

S O U T H E R N

# VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

DEC 1 - DEC 7 / 1994



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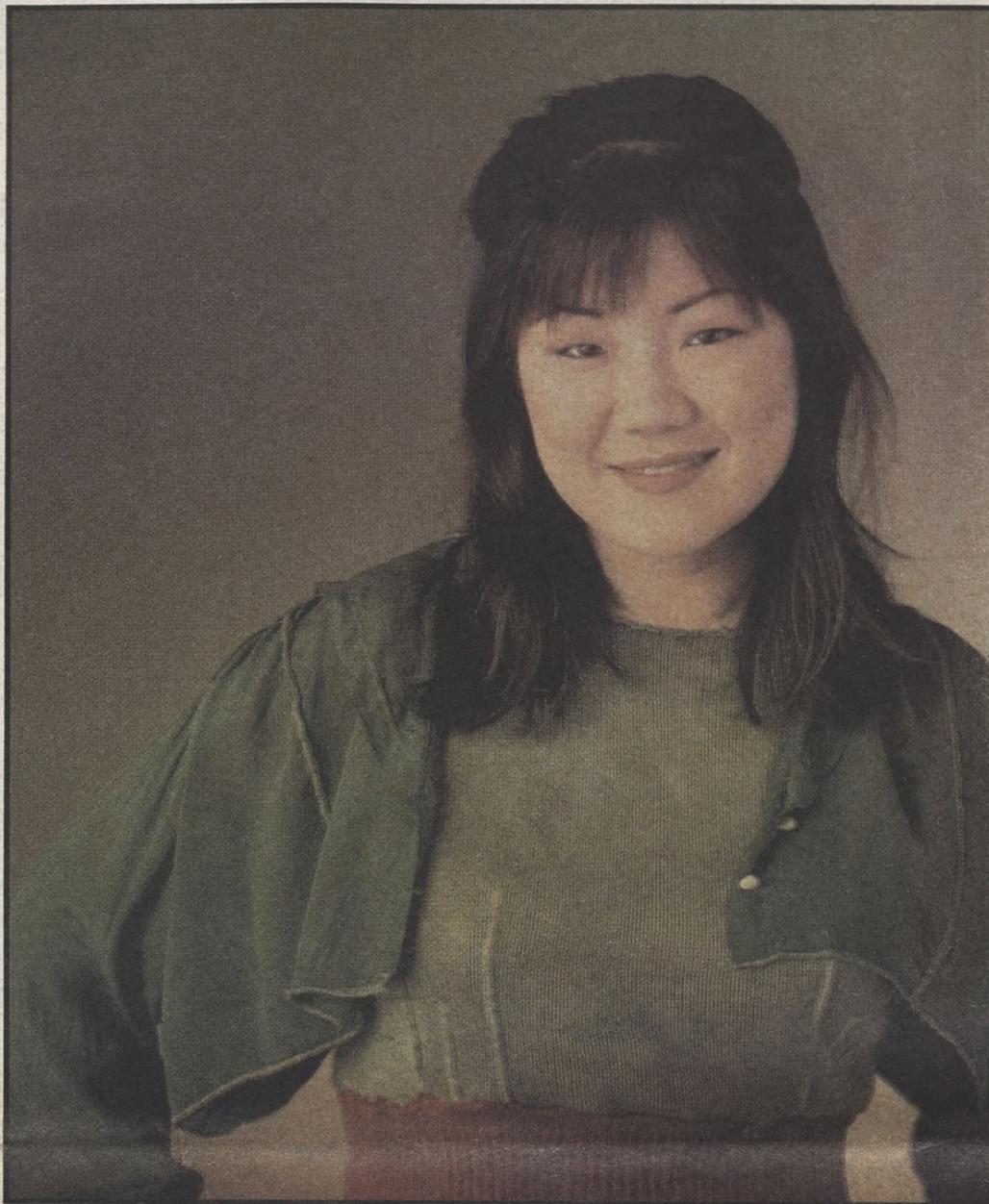
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**Serial killer of gay men confesses**

**Gary Ray Bowles admits to killing Atlanta man, five others**

*Jacksonville, Fla. (AP)*—An alleged serial killer accused of targeting gay men confessed to six murders in three states following his arrest Nov. 22, Sheriff Jim McMillan said.

Gary Ray Bowles, 32, confessed to murders in Jacksonville, Daytona Beach and Hilliard, Fla.; Atlanta and Savannah, Ga.; and Wheaton, Md., McMillan said at a news conference.

"He has confessed to six and says that is all he did," McMillan said, who refused to discuss a motive.

Among those, authorities said, was 47-year-old Alverson Carter, Jr., who was found dead from stab wounds in his northwest Atlanta townhouse several days after Mother's Day.

Bowles, who was using the name Tim Whitfield, was arrested at about 5:30 a.m. in Jacksonville Beach at a day labor office. Bowles had been added Nov. 19 to FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

As Whitfield, he was wanted for the murder of Walter Jammell Hinton, 43, of Jacksonville. Hinton, a flower designer, was found dead in his mobile home November 20.

While being questioned, "Whitfield" admitted he was Bowles. His identity was confirmed through fingerprints. Bowles has been the subject of a nationwide manhunt for a series of killings of gay men.

"He did not feel good about what he had done," said Jacksonville Sheriff's Detective J.P. Collins.

Bowles was known to "frequent gay bars, hustling homosexual men in exchange for lodging,

household chores, and-or sexual favors," the FBI said earlier when he was added to the fugitive list.

Warrants have already been issued for three of the murders Bowles has confessed to, police said.

A federal warrant charges Bowles with fleeing prosecution for the murder of Milton Bradley in Savannah. Bradley, 72, a disabled World War II veteran, was found strangled May 5.

He also has been charged by Maryland authorities with the April 13 strangulation murder of David A. Jarman, 39, in Silver Springs. Jarman, a loan processor for the credit union of the World Bank Group in Washington, was seen in a gay bar and leaving with a man matching Bowles' description, authorities said.

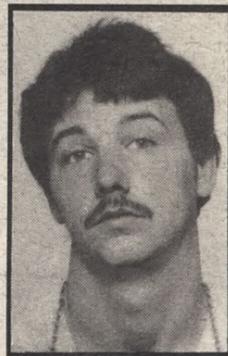
Bowles is also wanted by Florida authorities in the slaying of Albert Alcie Morris, 37, in Hilliard. Morris was found shot and strangled in his home on May 19, and his abandoned car was found three days later in Jacksonville. Bowles had stayed with Morris a week or more, police said.

Bowles also admitted to killing a Daytona Beach man. He had been a suspect in the March 15 slaying of John H. Roberts, 60, an insurance salesman, with whom he shared a room.

Detectives Tom Youngerman and Gary Meyer of the Daytona Beach Police Department confirmed that Bowles had given statements about Roberts' slaying.

All of the victims suffered numerous injuries in what police have called "overkill." All were severely beaten, bludgeoned and strangled. Some were shot.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Gary Ray Bowles



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## Cracker Barrel holds firm on discriminatory hiring

Lebanon, TN—The stockholders of the Lebanon-based restaurant chain Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc., have again rejected a proposal to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, but the stockholders pushing that proposal say they will continue their campaign.

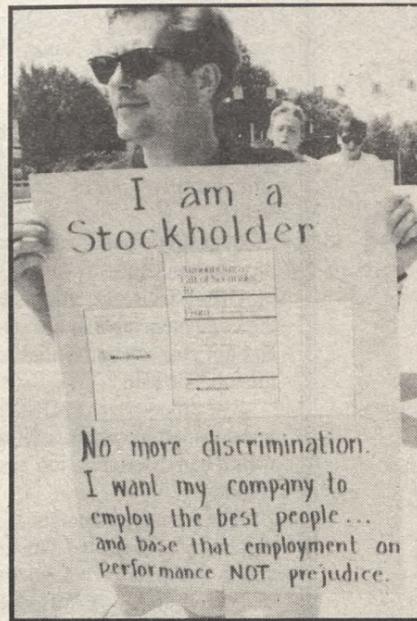
Ongoing protests and boycotts have been waged against the roadside eatery since early 1991, when the company issued a policy stating that employees who "failed to demonstrate normal heterosexual values" should be terminated. After a storm of protest, the company revised the policy to give store managers discretion on the issue, but firings have continued. To date, at least 17 people have been fired because they are gay or lesbian.

The New York City Employees' Retirement System, a major CB stockholder, has led the battle to implement the nondiscrimination policy, and has introduced a proposal to change the employment policy in each of the last two years. In 1993, the policy change proposal received enough votes to ensure that it could be reintroduced this year, but at the annual shareholders meeting on Nov. 22, the proposal was again voted down.

"We got another very strong vote on this—over 4 million shares [14% of the vote]," said Patrick Doherty, director of investment responsibility for NYCERS.

Doherty noted that stockholders were complaining about a recent drop in CB stock price, and said that CEO Dan Evins blamed that drop in part on a shortage of workers driving up labor costs.

"It seems quite ironic that they're complaining about that when they've cut themselves off from a significant portion of the talent pool," he said.



Protesters like this one have had little effect on the Cracker Barrel board.

of Cracker Barrel stock—three years ago, submitted a proposal to diversify the board of directors. That proposal also took about the same percentage of the vote as last year—about 8%—and Owens said he would bring his proposal back to the annual meeting again next year.

"We'll be back," he said, "unless we get some resolution

Doherty said NYCERS would return next year with the same proposal.

A second lesbian/gay related proposal presented at the Nov. 22 meeting also went down to defeat. Carl Owens, an Atlanta stockholder who launched the "Buy One" campaign—in which lesbian, gay and supportive people buy one share

before that."

Owens, who received an anonymous death threat written on a copy of his proposal provided to stockholders, estimates that 7,000 to 10,000 holders of Cracker Barrel stock are gay and lesbian—with most of those holding a single share—and he hopes to see that number increase by 5,000 in the next quarter.

"If we can have a dramatic increase in a short period of time, perhaps we can do some negotiating early next year that will be fruitful," he said, adding that sending out dividend checks for a penny to that many stockholders is an expensive process for the company.

The battle against Cracker Barrel on the stockholder level, however, is an uphill one. The company's board of directors has, both this year and last year, recommended forcefully that stockholders vote against the two proposals.

Although the frequent protests and sit-ins—resulting in nearly 40 arrests—that were markers of the early days of the Cracker Barrel controversy have ended, former Queer Nation cochair Lynn Cothren said that the battle is not over.

"Cracker Barrel will always be a symbol, even if they rescind the policy, like George Wallace standing in front of a school saying black children will never enter," Cothren said. "We will win some day, and Cracker Barrel will always be a symbol of homophobia and bigotry in its ugliest form."

KC WILDMOON

## Suspension of 'Pear Garden' officer overturned

Atlanta—The three-day suspension levied against an Atlanta police officer who arrested six activists during last year's protests against Mayor Maynard Jackson's veto of the domestic partnership ordinances has been overturned by a Civil Service Board hearing officer.

Officer J.W. Pike was given the suspension earlier this year after an internal police investigation determined that he had acted improperly when he arrested the six while they were collecting signatures on petitions protesting Jackson's veto outside the Pear Garden, a downtown gay bar, on July 10, 1993.

S. Faybelle Ma-Hee, Uri Vaknin, Anthony Ricciardi, Joe DeRose, Clay Calhoun and Rob Harlow were initially charged with blocking a sidewalk and interfering with a police officer—both city ordinance violations—but those charges were upgraded by the city solicitor's office to state misdemeanors when the case came before Municipal Judge Catherine Malicki. At the trial, Malicki heard only one witness—Officer Pike—before dismissing the charges, saying "the whole thing arose from his trying to make an illegal arrest."

The "Pear Garden 6" argued that were arrested while collecting signatures on petitions—a constitutionally guaranteed right.

Ironically, it was Malicki's testimony before Civil Service Board hearing officer Calvin O. Carter that was the main argument for reversing the suspension.

"Judge Malicki's testimony was that the officer should make an arrest if he concludes he has probable cause and that

it was up to the court to decide on the merits of the case," Carter wrote in his decision.

But Carter did note that Pike's testimony in both the trial and the hearing, along with his police report, contain several inconsistencies. He noted, for example, that Pike testified in the hearing that he did not see anyone passing out flyers, while his report states that "six persons were passing out flyers." He also "testified initially that [Ma-Hee] did not have anything in her hand and then changed his testimony to say that she had an envelope in her hand."

"My conclusion was that [Pike] was not truthful in significant areas of his testimony and tailored his testimony to his benefit," Carter wrote.

Teresa Nelson, director of the Georgia American Civil Liberties Union, said, "The message from this decision is that police officers can harass citizens with impunity," she said. "This decision says that the Constitution can be thrown out the window by Atlanta police officers."

DeRose said he and the other activists are discussing options.

"We want to try to meet with Chief [Beverly] Harvard," he said. "And we're talking about a protest, possibly combined with other aspects of police harassment like the sting operations. Perhaps the city charged him with the wrong thing [in the initial investigation]. And the hearing officer believed the officer perjured himself."

"I really don't want to let up on this," he added.

KC WILDMOON

## Donna Red Wing in Atlanta



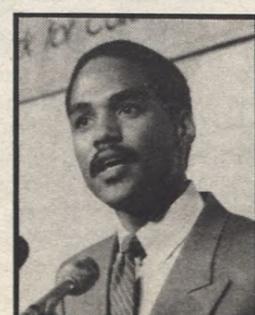
The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Atlanta chapter hosted a reception Nov. 18 for Donna Red Wing, who spearheaded the fight against an anti-gay resolution in Oregon in 1992 and now serves as National Coordinator of GLAAD. Red Wing expressed concern at the "conservative winds" of the November elections and reminded local members of the importance of fair, accurate and diverse portrayals of lesbians and gays in the media. "We can begin to become the architects of the definition and perception of lesbians and gays in America," she said. Atlanta member Carl Lange said GLAAD was organizing the best political talents across the country to form a new board dedicated to promoting GLAAD efforts. In August, GLAAD became a national organization and merged its two largest chapters, Los Angeles and New York. Red Wing has discussed possibly making Atlanta the center of GLAAD efforts in the Southeast.

## Phill Wilson named honorary Pride chair

Atlanta—The Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee has selected Phill Wilson, director of public policy at AIDS Project Los Angeles, to serve as honorary chair of the 1995 Lesbian/Gay Pride celebration next June.

Wilson, who will also serve as a grand marshal at next month's Martin Luther King Day festivities, was the founder of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, and co-founder of Blacks Living with AIDS and HIV Disease, the AIDS Prevention Team and the Gay Men of Color HIV Consortium.

"I think he's an excellent choice for honorary chair," said Richy Howard, Pride cochair. "Phill will be in town King



Phill Wilson

Weekend, and we'll be holding the reception then that kicks off our fundraising campaign."

Wilson, who also serves on the board of directors of both the AIDS Action Council and the Minority AIDS Project, will return to Atlanta in June for Pride.

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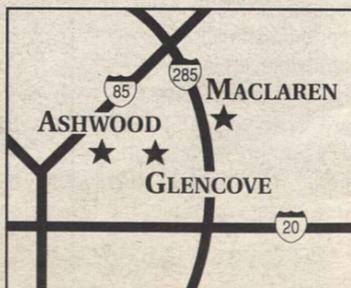
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**UNC considers gay protections**

Chapel Hill, NC—The University of North Carolina system is considering following the lead of 10 of its 16 campuses and adopting a policy extending antidiscrimination protection to gay men and lesbians.

UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Paul Hardin said such provisions have been part of his administrative policy since he came to the school.

"I just think that when you're making admission decisions or hiring decisions or employment decisions, you make them based on the competencies that are relevant to that job, and not characteristics that are not relevant to the job," he said.

The amendment to UNC's 20-year-old admissions, employment and promotion policies would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The proposed changes were approved last month by a Board of Governors committee, and a full board vote on the amendment is scheduled Jan. 13, The Herald-Sun of Durham reported.

Board member Joseph Stallings, a Raleigh attorney, was optimistic about the measure's chances for approval.

"There seems to be general consensus among the university" to add sexual orientation to that list, Stallings said. "Clearly, I think it's something that needs to happen."

The board began considering revising its code last year after the UNC Association of Student Governments and UNC Faculty Assembly called for a formal ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

A board committee approved the changes last month, saying that while the amendment's provisions were not required by law, they were important policies for the system's schools to adopt.

"We agree with this evidence of broad consensus within the university community that a person's sexual orientation is not relevant in evaluating him or her as a university student or employee," the committee stated in its report.

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**Waiter says firing was AIDS-related**

Covington, KY—A waiter who contends he was forced to resign his job at a Covington restaurant after disclosing he had HIV has filed a lawsuit claiming his employer broke Kentucky antidiscrimination laws.

Michael Connett said he didn't expect to be fired on Oct. 10, 1991, when he told his managers at the Perkins Family restaurant that he had the virus.

"I thought I did the responsible thing by telling them," said Connett, who had been on the job about three months.

Connett, 39, of Covington, said he felt fine and wanted to continue working. But three days later, he said his managers asked him to sign a form saying he was resigning for personal reasons. They offered him \$1,500 and told him they would certify him for unemployment, Connett said.

Connett, without consulting a lawyer,

signed the form and took the money.

"It was either take what they were offering me and put something in my pocket, or lose all the way around," Connett said. "I could have come in the next day, and they could have found an excuse to fire me."

Connett later decided he had been discriminated against because of his illness. He said it took him about three years to find a lawyer willing to pursue the case.

In the suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati, Connett wants back pay, attorney fees and punitive damages against Reading Restaurants Inc., which operates the Perkins restaurant in Covington.

A Perkins spokesman referred calls to Cincinnati attorney Kent Breslin, who said he could not discuss a pending case.

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**NC Pride PAC loses executive director**

Raleigh, NC—The board of directors of North Carolina Pride Political Action Committee for Lesbian and Gay Equality announced Nov. 15 the resignation of Derek Charles Livingston as executive director of the organization.

Livingston told the board of his plans in October, but he and board agreed to delay an announcement until after the Nov. 8 elections. Livingston has agreed to serve as executive director through the end of 1994.

In his letter of resignation, Livingston wrote, "I believe the work that Pride PAC does is crucial to the advancement of laws protecting lesbians and gays in North Carolina. I'm proud of the work Pride PAC has

accomplished this year.... Despite the accomplishments, however, I've come to realize the work I want to do for the gay and lesbian community is outside the parameters of a political action committee. I feel I am better suited for other types of political activism."

Bob Barret, NC Pride PAC's chair, praised the contributions Livingston made to the organization in the past year. "Derek has served N.C. Pride PAC well in helping to increase the visibility and expand the base of support for the organization," he said. "He has helped created a dialogue between the political and gay and lesbian communities that will be one of our most valuable assets in the future."

**Lesbian rumor hurts Miss. Shoney's**

Laurel, MS—Business isn't great at the Shoney's in Laurel since a rumor surfaced that it had been sold to members of an Ovett lesbian retreat, restaurant officials said.

Shoney's manager Terry Breland said even though the restaurant has not been sold to Camp Sister Spirit, there has been a "substantial" drop in customers over the past two months.

Camp Sister Spirit members have nothing to do with the Shoney's Laurel franchise, Breland said.

"We've heard the rumor and it's totally untrue," Breland said.

Residents at Camp Sister Spirit said they haven't even eaten at the restaurant.

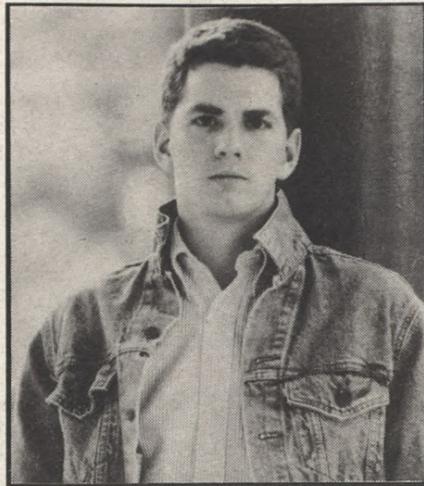
Laurel Mayor Susan Vincent said her office received several calls from people asking if the restaurant had changed hands.

"I checked and there's been no change through the city license department, and I've told people that," she said.

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**Appeals court rules against Steffan:**

A federal appeals court on November 23 upheld the U.S. Naval Academy's expulsion of Joseph C. Steffan, a midshipman who was dismissed from the academy in 1987 after he acknowledged that he is gay. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected 7-3 Steffan's argument that his discharge, based solely on his stated sexual orientation, was unconstitutional and that a statement of homosexuality was not the same as engaging in homosexual acts. In writing for the majority, Judge Laurence H. Silberman, a Reagan appointee, dismissed that argument as "strained." Beatrice Dohrn, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, commented that the decision "offends the Constitution because it continues to subject gay and non-gay service members to completely different standards."



Former midshipman Joseph Steffan

**Nurse Says Discharge Due To Lesbianism:** A nurse who says she's being discharged from the New Mexico National Guard because she's a lesbian plans to appeal to federal district court in Albuquerque, her attorney says. National Guard officials have confirmed that a board from the 5th Army, based in San Antonio, Tex., recommended that Lt. Jesse Holloway be discharged. Holloway's commander has not yet taken action. "I'm just upset that my record didn't speak for itself," said Holloway. "No one was willing to discredit my character, but they discharged me anyway."

**Former Priest, Ex-Lover In Court Over HIV:** A former Pueblo, Colo., priest has filed a counterclaim disputing assertions made by a gay man who sued him in Boulder, saying the priest infected him with HIV; the priest says it was the other way around. The Rev. Delbert Blong, 68, filed the counterclaim against Thomas Perea, 37, in Boulder District Court. Perea filed his lawsuit on Sept. 6, 1993, accusing the priest of transmitting HIV during unsafe sex toward the end of a 22-year relationship they broke off two years ago. Blong has been suspended from priestly duties and now lives in retirement. According to Blong's lawyer, Evan Lipstein, Perea "has admitted to many years of a promiscuous lifestyle which included anonymous sexual contact in public restrooms and other places."

**Britain Has Second Gay MP:** The London gay newspaper Capital Gay has reported that Parliament has its second openly gay member. The paper said that Michael Brown, who was outed in May, did not "deny a journalist's assumption that he was gay" on a radio program in October. Brown was asked how the Tory party was handling openly gay MPs like himself, and he replied that the party was "growing up." Britain's other openly gay MP is Chris Smith.

**AIDS Auction Goods Stolen:** Thieves who smeared excrement outside the Community AIDS Council office window in Phoenix, Ariz., also stole many of the goods the organization had gathered for a fundraising auction, including items autographed by Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg and Celine Dion. "I was horrified," said Beth Meyer, council chair. "The money we'd have gotten from the stolen gifts would have helped us reach more people, help more people, do more good." The AIDS Council vowed that the auction would go on. "It's a bad loss," Meyer said. "But we're not giving up. Not at all."

**Gay Murder Suspect Claims Battered Spouse Syndrome:** George F. Cobo, a career thief charged with four murders in Manhattan, is using a battered spouse defense, claiming his male lover forced him to go along with the crimes. Cobo's alleged accomplice and lover, Tony Lee Simpson of Cedartown, Ga., is charged with the same crimes. But because each defendant is blaming the other, they will have separate trials. Prosecutors claim that Cobo planned the crimes, but Cobo charges that Simpson was his tormentor and mastermind of the crimes.

**Gay Man Wins Paternity Rights To Girl He Fathered:** A gay man who fathered a child for a lesbian couple through artificial insemination, then sued over visitation, has won paternity rights to the girl. A New York state appeals court ruled that Thomas Steel of San Francisco can call himself the father of Ry Russo-Young, 13, who lives in Manhattan with her mothers, Robin Young and Sandra Russo, and Russo's daughter Cade. Steel praised the judges for "recognizing alternative family structures in their diversity." Peter Bienstock, attorney for Russo and Young, said the women would not have accepted Steel as a sperm donor if they had known he would assert paternal rights. The judges sent the case to Family Court for a hearing on visitation.

**Talk Show Host Discloses He Has AIDS:** David Brudnoy, a top-rated talk show host on WBZ radio on Boston, has disclosed that he is gay and HIV-positive. Brudnoy said that rumors about his health had been circulating since he was hospitalized in October for what was then described as a debilitating heart condition. In reality, the problem was AIDS-related. Rather than let his disease become gossip column fodder, Brudnoy said he wanted to tell the public himself. "I wanted to give the whole story rather than let it dribble out as if it were something evil," he said at a hospital press conference. "I'm ashamed of nothing. I'm sorry I have AIDS, that's all." The libertarian host said he hopes to return to his talk show after rehabilitation therapy.

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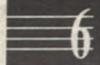
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## Gay elected officials meet in Seattle

Seattle, WA—Like the Republicans, all their incumbents were reelected, some prominent newcomers won, and the ballot measures they most strongly opposed were defeated.

Leaders of the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials say their success was especially encouraging in the face of losses in the Nov. 8 Republican landslide by Democratic incumbents who had supported gay-rights issues.

The mood at the opening of the group's 10th annual conference Nov. 18, titled "Affecting Government, Affecting Community, Affecting Self," was one of modest celebration tinged with uncertainty about the future.

New York assembly member Deborah Glick, co-president of the network, cited voter rejection of initiatives that would have banned or overturned local gay-rights ordinances in Idaho and Oregon, though backers of both measures say they will try again.

"I am not depressed. I am energized and enthusiastic about what this election means," Glick said.

Washington State senator-elect Cal Anderson, explaining the purpose of the conference, said, "One thing we're not here for is to plot a secret gay agenda. Our agenda is really quite public. The agenda we're pushing for is equal rights for everyone, as well as appropriate funding for AIDS and a variety of other issues."

When it comes to openly gay and lesbian officeholders, "we have a net gain," said Seattle City Council member Sherry Harris, co-chairwoman of the host committee, "despite a conservative streak to the right."

When it comes to the GOP, Harris added, "we have to challenge them to do the right thing, to change their party platform. We have

lesbian and gay Republicans. We're saying that we won't go away. You'll have to deal with us."

Fewer than 10 percent of network members are Republican, but some high-profile GOP officeholders—including Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan—have been strong supporters of gay rights, organizers said.

"The Republican party is by no means monolithic," said Network co-president Allan Spear, president of the Minnesota state Senate.

Every openly gay incumbent was reelected, including Democratic Reps. Barney Frank and Gerry E. Studds of Massachusetts, said Kathleen DeBold of the Gay-Lesbian Victory Fund in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C.

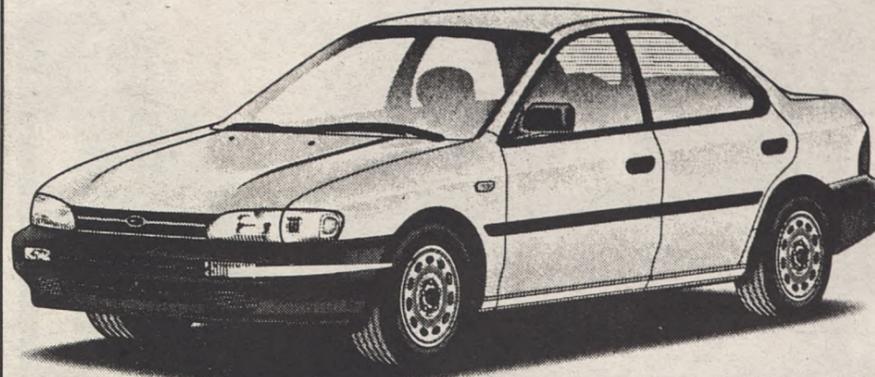
Also reelected was Republican Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin, who has acknowledged having a male companion.

"Apparently he is a good friend of Newt Gingrich, so there are openly gay people close to the center of Republican power," Spear said.

Also elected were 11 newcomers, DeBold said, including the first openly gay or lesbian state legislators in California, Arizona and Missouri; the first gay Republican state legislator in Oregon; candidates for the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco; two San Francisco community college board seats; and judge-ships in Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and San Diego.

The election boosted to 113 the number of openly gay people among the 497,155 elected officials in the United States, DeBold said.

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## Serial killer

Continued from page 1

McMillan said the investigation is still in its early stages.

"All of us are relieved he is off the street. There is no doubt there would have probably been more," the sheriff said.

Bowles was arrested as Tim Whitfield Nov. 12 for drinking in public in Jacksonville Beach, but police did not have any idea who he really was.

He also reported on Aug. 24 and Aug. 25 that he had been assaulted in Jacksonville Beach.

Bowles' case has been featured five times on the television show "America's most Wanted."

Bowles has been arrested at least 14 times in Florida since 1981. Charges ranged from

*"All of us are relieved he is off the street," said Jacksonville Sheriff Jim McMillan*

*"There is no doubt there would have probably been more [victims]."*

sexual battery and aggravated assault to robbery and violation of probation. In 1982, Bowles was convicted of aggravated assault and sentenced to three years in prison, records show.

In 1986, he was arrested in Fulton County, on a prostitution charge.

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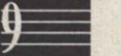
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## Elizabeth Birch named head of HRCF

Washington, D.C.—Elizabeth Birch, an Apple Computer executive and former board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, has been named to succeed Tim McFeeley as the next executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). The board of directors of HRCF announced the appointment Nov. 21.

Birch, who has served as chief litigator for Apple Computer, was influential in establishing domestic partnership and non-discrimination policies in a firm's various workplace settings, including the model program at Apple Computer. Birch was a central figure when a Texas County commission last year attempted to deny Apple a tax incentive as a punitive measure against the company's progressive treatment of lesbian, gay and bisexual employees.

The selection of Birch culminates an extensive four-month national search, lead by HRCF board member Don McCleary, and

assisted by the Civic Group, a national executive search firm. "This search rivals any I have ever seen in legal or corporate America," said McCleary. "I am exceedingly proud of the committee's work. Elizabeth was our clear and unanimous choice."

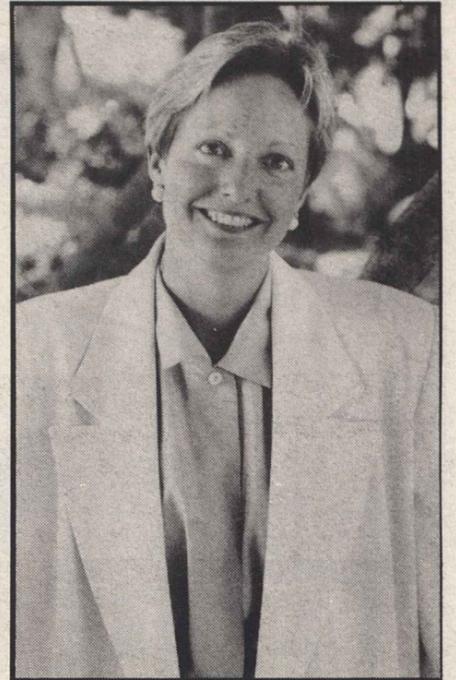
Birch will take the reins of the civil rights organization in early January, in the wake of the November 8 elections that resulted in a Republican takeover of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, dramatically altering the political landscape.

"Even in the midst of the largest Republican sweep in 20 years, America refused to institutionalize discrimination. Regardless of ideology or party affiliation, this country is slowly reaching out to its gay and lesbian sons and daughters," said Birch. "Treating people fairly is not a partisan issue. While the 104th Congress will present new challenges, HRCF will continue to be formidable presence on Capitol Hill, while dramatically ex-

panding its reach beyond Washington, into the towns and communities throughout the country that really control power of government."

Birch, 38, served for six years on the board of directors of NGLTF, the last two as its co-chair. In addition to her work with NGLTF, she is the founder of AIDS Legal Services, a project of the Santa Clara County Bar Association Law Foundation, providing legal service to people with HIV over the past several years. Birch authored several AIDS anti-discrimination ordinances which have been enacted in California municipalities.

Of her new position, Birch commented, "Though the task at hand is enormous, I am motivated by a bright optimism for the future of lesbians and gay men in this country. Always, in the final analyses, the American people always choose structures that foster equal opportunity and fairness."



Elizabeth Birch

## Mass. teachers get training on gay youth issues

Boston—Gay and lesbian youths—harassed and scorned in Massachusetts schools in the past—will soon get help from teachers who understand their problems, state education officials said Nov. 15.

The state Board of Education has approved regulations that will result in teachers being trained to deal with the problems of gay and lesbian public school students.

Activists say many young people feel isolated in school and suffer intense emotional pain as they come to grips with being gay.

In 1989, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported gay and lesbian teens as much as three times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

"Gay youth are very much in crisis at this point," said David LaFontaine, chairman of the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth.

Officials said Massachusetts is one of the first states to require such training as part of a teacher's state certification requirements.

The teacher training requirement approved last month is part of a broader campaign in the state to improve conditions in the state's schools for gay and lesbian youth.

Martin Kaplan, chairman of the education board, said the new regulations were a "continuation of the American commitment to equal treatment of all of our people."

Kaplan said the next step should be gay and lesbian training programs for teachers at colleges and universities statewide.

Far right groups predictably complained that it is immoral to encourage gay and lesbian youths to accept their homosexuality.

"It is very wrong to indoctrinate teachers that the homosexual and lesbian lifestyles are simple alternatives rather than very complicated and very difficult behaviors," said Kristi Hamrick, spokeswoman for the Family Research Council, a conservative group in Washington.

But Charlie Connors, of Boston, a member of a group of parents of gay and lesbian youth, said he hoped that the new regulations would let youths know that they're not alone.

"It must be terrible to be a young kid and to think there's something seriously wrong with you and have no place to go and no one to turn to," he said.

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**Photographers/Illustrators:** Alison Bechdel,  
E. Bennett, Andrea Braslavsky, Jennifer Camper,  
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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## We don't need to be in bed with the Democrats

by RICHARD D. MOHR

The data is in. The November 13th edition of the New York Times published exit-poll statistics for 100 demographic groups for the last eight races for the U.S. House—including the category "gay, lesbian, bisexual" which was included for the first time in 1990. That year, 78% of gays voted Democratic. In the 1992 election, 77% of gays voted Democratic, but in this year's election only 60% did so—a whopping 17 point shift to the Republicans.

How is one to interpret these startling results? Some gays may simply have given up on the Democrats and reverted to voting their middle and upper class interests—Log Cabin types returning home, as it were. But something morally more interesting was afoot as well—a case of rising gay consciousness in action.

When the Democrats seized control of the White House and both branches of Congress, they degraded gays as gays had not been degraded before. They jointly wrote discrimination against gays into federal law for the first time ever, doing so for the very institution—the military—whose embrace has traditionally been for America the mark of full personhood. And so gays justifiably struck back, putting their self-interest on the line for the sake of what is right. Gays at the ballot box made the sort of sacrifice by which identities are asserted and solidified. The vote was not a benighted power grab for gays, rather it was a morally-motivated assertion of gay dignity gained at the very risk of power and self-interest lost.

Though the strategy entails short-term social disadvantage, it is expedient over the long haul. For it means that gays cannot be taken for granted by the Democrats—or by anyone. The problem with being taken for granted by some group is not that the group's opponents simply write you off, but that the group itself writes you off—as, for example, Clinton has done to blacks with his racist stance on Haitian immigration, by his jettisoning the Racial Justice provisions from the crime bill, and by using the same racial codes as the religious Right when discussing crime and welfare. In the voting booth, gays refused to passively accept similar humiliation and discrimination.

But have gays simply cut off their nose to spite their face? No. Can gays live with the results of the election? Yes. There may well be some ugly, largely symbolic legislation passed, like this year's nearly passed Helms Amendment, which would cut federal funding to school districts which teach that it's okay to be gay. Look for similar restrictions at the National Endowment for the Arts. But none of this is worse than what the Democrats have already done. And if we can successfully defend ourselves against the anti-gay referendum initiative in Idaho—where The Aryan Nation feels at home—we can be fairly certain that the more paranoid fantasies of some gay leaders are misplaced.

But even the non-paranoid seem to be seriously off the beam. Sheila Kuehl—'Zelda Gilroy' turned gay Democratic political operative—said at the end of NGLTF's post-election national gay leadership conference, "People are in mourning, as they well should be."

This whining is one more sign that the national gay "leadership" is out of touch with its constituency. Our organizations are still stuck on the Democrats even as we have moved on. It's time to send our own national leaders the message we sent to Clinton: we can do without you.

Look at Canada. There gays can serve openly in the armed forces, encounter no sodomy laws, have been given constitutional protections, and have legislated civil rights in virtually all provinces. These gains have been achieved even though the country has no national gay political organization, indeed has never had one.

Ditto for gay-progressive Norway. It is the culture that matters and gays need not worry too much that we are generally losing the political wars, for we continue to win the cultural ones. In these wars, we will do better to ally with principled conservatives than with phony liberals, by whom we have been too frequently betrayed.

*Richard D. Mohr is the author of A More Perfect Union: Why Straight America Must Stand Up For Gay Rights.*

## OPINION

## Our future rests on local wins

After reading the latest issue of the *Voice*, I was almost convinced that liberal Democrats and homosexuals were big winners in the last elections. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In 1992 the American people, including many homosexuals, voted for a change of leadership and policy in Washington. Sadly, the Democratic leaders of Congress and President Clinton failed to act on promises like the acceptance of gays and lesbians in the military and healthcare reform for instance. The Democratic Party has now reaped the whirlwind of this failure, which many see as a resounding message that the supposedly "leftist" President and his followers must become more moderate. President Clinton's recent words on school prayer are a frightening indicator that this indeed may be happening.

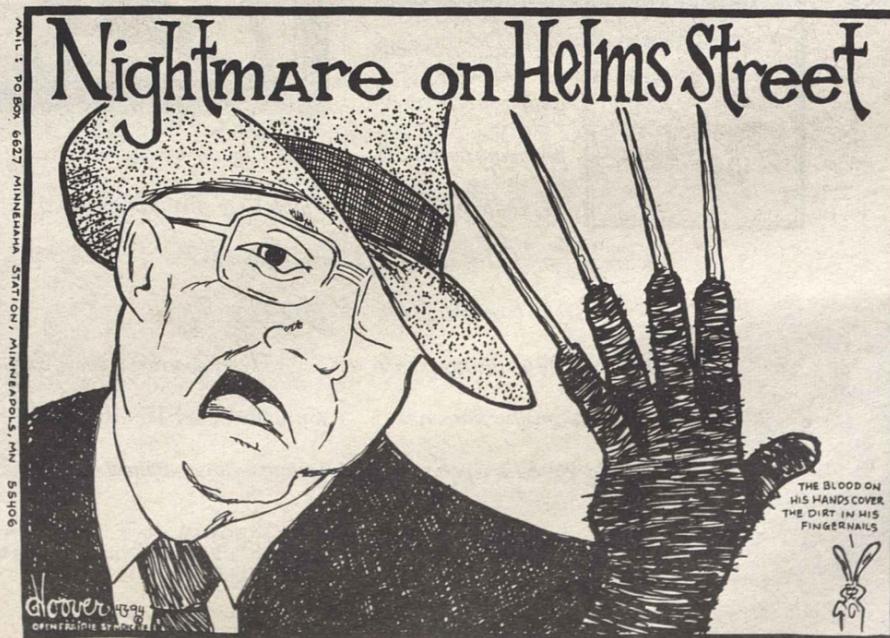
The future of gay and lesbian political activities must now be concentrated on the local level. These activities must be both extremely vocal and even confrontational. We should confront issues and bigotry squarely and on a face-to-face basis. We must make our presence known at political precinct meetings, in demonstrations, and in consistent letter writing campaigns. Once we become personally known to our political representatives by attendance and participation at meetings at all levels, it will become obvious that we are here to stay and that political leaders have a stake in listening to us.

For most of us who follow this path, it will be in the Democratic Party and with Democratic officeholders. On the other hand, we must not let the Democrats think they can take our votes for granted. As Newt Gingrich and his followers have been hoping for many years, we actually have a two party system in the South and in Georgia for the first time since the early years of the nineteenth century. As the case of Mitch Skandalakis shows, our votes are worth "bargaining" for in certain areas of the state. If the Republicans are willing to make us better promises, and that includes making gays and lesbians part of the decision making process within the party, then their candidates deserve our votes.

Even an ideologue like George Wallace was willing to give up his supposedly "sacred principles" on racial segregation for one last "hurrah" as governor of Alabama. We might be surprised at what others might do to win our support, especially in tight contests. To those who might say this is rank cynicism, it is not a cynicism on our part but a forceful use of our votes to uphold the convictions of the gay and lesbian community in a political world full of ego, compromise, and the cynicism of politicians. It is not a world we made but certainly one in which we can play our part.

Did we win in the last elections? Hell, no! But we can learn from the experience and perhaps even rejuvenate our political activism.

Sincerely,  
Dick Funderburk



## A proper good-bye for Pedro

"What do you think Pedro's death means?" someone asked me at the bar on Friday night after the election.

"Hmmm... Oh, yeah. Pedro Zamora, the guy who was on MTV. I heard something on National Public Radio earlier today about his dying. I'm not sure, I didn't watch 'The Real World.' Just another person who's died of AIDS, I guess."

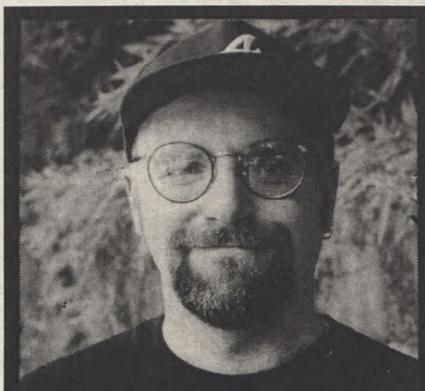
Then on Sunday, I was flipping channels, and there was "The Real World"—all thirteen episodes running back to back in memory of Pedro.

I remembered what I knew of him, his cover interview in POZ, the magazine for and about people with HIV and AIDS. His work in talking at high schools with kids about his having contracted HIV from unprotected sex at 17 has touched a lot of hearts.

And I remembered what I knew of "The Real World" the first two times MTV did it. The one in New York was interesting but ultimately artificial, with a guy who eventually came out; the second, in LA, seemed terribly contrived, and was viciously parodied in "Reality Bites." The concept, I thought, had become so self-referential and uninteresting that I hadn't even bothered to watch more than five minutes of this year's San Francisco version. Nothing *real* could come out of it.

I was wrong. What came out of it was Pedro Zamora, a 22-year-old gay man who lived his life on screen for three months, and lived it with integrity. The result was the truest, openest, most positive and matter-of-fact and, yes, *real* depiction of life as a gay man in the 1990s that I have ever seen on television. *Anywhere.*

The first half of the series focused around the obnoxious housemate Puck, whose



### Southern Queer-ies

by AL COTTON

unhygienic personal habits and inconsiderate behavior toward his fellow "Real World"-ers caused them to throw him out of the house. Pedro was the first to decide he could have nothing to do with this clod, and was the person who called the question—either he goes or I go. Puck went.

That interaction to me was a classic illustration of how gay people are supposed to function in society. Because we have had to turn our own reality inside out when we came out, we are in some ways less willing to put up with intolerable situations, more willing to turn reality inside out for other people if that's what it takes to live with a little integrity.

Amidst the usual interpersonal angst that is generated by locking seven 20-somethings in a large condo for thirteen weeks, Pedro met his boyfriend, Sean, fell in love with him,

announced his engagement, fended off a friend's attempt to get him to move back to Miami, and celebrated his commitment ceremony, all on national cable TV. And unlike any other show I've seen on TV this year (except for two or three times on Tales of the City), the camera didn't turn away when two men kissed, didn't back away from showing straight people around him feeling weird and then adapting, or as in Puck's case, not adapting.

"I have to believe it all means something," Pedro says in one of his talks with high schoolers. And because of his courage in choosing "The Real World" as a platform, and MTV's courage in letting him be himself, the service he has done is remarkable indeed. His message to teens was there on the screen for thirteen weeks, saying that no one is invulnerable to this disease. "I got it through unprotected sex," he said to the class of a conservative, Republican, Catholic, high school teacher in Phoenix, right there on MTV. It doesn't get any more direct than that.

But safe sex is just part of Pedro's message. Just as America was starting to see how courageous and caring and wonderful this openly gay, ferociously proud young man was, he was gone. In early September, a brain disease struck him in New York. He was found wandering the streets incoherent, and was sent back to his family in Miami.

And Miami's conservative Cuban-American community circled the wagons around this gay man magnificently. Republican Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen spoke glowingly of Pedro's work in USA Today. President Clinton called in late September, though it was unlikely that Pedro knew who was talking to him. Upon his death, Gov. Lawton

Chiles of Florida acknowledged his courage.

AIDS made Pedro Zamora a man of achievement at an age when I was still in college, tightly locked in the closet. He was another of those amazing people, like Bobby Campbell or Michael Callen or Paul Monette or Mary Fisher, who blossomed after AIDS came to them. And his going so quickly, so young, may have sent the ultimate message to all America—that this is just one more person you almost didn't have the chance to come to love because of this epidemic.

Now, what do I think Pedro's death means? That America has seen another high-profile gay man, who rose to the challenge when confronted by AIDS, taken from us way too soon. How many more of these will it take to change how America thinks about AIDS is the question I still can't answer.

♦♦♦

And for your information, this is the last edition of Southern Queeries. This paper is being reformatted next issue, and it's going to look fabulous! Instead of seeing Shelly or myself here you will be reading a number of different writers from across the country. I expect to show up here in print at various times and in various places in the future.

Since 1991 I have tried to write a column about the thoughts of a reconstructed Southern gay man who knows that his home region will really never be his home until it changes. I hope you have enjoyed it. I have certainly relished the opportunity to tell you what I think about things that I think are important. Thank you for your time, your generous comments of praise and of criticism, and most of all, thank you for coming out, or else I would never have had an audience. See you in the funny papers.

## Thanks for the memories

It's my anniversary today. Four years.

Four years ago I started writing a column for a tiny women's (read lesbian) group's periodical, because they, like newsletters everywhere, needed filler and I hadn't laced my fingers together and stretched them out in that direction in too long a while.

I wanted the exercise and the discipline. And, I wanted the excuse, a few hundred words at a time, to look closely at my own life. And yours. To see where the parallels and differences were, to use what I saw around me to determine just how much of an abnormality I was. Not abnormal to mainstream life as they taught me on The Mickey Mouse Club and The Brady Bunch. *That* one was easy. *That* one I'd managed with the ease expected from someone who had lifelong training in the US school system and TV commercials to tell what was expected, and how properly they wanted it done.

No, I wanted to know how different I could be from *gay* life ("lesbian" still, even so short a time ago, being a word only stuttered in lowered tones), *normal* gay life, whatever that might be.

I went looking for the gay life they told me I had—was supposed to have, at any rate. The one they called a "lifestyle" in what literature I could find. Mostly from sporadic volumes which had to be retrieved from under lock-and-library-key from trusted custodians who were often secret sisters in academic hiding. Lifestyles found in volumes purchased in dingy storefronts with sticky floors, in city neighborhoods best encountered in broad daylight in the company of Rottweilers and Doberman Pinchers. And from occasionally-obtained tabloids slipped across



### Cleaning Out My Closet

by SHELLY ROBERTS

dark bartops, little more than scrawny flyers, composed by early heroes to let us know how really bad it was out there for us.

Now I write for a number of gay and lesbian papers and magazines. And the first difference is that, now, there are dozens of them. Dozens and dozens—in sidewalk vending machines, and corner newsstands.

I've written a couple of miles of pages on who we are in our everyday guises and disguises. I've had blessed entre, thanks to the graciousness of many fine editors like the one who invests enormous heart to get this journal into your hands. Bars, and bar associations have invited me in. Colleges, and lesbian kiddie day care centers have poured me tea and welcome. I've sat atop the convertible in lavender parades, and marched amongst a

million or so, a couple of times in one lifetime.

And here's what I know so far.

In such a scant four years we've discovered that we like wearing dockers and placket shirts, and suits and ties. And that's just the guys.

The women are, yet again, ahead of the men. We've come further in embracing our extremes. We've gone through androgyny till we were bored. And now begin to think that butch and femme may, after all, have something to do with us and not just Hulk Hogan and Blondie.

At first, Pride was merely (for the multitudes, not the costume queens who'd always been there) about finally showing up—even anonymously. It was about the fear and trembling that came with the possibility of Channel Seven panning your face for all your world to see. Now Channel Four, and Six and all the rest, calmly survey the sidewalks instead, or marchers' feet, in fear of offending us, in an unnecessary respect that shows progress on both sides.

If that was then, then now our pride is beyond our expectations. And our timidity. And our new-found maturity is beginning to allow us our individuality. We've told the drag queens to sit down, and they've told us to shut up, they were here first. And they were. And we are recognizing what courage it took for them to get us where we are today. And they are recognizing what courage it has taken for us to join them. And, while we are not yet hand in hand off into the sunset, the dialogue is open. And promising.

Most of all, regardless of type or stereotype, we have packed up our apologies. Okay,

so maybe each of us has not yet been able to manage the one hundred percent honesty the activists demand, in every niche and instance. But who can?

Even so... Shame is no longer our appropriate demeanor.

Credit going to its due, our "Queers" and "ACT UP-er" swung extreme pendulums that, even now, are allowing a middle, a place to settle in. We have substituted shamelessness for our used, defensive "Pride" in ways that harbor real growth and self-regard. Our honest, prideful stance is solidly on two feet that carry us forward into lives our predecessors could not begin to have imagined, or to have liked. And too many did not live to see.

It's necessary attitude, this self-assurance we've come to clasp, we'll need, to carry us into the coming Millennium and beyond. Because, in our time of self-esteem, it is also a time when 30 percent can vote our bogeymen into office. And we can only continue with the self-determination we've defined, into the understanding that, though their agenda may have our names on it, that vote was by default, and we aren't buying what they're serving any more.

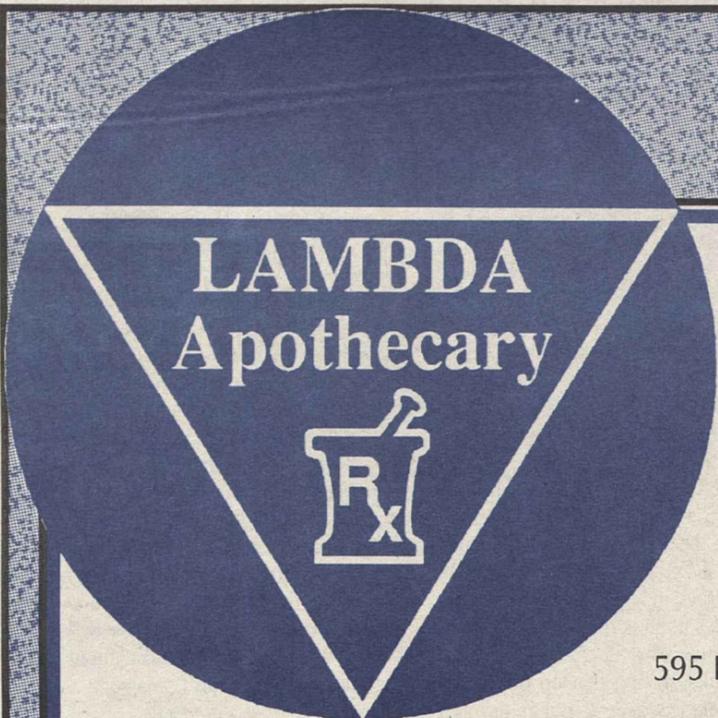
Some would say it is a time of coming censure and retreat.

I say it is a time of promise and demand. We've more than earned a place setting at this meal, we've all helped build the table too, and we've brought our own chairs.

Are you happier now than you were four years ago?

It has been more than thrilling to be in your company. My life depended on it.

Thanks for the memories.



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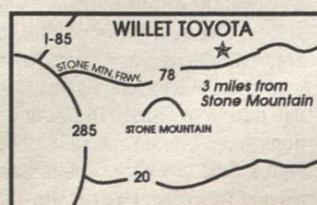


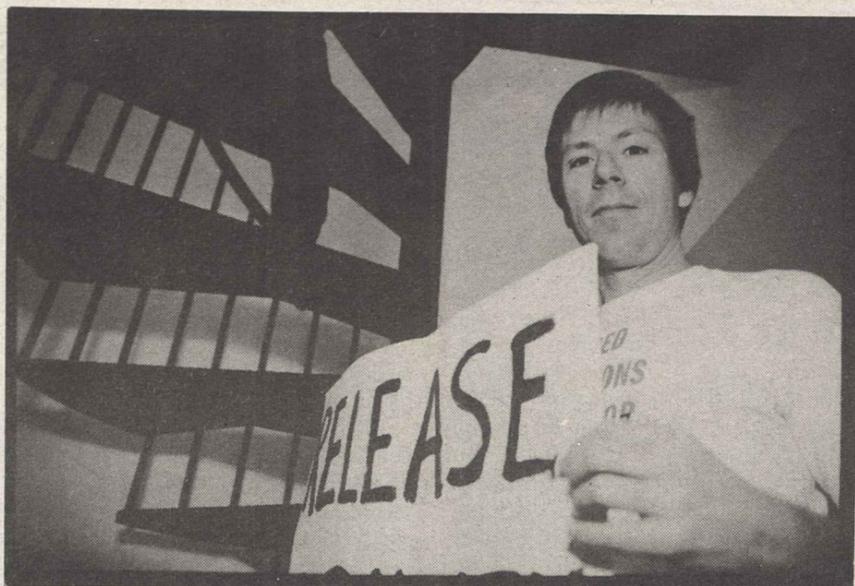
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AIDS activist and survivor Jeff Getty

## Low T-cell count requires strategy for survival

by BRUCE MIRKEN

Jeff Getty was supposed to die in 1993. With his immune system devastated by AIDS, his condition worsened through the spring, and by late summer a lung infection known as pseudomonas was dragging him down slowly but surely, and the drugs used to treat it weren't working. His doctors told him he had a few months at best.

But Getty refused to go quietly. The long-time activist, a member of ACT UP/Golden Gate's Treatment Issues committee, poured his remaining strength into researching experimental treatments and then fighting his way through the medical bureaucracy to get them. Fourteen months later, he is not only alive but healthy enough to go sailing every weekend.

Getty told his story October 26 as part of the panel at a Project Inform town meeting in San Francisco on survival strategies for people with CD4 (T cell) counts under 50. He, along with fellow PWA Matthew Sharp and Drs. Virginia Cafaro and Lisa Capaldini, all delivered a similar message: A low T-cell count doesn't have to be a death sentence, but staying alive means taking an aggressive, involved approach toward your care.

That, Getty explained, means being willing to try new, not-yet-approved treatments when standard approaches aren't working. "Unapproved therapies brought me back from the brink," he declared, adding that he has no doubt he owes his survival to the fact that he and his doctor were "willing to walk on the wild side."

Such an approach can mean spending a lot of time scouring treatment newsletters, activist groups and other sources for information about cutting-edge treatments, then figuring out how to access them.

"You have to really fight and scratch your way to find out how to get these drugs," Sharp noted. "Usually they're available somewhere. I know people who go to Europe to get their AIDS drugs."

Sharp, who co-manages Healing Alternatives, the San Francisco AIDS buyers' club, talked about how wasting syndrome had crept up on him, with weight loss so gradual he hadn't noticed it until tests showed his intestines weren't absorbing nutrients properly. He credits his survival to participation in a study of a new treatment for wasting, Serono Laboratories' recombinant human growth hormone.

Sharp and others who were in the trial are still getting the drug, but until the product is approved by the FDA—a process which could take months—it remains unavailable in the

U.S. Some have resorted to bringing growth hormone in from Canada, where it is approved, but as reported in Southern Voice last week, the FDA appears to have cracked down on the importing of rHGH, setting the stage for a major battle with AIDS activists.

Even getting into clinical trials in the first place can be a struggle, since people with low T-cell counts are often excluded by researchers who prefer starting with healthier patients. "ACT UP is constantly fighting the system to get them to allow people with under 50 T cells," Sharp complained. "It's a big problem."

Other restrictions often bar volunteers who are taking certain other drugs, or have used other drugs in the past. For a person who has had AIDS for some time and who may well have gone through a variety of approved and experimental treatments, these rules can be a nearly insurmountable roadblock.

Sharp and Getty both advocated doing whatever it takes, including bending or breaking the rules, to get the treatment you need. When asked if she would lie to help a patient get into a study, Dr. Cafaro smiled and commented that it often isn't necessary. She explained that if asked point-blank by researchers what drugs a patient had used, she would be obligated to answer truthfully, but often the questions go unasked, enabling her to simply not volunteer potentially troublesome information. "I'm totally into hear-no-evil, see-no-evil," she said.

Both doctors emphasized the importance of treatments to prevent infections as well as the need to closely monitor symptoms. "You need to know what's normal for you" and watch out for changes—even seemingly small ones—that may be significant, Cafaro explained.

T-cell counts can be a useful tool for things like deciding when to take medications to prevent opportunistic infections, Dr. Capaldini noted, but shouldn't be overemphasized. "You aren't your T cells," she said. People with low numbers sometimes stay quite healthy, while those with higher counts can have serious symptoms.

Sharp urged PWAs not to waste time. "You might hear something or read something and say, 'Oh, I'll do that next week,'" he said. "Do it now. Get on the phone and find out where you can get the treatment." That doesn't mean blindly trying everything that comes along, he explained, but it does mean actively seeking information, looking for things to try and finding out as much as possible about them, rather

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

JUDI PARKS

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## CDC revises 1993 AIDS figures

Atlanta—The growth of the AIDS epidemic has slowed slightly, despite a revised definition of the illness that initially caused a huge jump in the number of new cases being reported, federal health officials said Nov. 17.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based on the new definition, had previously said that 105,990 AIDS cases were reported in the United States during 1993, more than double the 49,016 reported in 1992.

But the expanded definition "dumped into the system" many people who did not truly qualify as new cases, said Dr. John Ward, chief of the Atlanta-based CDC's AIDS surveillance branch.

The old definition diagnosed HIV patients with AIDS when they got any of 23 indicator diseases.

The new definition lists three additional diseases—tuberculosis, recurrent pneumonia and invasive cervical cancer—plus severely suppressed immune systems as AIDS indicators. It took effect Jan. 1, 1993.

Researchers spent the last eight months analyzing the reports to separate from the 105,990 total those who were first diagnosed with AIDS in 1993, so that a meaningful comparison with previous years could be made,

Ward said.

The CDC now says there were 61,800 AIDS cases diagnosed last year, up 3 percent from 60,000 in 1992. In 1992, diagnosed cases were counted separately from reported cases.

"The epidemic continued to grow in 1993, but not at the extent that has been observed in earlier years," Ward said.

The 3 percent increase in the growth of the epidemic continued a downward trend in the rate of the growth of AIDS, Ward said.

For example, he said, in the early 1980s, newly diagnosed cases were more than doubling each year. By the mid 1980s, the annual rate of increase averaged between 50 percent and 60 percent. By the late '80s, the annual rate of increase was down to about 10 percent.

As the initial impact of the new definition diminishes, the CDC predicted the number of new cases in 1994 would drop below last year's figure. Through September, a total of 63,101 new AIDS cases had been reported to the CDC, compared with 88,075 cases in the same period last year and 36,333 in the first nine months of 1992.

Ward said the CDC has not yet analyzed the 1994 figures.

MARC RICE

## HIV protein may trigger onset of AIDS

Philadelphia—Researchers have discovered a protein that may trigger the replication of HIV, thus leading to AIDS, and may lead to new treatments, observers said.

But a leading AIDS expert warned against giving false hope to people who are HIV-positive.

University of Pennsylvania scientists now say they have found a protein in a gene, unique to HIV carriers, that appears to tell infected cells when to start reproducing the virus. Their research was published last month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"We understand a new pathway the virus uses," said study chief David Weiner, an assistant professor of pathology and medicine at Penn. "We now have an opportunity to design drugs to inhibit it."

Dr. Nava Sarver, one of the chief scientists in the AIDS division of the National Institutes of Health, cautioned that the study, while interesting, is very preliminary. Usually, studies such as Weiner's that are conducted in the laboratory do not hold up when tested in bod-

ies, she said.

The study centered on one of nine known HIV genes, "vpr." The gene produces a protein, known by the capitalized abbreviation "Vpr," that apparently must be present before infected cells can produce new, infected viral particles that in turn infect other cells, Weiner said.

Weiner's research team found in laboratory tests that the stage of infected people's disease corresponds with the level of "Vpr" protein in their blood. People in the early stages of infection had low levels of the protein; those with fully developed AIDS had high levels.

By exposing cells to the protein in the laboratory, the researchers turned latent infection to active infection.

Weiner's team also found that it could block the production of new virus by exposing the cells to "Vpr" antibodies. Weiner said his team is now trying to develop a vaccine that would create "Vpr" antibodies.

ANNE FAHY-MORRIS

## Audit confirms breast cancer findings

Washington, DC—Experts who reexamined data from a fraud-tainted breast cancer study have confirmed its finding that a breast-saving procedure is as effective in treating the disease as removal of the entire breast.

National Cancer Institute officials released a report Nov. 15 that concluded breast cancer therapy that involves removing the tumor and then treating with radiation is as likely to give long-term survival as is mastectomy, or removal of the breast entirely.

Lumpectomy, as the breast-saving procedure is called, has been used for some time, but the discovery this year of fraud in a major breast cancer study raised questions about the accuracy of the study.

The fraud originated at St. Luc's Hospital in Montreal, where a researcher falsified data for some patients enrolled in the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Cancer Project, a key study in establishing the value of lumpectomy.

The NCI removed the St. Luc's data from the study last spring and did a cursory recomputation that found the fraud did not affect the conclusion about lumpectomy.

The agency also undertook a detailed audit in which researchers reexamined 10-year-old records for 1,554 patients. They were able to find the original charts to verify data for 1,390 study enrollees.

"We audited 86 percent of all of the data in the original study and found that the conclusion was not changed," said Dr. Jeffrey S. Abrams of the NCI therapy evaluation program.

The audit found that breast cancer patients who chose lumpectomy and radiation had a 10-year survival rate of 71 percent, vs. a survival rate of 66 percent for those who chose mastectomy. Abrams said the results, from a statistical viewpoint, show no significant difference between the two therapies.

PAUL RECER



Candidate Training Institute coordinator Dave Fleischer (front row, far left) with participants at an October session in Dallas.

## Victory Fund holds candidate training in Atlanta

by JAMES FITCH

With loaded words like "values," "morality," "family," and "prayer" beckoning from inside the headlines, one can't help but make sweeping generalizations. The 1994 election cycle: a complete bust. The immediate future: bleak.

Yet, from the offices of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington, D.C., Kathleen DeBold sounds downright ecstatic. "This was our best year—overwhelmingly, our candidates won," she says, explaining that, of the 17 candidates the organization backed, 12 won outright. Another won by a margin of 51 votes and is thus subject to a mandatory recount; another is involved in a less promising recount. Only three conceded loss.

"All of our candidates were gay-baited," DeBold says. "And then there was the overall conservative swing. We really feel that each of our candidates won two races."

The Victory Fund is a network of donors who work to elect openly gay and lesbian public officials. Each election cycle, it supports a select group of candidates through referrals to campaign professionals and access to its donor network. Members join for \$100 or more, agreeing to give at least \$100 to two recommended candidates within a 12-month period. Membership is currently more than 3,500 and, to date, has raised more than \$700,000 for candidates at the city, county, state and federal levels.

Though the Victory Fund trains and supports candidates from all political parties, there is a set of criteria: Candidates must be pro-choice, strongly supportive of laws that would

fight discrimination, and in favor of government support to fight AIDS. A candidate must also be what the Fund considers viable, with a reasonable campaign plan in place and a reasonable chance of winning.

Numbers from last year's election cycle illustrate the influence Victory Fund backing can have on the outcome of a campaign. During 1993, 72 candidates contacted the Fund for support. Of those, 12 were recommended to the network and six won. Out of the remaining 60 candidates, only two were victorious.

Since its inception in 1991, some Victory Fund success stories include election of Sherry Harris, the country's first openly lesbian African American public official, to Seattle City Council; election of Gail Shibley, Glen Maxey and Tammy Baldwin, the first openly gay/lesbian state representatives in Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin, respectively; and the reelection of Massachusetts congressman Gerry Studds.

Another important function of the organization is its Candidate Training Institute, which travels across the country offering gays and lesbians intensive training for running a successful campaign. The Institute will be in Atlanta January 6-8.

Over three days, the Institute will train about 30 serious-minded aspiring gay and lesbian politicians from around the Southeast. Atlanta becomes the eighth city in which such a course has been offered and, outside of Miami, the first in the South.

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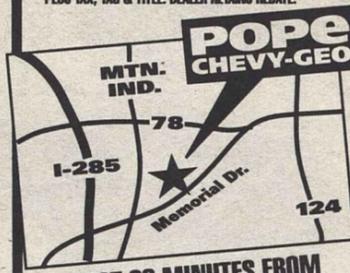
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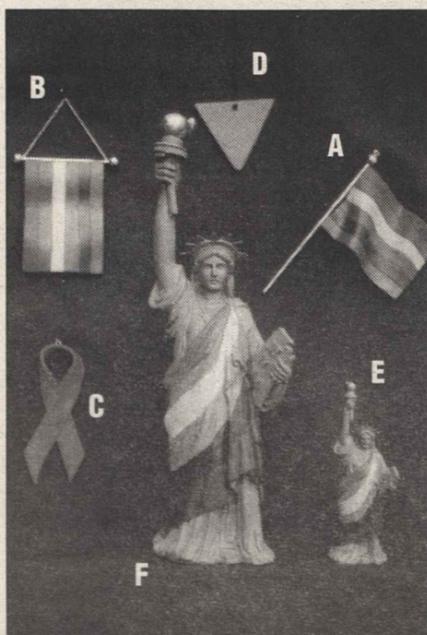
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## Victory Fund

Continued from page 15

graphic regions," said Dave Fleischer, coordinator of training for the Victory Fund. "We try to go to areas where there's enormous opportunities, or where the radical right has targeted gays and lesbians."

Before enrollment is complete, Fleischer says he will have spoken with some 400 potential candidates from Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee. From them, he will actually meet with about 80. Then he will make recommendations to a committee, which will select a final 25 to 30 people to take the course.

"These are people who are serious and wanting to run [for office]," Fleischer says. "Training is only for those who have a strong desire. We usually ask others to wait. Training has a very short half-life: If you don't use it, you lose it."

Beginning with basic concepts and analytical tools, training encompasses all aspects of campaigning, including building a broad base of support, raising money, preparing speeches, and writing a competitive campaign plan. Role-playing exercises are incorporated to prepare participants for such situations as one-on-one meetings with difficult community leaders.

"There are lots of myths in politics and, while politics is not that complicated, there are basic steps," says Annise Parker, who went through the Institute in Dallas after having run an unsuccessful campaign for a seat on the Houston City Council in 1991. "I didn't know that I'd get that much out of the training," she adds. "But I was pleasantly surprised. Some of the myths I had grown up with I learned just weren't true."

Parker, who says she wasn't well prepared for her campaign in '91, plans to run again in

an upcoming special election which will take place either in January or May.

Parker says the training put issues in a logical context; by the end of three days, participants had the ability to plan their own campaign strategies.

"It wasn't just things like public speaking," she says. "I learned how candidates should spend their time, ways to spend money in the media. Things like, you don't necessarily have to be at all the big functions. You see the same people at those functions, and a lot of them are out of your district. You need to be out talking to people in your district."

Another alumnus of the Institute, Tom Chiola, was one of this election cycle's victors. Winning a judge's seat in Cook County (Chicago) made him the first openly gay public official in Illinois.

"I came into the training already well into my campaign," Chiola says. "It confirmed that

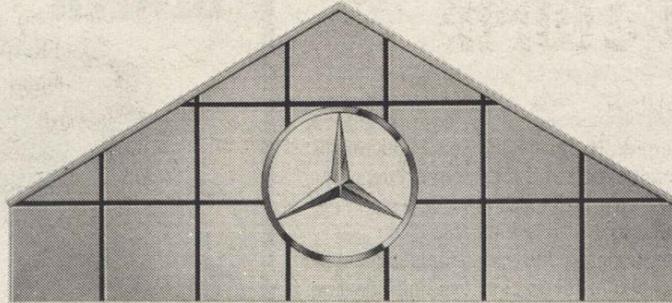
we were doing the right things. It also brought up some things that I wish we had known a year earlier."

Chiola's breakthrough victory for gays and lesbians has been celebrated in mainstream Chicago as well. "It's been tremendous," he says. "I've received calls from judges I've never met who were very congratulatory. His swearing-in reception is being hosted by 15 of the politicians in his district."

"Most of [Chicago's previous openly gay candidates] were more in the 'let's make a statement' mode than really targeted to win," Chiola says. "My campaign was about winning, making the breakthrough."

"If people are really serious about putting on a successful campaign, they need to do [Victory Fund's Candidate Training Institute] as soon as possible," he adds. "It's the kind of thing we need in the gay and lesbian communities throughout the country."

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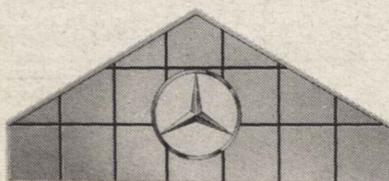
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## CDC gay employees' group weathers E-mail storm

by PETER NEWTON

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has long been associated with the task of making America a healthier place to live. But the federal branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, headquartered on Clifton Road in DeKalb County, has suffered from strained employee relations since the announcement of a new association of gay, lesbian and bisexual employees, called GLOBE.

Hostile responses from within the ranks of CDC employees have prompted CDC officials to address homophobia in the workplace as a controllable disease, if not curable.

Discrimination based on one's sexual orientation was forbidden under the federal mandate issued in December 1993 by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, who stated that her personal "commitment to diversity and equality is long-standing and non-negotiable."

On November 1, Michael Brown of GLOBE announced to the CDC's nearly 7,000 employees and contractors worldwide the existence of GLOBE in an effort to raise awareness of the group and promote diversity in the workplace. The controversy that immediately followed the announcement was waged via the agency's electronic mail system. While many respondents applauded the CDC's latest efforts to stamp out discrimination based on sexual orientation, others assumed a mocking tone in their disagreement with the policy.

The majority of the E-mail responses were sent to GLOBE president Michael Brown, as

he requested. However, several negative reactions were posted to all CDC employees internationally and prompted CDC Director Dr. David Satcher to issue a statement reiterating his commitment to diversity and equality saying that "sexual orientation...should never be an issue in the workplace."

One anonymous response likened homosexuality to bestiality. Another signed message called homosexuality a "disgusting perversion of man's nature and an affront to Almighty God."

Because personnel files are confidential, no official information is available as to what degree the individuals responsible for the messages were reprimanded, if at all.

Brown, an environmental scientist who works at the CDC's sister organization, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), is satisfied with the way CDC management has handled the controversy. "We've been told that appropriate action was taken to reprimand the individuals who responded inappropriately," says Brown. "We expected the negative responses from our co-workers. We didn't expect them to be sent all over the world."

Brown is an optimist who refuses to dwell on the negative responses toward GLOBE. "I'm much more interested in the good GLOBE can do. We plan on being seen in a positive light so that in a few years, if a less friendly administration moves in, there'd be no grounds to remove us," says Brown.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 19



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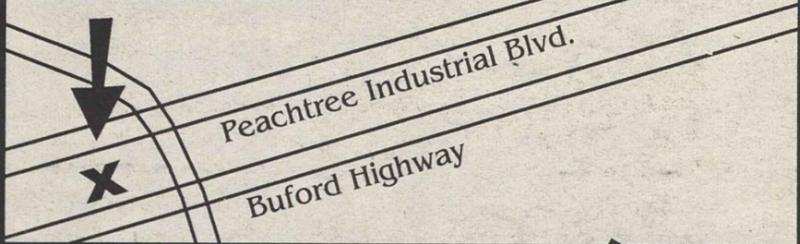
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## GLOBE

Continued from page 17

"I've experienced a lot worse discrimination than a few insulting E-mails," he adds. "In 1986, I lost a job because I was gay. It's nice to know that that can't happen now."

The CDC's management has pledged its full support for GLOBE. "Our focus is on promoting public health," says CDC Office of Public Affairs spokesperson Kent Taylor. Taylor also downplays the negative E-mail responses; however, he did say that the CDC "was looking into their electronic mail system to find ways that might guard against future abuses."

One day after the hostile E-mail responses, Dr. Satcher warned CDC employees not to overreact to the negative messages, stating that "overreactions only serve to encourage further negative behavior." Brown agrees, saying, "The global response may actually have reduced the number of negative responses we received directly." In fact, GLOBE membership has increased from 75 to approximately 100 members since the controversy began.

GLOBE is a chapter of FEDERAL GLOBE that was incorporated in August 1993 to represent gay, lesbian and bisexual U.S. federal employees around the world. Before they were officially recognized in June 1994 as the CDC/ATSDR GLOBE chapter, employees concerned with gay, lesbian and bisexual representation met as a social group outside of work. Now, three years after that first informal meeting, GLOBE members are beginning to get organized, get comfortable and get rights while on the job.

Brown views the CDC's commitment to diversity as a stepping stone for the Atlanta metropolitan area. "Gays and lesbians who work for the federal government are free to join GLOBE. I think it's important for them to

have a resource of information that they can take back to their branch or company and share it with other employees," says Brown.

Brown is aware that not everyone has the same management support as CDC employees when it comes to sexual orientation. "We may never change a single person's view that homosexuality is acceptable, but we can demand equal rights," Brown says. "By improving communication on the subject, we can work around the fears of our fellow workers. Maybe we can get someone to realize that being 'out' in their workforce can have a broad impact."

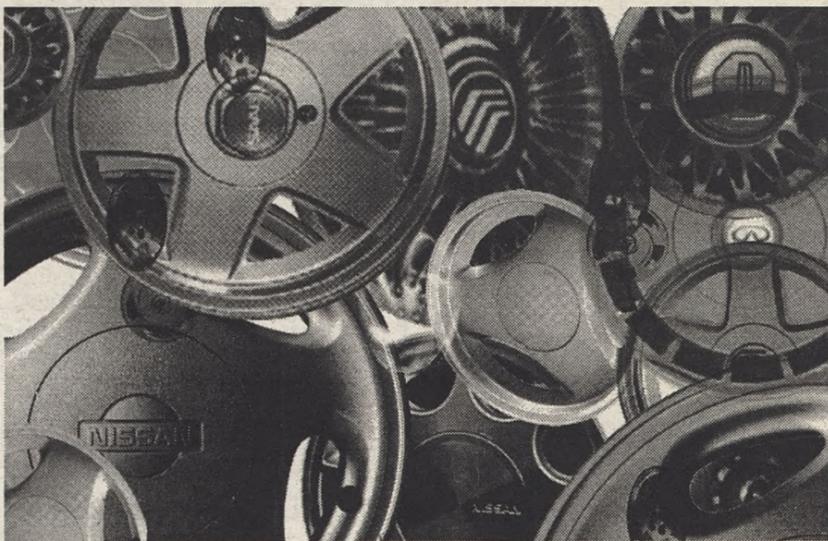
Membership to GLOBE is not exclusive. Anyone who works in a health-related organization, whether employed by the federal government or not, may join as an associate member regardless of his or her sexual orientation.

The CDC has plans to introduce a Diversity Program that will continue to respond to the needs of all its employees. Officials are currently working through a draft of the program. In one of his periodic Director's Forums held November 22, Dr. Satcher urged cooperation among all employees in order to best accomplish the CDC mission to improve public health.

"The standard definition of diversity does include sexual orientation," Dr. Satcher went on to say before fielding questions.

Immediately following the Director's Forum, GLOBE members convened for their first meeting since the controversy began. The meeting was the third and most widely attended with twice as many employees and supporters present.

Despite the controversy, Brown says he is "not interested in finding out who exactly is responsible for the negative responses to GLOBE. We as a community have had our share of witchhunts in the past to launch one of our own. Let's move forward."



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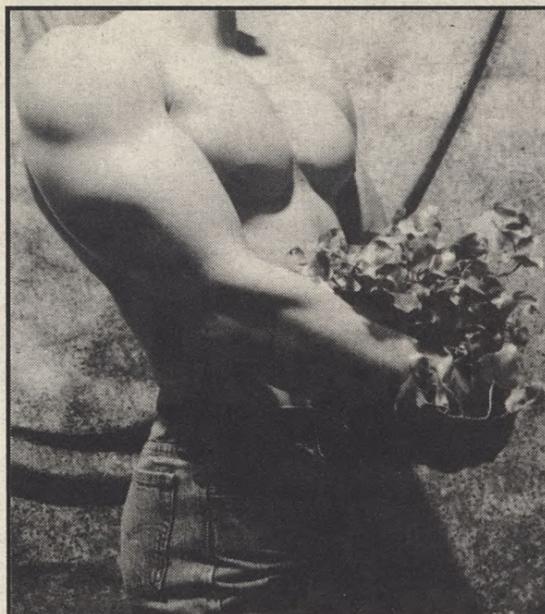
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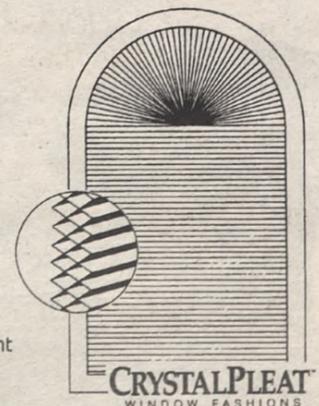
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## Survival

Continued from page 13

than simply waiting for your doctor to tell you what to do.

All agreed that the doctor-patient relationship is vital, that your doctor should be someone you feel comfortable with and someone you're not afraid to suggest things to or ask questions of. "Firing inadequate doctors is the most painful—and successful—thing I've ever done as a person with AIDS," Getty said.

Dr. Cafaro agreed, saying, "You need to have an open relationship with your doctor, and it is OK to shift around."

Besides traditional medical approaches, Sharp recommended considering nutritional supplements and "alternative" treatments. "I have a strict regimen of antioxidants and minerals and vitamins, and I've done some alternative therapies as well," he explained. "I try to do as much as possible without hurting myself...I look and see what's available and

what's new and current and safe."

Both doctors concurred that nonstandard treatments can be of value. "I've seen incredible things with acupuncture," Cafaro said. "I don't know how the hell it works, but I'd do it in a hot second." She added that anyone supplementing their treatment with nonstandard therapies needs to keep their doctor informed so that they can watch out for problems.

But, as important as pills and tests may be, all agreed that how you approach your illness is a crucial ingredient. "I think one of the main things that's kept me alive," Sharp concluded, "is not drugs but my insistence on direct action and working with the community to try to find new therapies for people, and for access. It drives me. It makes me wake up in the morning. It allows me to live and to fight for other people, and at the same time I feel healthier."

Getty added one short piece of advice: "Never, ever give up."

### AIDS Treatment Newsletters

At the October 26 town meeting, PWA activist Jeff Getty distributed this list of publications that "every PWA with less than 50 CD4 cells should be getting." Subscription rates vary, but all newsletters listed will provide low-cost or free subscriptions for people with HIV/AIDS who cannot afford regular rates.

AIDS Treatment News  
P.O. Box 411256  
San Francisco, CA 94141

P.I. Perspective  
Project Inform  
Suite 220  
1965 Market St.  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Positively Aware  
158 W. Belmont Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60657-3292

GMHC Treatment Issues  
129 W. 20th St.  
New York, NY 10011

Bulletin of Experimental  
Treatment for AIDS (BETA)  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
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## Banana Republic aids Project Open Hand

At the grand opening of the new Banana Republic store in Lenox Square—now the fourth largest Banana Republic in the country—a string quartet played, people shopped, and the event raised much-needed funds for Project Open Hand/Atlanta. The store donated a percentage of its sales during the grand opening weekend, Nov. 3-Nov. 6.

According to Ken Stein, development director of Project Open Hand/Atlanta, the grand opening benefit will enable the agency's volunteers to prepare and deliver 5,775 meals for people living with AIDS in metropolitan At-

lanta. The event was coordinated by Deborah Corsiglia, regional vice president of the store, and Richard Mikles, district manager.

"Banana Republic and The Gap have an excellent reputation for supporting communities in which they do business," said Corsiglia. "However, most of that support has been seen on the West Coast and in the Northeast United States. Banana Republic wanted to give something back to the community locally, and chose Project Open Hand/Atlanta for their outstanding service."

## Quilt panels on display in Atlanta

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, sections of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed at locations around Atlanta.

Four panels will be on view at Hartsfield airport and at City Hall. Seven panels will be displayed at the Carter Center, Cecil B. Day Chapel.

Other locations include Rich's department stores at Perimeter Mall, Southlake Mall,

Gwinnett Place and Lenox Square; Marriott Marquis and Marriott Northwest; NationsBank Midtown Center, Northeast Center, and Southside; City Hall East; 101 Marietta Tower; and the mayor's AIDS conference at the Hyatt Regency.

Additionally, at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 1, there will be a panel dedication service at St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

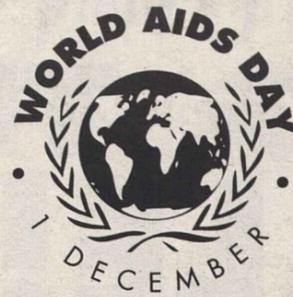
## SAME hosts 'Arts for Pride'

Arts for Pride, the annual fine arts and crafts sale hosted by Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project (SAME), will unfold Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the TULA Arts Complex, 75 Bennett St., NW.

The sale, featuring the work of local artists, offers the opportunity for the lesbian and gay community to purchase holiday gifts from gay artists. A fundraiser for SAME, this year's

Arts for Pride features the work of Trish Land, Jan Riley, Blue Muse collective, Andy Bremer, Skye Mason, Chester Old, Taylor Gibson, and many others.

Admission is \$1. A silent auction will be held during the day, with donated items by many local artists and businesses. Lunch and baked goods are available. Call 609-9590 for more information.



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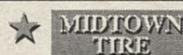
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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Bill Thomas and Rick Price celebrate two years of partnership on Dec. 4.

Congratulations to "JB" Kaufner and Darryl McCaskill, who celebrated their 6th anniversary on Nov. 25. The couple celebrated in Columbia, S.C. with Darryl's father.

Happy anniversary to Lenny Lasater and Kecia Cunningham. Dec. 6 marks four fabulously wonderful years!

BIRTHDAYS

Happy belated birthday to Otherside DJ Randy Dethman on Nov. 25.

Scott (Scooty Man) Nichols celebrates yet another birthday on Dec. 1.

Happy birthday to Kimm Bowers on Dec. 1.

SoVo advertising representative Linda



Lovely Linda Vaughn actually provided us with her high school photo in celebration of her 40th birthday on Dec. 4.

Vaughn celebrates a birthday on Dec. 4. The former director of the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus turns 40 on that day. Happy birthday, Linda!

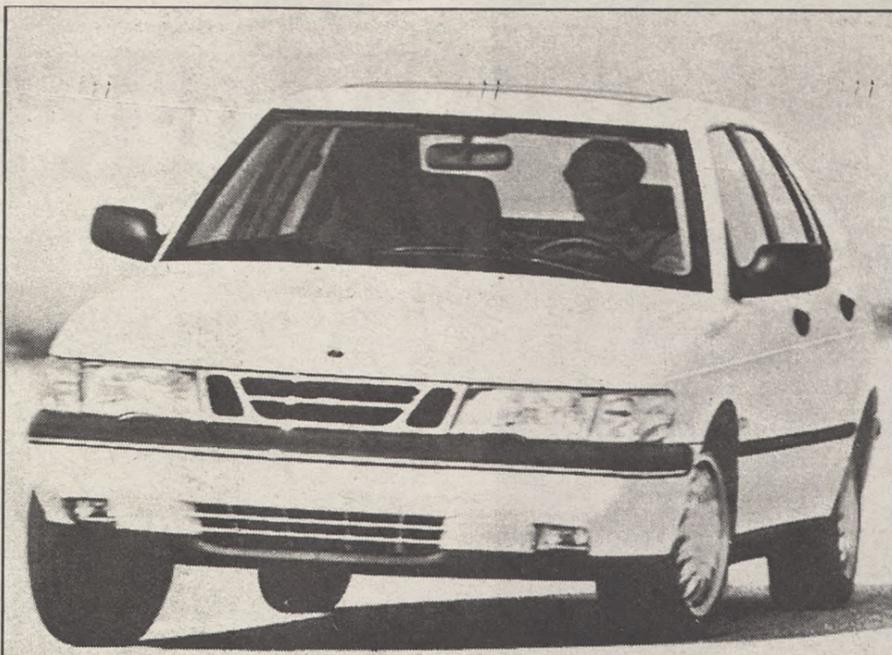
Happy 24th birthday to Melanie Search on Dec. 5

Happy birthday to Barbara Summers on Dec. 8.

*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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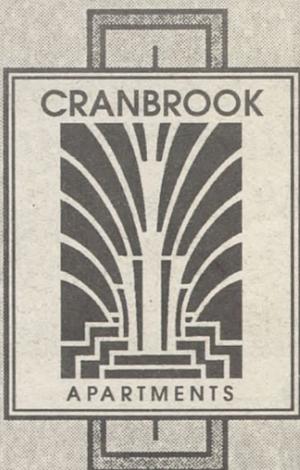
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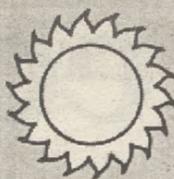


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## In The

*When knowledge defeats ignorance, when understanding conquers fear, when hope subdues frustration, we can declare victory.*

## Right

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