

SOUTHERN VOICE

Father's Day
June 19th
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Vol. 1, No. 8

Taking Pride in Our Culture

June 9, 1988

Lesbian & Gay Pride Week '88

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 18th

•**The Pride Prom**—Come kick off Atlanta's Pride Week and dance the night away at the historic Inman Park Trolley Barn. Photo packages will be available and prom attire is requested. The Trolley Barn is located at 963 Edgewood Avenue. The Prom will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12/person, or \$40 for a group of four (first beverage is included). Tickets are available at Charis Books and More and The Boy Next Door. All proceeds benefit the Atlanta March Committee. Call 377-8312 for information. Work exchange slots are available prior to June 10th.

Sunday, June 19th

•**HVA Volleyball Tournament**—The action gets exciting as the Hotlanta Volleyball Association hosts both a competitive and recreational tournament at Piedmont Park (corner of 10th and Monroe) from 2:00-8:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per 6-member team, all proceeds to benefit Pride Week '89. Call 633-0467 to enter and for further information.

•GAPAC Volunteer Thank You

Party—Atlanta's lesbian & gay political action committee will host an open party to say thank you to their volunteers. A \$5 donation is requested. 1106 Lullwater Road, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Monday, June 20th

•**Family Night**—The Country Place at Colony Square will be the site of our family reunion. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Gay and Lesbian Parents (and their children) Coalition International, Atlanta Couples Together and Couples, Inc. invite you to join them for dinner. The full menu will be available. Bring your parents, children, lovers and friends. Please arrive by 6:00 p.m. for dinner, or later for dessert. Please contact MACGLO at 242-2342 for reservations and information.

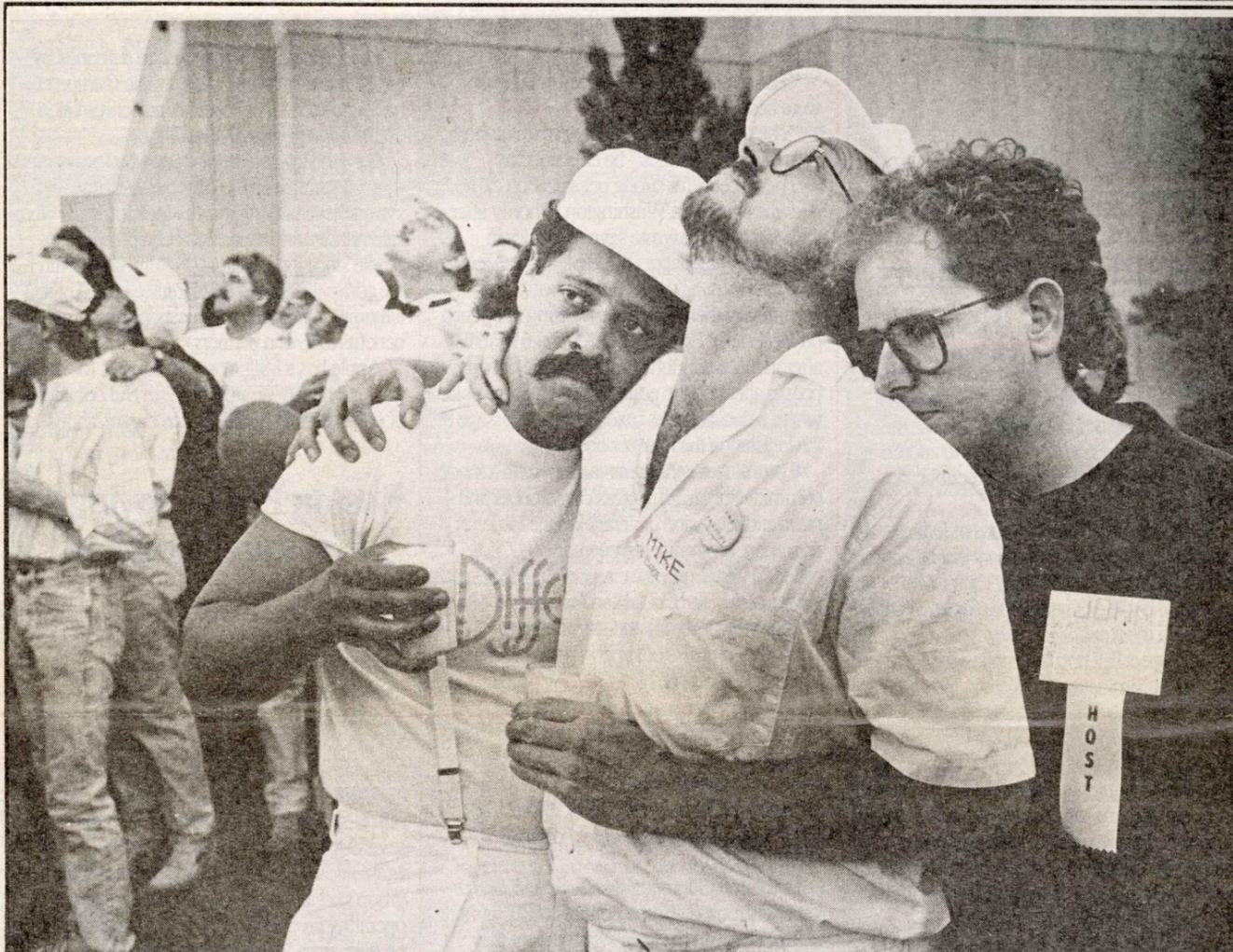
•**Friends Atlanta at the Fox**—Join Friends Atlanta at the fabulous Fox Theatre for an old-fashioned evening at the movies.

Classic cartoons and sing-a-longs begin at 7:20 p.m. "Three Men and a Baby" (they say it's a coincidence!) begins at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 per person.

Tuesday, June 21st

•**"We Are Family"**—Channel 30 WPBA will show this touching exploration of gay and lesbian couples who have children. A thank you to WPBA may be made by calling 873-4471.

•**Higher Ground: Voices of AIDS**—opens at the Horizon Theatre in Little 5 Points. Presented by the Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project, Inc. (SAME) and the National Association of People With AIDS/Atlanta Chapter (NAPWA), Atlanta



Jay Rogers, Mike Edwards and John Williams at the closing ceremonies for the Names Quilt display in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend. See story Page 12.

PHOTO BY GERALD JONES

"Creature Patrol" Cops Provoke Stonewall Rumblings

In what has become a regular occurrence, Special Investigative forces of the Atlanta Police Department set up road blocks at the corner of Cypress and 8th Streets in Midtown Atlanta during the evening of Thursday, June 2nd. Officers arrested three men on what onlookers called "trumped-up charges" just as the road block was being discontinued for the night. The Special Investigations unit and the Zone 5 Precinct have been aggressively targeting this corner outside of the Gallus Restaurant for the past two months. The officers whimsically call this duty assignment "the creature patrol".

What had been a resentful crowd of onlookers observing the action from windows and doorways, quickly turned near riotous when the three men were arrested. In the events that led up to the arrests, no illegal conduct was seen by the crowd on the part of the men. Describing the officers' actions as illegal and un-constitutional, a lawyer who was present but declined to identify himself, urged friends of the three men to press civil rights charges against the officers and the City of Atlanta. As the officers were waiting for the "paddy wagon" to transport the men to the City Jail, the angry crowd was more interested in immediate retribution

against the officers than talk of lengthy legal maneuverings.

It was ironic that while lesbian and gay community leaders were struggling to devise the best strategy to improve relations with the Atlanta Police Department, the crowd was reliving the vivid imagery of the Stonewall riots in New York City which were sparked by similar police actions and gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Although the officers escaped the area safely and no other arrests were made, it was obvious that they were very aware of the increasingly hostile crowd, and the possibility of danger.

Although Atlanta Police spokesperson Myrna May denied that any misconduct or selective enforcement was involved, patrons and employees of The Gallus complained bitterly that they were often chased into the restaurant/bar by officers, who then waited until closing time to seize and harass them when they tried to go home. It is widely believed that Cypress Street, known as the home of Atlanta's male prostitutes, has been garnering this much attention due to a city-wide attempt to clean up the city's streets prior to the Democratic National Convention in July.

Perhaps most galling to the crowd, was the use of rubber surgical gloves by the officers while they were searching the three men. According to department profiles, it is up to the discretion of the officers involved whether or not to use the gloves while in close contact with "suspected AIDS patients". That profile includes perspiration as a means of transmission of AIDS.

According to Ed Younger, a bartender in the bottom-floor bar for 7 years, the police held a meeting with the owners and staff of The Gallus on May 31st to explain that they were performing the road blocks as a service both to The Gallus and the Midtown community. What they failed to address, said Younger, was "a 30 to 40 percent decrease in business (due to customers being scared away). Thank God for our regulars, they're the only thing that has been keeping us going." Due to the late-breaking nature of this story, it was impossible to reach the owners of the restaurant for comment.

The events that led up to the arrests were seemingly innocent. Ronny Ray and an as yet unidentified passenger, whom Ray had agreed to drive to The Gallus, pulled up to the corner of Cypress and 8th just as
Continued Page 3.

NEWS IN BRIEF



HRCF Executive Director Vic Basile.

GOP Committee Hears Pro-gay/lesbian Testimony

Kansas City, Mo. - The Washington-based Human Rights Campaign Fund broke new political ground May 31 when it became the first gay/lesbian organization ever to address the platform committee of the Republican party.

Board member John Thomas of Dallas, Texas, told committee members that he is one of millions of gay and lesbian voters who believe "the route of attainment for [our] goals is through the Republican party."

In his speech, Thomas emphasized the need for anti-discrimination legislation, increased attention to AIDS, and the rights of gays and lesbians to participate in military service and have legally recognized domestic partnerships.

HRCF is gaining the ear of the Republican party just as some gay and lesbian activists are fighting to keep their issues alive with Democrats. Paul Kirk, chair of the Democratic party, has made it clear that the 1988 platform will be substantially shorter than the 1984 version, which ran to more than 100 pages.

"We could be totally ignored in the platform," said Tim Forshay of the local Democratic organization LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians). "We won't actually have the words 'gay and lesbian' in there without a lot of effort."

Under the guidance of LEGAL president Lee Harrington, members drafted letters to Democratic candidates Jesse Jackson and Michael Dukakis, asking for their continued support on gay and lesbian issues.

Eric Rosenthal, political director of HRCF, called it "very unlikely" that those issues will be covered as well this year as in 1984, but pointed out that HRCF executive director Vic Basile addressed the Democratic platform committee in early May, and "there are

elements in both parties with whom we are working."

-David Tucker

Lesbian/Gay Rights Now Law in Baltimore

Baltimore-The Baltimore lesbian and gay community scored a major victory with approval by the City Council of a bill protecting them from discrimination.

Steve Cody, Co-President of the group Baltimore Justice Campaign (BJC), told *Southern Voice* how important community involvement was in winning this landmark vote after defeats in 1980 and 1985.

"The main difference is that this time we were better organized.

"The gay community is now more involved in mainstream politics," he explained.

The impetus for strong organization came after the March on Washington. Shortly after the March, Cody wrote several articles in lesbian and gay papers calling for action and, eventually, for a "town-meeting" of community members. The meeting happened on December 12, almost exactly two months after the Washington demonstration. About 75 people attended the political strategy discussion where a decision was made to make passage of the legislation the number one priority.

Committees sprang into action, with a media committee organizing press conferences and radio and television coverage on the issue. A documents committee prepared what Cody called "a very impressive report" which helped sway votes in the Council in favor of the bill.

Baltimore lesbians and gays had also obtained a promise of support from the man who would become Mayor.

During his campaign, Kurt Schmoke attended a Pride Day rally where he promised to support extension of civil rights to gays. Schmoke stated he would push for passage of the bill and said if the bill were defeated, he would sign an executive order banning discrimination.

In the end, Schmoke won his election and kept his promise. Some political observers say Schmoke could not have won without the lesbian/gay vote. He won by a four percent margin, with complete support from gays and lesbians who make up ten percent of the city. In addition to working in the mayoral elections, lesbian/gay groups targeted Council Members for defeat when their records opposed gay rights. The composition of the City Council changed, and the bill passed by a 12 to 7 vote.

Next in line for the Baltimore Justice Campaign is the Maryland State House.

Cody said the BJC will meet on June 4th to decide exactly what they will tackle next, but chances are they will leave the City Council in what are now supportive hands, and move on to Annapolis, where the legislature has tried to tamper with civil rights.

Last year the House tried to pass a

Quarantine law for people with AIDS, scaring activists into quick and effective action to kill the bill.

This type of organization by lesbians and gays in Baltimore will carry its weight to the Democratic Convention in Atlanta this summer. Cody will visit Atlanta as a Jackson delegate to the Convention.

-F.G.

Apple Computer Announces Non-Discrimination Policy

San Francisco-In response to demands by gay and lesbian employees, Apple Computer has announced a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Gay and lesbian employees who formed Apple Lambda for months received only sympathetic hearings from Apple officials who said nondiscrimination has been practiced at Apple since its founding. Finally, last month the company agreed to guarantee equal rights, although it left open the question of extending benefits to live-in partners.

Apple has a long record of support for lesbian and gay groups, with several donations of equipment to social service organizations.

Boston Police Spying on Gays and Lesbians

Boston-Gay and lesbian groups in Boston are demanding that Governor Dukakis fire the Chief of the Capitol Police in response to reports of police spying on gay groups.

The storm broke when the *Boston Herald* reported on police requests for funds to continue infiltrating gay groups. The money was sought at budget hearings where police officials revealed they had already infiltrated several lesbian and gay groups. Rob Gale of Mass ACT OUT, Boston's gay direct action group said about the spying, "If it is standard operating procedure, they better wear swastikas on their arms." Dukakis has called for an investigation, but the State's Commissioner of Public Safety downplayed the significance of the case, explaining that police were merely gathering information at open meetings to find out who the leaders were.

Europeans to Work Together Against AIDS

Brussels-European health ministers have agreed to work together in their fight against AIDS, following reports of a sharp increase in the number of cases in the European Economic Community.

By the end of 1987, the number of cases

doubled the 1986 totals. Three months later-by the end of March of this year-twenty percent more cases had already been registered.

The biggest increase took place in France, which also has the highest per-capita number of cases.

The ministers, alarmed by the figures, agreed to coordinate their efforts and exchange information, including scientific, legal and political developments in the fight against AIDS.

Members of the 12-country community reiterated their opposition to mandatory testing, and reaffirmed their year-old commitment not to permit discrimination against PWAs (People with AIDS).

This protection of the dignity and human rights of the ill stands in sharp contrast to the United States position where the Reagan administration opposed legislation banning discrimination against people living with AIDS.

Oregon Lesbian/Gay Rights Order

Salem, Ore. - Fundamentalists Christians in Oregon are organizing to recall the gay rights executive order issued last year by the state's Democratic governor, Neil Goldschmidt.

The fundamentalists - under the aegis of the leadership group, the Salt Shakers - have until July 8 to convince 80,000 of the roughly 2 million Oregonians of voting age to sign a petition placing the recall on the November ballot. The recallers held their first public meeting May 24.

"I think they will get the signatures but I think we will win the vote," said John Baker, chair of the state's PAC, Right to Privacy. "It will be close." One point in favor of gays is that the ballot title states: "Permits Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation." Penned by pro-gay Secretary of State Barbara Roberts (D), that title is predicted to lead many Oregonians who do not believe in gay rights but who believe in fairness to vote against the recall.

If the recall wins, Right to Privacy plans to challenge it on constitutional grounds.

Regardless of the outcome, Goldschmidt is expected to stand fast. As mayor of Portland in the mid-70's, he was the target of a recall attempt by fundamentalists angered by his issuing a gay pride proclamation. But they failed to gather enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

Elected in 1986 after defeating moderate Republican Norma Paulus with 52% of the vote, Goldschmidt issued the executive order at the request of Right to Privacy which has sought such a measure since 1976.

Gay/Lesbian Monthly in Israel

Tel Aviv-Only weeks after homosexuality became legal in Israel, a new gay/lesbian magazine hits the stands in the Promised Land. To subscribe to the monthly magazine, write to Post Office Box 11990, Tel Aviv, Israel.



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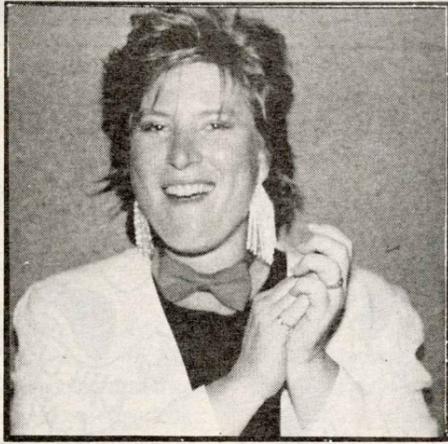
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VanderEls Hearing Scheduled for June 13

Leigh VanderEls, a lesbian mother who lost custody of her seven year-old son in January, 1987, to her ex-husband, will be back in court on June 13 as part of her ongoing struggle to find justice in the Georgia judicial system. The hearing, scheduled for 9:00 AM in Clayton County Superior Court, will determine whether or not Judge William Ison, who ruled against VanderEls in her attempt to retain custody of her son, exhibited "actual and personal bias and prejudice against the appellant" in his decision.



Leigh VanderEls

The Georgia Supreme Court decided last month that Ison may have been prejudiced due to an alleged phone conversation he had with VanderEls' former employer, Anne Plant, Director of the Clayton County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). In the alleged conversation, Ison told Plant details of the custody hearing, including VanderEls' sexual orientation, and suggested that VanderEls be removed from her position as a caseworker for foster and adoptive children. He reportedly told Plant that DFCS did not need "people like that" working with children. As a result, VanderEls was constructively terminated from her job by being transferred to an inferior position with the agency considering her past experience and training.

In April, 1987 Ison denied VanderEls' original motion to recuse (remove) himself from the case when she filed for an appeal for a new hearing. At that hearing, Ison also refused to let Plant testify to their alleged phone conversation, saying it was only "hearsay" that the conversation occurred. The June 13 hearing will determine whether or not Ison was prejudiced in his ruling in April.

If Ison is found to have been prejudiced, a new custody hearing will be scheduled and there is a possibility that VanderEls will get temporary custody of her son until the new hearing. Michael Hauptman, attorney for VanderEls, is optimistic about the outcome of the hearing.

If either VanderEls or her ex-husband appeal the decision, the case will revert to the Georgia Supreme Court.

"Creature Patrol"

from Page 1

Officers Brown and Jackson were getting into their squad car to leave. After letting his passenger out of the car at the corner, Ray turned south onto Cypress. Startling the crowd, Ray's car was forced to stop and pull into the adjacent parking lot. His passenger, who had started to walk back toward the car after being let out, was apprehended after starting to walk away from the car.

Ray was arrested for driving without a license and impeding traffic. Ray tried explaining to Officer Brown that his checkbook and license had been recently stolen, at which time Brown was overheard to remark "Well, isn't that special." Although Ray had his license number memorized, neither officer would check with Central Records to confirm his account. The passenger was reported to have been arrested for impeding traffic, as well. The charges of impeding traffic apparently arose because Ray stopped and his passenger got out of the car.

The third man arrested, Ron Ledford, became involved when he passed near the squad car on the way to his car to retrieve a package of cigarettes. As he passed by, Ray told the officers that Ledford could corroborate his identity. Ledford complied with Officer Brown's request to identify Ray. Ray devalued Ledford's identification when he shouted "Hey Ron, it's me, Ronny," as Brown and Ledford approached the car. Despite the fact that Ledford could also identify Ray by his surname, Brown

I received a direct mail appeal today, as professional and slick as they come. (I must be on everyone's list as a world-class easy "tap", because I seem to get them all.)

This one was from ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), and signed by Harvey Fierstein, author of *Torch Song Trilogy*. Now, I don't know a lot about ACT UP, and less about Fierstein, but what I've heard is that they share at least one thing in common: a low tolerance of the unacceptable, and a usually very effective way of throwing a fit, to gain attention and rectify the situation.

As much as I wince at the bombardment of these pleading envelopes, it's great to see this kind of solicitation. It's a national effort, on an issue specific to our community. It's a grass-roots mobilization which, if effective, will not allow the mass disregard of our community that showed in the (lack of) coverage last October in Washington D.C. Indeed, ACT UP has seemed extremely effective in gaining attention and results in AIDS issues. More encouraging still, they seem responsible in how they go about it.

Recently, the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF, the national gay political action committee) held a

dismissed Ledford.

After being dismissed by the officer, Ledford reported to *Southern Voice* that he rhetorically demanded of Brown, "What the hell am I supposed to do? F*ck!" He was immediately arrested and charged with disorderly conduct while under the influence and interfering with the lawful occupation of another. Ledford claimed that he was never drunk during the event. He showed no visible signs of intoxication at the time of his arrest.

Ledford, whose court date is ironically set for June 24th, said of Officer Brown, "The man has got a problem, a definite problem. From what I experienced, he can't do his job properly. He showed a definite bias. ..."

"I intend to fight this with everything I've got," he said. "If they can harass people like that, then we live in a sad, sad world."

Cathy Woolard, president of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU-Ga, called the charges "excessive." She stressed the importance of witnesses of the night's events coming forward to assist in the men's defense. She urged the community to contact Napper's office to express their feelings about the way this matter was conducted as well as attend Ledford's court hearing. That hearing will take place Friday, June 24th at 1:30 p.m. in the Atlanta City Courthouse. Woolard's phone number is 377-8312. Napper's office number is 658-7845.

-Chris Duncan

GAPAC Commentary

"I + M = PP"*

\$150/person fundraiser here in Atlanta. Well supported

by the political, civil rights, and gay communities, it raised tens of thousands of dollars to support our causes. Locally, GAPAC (gay-pack, your local gay PAC) sponsors fundraisers at various per person costs (\$5 in June, around \$15-20 in July, \$75-\$100 in November), in an effort to encourage everyone's participation in support of our work on local issues.

What does all this mean to us? Several things, among them: budgeting time is here. Put your money where your sympathies are. Money **does** talk, in that it funds those who talk - and act - on our behalf. It means that, locally and nationally, we've come of age as a community in acknowledging and acting on this. It means that AIDS does have a positive aspect, at least in the respect that it's booted our community to awareness of how we choose to live and take care of ourselves. And at least in this regard, it's comforting to know that our friends, lovers, brothers, and yes, our sisters, haven't died in vain.

For those of us with interest beyond the crucial AIDS dilemma, there are many organizations that desperately need your help. And no matter which ones you choose to contribute money and/or time to, remember this: though all the results sought may be in different areas (health, political, religious, social) the net result of all our contributions will be the gradual education of American society to tolerate, and finally accept, us as whole persons. Nothing different, scary, weirder than usual. Just plain old people. Sounds like nirvana to me.

I had meant for this inaugural column to be generic, an introduction to what we'll be discussing here: all the intrigue, gossip, speculation and, oh yes, above all, the facts of what's going down politically as it applies to our lives. Some of this reality will out-do the "soaps" - so incredible it'd never play on prime time. But it will play here, in *Southern Voice* and in the quarterly *GAPAC News*, which will be distributed with the *Voice*. Stay tuned! And budget!

-Marie Murray

Marie Murray is Chair of GAPAC (Greater Atlanta Political Action Committee).

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect those of *Southern Voice*.

*Information + Money = Political Power

Pride Schedule, cont'd.

author Rebecca Ranson's *Higher Ground* is based on over 40 interviews with people affected by AIDS-PWAs, PWARCs, their lovers, friends and care providers. First presented at The NAMES Project, this show is a must see. Show begins at 8:00 p.m., tickets are \$15. Call 874-7926 for reservations.

•Rights & Reaction- A film concerning New York City's Gay Rights Bill. 6:00-8:30 p.m. Free admission to Club Rio. \$10 donation to the Dick Rhodes Campaign is requested. Call 636-5410.

•Fund Raiser for Gil Robison-candidate for House of Representatives District 40. 9:00 p.m. at Club Rio. \$10 donation. Entertainment currently being planned. Call 288-6467.

Friday, June 24th

•Bet Haverim-is sponsoring a pot-luck seder dinner at 7:30 p.m. at the Quaker House, followed at 8:30 with a lesbian & gay liberation service. Call 642-3467 for further information

Saturday, June 25th

Dialogue - Lesbians - What shade of racists are we? A work in progress. Horizon Theatre. 2:00 pm. \$3. 584-9671.

Sunday, June 26th

•Sunrise Interfaith Service-6:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 265 Washington Street. 242-2342.

•March!-1:30 p.m. March from the Atlanta Civic Center to Piedmont Park. 2:00-9:00 speakers, entertainment, music, food, beverages, booths, tables and a concert.

•AIDS Memorial Service-All Saints Episcopal Church, 634 W. Peachtree St., 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Monday, June 27th

•The Company We Keep-presents Dorie Wilson's Street Theater. Georgia Pacific Auditorium, 8:00 pm. \$10. 875-7500. The 19th anniversary of Stonewall - the night the gays fought back, a D-Day in gay history. A LEGAL benefit for the Democratic Convention.



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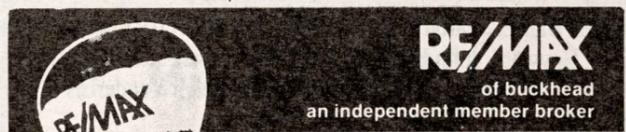
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VIEWPOINTS

Whose Best Interest? Tell It To The Judge!

On June 13th Leigh VanderEls returns to court as part of an ongoing battle to regain custody of her eight-year old son, Chase. (See story on page 3). Judge William Ison ruled against Leigh and for her ex-husband, Wallace VanderEls, in January, 1987 stating that Leigh's lesbianism could be a negative influence on her son as he matures. No other grounds were given by Ison for separating Leigh and Chase who had lived together as a family since Chase's birth. No evidence was brought forth that Leigh was not a good parent to her child. The truth is that Ison saw Wallace VanderEls' family (three kids, a wife who doesn't work and a station wagon) as best able to serve Chase's "best interests". The truth is that Ison is a homophobe - a prejudiced homophobe. There is no other kind. And if Ison had kept his mouth shut and his fingers off of the telephone, he may have gotten away with it. Who would have cared or noticed that a lesbian mother lost her child to her "upright" ex-husband? Who would have shouted, "Unfair!" or "Homophobe"? Not many, probably none. Certainly not the Georgia Supreme Court.

Fortunately for Leigh, the judge's homophobia got the best of him. Not content with taking away her son, Ison took steps that also cost Leigh her job, and that move is what lands Ison in the hot seat on June 13th. Even the Georgia Supreme Court could not look the other way when they heard about Ison's actions. Ison told Leigh's employer the details of the custody hearing, including the fact that Leigh is a lesbian, and suggested she be removed from her work with foster children. The prejudice there is unmistakable and undeniable. It is not only prejudiced behavior, it is unethical and illegal behavior.

What could possibly make a person in Judge Ison's position take a chance like that? Why did he risk a Georgia Supreme Court decision that his behavior was less than above board?

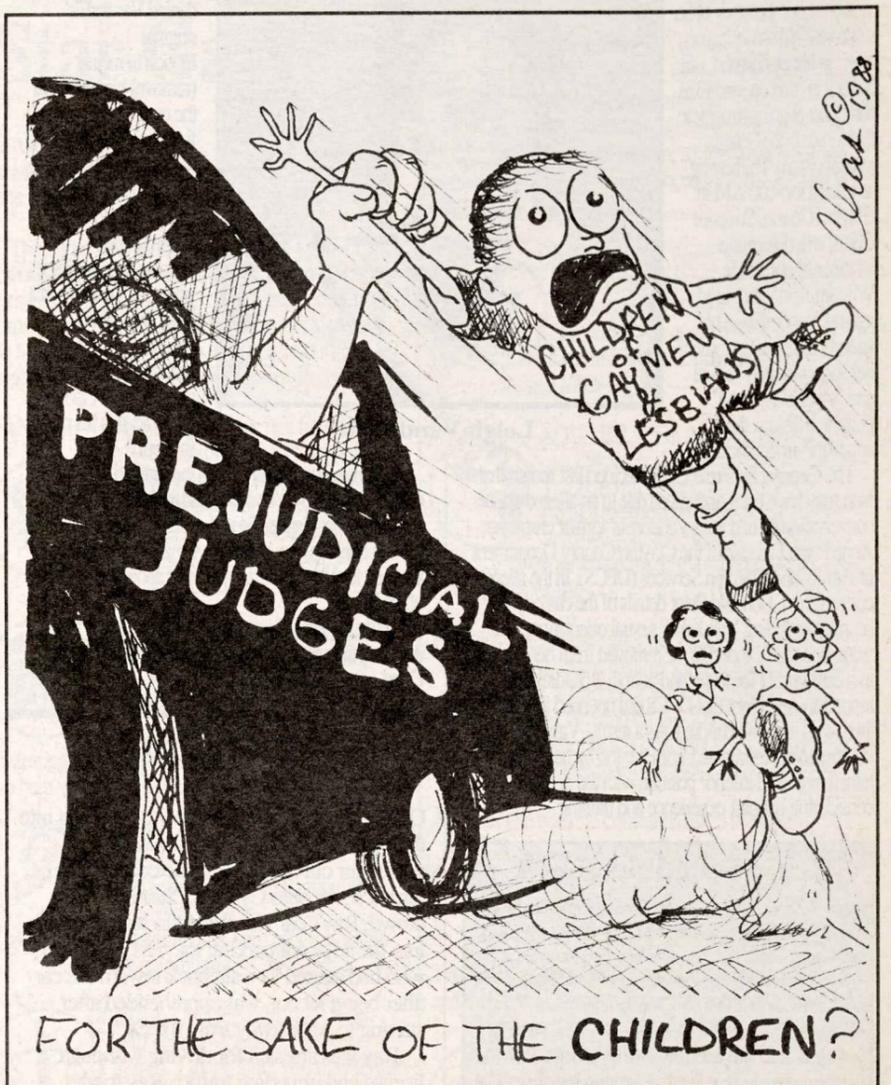
Homophobia. It makes people do the damndest things!

Ison's actions are a clear example that homophobia is not just some convenient word for political activists to rally around. Homophobia is pervasive, entrenched - an ugly sore that will not heal because its origin is systemic. Like other phobias, it is irrational and very difficult to cure. And like other phobias, if left untreated, causes extreme pain for the sufferer and the people around them. Homophobia is a disease. And if you think you are immune to its effects, you're wrong. Ask Leigh VanderEls.

Ison's opinion that Chase's "best interests" were served by removing him from his mother's home is typical of Georgia's judicial system. And although some take a more liberal view of lesbian and gay parenting, most states function out of homophobia when making custody decisions. And how else can we expect them to respond? We do not educate the courts. We do not come out and let the world see us as parents, as the good parents most of us are. We're too scared - still. And we will continue to lose our children until we can look people in the eye, say we are lesbian and gay parents and not be ashamed or afraid. Only then will we have allies in court proceedings, only then will judicial systems become sensitized to lesbian and gay parents.

We can start in our own back yard by supporting Leigh VanderEls in her fight to regain custody of her son. Let the Clayton County Superior Court know you feel Leigh has a right to live with her son. Write a letter to the Georgia Supreme Court and tell them how you feel. Write Leigh and give her words of support and encouragement. Give a little money to her legal fund so she can continue with her fight because it is far from over. Come to the hearing on June 13th at 9:00 AM in Clayton County. Do something, anything. Let's send the Georgia judicial system a message that we are good parents, proud parents. Let's start telling the truth.

Correspondence and donations for Leigh VanderEls should be addressed to : Leigh VanderEls Legal Defense Fund, PO Box 8534, Atlanta, GA, 30306.



Guest Editorial

A Celebration of Life

PRIDE. Proper respect for one's own dignity and truth. June 18-26 is designated as Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. This year's theme is "CELEBRATION OF LIFE" and will be celebrated in more ways, in more places, and by more people than any other Pride Week in Atlanta's history. In this edition of *Southern Voice* you will find a complete listing of the planned activities, culminating in a Celebration in Piedmont Park on Sunday, June 26. Activities planned range from sporting events, an "extended family" dinner, theatre, movies, religious services, memorial services, and parties galore. All of this brought to you by the Metro Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations (MACGLO). The March and Celebration in Piedmont Park brought to you by the Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee.

These are the facts and the reasons the events are planned. We should be able to now just sit back and watch Atlanta's 250,000 gay men and lesbians choose which events suit their particular tastes and enjoy the successes of the events. We'll also see people bring their family members, their children and their straight friends as we all feel the powerful bond of pride and love that exists. There will be fun, hugs, tears and a deeper sense of community and purpose.

Am I dreaming? Maybe. But maybe not. The calendar of events proves that interest in our "CELEBRATION OF LIFE" is high. We are still outraged at the Supreme Injustice of *Hardwick v. Bowers*. We successfully fought many battles on the Georgia AIDS Omnibus bill. We are sending openly gay and lesbian Delegates to the Democratic National Convention. We have openly gay candidates running for the Georgia Legislature. We are being courted for dollars and votes by other state and National candidates.

Okay, so these are "political activities" largely ignored by the non-involved (99.9% of the 250,000 figure above).

So what causes me to say the other 249,500 of you want to celebrate Lesbian and Gay Pride Week? Because more of us have been personally affected. The words PRIDE and COMMUNITY finally have meaning to many of us. Real, deep feelings of "We Are Everywhere" and I am a part of We. The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights revealed to us our strength in numbers, in compassion, in love and in conviction. We were "Out and Outraged". We owned "our" nation's Capitol. Restaurants, stores, hotels, the streets and parks, and even the subway saw us blatantly holding hands, kissing, caring. Our voices joined together to say NO MORE to our oppression, NO LONGER will we tolerate inadequate AIDS funding. Our hearts sang together in a joyful celebration of who we were. We know our strength and vowed to recreate this passion in our own hometowns. Pride Week is our National March.

The March not only uplifted us, it reminded us of the sober fact, "Silence = Death". The NAMES Project to me is a "Celebration of Life" itself. It immortalizes the lives of very special men, women and children. It represents lovers, friends and family members caring enough not to let a disease be an epitaph. The exponential fingers of AIDS has and is touching more people every day. After being touched, you want to do Something, Anything.

From the very beginning of this battle, the gay and lesbian Community has been there. Taking care of our sick, screaming at the inhumanity of each death until governments were forced to listen, opening our hearts, our homes and our pockets to all affected. This country and the world owes us an enormous debt for what we have done in this crisis for both gay and non-gay alike. What they didn't or wouldn't do for us. We should be, and are, very proud of ourselves for our response to the epidemic. We are there for grieving lovers and families, we are there for the abandoned, we are there joining in the Celebration of Life for those living with the disease, we are there in the "war zones", the classrooms, the churches and homes educating and helping others understand. We can be proud that we know how to love and are teaching others to do the same.

Together we CAN make a difference. To ourselves and to each other. This is OUR week. Let's stand up, be PROUD, claim this celebration and not let go. Ever.

-Jeffrey Laymon

Jeffrey Laymon is Executive Secretary of MACGLO, a member of the Board of SAME, and a member of the ACLU and GAPAC.

SOUTHERN VOICE

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The Request

Governor Joe Frank Harris
Office of the Governor
Room 203
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Harris:

The government of the State of Georgia has been extremely negligent in its treatment of the AIDS crisis. There are presently 1,234 reported cases of AIDS in Georgia, 30 of them are children. We are currently rated 8th in the nation in the number of AIDS cases, yet the state is 35th in the country in the amount of money appropriated per Person With AIDS. Only 7¢ per capita in AIDS-related spending has been appropriated as compared to a 65¢ per capita average in the country. You cut the requested amount of 2.6 million dollars for AIDS spending by the Department of Human Resources in fourth. Alabama spends almost 30 times as much money per PWA as the State of Georgia. These statistics are an outrage and we, as residents of this state, demand an immediate change in the policy of this administration with regard to AIDS appropriations and education.

Enclosed please find letters from many citizens of this state who are concerned about the frightening head-in-the-sand approach you are taking toward this deadly disease. Hundreds of us were present at the State Capitol on May 6-7 in an overnight vigil and rally to demonstrate our concern at the lack of education and services available with regard to AIDS in Georgia. If it is impossible for you to act appropriately out of any sense of your highly touted Christian compassion for people who are terribly ill, then at least respond as a concerned public official and take steps to institute recommended public health measures in response to the disease now in order to reduce the future fiscal liability that will burden the residents of Georgia as this crisis escalates. The members of the Atlanta March Committee and other concerned citizens will be watching your actions closely for signs of intelligent response. Don't disappoint us!

For the Atlanta March Committee,
Cathy Woolard

The "Intelligent" Response

Dear Ms. Woolard:

Thank you for your recent letter, and those from other concerned citizens, regarding state efforts to assist people with AIDS and to halt the further spread of the disease. I appreciate your interest and concern.

As you may know, the General Assembly adjourned on March 7 and a new budget cycle will not begin for some time. However, when we do start to develop the next state budget, your thoughtful comments about spending on AIDS education and related programs will be kept in mind.

Two pieces of legislation which came out of this year's session may be of particular interest to you. First, the General Assembly passed an omnibus AIDS bill, mandating counseling and consent for HIV tests, ensuring confidentiality of AIDS information and providing for education, rather than mandatory testing, of low-risk populations such as marriage license applicants. The second bill would require sex education in our schools, including information on AIDS. Both

bills are important steps in our fight against this deadly disease.

I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue and look forward to learning your views on other matters of concern to you.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,
Joe Frank Harris

An Open Letter to the Gay and Lesbian Community of Atlanta

This letter is written from our hearts to thank a group of people in Atlanta who are caring and show true concern for our community.

During Spring AIDS Action '88, certain groups were very supportive and worked very hard to get the community and our state government involved in the research, care and treatment of people with ARC and AIDS.

Atlanta Alternatives-Buyers' Club is a newly formed organization to provide access to alternative therapies to people who are seropositive, and people with ARC and AIDS. Atlanta PWAs for Health has also been formed for individuals who have been affected by AIDS. We will hold informal meetings monthly to get more information on protocols, treatment and alternatives. Keeping a good positive attitude after finding out is extremely important and we will have people here to help keep that attitude. We will have people from local and national institutions to give us new and positive ways of dealing with AIDS. It is something to look forward to and to be excited about.

Atlanta Alternatives and Atlanta PWAs for Health were chosen to receive proceeds from refreshments sold at the Spring AIDS Action Rally. We want to thank Lesbians in Fun Endeavors (LIFE) for giving us the support that is very much needed. LIFE is a great group of women who are concerned about the future of the gay community. Jean and Shelly and all the women are great. I can't say enough about this group of women. We thank you and love you all. Thanks for your love and wonderful support in our community.

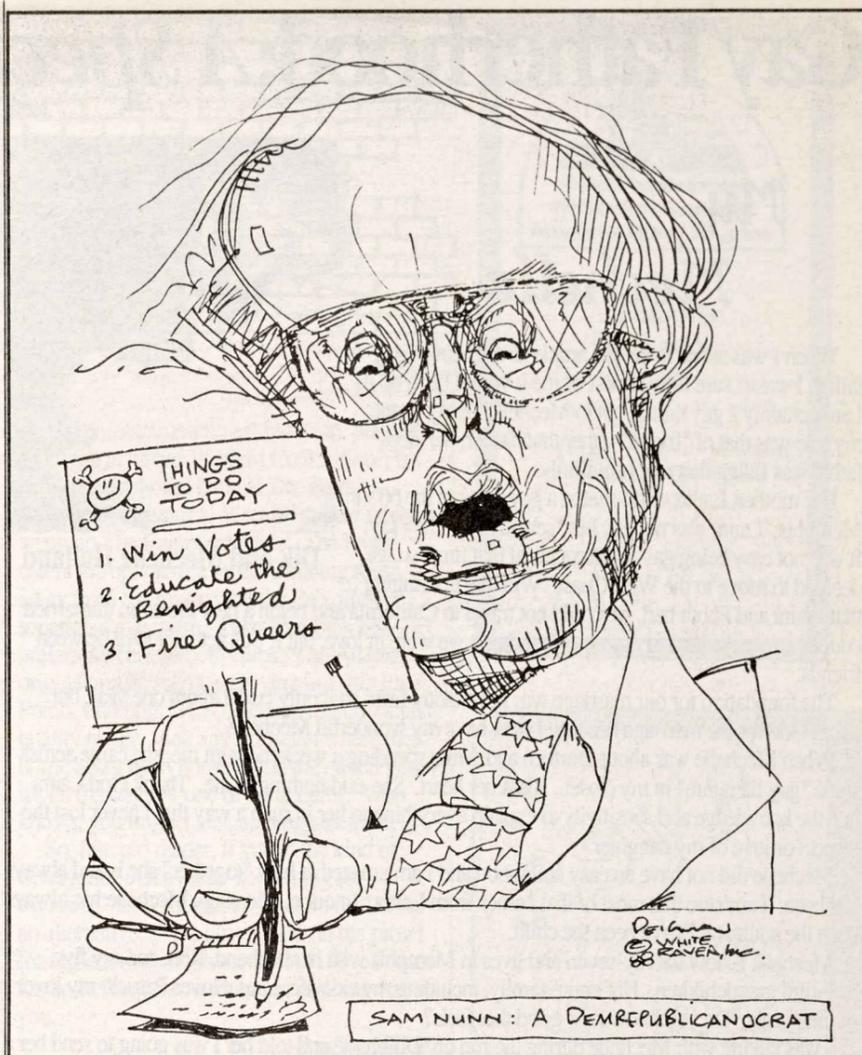
Sincerely,
Gregg Allison, Atlanta Alternatives

Clouds Blur the NAP

Dear Editor:

In replying to my letter in Vol. 1, No.5 of *Southern Voice*, T. Harris brings up two issues: (1) defending the NAP (New Alliance Party) and (2) my credentials. Addressing (2), as a long-time activist in progressive 3rd-party politics, I helped found the Citizens Party and chaired the Georgia Chapter and women's caucus. Also, locally I was president of First Tuesday and have worked on several successful campaigns electing progressive candidates to the Georgia House and the Atlanta City Council. I would suggest that Harris' criticism of me is less relevant than a serious study of the NAP. The main point of my first letter (perhaps Harris did not see that one, however) is to plead for people to closely examine the NAP before believing their claims of being a progressive alternative, self-described as women-led, pro-gay, etc.

Regarding (1), as a member of several politically progressive groups including the Citizens Party (which had the first



Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA.) has allegedly fired three gay employees. HRCF (Human Rights Campaign Fund) is trying to document the firings, hoping such documentation will guarantee that Nunn will not be the Democratic vice presidential nominee. Nunn, known for his opposition to the ERA and abortion, was quoted by the *Athens Observer* on April 4 saying, "I've supported civil rights legislation for women and blacks but I draw the line at sexual preference. I don't think the federal government should tell local school systems that they have to hire homosexuals."

woman presidential candidate, Sonia Johnson), I found NAP to be an opportunistic movement controlled by an unethical therapy cult whose white male guru has been closely affiliated with neo-fascists cult leader Lyndon LaRouche. The analysis, "Clouds Blur the Rainbow," closely mirrored our own experience with NAP. As far as Tara Harris saying that the NAP has nothing to hide on any issue, why would they continue to misrepresent or ignore their founders' associations with LaRouche? Ten percent of the current NAP board were under LaRouche's leadership, with the same ideas and styles which formed the basis of National Socialism, which became part of the European fascist movement and put Hitler in power. Also, what about the period when the NAP collected and disseminated intelligence on progressive groups? As far as the so-called Black leadership, people should talk to Dennis Serrette, who left the NAP after unsuccessfully struggling for a meaningful leadership role.

I would request that this discussion not turn into an argument between NAP members and myself over who has better credentials in the community or in progressive politics. I assume that

members Tarra Harris and Pat Jackson share my own concerns about mainstream America. I repeat my request - don't believe me, read for yourself the thorough report on the NAP from Political Research Associates, a group which collects and disseminates information on right-wing political groups and trends: 672 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 205, Cambridge, Mass. Look at their proof and documentation and decide if it is believable and supportable.

I commend *Southern Voice* on presenting all sides and encourage you to cover NAP activities when it seems relevant to the paper's intended subject matter. Of course, I would be most happy if you followed any article mentioning them with the statement "For further information about NAP, write Political Research Associates..." If anyone else writes to protest this letter, I suggest strongly that readers read that report for my side of the story, as I don't believe it serves a useful purpose for me to continue writing back.

Sincerely,
Beth Coonan

Viewpoints is part of a continuing effort to provide a forum for our community. We invite your ideas, comments and feelings and your responses to ideas expressed in this space.

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of *Southern Voice*. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than four pages. Mail to:

Southern Voice/Viewpoints
PO Box 54719
Atlanta, Georgia
30308

Gay Fatherhood: A Special Reason to Celebrate

My Mechelle

When I was asked to do this article about being a gay father, I wasn't sure how honest of me it would be to do it. I am certainly a gay father, but in Mechelle's early years, my role was that of "friend" rather than father; her step-father was filling that role beautifully.

Her mother, Laura, and I met at a gay party in the 60's in Memphis. Laura was not gay but "sensitive" as they say. It was not easy being gay in Memphis at that time, so we decided to move to the West Coast. With the upbringing that Laura and I both had, we could not travel to California and begin a new life as an unmarried couple, so we decided to marry. We thought we were in love, but it was actually love between friends.

The foundation for our marriage was not exactly firm, so it only lasted about one year, but thank God for the marriage because I now have my wonderful Mechelle.

When Mechelle was about fourteen and while spending a weekend with me, she came across some "gay literature" in my closet. Bless her heart. She said nothing to me. Thank God Laura had the knowledge and sensitivity to explain everything to her in such a way that I never lost the respect or love of my daughter.

Mechelle did not have an easy childhood and I am amazed at how "together" she is and always has been. I am sure that most of that comes from Laura. In our relationship, Mechelle has always been the adult and I have been the child.

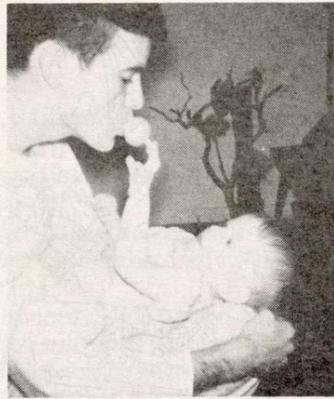
Mechelle is now twenty-seven and lives in Memphis with her husband, Ron, and my five beautiful grandchildren. Her entire family, including my ex-wife, Laura, loves Patrick, my lover of nine years. Do you know how good that feels?

I was talking with Mechelle during the run of "Different" and told her I was going to send her a video of the show, but I didn't guess the children should watch it. We both wondered aloud when I should come out to the grandchildren. Mechelle, wise one that she is, said, "Daddy, I'll tell them when I think they need to know."

On this Father's Day, let me shout how lucky I am to have Mechelle, Ron, Erin, Keith, Sarah, Rachel, Alex, Laura and my dear Patrick in my life.

- Dik Holland

Dik Holland has appeared in the productions of "For Love and For Life," "Different," and most recently, "Higher Ground:Voices of AIDS."



Dik and Mechelle Holland

Raising Liza: A Family Success Story

Father's Day is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the importance of our family unit. Many people assume that parenting is not in the realm of experience for gay people but thousands of gay dads and lesbian moms, and often, as in our case, the partners who co-parent with them, will attest otherwise.

When she was only nine, Liza learned her father was gay. Always close, it did not come between the two until her parents divorced when she was twelve. But circumstances brought us back together again as a family. Our reunion was not easy; Liza's mother had done quite a homophobic brainwashing number but fortunately, Liza remembered the loving father with whom she had been so close. With the promise of a return ticket to her mother if she wanted it, Liza came to live with us.

The turbulent teenage years were a challenge. There were the usual arguments and concerns about dating, curfews, school, drugs, and the rest. Amazingly, the fact that the parenting was being done by two men was not an issue. We were her parents and mutual love and respect were the

guidelines to a successful relationship. When Liza went off to college we seemed to get even closer. The physical separation seemed to emphasize how deeply we cared about each other.

Several years ago, at a Gay Parenting conference in Chicago, I attended a workshop for co-parents. One of the people there asked what was the reward for all the work parenting entailed. After all, he pointed out, you go through all the grief and anxiety and then they leave. I answered that the whole point, all of the satisfaction, was that you got to see a real person emerge; the leaving is the reward. But truly, parents and children never really "leave" each other. We will have a special bond for all time.

- Luis Ferrer and Jonathan Benov



Liza, Luis and Johnathan

PHOTO BY RHONDA MENSEN

Love always, Dad

Ruth is eleven and David is nine. They have been hostages in a foreign land for almost a year but they are not as famous as Terry Waite or Terry Anderson. Although they are in the Middle East, they are not being held by a traditional adversary of the United States.

They disappeared from their New Jersey home last June. By the end of August I found that they were in Israel. Almost immediately I was served with a court order prohibiting me from coming into physical contact with or seeing my children. It also prohibited my removing them from the country. At the same time I received 27 pages of legal documentation in Hebrew detailing the petition by my former wife to the Israeli court.

Parental abduction by a foreign national is not uncommon. I have found that there are over 4,000 children being held hostage—just like Ruth and David.

What makes this case different is that none of us is an Israeli; we are all Americans. Our divorce (both civil and religious) took place in Florida and was final. During the civil proceedings, both my wife and I were represented by counsel and present at all times. Every issue to be considered by the Israeli court had already been decided by the court in Florida with jurisdiction.

Last September I returned to court in Florida where my former wife was found in willful contempt and I was awarded primary residential care, custody and control of the children. But this was just a paper victory.

At an estimated cost of about \$100,000 I have not been able to afford to fight a legal battle from so far away. I considered kidnapping the children myself but I recognized that such a traumatic experience would not be in their best interests. Instead, I started to write letters. I wrote to Members of Congress; the State and Justice Departments; subcommittees on human rights and child

abduction; American and Israeli Ambassadors and Consuls; a member of the Israeli parliament; the Israeli Ministry of the Interior, Justice Department and Bar Association; human rights, gay rights and other parent and child advocacy groups in both countries. I even wrote to Mr. Reagan.

With the exception of the Lesbian Rights Project in San Francisco, I got no practical help; just polite and sympathetic responses. I discovered that without thousands of dollars up-front I could not get, and was not entitled to, legal representation. I discovered that, while my government decries human rights violations by the Soviets, they were unwilling to do anything about the human rights of my children—their citizens.

In February a final hearing was held in Tel Aviv. I filed a petition on my own behalf

objecting to their attempt to assume jurisdiction. I was not able to be present and was not represented. I have not heard the results.

It is a small consolation, but I know that my children know me and love me and are not being

physically mistreated. I write to them every other week and believe that they are getting my letters. I haven't had any replies but have managed to talk to them three times in the last year. My greatest joy was in May when they called me to wish me a happy birthday and informed me that they now had a telephone.

This Father's Day I will look at their pictures as I do every day and will call them. It will be my Father's Day present to us all. A bitter wife, homophobic lawyers, judges and "expert witnesses" and an impotent U.S. government will never be able to diminish my love for my children.

- Paul Burman



Ruth, Paul and David Burman

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The Quilt: Stories from The NAMES Project

Last month, a character on "Star Trek: The Next Generation", speaking of her own death said, "Death is the state where we exist only in memories, and so is not an end." The NAMES Project speaks to the gay community on that same concern, to the need to address the finality of existence that death represents. Deaths by AIDS carry an extra level of grief, as did that "Star Trek" episode—death as untimely, capricious, inglorious, unfair. Loss of artists, of babies - of people - before their potential has had a chance to realize itself is the greatest tragedy of AIDS. No book could capture snapshots of these memories of grief and love better than *The Quilt: Stories from The NAMES Project*.

The Quilt's greatest value is its ability to let us read between the lines to discover the personal stories of those PWAs represented by panels and to make what those panels represent stronger and clearer. Written by Cindy Ruskin, photographed by Matt Herron and published by Pocket Books, *The Quilt* (\$22.95) collects and brings together panels and the stories behind

started crying at page 23. *The Quilt's* status as a chronicle is also important - a moving section at the end of the book describes its initial unfolding in Washington at the March and is a valuable historical resource as well as a strong depiction of the Quilt's power to reach out to us emotionally. The importance of documenting the suffering that AIDS has brought cannot be underestimated, and for that purpose alone, *The Quilt* is invaluable.

Having had the actual Quilt in Atlanta the week after *The Quilt's* publication encourages a reviewer to compare the emotional impact of the two. In person, the Quilt's grief is communal, allowing people to grieve together. Its ceremonies have been created both to absorb grief as we are reminded of it, and to purge it by reminding us of the love that created it. Its strongest impact is in its size - so huge and yet the grief of our community can only be expressed by something of that size. In print, *The Quilt's* grief is the grief of minutiae - the details of a life drawn at a quilting bee. This grief we

experience at home, alone, at quiet times. We hear the stories behind so many panels, so many lives, see the beautifully creative ways people have devised to communicate the love and the grief

that manage to occupy the same space with the amazing piece of fabric; in that sense, there is very little real difference in the impact these two versions of The NAMES Project have - they both devastate and celebrate,

simultaneously.

Negatively, just as the size of the Quilt in person can overwhelm us with sadness, the constant presence of *The Quilt* in print can allow a person to wallow in grief and face its devastation all the time, with no escape. At least when the Quilt is in person, we are eventually pushed forward by time to leave the grief behind; with *The Quilt* in print, there is no

for. The NAMES Project in all of its forms reminds us that much of our beloved friends is still here, in our minds and our memories, and that death really is only one kind of end.

The close proximity of *Quilt* publication and Quilt arrival in Atlanta is also a challenge to the survivors. Atlanta is a "second wave" city, but the second wave of this epidemic is beginning to crest here. We have reached deep into our



them. Those stories are of strength and pain and love and rejection and acceptance and loneliness and loss and growth - all the things that AIDS has come to represent to society. At times, *The Quilt* is almost unbearable, as page after page tells a heartbreakingly true story - I



pressure to go on because half a room of panels have yet to be seen and it's almost dinnertime. One of my reactions to the Quilt in person was that I was glad that it came and I was glad when it left; there is a time to grieve and a time to be allowed to escape from grief. This book may at times have to be deliberately put aside.

With *The Quilt* in print, we also lose other things, like the presence of friends to console us or the many wonderful textures of the panels - no way in a book to so directly and tangibly convey a leather teddy bear or a silk gown. But these are trade-offs, the gives and gets of using different media in expressing grief. The opportunity to have such a beautiful "memory" - as a way of extending and deepening that last stage of existence is one we should be thankful

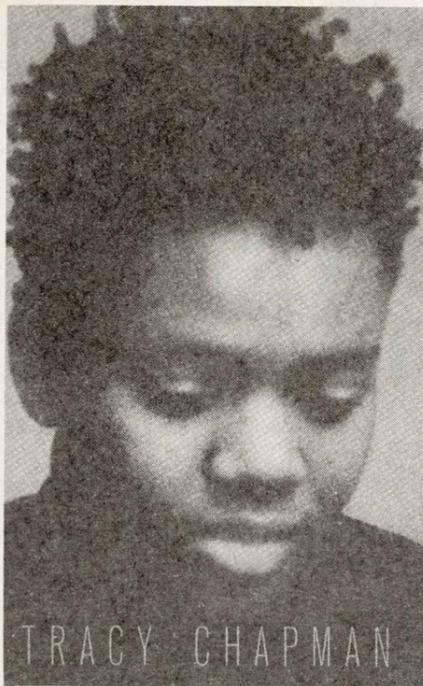
pockets and our hearts, to create AID Atlanta, to fund Charlie Brown's PWA Christmases and Memorial Days, to console our friends upon the first diagnosis, to bury them when the final diagnosis comes. But AIDS will not say to us "Thank you, I've taken enough from you now. You can resume your life as before." It will continue to take; our challenge is to continue to give. The Quilt and *The Quilt* have come together to raise that question to Atlanta's gay community, which has been characterized as non-activist, some would say complacent and comfortable. How we respond is how we will be remembered by the generations that follow us. Cleve Jones' passion and commitment are a vivid reminder that we teach best by example.

- Al Cotton

Tracy Chapman: Music By and About the Rest of Us

Neil Young, Joan Armatrading, Joni Mitchell, Suzanne Vega, Phoebe Snow—comparisons to these artists don't do Tracy Chapman justice. While it's not difficult to hear those influences in Chapman's debut album, "Tracy Chapman," her words are her own experiences, her music a unique blend of new folk, rock, reggae and jazz. From the album's opening lines (from "Talkin' Bout a Revolution" *don't you know/they're talkin' about a revolution/it sounds like a whisper*) to the closing lines (from "For You" *look at me losing control/thinking I had a hold/but with feelings this strong/I'm no longer the master/of my emotions*) Chapman maintains a clarity of vision rarely recorded in these days of Heavy Metal and Techno-Pop. That vision is rich in shrewd observation of the lives of people not seen on prime time television except in crime dramas and movies-of-the-week about "rising above it all."

Songs like the haunting a cappella "Behind the Wall" (about domestic violence and the response it receives—or doesn't—from law enforcement) combine with love songs like "If Not Now..." for a well-balanced forty minutes.



Chapman tackles racial violence, gentle love, and general injustice with the same smooth vocal, a style that instantly draws the listener to the words—and these words are worth listening to again and again.

While earning an anthropology degree at Tufts University, the Cleveland-born singer began singing in folk clubs in the Boston area. She was approached on more than one occasion by small record companies to do an album, but refused, deciding instead to first get her degree.

Chapman credits Suzanne Vega's debut for opening the door for her music. The album is a slightly embellished version of her solo act. The band, which includes Joni Mitchell's husband Larry Klein on bass, backs up Chapman's music with artful grace and subtlety. Music with the social and political content of this album has rarely been heard since the 60's on a major recording label. If "Tracy Chapman" is a harbinger of a change in that policy, the world may finally begin hearing music by and about the rest of us soon.

- KC Wildmoon

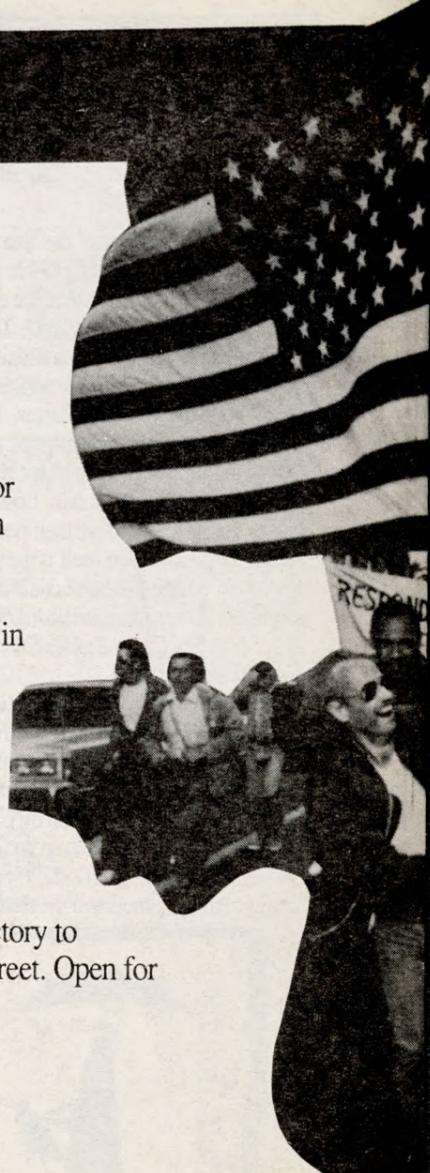
			"Higher Ground: Voices of AIDS" June 21-25 8:30 pm
		A Play by Rebecca Ranson	
			Horizon Theatre in the LSP Community Center 1083 Austin Ave. Call 874-7926 for reservations (tickets \$15)

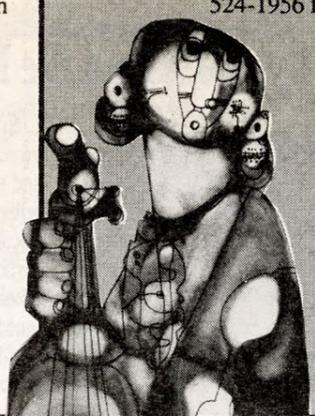
Proceeds benefit Atlanta NAPWA, (Atlanta Association of People With AIDS) and SAME, (Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project)

THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

- **KINGFEST '88** – a free festival featuring performing and visual artists begins June 11th at the King Center on 449 Auburn Avenue in downtown Atlanta. The festival continues every other weekend through August 21st. The theme for June 11th is "City Rhythms" and features Something Special and the SOS Band. Kingfest activities will take place between 3-8 PM. Call 524-1956 for a complete schedule of activities.
- **THE WAY OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS** – June 10th-12th. A council for women at the Forrest Hills Mountain Resort in Dahlonega, Georgia. The weekend will be a time of discovering and expressing women's spirit and celebrating the spirit of nature. Leaders are Adele Getty, Karen Vogel and Hallie Inglehart-Austen. Call 454-6012 for information and registration.
- **"THAT SERIOUS HE -MAN BALL"** – June 10th – 26th presented by Jomandi Productions at the Academy Theatre. A comedy on the basketball court by Alonzo D. Lamont, Jr. Showtimes are Thursday through Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 3 PM. Call 892-0880 for details.
- **MANIFEST DESTINY: Unsettling America's Family Farmers** – June 15th – 26th. An exhibit curated by the Light Factory to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Rural Advancement Fund. At the Atlanta Photography Gallery, 495 Peachtree Street. Open for viewing Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM. Call 881-8139 for information.



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>9 Lesbian Fantasy and Adventure at Charis Books & More – 7:30 PM. A women-only event featuring novelist Diana Rivers. 419 Moreland Ave.</p> <p>Indigo Girls at the Cotton Club.</p> <p>"Alice", an adaptation of the Lewis Carroll story, on the mainstage at Center for Puppetry Arts. Through July 2. 873-3391.</p>	<p>10 The Way of Our Grandmothers – June 10-12, Forrest Hills Mountain Resort, Dahlonega, Georgia. 454-6012.</p> <p>"That Serious He-Man Ball" – June 10-26, a Jomandi Production at the Academy Theatre. 892-0880.</p> <p>Georgia Digest – "Women in Prison". 9 PM. Channel 30.</p>	<p>11 Kingfest '88 begins this weekend. 524-1956 for details. Photo at left provided by APEX.</p>  <p>United Negro College Fund Third Annual Amateur Gold Tournament – Sugar Creek Golf Course in Decatur. \$50.00 entry fee. 659-6171.</p>	<p>12 Deana's O hosts a beer Lesbian and drinks & political corre 1:00 PM. 1890 Cheshire Bridge R</p> <p>The Pogues, pictured a folk punks at Center Sta 8:30 PM. \$13.50. 873-</p> <p>Loudon Wainwright I Collective/7 Stages The 8 PM, \$11.00 in advan \$13.00 at the door. 523</p>
<p>16 "Faust for President" – Alliance Studio through July 15th. 892-2414.</p> <p>Amnesty International volunteer Carol Cain speaks at Charis Books & More. 7:30 PM. 524-0304.</p> <p>inside/OUT - The International Gay & Lesbian Radio Magazine. WRFG-FM (89.3) 6:00 PM every Thursday.</p> 	<p>17 Michelle Malone and Drag the River – The Royal Peacock, 186 Auburn Avenue. 584-9842.</p> <p>Fernando La Rosa, Peruvian-born Atlanta artist. Exhibit of his photos at Nexus through June 25. 688-1970.</p> <p>"Playa Dominican Republic", 1986, Fernando LaRosa.</p>	<p>18 Volleyball Tournament – a Pride Week event. 2:00-8:00 PM at Piedmont Park. Teams of 6. \$50.00 per team. 633-0467 or 875-0700.</p> <p>Pride Prom '88 – Trolley Barn in Inman Park. 8 PM. \$12. 377-8312.</p>	<p>19 Angela Mot 1-3 PM.</p> <p>AIDS Memorial Servic Church. 4-6 PM.</p> <p>GAPAC Volunteer Th Lullwater Road. 3-6 PM</p>

Lesbian

SOUTHERN VOICE

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
see page 15

Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee

MEETS JUNE 15TH AT 7:30 PM

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The Atlanta March Committee

More than a phase...
Next Meeting: June 14th
7:30PM-Highland Branch Library

377-8312

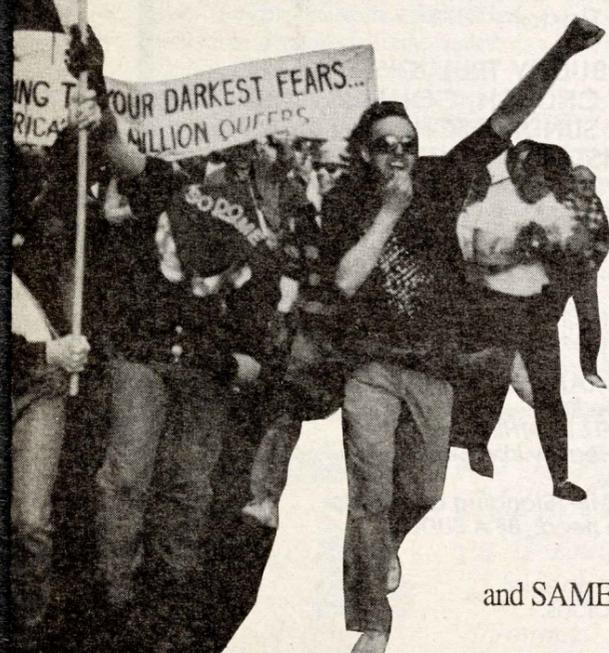
Next Week's Highlights

•**LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE WEEK BEGINS!** June 18-26. Kick-off event is Pride Prom '88 on June 18th at the Trolley Barn, 8PM in Inman Park. Wear your best prom attire. Admission is \$12.00 per person or \$40.00 per group of four. Admission price includes first beverage. For more information, call the Atlanta March Committee at 377-8312.

•**FAMILY NIGHT** - June 20th. Pride Week continues with a Family Reunion at The Country Place in Colony Square. Arrive at 6 PM for dinner or stop by later for dessert. Bring your parents, children, lover and friends. Groups should contact Metro Council (242-2342) to make planning easier.

•**"FAUST FOR PRESIDENT"** - June 16th - July 15th. Presented by The Performance Gallery at Alliance Studio. God and Mephistopheles face off again in this political farce of the well-known tale. Just in time for the Democratic Convention. Showtimes are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM. Call 892-2414 for ticket information.

•**"HIGHER GROUND: VOICES OF AIDS"** - June 21st - 25th. Rebecca Ranson's play based on interviews with local PWAs/PWARCs. First presented at the NAMES Project/Atlanta, this is a must see. \$15. Horizon Theatre, located in the Little Five Points Community Center at 1083 Austin Ave. Reservations: 874-7926. Proceeds benefit Atlanta NAPWA (National Association of People with AIDS) and SAME (Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project, Inc.).



MONDAY

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Family Night at The Country Place - Colony Square. 242-2342 for info & reservations.

Friends Atlanta Night at The Fox - 7:30 PM. \$3. 634-2500.

TUESDAY

14

"Wild", a comedy revue at Evotek. 8:30 PM. Through July 23rd. Featuring The-World's-Not-Really-Coming-To-An-End Players. 642-3379.

21

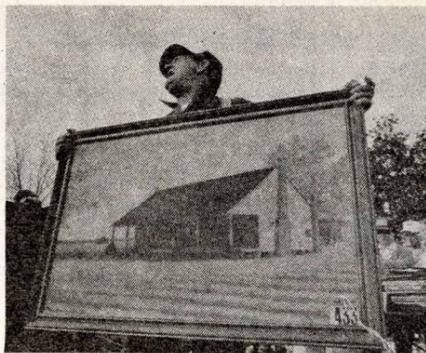
"We Are Family" - Channel 30 at 10 PM. A movie exploring gay and lesbian couples with children.

"Higher Ground: Voices of AIDS". Through June 25th. Horizon Theatre, Little 5 Pts Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. 8:30 PM. \$15. 874-7926.

WEDNESDAY

15

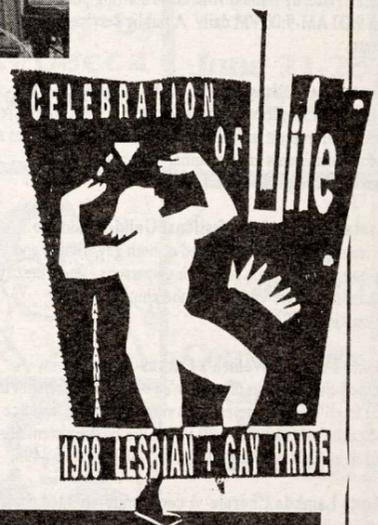
"Manifest Destiny" - Atlanta Photography Gallery. Through June 26th. 881-8139.



Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee Meeting - 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. 1911 Cliff Valley Way.

22

Cass Kennedy Group at The Point in L5P. 9:30 PM. \$3.



and Gay Pride Week '88 Begins

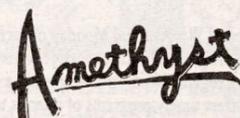


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ORGANIZATIONS

Registry

AALGA- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance. 1st Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. Quaker House. A political and social organization for black lesbians and gay men. 523-3376.

ACLU/LG- American Civil Liberties Union/Lesbian&Gay Chapter. 3rd Wednesday of each month. Peachtree Branch Library. 7:30 PM. Working for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the metropolitan Atlanta area. 231-5991.

ACT- Atlanta Couples Together. Meeting times vary. A social support and educational outreach. 432-1085.

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

AGC- Atlanta Gay Center. 876-5372. Provides services and advocacy for the lesbian and gay community. Operated primarily by volunteers, AGC offers numerous services for lesbians and gays men as well as educational outreach to society as a whole. AGC Help Line-892-0061.

AGMC- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. A semi-professional community oriented chorus of male voices. Membership open to all interested singers and non-singers alike. 296-6581.

ALFA- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance. 2nd Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. A lesbian feminist organization which welcomes lesbians of all races, religions, political orientation, economic status, occupation and degree of openness. 378-6769 for more information and newsletter.

ALGPC- Atlanta Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. Needs volunteers to coordinate this year's lesbian and gay pride March to insure its success.

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

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

AID Atlanta- A community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to all people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. Community volunteers working with a small professional staff. New volunteers orientation sessions: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM. 1132 W. Peachtree St. (Entrance 13th Street). 872-0600.

AIDS Information Line- 876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). Answers to questions about AIDS, referrals, etc., by trained volunteers staffing phone lines from 9:00 AM-9:00 PM daily. A public service of AID Atlanta.

Atlanta Alternatives-Buyers Club - A group plan for obtaining bulk orders at reduced cost of certain alternative products of interest to PWAs. AL-721, German enzymes and others. Participants are welcome. Meetings will be announced soon. 233-0083 for info.

Atlanta Business & Professional Guild- A non-profit service organization comprised of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. 2nd Tuesday of each month. Place varies. Membership and further information: 872-1922.

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus- A community-oriented choral group of women's voices. Membership is open to all women interested in singing. Chorus practice held each Sunday, 6:00-8:30 PM at the First Existentialist Church at 470 Candler Park Dr. 355-8894 or 435-4498.

Atlanta Lambda Chorale- A community-oriented choral group for both men and women. Membership open to all singers and non-singers alike. Rehearsals every Tuesday at MCC-Blessed Redeemer, 800 N. Highland Ave. 7:30 PM. 874-1622.

BWMT- Black and White Men Together. 1st Saturday of each month. 8:00 PM. Location varies. A gay inter-racial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. 794-BWMT.

Circle of Healing- 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. First Existentialist Church. The Circle is open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual.

Congregation Bet Haverim- Services 1st and 3rd Friday of

each month at 8:30 PM. Shabbat Seder, 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 PM. Quaker House, 1384 Fairview Dr. Proudly serving the lesbian and gay community. Synagogue information line: 642-3467.

Couples, Inc.- The National Organization for Family Diversity is seeking full legal and social recognition of same-sex relationships. Meetings will vary as membership grows. Interested persons may call (404) 634-3061 or write: PO Box 77266, Atlanta, Ga. 30357-7266.

Friends Atlanta- Activities and meetings vary. A social, recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. Volleyball, bowling, dinners, theater nights, and dances are among the activities. 634-2500.

GALA- Gay Atheists of America. Meetings social in nature and at members' discretion. To defend the separation of church and state; to assist in obtaining civil rights for gays and lesbians, and to offer non-believers an alternate social scene. 875-8877.

GALA- Georgia Tech Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Every Thursday at 7:30 PM. 676-1339 or 352-9213. GALA, Programs Area, Ga. Tech, Atlanta, GA. 30332.

GAPAC- Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition. Meetings vary. The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene. 885-0510.

GLPCI- Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. A support group for lesbian and gay parents. 296-8369.

The Group- Thursday nights. Call the Gay Help Line at 892-0061 or write PO Box 15191, Atlanta, Ga. 30333. A support group for gay and bisexual men who are or who have been involved in marital-type situations with women.

Integrity- Gay Caucus of the Episcopal Church. 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. 7:30 PM. All Saints Episcopal Church-3rd floor of Ellis Hall.

LIFE- Lesbians in Fun Endeavors. Meeting times and locations vary. Bringing professional gay women together for the fun of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events. 493-3966.

LEGAL- Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians. 3rd Monday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. The voice of lesbian and gay Georgians in the Democratic party. 875-7500.

MACGLO- Metro Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. A representative council of lesbian and gay organizations to facilitate the exchange of information. 242-2342.

First MCC Atlanta- Metropolitan Community Church. Sunday Services at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM evangelistic service. Mid-week services on Wednesday at 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. Office hours Noon-6:00 PM, Tuesday-Friday. A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment for individuals and couples. Same sex Holy Unions performed. 872-2246.

NAPWA- Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS. 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. 1132 W. Peachtree St. A political, social, and educational organization which exists to confront the AIDS crisis. Membership is open to all individuals with AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex. 874-7926.

P-FLAG- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. 3rd Tuesday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Committed to help parents learn what we have learned. To help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding, so all gay people can live with dignity and respect. 961-6085 or 296-0830.

PLGC- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns/More Light. 1st Sunday of each month. Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage. 377-5830.

SAME- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc. Organized to utilize the arts and media as tools for exploration, education, and change in human rights, especially those pertaining to the lesbian and gay community. 584-2104.

UULGC- Unitarian-Universalist Lesbian and Gay Community. 2nd Thursday of each month. 8:00 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. A spiritual and social support group for religious liberals. Call for a copy of our newsletter. 634-5134.

WOW- Women of Wisdom. 3rd Monday of each month. 7:45 PM. North Highland Branch Library. Aims to facilitate women meeting together with other women in a pleasant atmosphere. Offers timely programs of interest to the community, reaches out to older women and women with special needs.

First Metropolitan Community Church

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- June 19 "NO EXIT: HELL IS OTHER PEOPLE." Healthy interpersonal relationships.
- June 26 "STAND BY ME" Standing alongside people in need: BE A BUDDY!

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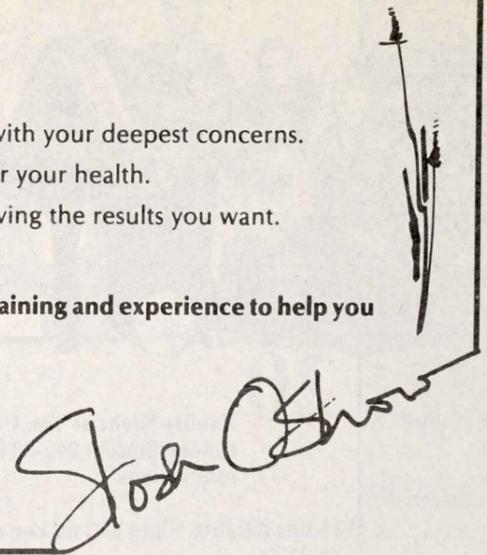
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LITTLE 5 POINTS

Nightlife: And Toto, too?

Whenever I hear the phrase "something for everyone" it makes me nervous. Who, I ask, is everyone? You know, Mom, Dad, the whole family. And Toto, too. So does that mean I can bring my girlfriend? Somehow I don't think that's the kind of "everyone" folks are usually talking about. Unless, of course, you're talking about Little Five Points. Here "everyone" means hippies, neo-hippies, queers, skinheads, people with strange hair that dress only in black and (gasp!) even People from Buckhead. (Please have your passport ready to be checked.)

If you want to check out a flick, but you don't want to see "Rambo III" or "Crocodile Dundee II", check out the French film "The Grand Highway" at the Ellis Cinema (1099 Euclid Ave., call 688-3456 for showtimes). It's the coolest film of the summer in France, and it's brought to you by the cinema committed to bringing you alternatives to the usual theater fare.

Seven Stages, the proud owners of two theater spaces under one roof (Backdoor Theater and Collective Theater) offers a variety of theater and music productions. While the Democrats are in town in July, Seven Stages will present "Bananaland." Both spaces will be utilized to create a Central American theme park with rides and everything. Hmmm. A funny and

enlightening commentary on U.S. involvement in Central America. Now playing in the Backdoor Theatre thru June 19th is Juli Kearns' *Zurama*, a "vaudevillian romp up the corporate ladder". In the Collective Theater June 12, Windstorm Productions presents Loudon Wainwright, a songwriter who will pull your heartstrings and stimulate your brain. Seven Stages is located at 1105 Euclid Ave. Call 523-7646 or 522-0911 for more info.

Alas, I have saved the best for last. People-watching at its finest is available on Seminole Ave, where it dead ends into Moreland, once the fifth "point" of Little Five Points. Here more than any other place our Little Five Points message will become clear: thanks to sympathetic but aggressive security brought to you by the Little Five Points Business Association and officer Terry McFarland and company, the same officers who've stopped the skinheads from brawling will not arrest you simply because you have weird hair. So fear not. You may stand motionless, deep in thought, for as long as it takes you to choose between the Pub and The Point for your fix of live entertainment. You and your hair will not be arrested for loitering.

Both the Little Five Points Community Pub and The Point perpetuate the "magic inertia" which draws people to the area: live music. The Pub offers a variety of original music seven nights a week with menu available till 12, and the Point offers a variety of original music during the week with menu available until 2 am. The League of

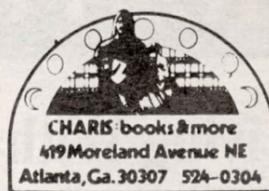
Decency, "Atlanta's littlest big band, playing the greatest hits of Western Civilization", is the weekend house band at The Point. National and regional acts also appear now and again on The Point's schedule. The Point offers the option of a separate dining room away from the music, and the Pub offers a separate game room. Take your pick but preferably choose both clubs. The Atlanta original music scene is thriving in Little Five Points, and both clubs offer consistently high-quality music. Ask any musician where their home away from home is and they'll tell you it's on the stage of one of these clubs. Who knows, you might catch a rising star there.

So, intrepid reader, if you're the kind of "everyone" that avoids "something for everyone" kinds of places, look no further for an alternative. Next time you're on the prowl for nighttime entertainment, Little Five Points has something for, well, er... something for you.

-Angela Motter

The Little 5 Points section covers the news, events and people of this community, gay or straight - always different, always special.

L5P NEXT ISSUE
Skinhead Violence:
Danger in Atlanta?
June 23, 1988



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AIDS FOCUS

Living With AIDS

Absolute Beginners is the title of a pretty good English film, but it also describes how I felt about two and a half years ago when I learned I was HIV positive with lymphadenopathy. At the time, I was experiencing fatigue, having trouble with my memory and in the midst of psychological problems related to having been sexually molested as a child.

On learning my HIV status and health concerns, my closest and most trusted friends suddenly vanished. And although I wanted very much to live, I felt betrayed, abandoned and awfully alone in the world. Suicide grew to seem, to this atheist, a gentle option.

Soon afterwards I developed shingles and my T-cells plummeted to the 200-range. My weight and energy continued to decline, and I grew to suspect that although I didn't yet have full-blown AIDS, my body was telling me loud and clear that some bold intervention was needed.

I told my physician I wanted to try AZT, and I began taking 1200 mg. daily for 3 months, and then cut back to 600 mg. daily. Also, three weeks after beginning the AZT I added 600 mg. of Zovirax daily to my therapy, and about five months after beginning the AZT, I also began taking Antabuse (500 mg., twice weekly). Antabuse is being taken experimentally by some people in the hope that it will protect and assist in the maturation process of T-cell production.

So what is my current health status after pumping all these goodies into my body? My T-cells have slowly and steadily increased to near 500 at last count, my difficulties with my memory have disappeared, and I've more than gained back the weight I'd lost. Also, my energy level has slowly built back to the point that I've joined a health club where I swim and even do some

weightlifting.

And crucially, my mental attitude – my sense of optimism and capacity for taking pleasure in life and new friends – is even better than before. (For which I credit a lot of hard work between myself and my sterling psychotherapist.)

No one can say which or if any of the above ingredients truly accounts for this present stability in my health. And I by no means advise anyone that my therapy can or should be duplicated for them. This is a personal decision between you and your physician. There are risks involved in whatever decisions you make.

But for me the best prescription for now appears to be a combination of the above, and a commitment to monitor and look after myself, and stay up-to-date on all the alternative therapies and treatments for HIV. This recently included switching to a new doctor (after more than two years) whose attitudes toward treating HIV were more closely aligned to my own.

No one can predict the future. At least I don't believe they can. But I do believe strongly that we can take responsibility for altering the psychological course we choose for ourselves, and that this might also affect our health. No one need be alone in dealing with HIV. Besides studying the medical literature in order to make decisions for yourself concerning your health, there are support groups and counselors available whose assistance is invaluable. My advice would be to monitor your health closely and be unafraid to act decisively. Listen to your physician but don't be intimidated into making yourself over into his or her image. It's your life, first and last.

- Name Withheld by Request

Updates

Names Quilt Draws 20,000 in Atlanta

Attendance at the Names Project Quilt in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend exceeded organizer's expectations. According to Cleve Jones, founder and executive director of the Names project, over 20,000 people viewed the Quilt during the two-day exhibition at the Georgia World Congress Center. Steady streams of people poured into the hall on both days. Atlanta marked the tenth stop on the Quilt's national tour and drew the highest attendance in any city so far. Disappointing turnouts have occurred in such cities as Phoenix and Kansas City, and some local organizers had feared a less than satisfactory showing. According to Ken Kimsey, coordinator for Names Project/Atlanta, Atlanta's success was largely due to the project committee's early efforts to make the quilt as accessible as possible. "We made it a priority to let people know the Quilt was coming and to not put up any barriers, such as cost, that would prevent people from seeing it." Kinsey said, "We placed an emphasis on media sponsorship also, and as a result the coverage of the Quilt and related events was excellent."

Not only did Atlanta draw the most people of any city, it also raised the most proceeds. Over \$30,000 was raised in donations and ticket sales to two AIDS plays written by Atlantian Rebecca Ranson, "Warren" and "Higher Ground:Voices of AIDS". The money will remain in Georgia with 70% going to AID Atlanta for direct services to people with AIDS (PWAs). The remaining 30% will be distributed among 15 other organizations in Atlanta and throughout Georgia that provide services to PWAs. Organizers feel the greatest success was the Quilt's ability to bring people together to grieve their losses. "It (the quilt) puts a face on the epidemic," Kinsey said. "And even though people mourned and cried, they laughed too. It was a healing experience as well as a painful one."

The unfolding of the Quilt on May 29th included a reading of the names of the memorialized PWAs. Elected officials who served as readers were Mary Davis, Atlanta City Council member, Jim Martin, Georgia House Representative from District 26, and Michael Lomax, Fulton County



PHOTO BY GERALD JONES

Commission Chair. Ken South, former executive director of AID Atlanta and Dr. James Alley, head of the Georgia Division of Public Health were also among the 60 readers. It took close to four hours for the reading which included 92 names, mostly from Atlanta and Georgia, which were added to the 1,920 existing names in the Quilt.

During closing ceremonies, Cleve Jones was presented with the 92 new panels which will become a permanent part of the Quilt as it continues the national tour.

Closing ceremonies also included a unorchestrated release of balloons which symbolized farewell to the memorialized PWAs. "Some people had a hard time letting the balloons go," Kimsey stated. "It was hard to let the Quilt go, too. Some of the local panel makers lingered over their panels until the very last minute. It was a very powerful ceremony."

Cleveland, Ohio is the next stop on the Names Project Tour. The Quilt will be in Washington, D.C. from October 10 - 12 for its one year anniversary debut at the

National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The Reverend Kathryn Cartledge, director of pastoral services at AID Atlanta, has been asked by tour organizers to be one of the coordinators for the Interfaith Services when the Quilt in Washington. The core committee for the Names Project/Atlanta have decided to stay involved with the tour in some capacity and local quilting bees will continue so that new Georgia panels can be added in time for the D.C. exhibition. Interested persons should contact David Lane at (404)987-7189.

the subject is AIDS

An international exhibition by artists who are dealing with AIDS as an ongoing concern in their art will be held at Nexus Contemporary Art Center during January/February, 1989.

Work is encouraged in all media including performance, video, installation, audio, mixed media, etc.

Slides of examples of work dealing with the issue are currently being reviewed for possible

inclusion in the show.

To be considered for the exhibition, please submit 35mm transparencies of your work (video or audio tape where appropriate), a current resume, and any other pertinent material (reviews, etc.). All slides must be labeled with your name, media, and size of work. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL ART WORK. Your application must include a self-addressed stamped envelope with sufficient postage to pay for the return of all your application materials.

Send materials to:
the subject is AIDS/
Nexus Contemporary Arts Center/
608 Ralph McGill Boulevard/
Atlanta, GA 30312.
For additional information, call
(404) 688-1970. Ask for Gallery.

Homophobia and Disease, Part II will run in the June 23rd issue of *Southern Voice*. Author Dave Hayward's article looks closely into the connections between disease and state of mind. Look for it.

Health and Healing

The gay and lesbian community is challenged to find and improve ways of maintaining our health and healing our hearts and our bodies. This column will offer insight and advice by various writers with a range of viewpoints and expertise. If you are interested in submitting an article or requesting a topic, contact Franklin Abbott in care of *Southern Voice*.

Tips For Living a Better Life

Having worked as a psychotherapist for the last 14 years, I have had a unique opportunity to observe human behavior. What strikes me as interesting is the fact that as individuals move toward a more rewarding life they all incorporate at least some of the following ideas. I have described these ideas with an eye to providing solutions to life problems and understanding how these problems affect our lives.

During recent decades, great strides have been made in understanding human behavior and in developing techniques to help solve problems that occur. Never before have we been able to see as clearly why people view the world as they do or feel the way that they do. For instance, old treatment methods for eating disorders, sexual problems, as well as chronic unhappiness and anxiety have given way to newly developed treatment approaches. The understanding of how families operate together has also greatly increased. The following tips may seem simple or complex, depending on your perspective. I have found them to be profound in their implication for a healthy mental outlook. I hope that you will find them useful and informative in your journey through life.

BE HONEST

Being honest about your thoughts and feelings is an integral part of personal growth. By honestly revealing who you are, you align yourself with others in a way which allows trust and communication to develop. This may seem like a difficult task at first, but as individuals around you recognize your integrity and reflect it, a sense of well-being develops which leads to peace and joyfulness. Truth, beauty, and love are all related qualities of the human experience and contribute greatly to quality of life.

Being honest does not necessarily mean telling intimate things about yourself to people at cocktail parties. It does mean revealing yourself to people that you want to be close to.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF

People often blame others for their unhappiness or their failure to be as productive as they would like to be in life. This puts a terrible burden on the person assigned the blame or responsibility. It also leaves the individual who blames others for his or her plight with a sense of hopelessness and helplessness.

Often I have heard persons say something like "If only my spouse or lover were different I would be happy." This statement is not only untrue, but it also implies that in order for you to be happy, other people have to change. As you may have noticed, getting other people change is no easy task.

This type of attitude results in feelings of not being in control of one's life. These feelings of not having control are much like those of an infant. As an adult, feeling infantile is less than desirable, especially when you realize that an infant is dependent upon the goodwill of those around it. Although we all have extremely valuable parts of ourselves that are child-like, we are better off to recognize that as adults we are, in large measure, in charge of our own fate.

ASK FOR WHAT YOU WANT
When parents who are burdened with worries and responsibilities hear children asking for attention and material things, they often feel overwhelmed. When children are responded to negatively in terms of the things that they want, they soon learn to ignore their wants and begin to depend more upon their parents to give them what the parents can emotionally and materially afford.

In this way, children lose touch with themselves. They learn to look to others for what they want and after a while, may even lose awareness of what it is they want or how to find it within themselves. Then as adults, they wait for others to anticipate their wants and needs. This leads to trouble.

It is very important to let people around you know what you want by asking for it. If you ask for what you want, you are likely to hear "no" on

occasion. However, by asking for what you want, many of your wants will be fulfilled and the rejection implied in the occasional "no" will be easier to take.

KEEP YOUR WORD

When we make a commitment to someone by indicating that we will accomplish a certain task or be at a place at a specified time, we are saying to others and to ourselves that we can be relied upon. When a person commits to something and doesn't follow

through, they become incongruent with themselves. When they set this incongruence up on a regular basis, they will come to wonder if they can trust themselves to handle their own life. "Am I able to take care of myself?" the unconscious mind might begin to ask. The answer, which often comes back in the form of vague feelings and beliefs is often - "no, I can't take care of myself."

Of course there will be times when the expense to the self would be so great that keeping a commitment would be fool-hardy. This will cause only minimal distress.

Before making a commitment, ask yourself if you will be able to follow through and be honest with yourself in your answer. Many of us find ourselves saying yes to things in order to gain approval. This will inevitably lead to trouble. If you make a commitment, make sure that it is something that you want to do or can do without extraordinary emotional expense to yourself.

DEVELOP A SUPPORT GROUP

Many times because of time commitments, people begin to drop close personal friends from their lives. This is particularly common among couples, who then begin to depend more and more on their partners for the majority of their support.

This practice often begins in the infatuation stage of relationships - a period when time spent with a partner is most wonderful. Generally, however, it is wise to maintain close friendships no matter what your couple status. For one thing, no one person can always be available for support and counsel. If a person has several people to turn to at a time of stress, there is greater likelihood of getting good support.

Men often, for a variety of reasons, tend to let go of personal friendships when they couple. When they realize that their partner is not always available, there is a tendency to feel abandoned. This may lead certain men to use power maneuvers including manipulation to regain the partner's support. This rarely works on a long-term basis and can be the beginning of the end.

Keeping and nurturing your friendships is an important part of living a better life.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE LEAD TO JOYLESSNESS

We are all aware that drug usage for recreational purposes is widespread in this country. There are many reasons for this: personal insecurity, fear of failure or success, a desire to escape, and the desire to "loosen up." Another reason is that in the initial

phases of drug usage, people find a sense of well-being that is often lacking in their lives.

This condition, unfortunately, is not maintained over time. With repeated usage of drugs, people lose more and more sense of themselves. The things which bring joy are less and less available to the drug user. In addition, most types of drugs used for recreational purposes are addictive, which is a problem in itself. So if you want more joy and happiness in your life, consider finding natural things to accomplish this. And if you need help, find it.

LEARN WHAT RESCUING IS AND DON'T DO IT

The term rescuing has a specific meaning in the study of human behavior. It means doing something for someone that you don't want to do or taking responsibility away from someone and assuming the responsibility yourself.

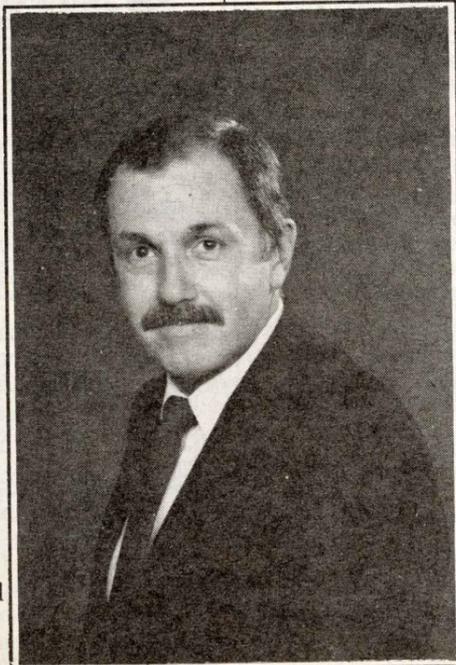
When a person rescues, he or she begins a chain reaction of events which lead to unpleasantness, psychological games, and feelings of helplessness and resentment. A person who rescues someone generally does this because he or she wants to be liked. This never happens! The way to develop closeness is through being yourself, not through being a rescuer.

LEARN TO FORGIVE YOURSELF

We all make lots of mistakes in life. This is OK because we can learn about ourselves from our mistakes. If we allow ourselves to be paralyzed by guilt for having done something inconsiderate or thoughtless, we interfere with our natural tendency to correct our mistakes.

If you make an error, acknowledge it to yourself (and perhaps to those you have affected) and forgive yourself. Vow not to repeat the same mistake if you can help it and get on with life.

-Russell E. Brooker, ED.D.



Russell E. Brooker, ED.D.

Dr. Brooker is a practicing psychologist in the Atlanta area. For the last fourteen years he has been extensively involved in counseling and psychotherapy in the areas of interpersonal relations, sexual dysfunction, and eating disorders. He received his doctorate from Ball State University and has recently trained with such notables as Masters & Johnson and Dr. Joseph LoPiccolo. He is interested in helping individuals create more productive self-concepts and in teaching people how to work through roadblocks in relationships.

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Star Gays

STAR GAYS
 by Martia Proba
 June 15 - 30

The Summer Solstice occurs at 11:57 p.m. on the 20th as the Sun enters Cancer. The Moon is waxing during this forecast period, so work methodically on home-centered issues. As Mercury turns direct and the Moon enters Scorpio on the 24th, emotional episodes may occur, but can be readily dealt with.

CANCER As the Sun enters your first house on the 20th, your personal magnetism will be heightened. With four planets in water signs on the 24th, 25th and 26th, you may lose it at the drop of a hat. Hang out with a Capricorn for added stability.

LEO Mercury, Venus and the Sun are in your 11th house until the 20th, emphasizing interactions with friends, but Mercury is retrograde until the 24th, so the interactions are likely to be frustrating, especially the romantic ones. A Gemini can help you weather the retrograde storm.

VIRGO After the 20th, your best career bets are with friends. Retrograde Uranus in Sagittarius could make you resistant to terminating long-term affairs dealing with your community.

LIBRA Until the 24th, don't mess with your lover's family or close friends. On the 23rd, you may feel an irresistible urge to take someone to lunch just to please them. While you're at it, try lunch with a Sagittarius for a change.

SCORPIO On the 24th, formulate a long range spiritual plan. If you need to borrow money, ask a Taurus. On the Full Moon of the 29th, tend your garden.

SAGITTARIUS You may become emotional about savings accounts and home finances after the 20th. Uranus continues moving slowly retrograde through your sign, so the occult may persistently intrude into your thoughts at the most inopportune moments.

CAPRICORN Worry about and protect your health until the 20th. If you've done well with health concerns, you ought to be able to take on a wildly romantic episode with a Libra.

AQUARIUS On the 25th, the Sun and Moon both favorably aspect your work environment. Until the 20th, make the most of opportunities to enhance your love life. An alliance with a Leo on the 17th could produce long-lasting results.

PISCES Take it easy after the 20th, and develop a creative, dreamy kind of romance with a Cancer. On the Full Moon of the 29th and on the 30th, you will be so out in left field that you just might want to stay in a safe place—like bed.

ARIES The horrible communication problems you've been experiencing should clear up after the 24th. As far as your love life goes, your best bet would be to romance a Gemini on the 23rd.

TAURUS After Mercury turns direct on the 24th and the Sun is in your third house, you should make it a point to express yourself at every opportunity. Jupiter in your first house will help you with a love interest on the 25th. It might be with a Virgo—be neat.

GEMINI After the 20th, emphasis for you will shift to the financial. Jupiter rules fortunate financial happenings, so find either a Sagittarius or Pisces to work with.

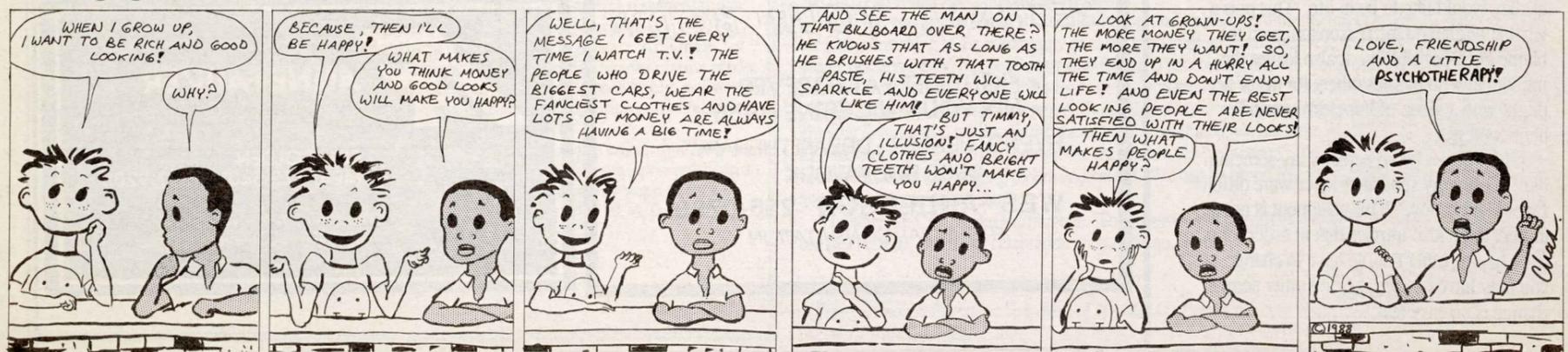
SUCH A DEAL! GET IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS ON PAGE 15!

Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"The way of our Grandmothers" A women's weekend experiential gathering in nature for opening ourselves to the earth, the elements & the wisdom of our ancestors. For info call Liz at (404) 454-6012. (V1#8)

Your Fantasy Prom Come True! Pride Prom '88. The Atlanta March Committee needs your help to make Pride Week's kick-off event the best ever. Call 377-8312 to volunteer. (V1#8)

TELEVISION ADVERTISING IS A REALITY! New York's Gay Cable Network will be broadcasting live from Atlanta during the 1988 Democratic Convention. Programming will be broadcast both locally and nationally. This is a good chance to get TELEVISION coverage for your Gay/lesbian organization or business. Call 875-6405 for details. Ask for Joe. (V1#9)

There is a fundraiser planned for July 17th, during the Democratic National Convention, for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). If you are interested in working on this event, call Cathy Woolard at 377-8312. (V1#9)

Support group for Lesbians considering pregnancy. Explore your hopes and concerns in a non-threatening environment. 10 weeks \$15.00 per session New South Center Call Barbara Burns 351-5307 (V1#9)

BARS

Backstreet welcomes the Dixie Dance Kings June 11-14. Yee ha! Everyone can play Win, Lose or Draw Mondays at 9:00. Sunday morning T-dance is too fun with free hot dogs & hamburgers from 4 pm. (404) 873-1987 (V1#8)

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DRIVER-ESCORT needed during Democratic National Convention (July 14-22). Must have valid driver's license. No special permits required. Lincoln Continental provided. Call Jack at (305) 444-4647. (V1#8)

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Writers, technical documentation encouraged; also editorial, creative. PO box 14515 Atlanta 30324 (V1#10)

SOCIAL SERVICES CASE MANAGERS Non-profit agency serving PWA/PWARC clients, educating public about AIDS. Positions require M.S.W. degree plus minimum one year experience. Knowledge of AIDS, terminal care exposure. Full benefits. EOE Affirmative action employer. \$19.7 K to \$25.6 K. Application deadline June 22, 1988. No phone calls. Resume with cover letter to Personnel Officer, AID Atlanta, 1132 West Peachtree Street, N.W. Atlanta Georgia 30309.

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Ansley Therapy Associates Suite 120, 1904 Monroe Drive Atlanta Georgia 30324 (404) 874-8294 (AI)

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Deborah Keefe, Attorney at law. General practice, family law, wills, bankruptcy. La Vista Center. 1535 La Vista Rd., NE. Atlanta, GA 30329. (404) 634-3835.

M.P. Schildmeyer, Attorney At Law, Inman 10020 Building 1020 Dekalb Avenue Suite 17, Atlanta, Georgia 30307. (404) 584-9671 (AI)

MISCELLANEOUS

AIDS VIDEOTAPE Confidential, educational. Send SASE to Video offer, PO Box 497, Tucker, GA 30085. (V1#10)

Paz y Liberacion, a newsletter of lesbian/gay liberation events and groups in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Middle East, India, Europe. English. \$3.00 for 6 issues. Sample free. PyL, Box 66450, Houston Tx 77266 (V1#9)

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PERSONALS

GAY MATCHING-ComQuest offers gay men the option of selecting the physical, economic, and social traits of the men they want to meet. No fees over \$30. 1-800-633-6969 for information. (V1#10)

GWM, 24, 5'10", 240 lbs, bearded seeks friends, possible more, with individuals that can look beyond unparadonable sin in gay community of being somewhat overweight. Have much to give to right friends. Photo please. Box 8674, Atlanta 30306 (V1#10)

If you like pina colodas, and getting caught in the rain, and the feel of the ocean and the taste of champagne. If you like making love at midnight--in the dew summer night. You're the one that I'm looking for. Write to me and escape. GBF, 25, entrepreneur looking for fun & excitement. Race no problem. Don't spend this summer alone! S.V. Box #2210 (V1#9)

I don't wanna grow up, I'm a Boys Are Us Kid, immature and bratty and I like to tell fibs. You meet me at the bars and my hair is moussed right, I stand kinda funny 'cause my jeans are too tight. I'd like to meet a man with a platinum card, cause I'm a Madonna groupie and my and my brain has been jarred. My name is Trad. Call me at 1-800-TRAD.

You've seen him at Good Old Days. Or Five Paces. You've wondered, "Could he be...? No. No way." Well he is. And he's been looking for you for a long time. Young professional WM, 24, successful, fun-loving, sincere, seeks GWM for ultimate friendship. If you understand how it feels to be caught between two worlds, not quite fitting in either one, please write. S.V. Box 2200 (V1#8)

OKAY YOU MADE YOUR POINT! Brian--sorry about the previous ads, but I've been burned before by smooth talk, and now I am really cautious. I want to be friends first, and maybe just maybe, we can make it work. My name is Mark. (V1#8)

Mellow, lifebrewed, brainy GWM, 50, professional, into ideas, nature, creativity, and down to earth, affectionate people, seeks mate. Your best quality: you like being yourself! J.R. Box 2158, Decatur 30031. (V1#9)

Mark, You've been burned by smooth talk? I'm starting to feel a little heat, too. Really if you want to give it a shot, fine, if not, don't write back. These are not the games I want to play, so get off your neurotic little high horse and give me an answer... Over it, Brian. (V1#9)

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WANTED

Moving to New York June 22. Looking to share truck rental. So, if you have some "freight", let me know--contact Alan 237-3528 (V1#10)

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Pride Without Prejudice



PHOTO BY PAMELA J. COLE

You are queer, you lucky fool, and that makes you one of life's buccaneers...start hoisting your sails. You haven't a moment to lose.

The words are Armistead Maupin's. They are fine words indeed. And it would be presumptuous as hell of me to interpret the words of such an accomplished writer as Mr. Maupin. But I'll do it anyway.

What Maupin is saying is, "Celebrate!"

Gay Pride is traditionally celebrated on or near June 27th. On that day, nineteen years ago, a bunch of drag queens, Black queens, Hispanic queens and a gaggle of lesbians rioted. They rioted in response to what *should* have been just another routine raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in the Big Apple's West Village. They rioted because they were tired of being harassed by New York's finest. They rioted because they knew — instinctively and despite all that a homophobic word

was telling them — that gay is good.

Listen to Poet Alan Ginsberg describe the scene in a *Village Voice* article: "You know the guys were so beautiful. They've lost that wounded look that fags all had ten years ago."

The New York Mattachine Society (think of them as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force of its day) capitalized on the events by proclaiming that the riots were "The Hairpin Drop Heard 'Round the World." Public demonstrations were not Mattachine's style, but even that usually erudite group saw the value in action as opposed to words.

For years, especially in the staid South, many have used the flamboyance of pride celebrations — the presence of drag queens, leather queens, and left-leaning radical queens — as an excuse to stay away from Pride Week marches and rallies.

But times are changing. Most of the half-million plus lesbians and gay men who marched in D.C. last October were

attired in jeans and tennis shoes. Votes, dollars, and letters to editors are the "hairpins" dropped by the lesbian/ gay civil rights movement as we approach the decade that some insist will be called the "gay nineties."

As the movement matures it is being taken more seriously. That's good. And it's also a good reason to pay close attention to another of Maupin's observations:

Appearances don't count for squat when they stick you in the ground (all right, or scatter you to the winds) so why should you waste a single moment of your life seeming to be something that you don't want to be?

Atlanta's Pride Week activities this

year offer something for everyone: Play volleyball. Dance and romance at the prom. Dine with PFLAG on Family Night. Catch "We are Family" on WPBA. Learn about courage at "Higher Ground." Or history at "Street Theater." March up Piedmont. Picnic in the park.

One way or another, celebrate.

Celebrate. Because celebration is the salve that turns hurt to beauty. Because Emma Goldman, Oscar Wilde, Gertrude Stein, and Harvey Milk did. Because Maupin is right. We are "life's buccaneers." And we haven't got a minute to lose celebrating that fact.

— Gary Kaupman

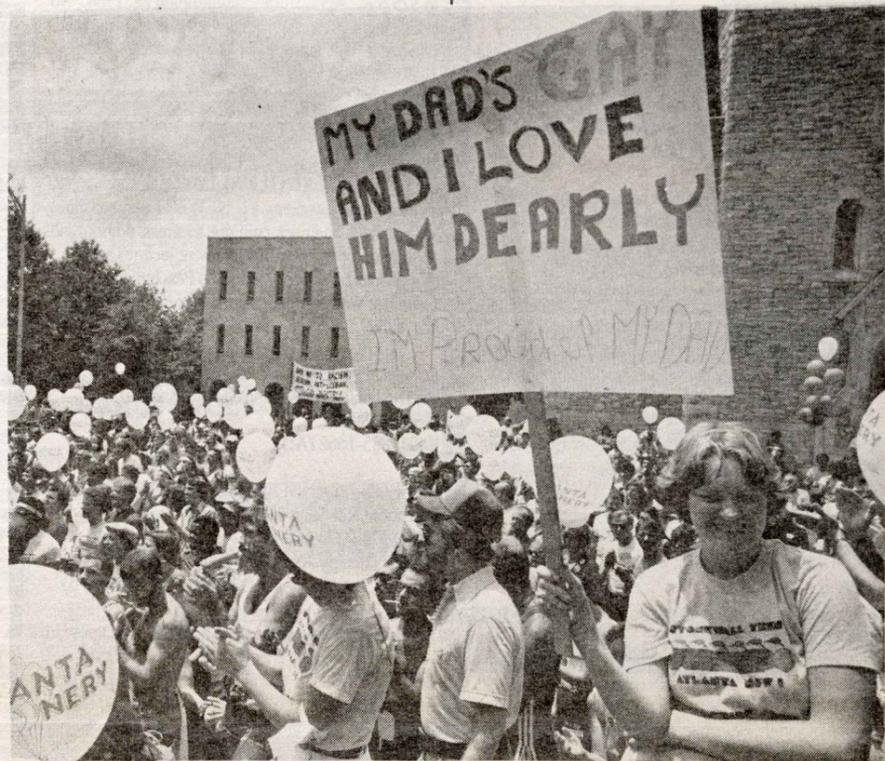


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Every day, NGLTF's programs advance gay and lesbian freedom by:

LOBBYING: Whether it's AIDS related discrimination, or gay rights protections; Whether opposing a judicial nomination or pressing for immigration reform, NGLTF lobbies the federal government on the full range of gay issues.

ORGANIZING: With timely and critical projects on Anti-Gay Violence, Privacy Rights, the Media and AIDS discrimination, the Task Force challenges prejudice with constructive education.

RESOURCE SHARING: Our 14 years of experience and contacts are used daily to strengthen local efforts.

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