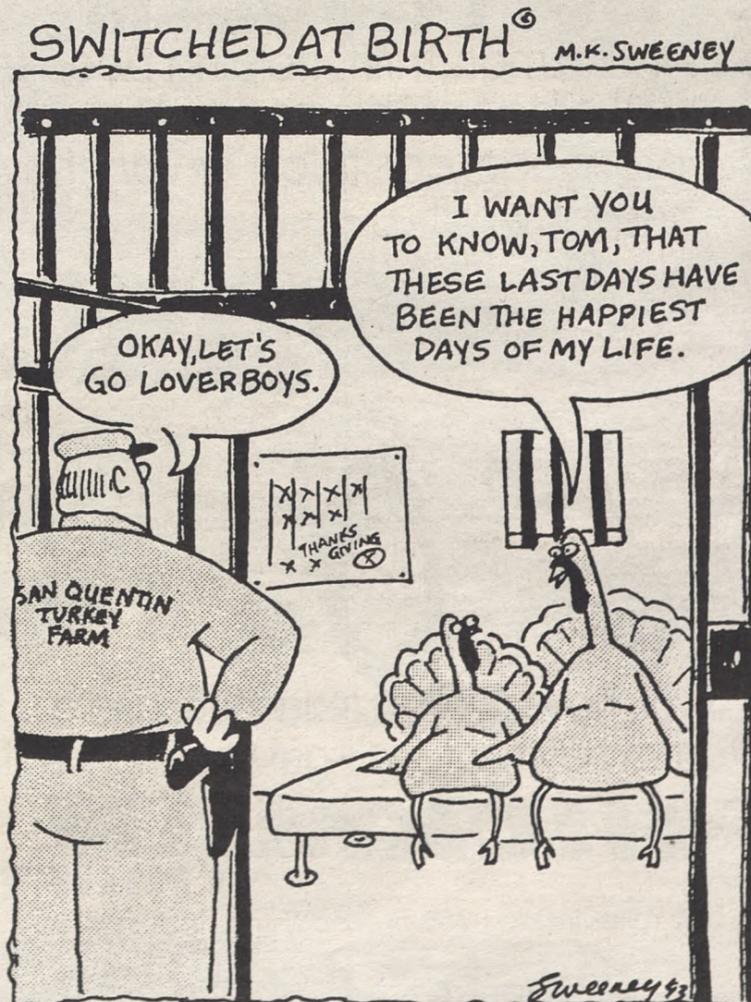
### Vampire blues

Nobody craves vampire movies like I do. I can never wait until the next bigger badder vampire flick comes out, and I bet "Interview" is the greatest one of all...but I won't be seeing it. All of the homoerotic vampire scenes in Rice's book were cut out. Tom Cruise made sure the movie was all heterosexual.

I don't care if Anne Rice does like it, I won't go. Now, I'm sure many gay men will flock and cream over Tom Cruise, but if they see it they will be supporting more Hollywood homophobia.

Boycott this movie, guys.

Doug Strickels  
Clarkston, Ga.



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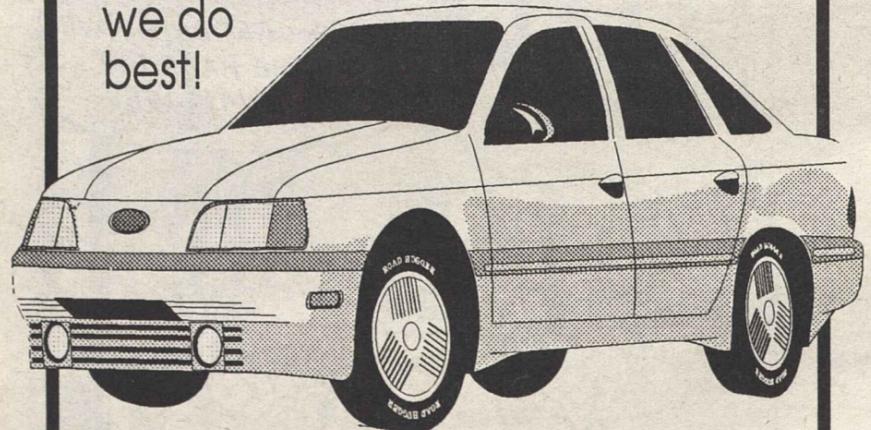
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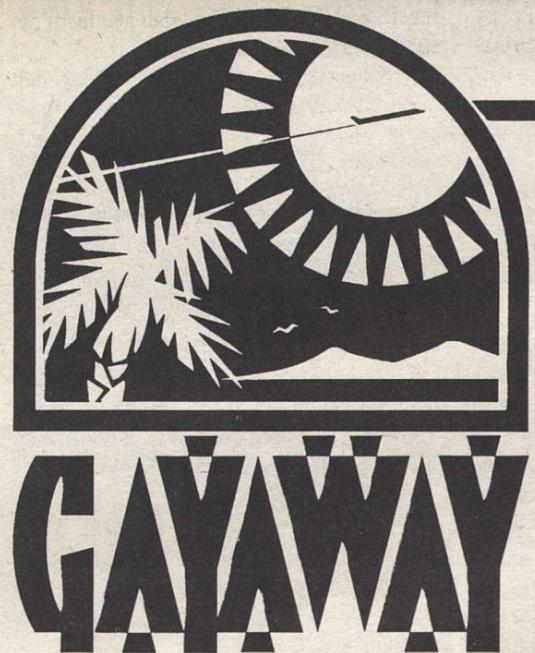


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## AIDS groups challenge HIV home test kit

Washington, DC—AIDS activists want the government to hold off approving the nation's first home test for the disease, contending that company promotions are unduly influencing the kit's evaluation by federal regulators.

Three major AIDS organizations filed a complaint accusing Johnson & Johnson of violating Food and Drug Administration prohibitions against promoting unapproved medical products.

The activists contend promotions of the experimental Confide home AIDS test, including intensive political lobbying and paying doctors for their support, are an attempt to ramrod the kit through FDA.

They think the attempt is working because of a memo to White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta that says FDA is expediting its review of home tests—and Confide is the only test far enough along for approval.

"There are no policy impediments to the approval of a home-use HIV test," FDA Commissioner David Kessler wrote Panetta, in the memo obtained by The Associated Press last week. "Any remaining concerns about impact of product approval on the public health will be examined through post-approval studies."

Panetta asked about the test in September at the request of House Republican Whip Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who quoted Johnson & Johnson's paid consultant—former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop—in pushing home tests.

The National Association of People With AIDS, Americans for a Sound AIDS Policy and the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association charge that Johnson & Johnson illegally:

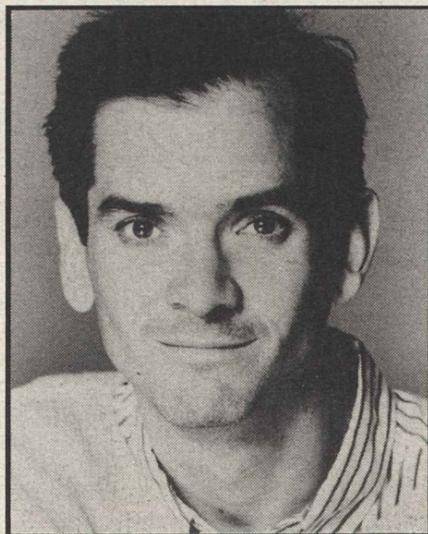
- Organized TV demonstrations of its Confide home test by Koop.

- Funds a national AIDS magazine that advocates the test.

- Funds direct-mail campaigns giving people ballots to mail to Congress and the White House urging approval.

- Pays experts to testify favorably about the test, including at a June hearing where FDA advisers said the company had stacked the list of public speakers.

Johnson & Johnson denied any illegal activity but would not comment specifically on the charges. "We'll take that up with the FDA if they choose to do so," said spokesman Jef-



Sean Strub, publisher of POZ magazine, supports HIV home testing.

frey Leebaw.

But one proponent of home testing said he personally funded some of the direct-mail campaigns attributed to Johnson & Johnson. POZ magazine publisher Sean Strub said the company-funded work he did was fair and necessary, and that his magazine has given space to Confide opponents.

"People are dying now because of these idiotic concerns," Strub said.

FDA is investigating but hasn't determined if Johnson & Johnson violated any regulations, said spokesman Don McLearn.

A buyer of the home test would prick a finger, send dried blood to a lab and learn by telephone if he or she had HIV.

Proponents say the kits' privacy would encourage more people to get tested. At least 40 percent of the estimated 1 million infected Americans have never been tested.

Critics fear telephone counseling isn't adequate and that children or employers would use the tests. They also say home tests conflict with laws in more than 11 states that require confidential named reporting of HIV patients and face-to-face counseling.

The activists filed the FDA complaint Oct. 26, but made it public last week amid renewed concern about Kessler's statement that home tests' impact could be determined once they hit the market.

LAURAN NEERGAARD

## Women now account for 15% of AIDS cases in Georgia

Atlanta—One of every seven new AIDS cases reported in Georgia last year was a woman, according to the most recent state statistics.

Of the 292 women diagnosed with the disease last year, 80 percent were black, said state epidemiologist Kathleen Toomey. Women now account for 15 percent of new cases, up from 4 percent in 1984.

"A lot of women just don't think about being at risk," Toomey said. "In a lot of people's minds, AIDS is a gay disease."

Half the cases still are gay men.

"It's not like we can say, 'OK, forget about gay men,'" Toomey said. "It's that now we have a new front opened up that we have to be fighting on—women."

More than half of Georgia women with

AIDS became infected by sharing needles to take intravenous drugs such as heroin, or by having sex with a man who uses IV drugs.

Women may not know that sharing dirty needles is dangerous, or they may not know their male partner's past or present drug habits, Toomey said.

"Women need to communicate and protect themselves with condoms," Toomey said. "You can't assume by looking at someone that they have HIV or they don't."

AIDS is the leading cause of death among black women ages 20-44 in Georgia, according to state health statistics.

Georgia has reported 11,770 AIDS cases since 1981; 1,414 of those were women. Almost half of those women have died.

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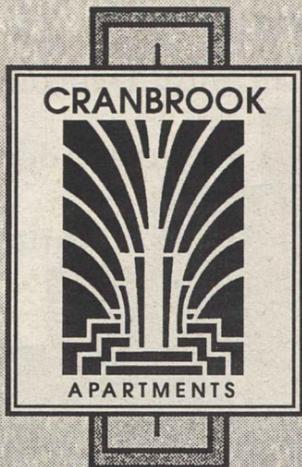
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**AIDS  
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by Bruce Mirken



**Activists zap FDA over growth hormone:**

AIDS activists are furious at the Food and Drug Administration over an apparent move to block access to recombinant human growth hormone (rHGH), an extremely promising treatment for AIDS-related wasting syndrome. Hopes for a quick "treatment IND" program to make the drug available to patients with wasting who haven't been helped by conventional treatments have foundered as the FDA and the drug's manufacturer, Serono Laboratories, have reportedly continued haggling over the data needed to approve such a plan.

But a way seemed to have been found for desperate PWAs to get their hands on growth hormone through Canada, where it is already available as a treatment for wasting. Serono Canada had set up a toll-free hotline through which doctors could access the drug, and because U.S. law allows importation for personal use of medicines from abroad that aren't approved here, there seemed to be no problem with U.S. physicians making use of the same mechanism to obtain the drug for patients in urgent need. The respected newsletter AIDS Treatment News published the number, and ACT UP/Golden Gate, which has been leading the activist community's efforts around rHGH, happily faxed out a press release with the good news.

But in early November, U.S. callers to the hotline got an unpleasant surprise: A recording saying that the number was disconnected and that "no further information is available."

ACT UP/Golden Gate member Jeff Getty says that sources at Serono have told him that the FDA—perhaps fearing misuse of rHGH by athletes—quietly but clearly let them know they should not send the drug into the United States. The FDA, Getty says, "frightened Serono off pretty well, and Serono shut down the phone number" to U.S. callers.

Comment from Serono was not immediately available. An FDA spokesperson was somewhat cryptic, at first claiming "we took no action," but then adding, "I have no idea whether we talked to the company or not."

The response from AIDS activists has been swift and angry. On November 7, Project Inform founder Martin Delaney fired off a letter to FDA Commissioner David Kessler, telling him the agency should "revert to its previous practice of keeping its nose out of the business of life-threatened patients who wish to purchase a therapy in another country."

"They permit all kinds of things under the personal importation policy," including drugs with less data behind them than growth hormone, Delaney explained to this reporter. "So why the hell block something that's clearly moving toward approval?"

Meanwhile, Getty—who himself had shown dramatic improvement as a participant in the growth hormone study presented at the AIDS Conference in Yokohama—put together a conference call of activists around the country, who decided to "zap" Kessler and FDA AIDS coordinator Randall Wykoff with a blitz of phone calls and faxes on November 13.

Getty and Delaney fear that a potentially life-saving drug is caught up in a bad relationship between Serono and the FDA. The situation, says Delaney, is "not acceptable at all."

ACT UP promises to keep the pressure up until things change.

**FDA warns buyers clubs**

On another front, the FDA has been quietly warning AIDS buyers clubs around the country not to carry thalidomide, a source close to the clubs reports.

Thalidomide is a drug which has been used with some success to treat aphthous (mouth) ulcers in people with AIDS, and has shown some value as a therapy for wasting syndrome, with more studies under way. It also has shown anti-HIV activity in the test tube, although it has yet to be demonstrated whether it has any value as an antiretroviral when given to patients.

The problem with thalidomide is that when taken by pregnant women it produces horrendous birth defects; it was the "thalidomide babies" of the early '60s that produced a severe tightening of FDA drug-approval rules. The buyers club folks take this concern very seriously, and had been evaluating ways to make sure, if they chose to handle thalidomide, that any woman considering taking it would get a loud, clear, impossible-to-ignore warning about the dangers. But why, they wonder, should a danger for pregnant women keep a potentially valuable medicine out of the hands of men, who can't get pregnant, or those women who don't have any intention of getting pregnant?

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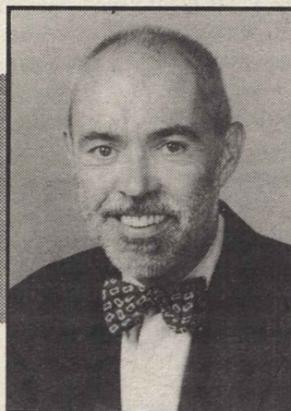
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## Remembering the Mayor of Castro Street

Harvey Milk,  
assassinated 17 years  
ago this week, paved  
the way for today's gay  
and lesbian candidates

by JAMES FITCH

Elections and Thanksgiving are peculiarities of November common to all Americans. For gay and lesbian Americans, though, this month holds a dark and significant day in history. On a gray San Francisco morning in November 1978, a gunshot put an end to the life and times of Harvey Milk, definitive gay politico and symbol of the gay liberation movement.

Milk's inspirational story is not an easy one to distill into encyclopedic history, but it's an appropriate one to tell in November, when we're already fixated on political issues and personalities. And as we look to the growing number of openly gay/lesbian people who are running for (and taking) public office, it's difficult to imagine where this movement would be without the legacy Milk left behind.

Wall Street financial analyst. Hippie. Broadway producer. Drifter. Neighborhood merchant. Slacker. Media manipulator. San Francisco supervisor. Mayor of Castro Street. Clown. Gay Messiah. There is no clear-cut way to sum up Harvey Bernard Milk, who was born May 22, 1930, to a middle-class Jewish family in Woodmere, Long Island, and woke up one morning in 1969 saying, "I want to be mayor of San Francisco." But, as the late Randy Shilts observed in his Milk biography, "The Mayor of Castro Street," "Harvey Milk lived as a metaphor for the homosexual experience in America."

While other kids asked their parents for money to see movies, Milk asked for money to watch opera. As a teen he cruised Central Park for clandestine sexual encounters, and played linebacker on his high school junior varsity team back on Long Island. Nobody knew he was gay.

Milk joined the Navy in the '50s. He wanted to "change the world," as he said, to combat the spread of Communism. In the Navy, he rapidly moved through the ranks only to be dishonorably discharged when his homosexuality was discovered. He spent most of the remainder of his adult years vacillating between professions, cities and lovers, keeping his sexuality concealed and attempting to remain true to his bourgeois values. Then flower power set in.

The late '60s saw Milk transform from a laissez-faire capitalist likely to be found campaigning for Barry Goldwater to a Broadway producer making the avant-garde scene as a 41-year-old hippie. The Stonewall riots gave birth to gay liberation, and Milk caught the vibe of gays across the country: San Francisco was calling. In 1972, he deemed it time to go west.

Milk and his lover opened a camera shop in the Castro, at that time a decaying district occupied mostly by working-class Irish. The following year, using the Castro Camera shop as a front for campaign headquarters, Milk announced his intent to run for supervisor.

"I am 43 years old now, and I can do one of two things," he told an interviewer. "I can concentrate on making a lot of money while I enjoy perhaps another 10 years of active gay life. Then, after 53, I can just coast. Or I can

get involved and do something about the things that are wrong in this society. I've got to fight not for me but for my lover and his next lover eventually. It's got to be better for them than it was for me."

In addition to gay concerns, Milk's platform included the blocking of downtown development plans that would replace low-income housing, municipalization of the electric company, and abolition of the vice squad. He became an advocate for all oppressed. He lost.

Determined to run again in 1975—and ever convinced that he would one day be mayor of San Francisco—he campaigned hard on behalf of small businesses and garnered political allies in labor unions. Again, he came up short at the polls.

It was 1977 that Milk's campaign finally jelled. He found an invaluable and unlikely campaign manager in a 23-year-old lesbian named Anne Kronenberg. By now Milk was a household name in the city, and his ideas for small businesses and decentralized neighborhoods proved appealing to more than just gay people. He won the election that year on

another surprisingly frugal grass-roots campaign.

Castro Street came alive with celebration, but Milk's victory was more than a local one. He had become the first openly gay city official in the country. "This is not my swearing-in, it's your swearing-in," he told a crowd at City Hall. "You can stand around and throw bricks at Silly Hall, or you can take it over. Well, here we are."

To Milk, City Hall was "theater," and his unconventional demeanor and antics caught far more media attention than was usually given to supervisors. He was not just a politician but a personality, an entertainer. In one typical publicity stunt, he dressed as a clown at a circus and went around explaining to people how he was an elected official who passes laws for the city.

Milk became loved not only for galvanizing San Francisco's gay community and transforming the Castro into a thriving gay mecca, but for his advocacy on behalf of small business, neighborhoods, ethnic minorities and the disabled. His arm of influence extended

CONTINUES ON PAGE 17



Harvey Milk in 1976: loud and proud, like San Francisco in the '70s.

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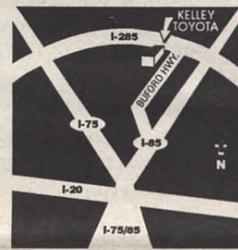
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## Harvey Milk

Continued from page 15

to other city officials, including the gay-friendly mayor, George Moscone.

"A true function of public officials is not to pass laws and approve appropriations, but to give hope," Milk said repeatedly. His quick ascent was as glorious and hopeful as his untimely fall was devastating.

On the morning of November 27, 1978—just 11 months into his term—Milk's political nemesis, a former supervisor named Dan White, entered City Hall through a basement window, armed with a .38 Smith & Wesson. Moments later, Supervisor Milk and Mayor Moscone were dead. White, who had campaigned as an all-American who stood up to "splinter groups of radicals, social deviates

and incorrigibles"—confessed to the murders.

Seventeen years ago this week, some 40,000 mourners held candles outside of San Francisco City Hall in a mile-long procession of light. The "gangly ward politician with the funny name, the thick black hair, the corny jokes and the New York accent," as Shilts remembered Milk, was dead. Shilts hypothesized: "Even if he did not move society the great length toward final understanding and acceptance of homosexuality, he did demonstrate one significant point: He had spent the last years of his life clinging tenaciously to the naive notion that one person could change the world. Because he so dumbly believed he could change the world, Harvey Milk did."

## Harvey Milk: The Movie

The life of Harvey Milk has inspired several plays, an exhaustively researched biography by the late Randy Shilts, and an award-winning documentary film. As anyone who's read Shilts's "The Mayor of Castro Street" knows, the story is rife with dramatic and inspirational fodder for the big screen. The book has been in print since 1982, and talk of a Hollywood version has been around for years. So what's the holdup? Here's a quick rundown on the progress—or lack thereof.

In 1990, Oliver Stone acquired the film rights to Shilts's book, with Warner Bros. signing on to produce it for an estimated \$20 million. Subsequently, Stone released his high-profile film "JFK," suggesting Kennedy's assassination came at the hands of a sleazy gay cabal. GLAAD, Queer Na-

tion and other activist groups condemned the film, and some demanded that Stone not direct "The Mayor of Castro Street."

Stone almost abandoned the Milk project but, realizing its historical importance to gays, came to believe that the film should be made not by him but by a gay director. Still on as the producer of the film, Stone announced in the summer of 1992 that Gus Van Sant would direct. Robin Williams was all set to star, but later backed out. Van Sant, who reportedly fancied a borderline-metaphorical rendering of the story, was removed from the project in April 1993. Creative differences were cited.

According to a recent report in Entertainment Weekly, "The star and director search continue [and] an announcement could be imminent."

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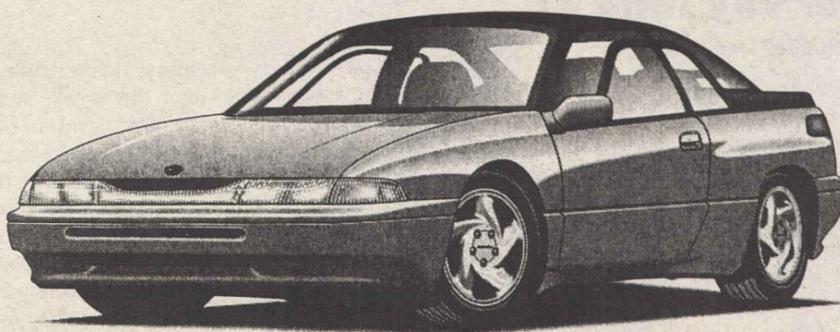
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## World AIDS Day

Continued from page 6

the December 1 presentation, including the work of two area photojournalists—Billy Howard of Atlanta and Melissa Springer of Birmingham—whom Dugan specifically asked for new submissions. Howard's work in AIDS photography includes a large series of portraits. Springer has followed pediatric AIDS. Some of their images will also be displayed that day in the atrium of the High.

"There are hundreds and hundreds of images that go by fairly quickly in the slide program," Dugan says. "It's the cumulative effect which is so moving. But I wanted people to also have the chance to look at a few more images much more intimately and with more time. Billy and Melissa are two of the finest photographers working in the Southeast and whose commitment to AIDS-related issues through their work has been paramount. I really wanted to give them a showcase as well."

The opportunity to incorporate "Electric Blanket" into Atlanta's World AIDS Day '94 presented itself only two months ago. Colleen Callahan, who is handling fundraising for the project, says her gut instinct was to hold off presenting it until next year, but the Mayor's office was enthusiastic about the prospect of making it happen this year. Covering expenses on such short notice has been a problem. At press time, the project had as major sponsors only Midtown Medicine and AID Atlanta, and media sponsors Southern Voice and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Nexus Contemporary Art Gallery will host a benefit to help



This image from last year's March on Washington is among those by Atlanta photographers in "Electric Blanket" at the High.

make up the difference on Dec. 3—a reception for Patrick O'Connell, founder of Visual AIDS and the Ribbons Project.

"We decided to go ahead and do it this year in order to hook it onto the Mayor's plans," Callahan says. "We have had excellent cooperation from the Mayor's office. He will be speaking at the event, and the city is funding the closing of the street."

"This is an important program in the way of awareness," she added. "There aren't that many things that get out to the community like this will."

## World AIDS Day Events in Atlanta

Many Atlanta organizations and businesses are planning events to commemorate World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. Following is a partial list:

### Wednesday, November 30

- Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network: interfaith service to be held at the Cecil B. Day Chapel of the Carter Center. 8 p.m. Open to the public.

### Thursday, December 1

- Mayor's Conference: Business and Labor Responds to AIDS. Hyatt Regency Hotel, 265 Peachtree St. By invitation.
- Grady Memorial Hospital: information fair on HIV/AIDS. Main hospital (80 Butler St.), second floor, east hallway. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Open to the public.
- Northwest Georgia Girl Scout Council AIDS Education Project: HIV/AIDS education display. United Way Building Lobby, 100 Edgewood Ave. N.E. All day. Open to the public.

- High Museum of Art: information fair with tables from local service organizations. Coordinated by AIDS Survival Project. 5:30 p.m.

- "Electric Blanket": large-scale, outdoor slide presentation of AIDS-related visual images. High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree St. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Open to the public.

- "Day Without Art and Night Without Light": Nexus Contemporary Art Center, 535 Means St. N.W. Nexus will darken its galleries, provide AIDS information, and showcase a video by Atlanta artist Lisa Tuttle. Suggested contribution \$2.

- Redeemer Lutheran Church, 731 Peachtree St. Workshop open to the public on AIDS awareness, prevention and response, hosted by Good Samaritan Project and Chris Parsons. 7 p.m.

- AID Gwinnett: Memorial service. Gwinnett Justice Center, Lawrenceville. 7 p.m. Open to the public.

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## PWA comes out to fundamentalist family on '20/20'

Jim Butcher is 33 and in the advanced stages of AIDS. With the end of his life in sight, he has made the painful decision to come out to his fundamentalist Christian family. Lynn Sherr talks with Butcher about the decision and follows his story on ABC News "20/20" on Friday, November 25 at 10 p.m.

Butcher, who moved away from home for college and a career, was always close to his family. When he was a child, his entire family became born-again Christians.

"There was pretty much of an understanding that homosexuality was kind of the worst of all sins, the lowest of the low," Butcher says on the show, "that it was a choice people made. And if you participate in such things, you were going to hell."

belief, even deciding to study for a career as a fundamentalist minister.

"My hero, like from 12 to 16, was Jimmy Swaggart," he says. "You know, I would go and hear him and, oh, I wanted to be Jimmy Swaggart."

Butcher studied for the ministry but began waging a private struggle over his sexual identity, realizing that he was attracted to other men.

"I just didn't want to know that," he says, "I didn't want to believe that, and I would just keep shoving that down into that closet that was within me."

Jim ultimately left the ministry, took a job, and began spending time in the gay world.

"I remember the very first dinner party where it was all gay men, and the closet was very open," he recalls. "And I could be Jim, which was a wonderful

the best thing that ever happened to me."

Although Jim came to believe that homosexuality is not a sin, he kept his private world hidden from his family, panic-stricken that they would ever find out. Now, with his condition worsening, he decided he must tell them.

With the help of his closest friend, Bonnie, Jim set the events in motion that would bring the news to his family. If all went well, he would join his family for a reunion.

Asked by reporter Sherr why he was choosing to do this on national television, Jim replies, "I don't think it is fair that men are going to their graves like whipped puppies with their tails between their legs, so ashamed of the way they are dying. And I want to make a difference. I feel a calling in my life to do that."



Jim Butcher tells his story on '20/20'

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Robert Shaw leads the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and its 200-voice Chorus, the Morehouse Glee Club, and the Atlanta Boy Choir in this Atlanta tradition featuring sacred and secular works of the Yuletide season.

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\$18.50 - \$45

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## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Revel in the Christmas portion of Handel's holiday masterpiece as Robert Shaw conducts the Orchestra, Chamber Chorus and vocal soloists in this seasonal classic, as well as the Fourth Cantata of Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

Thurs, Fri, Sat • Dec 15 - 17 • 8 p.m.

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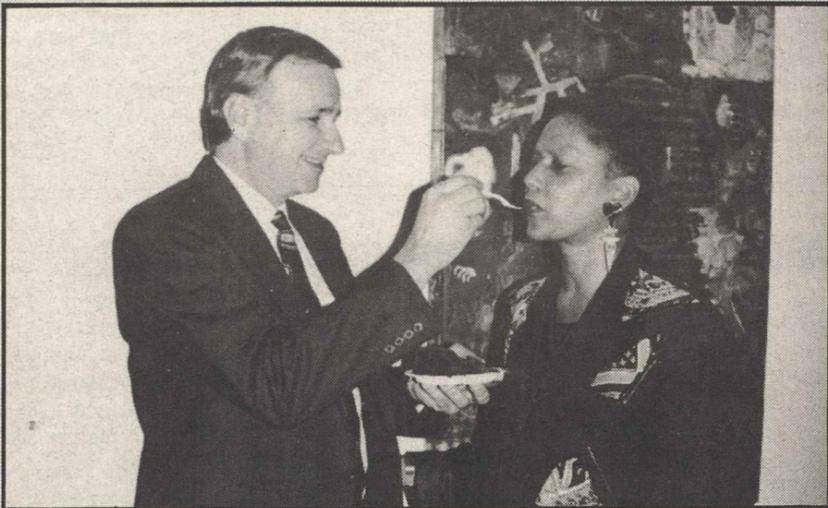
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## GAPAC party raises \$4,000



Let them eat cake: Larry Pellegrini feeds mayoral adviser Joy Barnes.

The Georgia Political Action Committee (GAPAC) held its post-election party Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Lowe Gallery. Although several local and statewide candidates who were expected to attend failed to show, a good time was had by all and the event raised over \$4,000 for the political group. "We were very pleased with the turnout," said GAPAC's Larry Pellegrini.

## Thanksgiving dinner for PWAs and friends

The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip Task Force on HIV/AIDS will host its fourth annual Thanksgiving dinner for people with HIV/AIDS, their families, friends and caregivers on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 24, at 12 noon. The white-tablecloth dinner will be served in the Cathedral Hall of Bishops.

All persons affected by HIV/AIDS are invited to attend this celebration of giving thanks.

There is no charge. Organizers promise a delicious, nutritionally balanced seated dinner served by tuxedoed waiters. There will be live musical entertainment provided by Herb Wright, a volunteer from Hands On Atlanta.

If you plan to attend, please call for a reservation as soon as possible at 365-1000.

The Cathedral of St. Philip is located at 2744 Peachtree Rd. at Andrews Drive.

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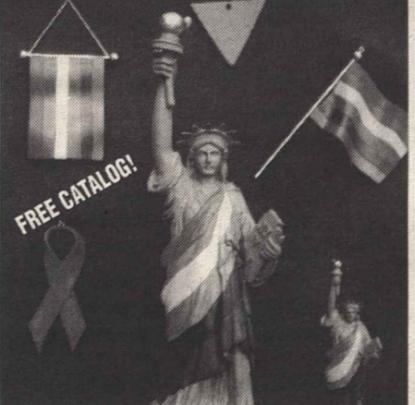
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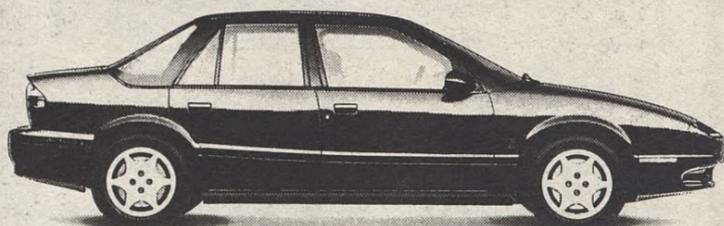


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### Christmas gift drive for children with HIV

The Seventh Annual Pediatric Christmas Party, is calling for donations of wrapped gifts for the estimated 500 HIV-infected children in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The goal is for each child to receive five gifts.

Gifts should be labeled with either "male" or "female" and an age range (0-3, 3-5, 5-7, 7-10, 10+). Gifts and donations be in by Friday,

Dec. 2, to any of the following locations:

Express Lanes, Genesis Fitness Center, Mid-City Fitness, Backstreet, Scandals, Boot Camp, Blake's, Hoedown's, Burkhart's, Revolution, or AID Atlanta.

Those wishing to donate after Dec. 2 may call Glenn Hanson at 432-1435.

### BWMT hosts 13th anniversary events

Black and White Men Together (BWMT) Atlanta celebrates its 13th anniversary with the theme "Breaking the Chains of 'Isms' at Home." All are invited to join the Atlanta chapter for a weekend of festivities to celebrate 13 years in the fight against "isms" in our community.

During the Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 23-27, BWMT/Atlanta will host a reception, a holiday potluck dinner, workshops, a banquet at the Wyndham Midtown, and a Sunday brunch. Call 892-BWMT to register and for further details on these events.

### Transsexual activist comes to Atlanta

Riki Anne Wilchins, founder of Transsexual Menace, will visit Atlanta the weekend of Dec. 3 to address transgender inclusion in the gay and lesbian community and other issues.

The provocative and entertaining Wilchins will lead an open discussion from 11:30 a.m.

to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, in the meeting room of Morrison's Cafeteria in Ansley Mall. There is no charge for the program.

Later that evening, Wilchins will address a gathering of A.G.E., which is supporting her visit to Atlanta. Call 908-0100 or 873-0361.

### Burkhart's tops AIDS Walk team donors

Burkhart's Pub was the number one corporate team for AIDS Walk Atlanta 1994, raising \$28,199.86 through its "County Fair" fundraiser. This year marks the first time that a local bar has beat corporate donor teams.

Based on funds collected as of Nov. 11, the three teams most closely following behind Burkhart's were Rich's (\$27,690), NationsBank (\$20,930.08), Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. (\$16,053).

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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Katya Wilson and Jacqueline Francis of Atlanta will celebrate their fourth anniversary of living and loving together on Thanksgiving Day. They're pretty damn happy.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Sandye Lark of Out-write Bookstore. Sandye, who is also co-chair elect of the Atlanta Lambda Center, celebrated on Nov. 23.

A belated happy birthday goes out to David on Nov. 17. His friend Eric says, "Own up to it, you're 30! Welcome to the club!"

A happy birthday to John Ruziskey, who turned 45 on Nov. 18. Partner James Wilson, who says John looks 30, says his husband is his "knight in shining armor."

Happy birthday to Liz Hill, celebrating her 52nd birthday on Nov. 25.

Sam Oliva, editor of MCC Augusta's monthly newsletter, celebrates his 19th birthday for the 22nd consecutive year on Nov. 28. This month also marks Sam's one-year anniversary as editor of the newsletter, and the Church celebrates its seventh anniversary on Nov. 27. Congratulations to all.

Hank Willard celebrates his 48th birthday (34 as a queer, he says) on Nov. 27.

NEW JOB

Bill Opava, a program coordinator with



AID Atlanta's Bill Opava is about to leave for Delaware to head up an agency there.

AID Atlanta's research department, has been named executive director of the Delaware Lesbian and Gay Health Advocates, a statewide AIDS services and lesbian/gay health promotion organization in

Wilmington. During his 14 years in Atlanta, Bill has been involved in various community activities, including GAPAC, the American Public Health Association HIV/AIDS Task Force, the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta, and various political organizations. He currently serves as chief financial officer for the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. He and his partner, Larry Eby, will relocate to Delaware in early January. Congratulations, Bill, and good luck.

When you've got a special occasion, send it to Southern Voice/Occasions, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316, call 404/876-0789, or fax to 404/876-2709. Please include a phone number for verification.

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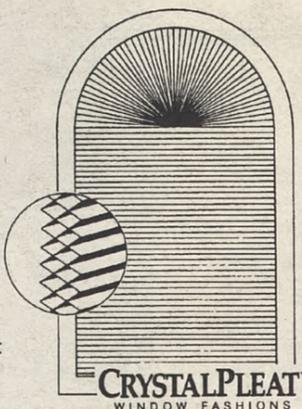
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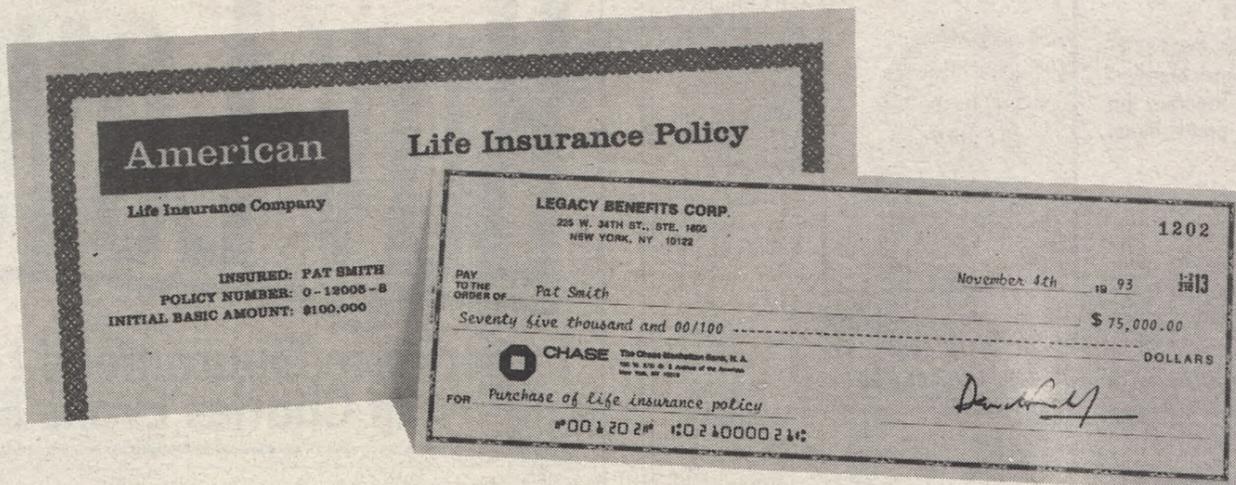
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