PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1986, 8:00 PM: UULGC PROGRAM. Employment Discrimination. Presented by Russ Shannon. Russ has provided us with the following teaser.

"The Economics of Discrimination
Returning from a trip to Washington a couple of years ago, I had to change flights in Raleigh, N.C. While waiting at the airport, I noticed the ground crew, attired in red, busily preparing for the plane's impending arrival. Suddenly, to my amazement, I realized that the members of the ground crew were not men. Every one was a woman! That startling experience told me two things: one was that I must accept the rather unflattering fact that I, too, harbored silly and outmoded prejudices and stereotypes in the inner recesses of my mind. But the incident also dramatized the significant improvements that have already been made in undermining traditional attitudes toward work assignments.

"Led by Gary Becker of the University of Chicago, economists in recent decades have studied employment discrimination both statistically and theoretically. Their findings are illuminating. They argue, for example, that profit-minded employers have a strong incentive not to discriminate. On reflection, you may find that statement quite plausible. But if so, you may well ask, then why has so much employment discrimination occurred?"

"One answer: despite the prevailing belief that government is the sole and necessary salvation of people who seek to abolish discrimination, it is in fact largely the power of government which has been used to enforce discriminatory practices. Examples on both the racial and sexual front are abundant. We are sadly familiar, too, with attempts to prohibit hiring gay men and lesbians as public school teachers. And now, new attempts to impose a system of "comparable worth," while claimed to be an effort to alleviate discrimination, are essentially efforts to replace one kind of discrimination with another.

"For further discussion of these issues--and more--I hope you'll attend our UULGC Meeting on Thursday, March 13." -- Russ Shannon

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1986, 8:00 PM: UULGC PROGRAM: AN EVENING WITH DR. JANE GAVIN. In the late 1970's Jane Gavin founded Tempo, Atlanta's own Mariposa Foundation, a gay/lesbian research/educational organization. Before its demise, Tempo made major contributions to the enrichment of Atlanta gay and lesbian life. These contributions were recognized by two awards made to Dr. Gavin by the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild. Jane will use Tempo as a starting point, to discuss the distinct differences between the 1970's and the 1980's, the different issues and concerns of the two decades and the ripple-effect in the present. We will have an opportunity to meet and share with one of our community heroines.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1986, 8:00 PM: UULGC PROGRAM. Gay Saints. Presented by J. Michael Clark.


THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1986, 8:00 PM: UULGC PROGRAM. An Account of THE SECOND ANNUAL UULGC CONTINENTAL CONVENTION, SAN DIEGO, CALIF. UUCA Affiliate Minister, Rev. Joseph Chancey, will report on this meeting which he attended in February. Joe will also share his experiences in the Bay Area conferring with the Affiliate Minister for AIDS outreach at the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco and with the Pacific Center at Berkeley.

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY, February 2, 1986, 6:00 PM. ATLANTA BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GUILD AWARDS BANQUET. SHERATON CENTURY HOTEL.

Gail Parker, Vice President: "We have solidified our leadership position. A local TV
Channel which offered an editorial position to a blatantly homophobic entertainer listened to our complaints and acted on them. Through our corporate outreach program we continually seek to increase the companies that include sexual orientation among their nondiscrimination clauses."

Ted Binkley, President: "What's next? What now? From 76 members in 1984 we grew to 185 members in 1985. Our goal continues to be a place where the mix is perfect - a blend of social, business, and political events. We will continue to sponsor the Midtown Classic 10K roadrace. One of our major objectives is to promote business, and in 1985 our Business Expo broke even.

"In 1986 we will sponsor several purely social theatre functions. A letter from Mayor Andrew Young will be inserted in the front of the ABPG Directory.

"In 1985 our Newsletter became a newspaper - self-supporting due to advertisers. In 1985 our successful programs were expanded from bi-monthly to bi-weekly. Additional good news is that four corporations, because of negotiations with the Guild, have added sexual orientation to their nondiscrimination hiring statements: Premium Beverage, Atlanta Beverage, Premium Brands, and the Empire Distributing Company.

"We have a letter of congratulations from the Greater Baltimore Business Association which states that they have looked to the Atlanta Guild for leadership. The Baltimore Group has many accomplishments to boast of itself, including work with the Baltimore Police force to help solve a series of murders of gays.

"Now is the time to introduce our keynote speaker, the Honorable David Scondras, Councillor of the City of Boston. David has campaigned for City Council three times. The first time he lost. But David's philosophy is that if you campaign, you never lose - because you make an impression. David, we have a proclamation signed by Mayor Andrew Young, making you an Honorary Citizen of Atlanta."

David Scondras: "I've had many dealings with Andrew Young, and he has the best PR going. I don't know about the substance, but the public relations are great. I want to thank you for the lavish jet trip here: there were even lavender place settings. Before I begin I want to introduce to you my domestic partner, the man behind the man, my husband, my wife, my lover, Robert Krebs.

"We are really the Born Again People - we have given ourselves the second chance. We have won 27 open elections of openly gay and lesbian candidates for public office. The secret has been to stand up for ourselves, to give ourselves the approval denied us by parents, by police, by the courts, etc. We are the future. We have paid our fare. We can sit anywhere on the bus. We can make the system answer the call for justice for all.

"Southerners have played a proud role in making America America for gays and lesbians. We live in two America's.

"First is the Other America: the coalition of the arrogant, the greedy, the bigots. The Young Americans for Freedom, who offer Nancy Reagan photographs for donations to support their work in attempting to disenfranchise gays and lesbians. Jerry Falwell and the rest of the crew of God's Bullies, apologists for the Union of South Africa, leaders of the New Reich, who have deified the Hitler of the Fifties, Joseph McCarthy, who now seek a totalitarian America with pretensions to theocrancy.

"Opposed to that Other America is Our America: the America of our people who believe in Free Speech...the America of gay males who have fought to be foster parents against the homophobic governor of my state. The gay and lesbian movement is part of the American tradition. In Our America we do not agree on every issue, but we respect our right to be different. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., are heroes in Our America, where it is always the right time to stand up for yourself.

"As an elected official, I get my power from my constituents and I have the opportunity to use that power for them.

"At a recent appearance by the Mayor of Boston before a meeting of the Hotel Worker's Union, I was approached by 'Sylvia Sydney' a six foot seven inch drag queen dressed as Cleopatra. 'Dahling' said Sylvia, 'will you introduce me to the Mayor?' What did I do? I introduced Sylvia Sydney to the Mayor. Sylvia Sidney is a shop steward at that union. And my power comes from the Sylvia Sidney.

"I brought the new Boston Police Commissioner, an Irish Catholic, to a Dignity meeting. How did I do it? I am Chairman of the City Council Finance Committee. The police budget must be approved by...Moi!...You can't get anything without asking for it.

"How do I get my constituents to support the faggot? By working to keep a meat packing
plant from closing and saving jobs. By protec­
ting the elderly in rent controlled apartments
from condo conversions that will throw them in­
to the streets.
"Power will get you what you want. But to get
and use power, we must apply what we have
learned: We are a minority. - We can't do it
alone. We must be the key, the cinch pin to
concerted action. Then our rights will be
realized."
Following his keynote address, Scondras respon­
ded to questions from the floor.
Question. Can you give us an update on the
Boston Gay Foster Parent Discrimination Scandal?
David Scondras: "Governor Dukakis is not a
friend of the gay community. He is an outright
homophobe. For a full year this gay male
couple in question were examined before being
found fit by the Massachusetts Dept. of Human
Resources. Then they actually had to be coaxed
to take the two small brothers, whose experi­
ence in previous foster homes had rendered them
problem children, malnourished, one refusing to
eat. One of the partners initially had wanted
to take a single child. The state agency repre­
sentatives had to convince them to take two.
Within two weeks these problem children had
responded. Since the homophobe Dukakis has
taken them away, the brothers have been to four
other foster homes. At the most recent they
were sexually abused! Dukakis saved these
foster children from a responsible upright gay
male couple to allow them to be sexually abused
in a 'traditional' foster home!"
Question: Are you involved in AIDS issues?
David Scondras: "In a few weeks 15 elected
officials will be going to Washington to con­
front the White House with how we are pissed
off with their continuing obstruction in the
AIDS matter. The Centers for Disease Control
have homophobes in it. Paul Mason in the White
House has held up Educational Funds because the
educational material to be funded are regarded
as too sexually explicit. The Food and Drug
Administration refuses to allow testing of
drugs in the early stages of AIDS. FDA also re­
fuses to allow testing of multiple drugs on
persons with AIDS. The new Reagan budget offers
cuts on AIDS. $50,000,000 was cut from AIDS
funding before the Graham-Rudman Amendment took
effect. More will be mandated by Graham-Rudman.
We've even thought of going to foreign embassies
to apply for foreign aid for AIDS.
"In 1978 AIDS was understood to be out of con­
tral in Zaire. We did not act then out of
racism. In the late 70's twenty to forty
thousand people moved from West Africa to
Haiti, where AIDS spread. Racism again
prevented prompt action. Now it's homo­
phobia. The irony is that over 1,000
children in the United States have the AIDS
virus now. What happens when they become
adolescents and sexually active? Ninety
percent will be straight. We have a time
bomb ready to explode.
"We now have the tools available to crack
viruses. An entire spectrum of viral ill­
nesses are on the verge of being solved."
Question: "Can you speak on factionalism
in the gay community?
David Scondras: "It's normal for members of
groups that are oppressed to pick on each
other. If you look at a table setting you'll
see, say, a glass, a fork, a knife, etc.
You don't use a glass to cut your meat.
Everything in the place setting has its own
proper function. If things aren't working
out in your group you've got to figure out
what that person is good for.
"Related to this is the issue of the closet.
I came out - but I got a job that depends on
my being out. Closeted people can become a
hidden army that can offer us much behind
the scenes. I have used officers in this
army in my public service career. We must
never do to others in the name of political
expediency what has been done to us."
After the installation of the 1986 Officers,
Ted Binkley presented the President's Merit
Awards to Ken Edwards for achievement in
membership growth, and to Ron Matthews and
Gail Parker for innovative ideas and for
stimulating and self-supporting dinner pro­
grams.
Community Service Awards were given to: Ed
Stansell, for organizing the statewide effort
still underway to decriminalize acts betweem consentng adults; Jack Harrell of the
Atlanta Gay Center; Mary Davis, member of
the Atlanta City Council, for her objectivity
in serving all of her constituency (Ted
Binkley said: "Even though we have had our
differences." Mary Davis responded, "I
never knew we had any differences."); and to
Carolyn Mobley, Assistant Minister, MCC
(Carolyn had earlier entertained, rousing
the celebrants with songs such as: "Now is
the time for all Gay People to Stand Up and
Say Who We Will Be," and "We are a Gay and
Lesbian People Singing/Fighting for Our
Lives.").
The Business of the Year Award was received
by Empire Distributing Company, as adopter of the sexual orientation nondiscrimination clause into its personnel procedures. Empire also provided the wine for the banquet.

Dr. Stosh Ostrow, M.D., a founder of the Georgia Physicians for Human Rights, member of the AID Atlanta Board of Directors was recognized as Professional Person of the year. In accepting the award, Stosh said, "I never pass up the opportunity to be political or to ask for money. It is now more imperative than ever that you support financially not just your local but the national gay and lesbian organizations."

In accepting the Layton Gregory Award, George Brenning, Cofounder of GOAL - Georgians Opposed to Archaic Laws said: "We are American as apple pie - getting back our rights under the Constitution denied us by the Other America described by David Scondras. If we lose the Hardwick case before the Supreme Court, we won't really lose - because the USA as a whole will learn that one tenth of the American citizenry has been relegated to second class status and denied our rights by that Other America."

David Scondras, a Boston City Councillor, is responsible for the 194 passage of Boston's Human Rights Ordinance that bars discrimination against gays, lesbians, racial and religious minorities, the elderly and disabled in employment, credit, labor organizations and public service.

Recently re-elected by a 2-1 margin, Scondras also has fought against Massachusetts Governor George Dukakis's order barring gays and lesbians from being foster parents.

Scondras graduated from Harvard with a B.A. in Mathematics in 1965. He gained an M.A. in Economics from Northeastern University and is a doctoral candidate in sociology. He is also a math instructor at Northeastern.

Scondras, a descendant of Macedonian sheepherders, was born to first generation Greek-American parents in Lowell, Mass. in 1946.

He is a co-founder of the Fenway Community Health Center and the Symphony Tenants Organizing Project. He first became known for his pioneering work against arson for profit, gathering the evidence that led to the conviction of an arson ring in Massachusetts. He later helped draft and lobbied for a state anti-arson law, which became the first comprehensive legislation against arson in the nation. Scondras also is responsible for laws protecting Boston's elderly and disabled tenants from eviction for condominium conversion.

Along with his partner of seven years Robert Krebs, Scondras owns a home in the Fenway section of Boston, where he enjoys cooking, playing the piano and tending to his cactus garden.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1986; 10:30 AM.
CIRCLE THE CHURCH.

Five hundred assembled at the Midtown MARTA station at 10:30 AM to mark the coming of age of Atlanta's Gay and Lesbian community. Coming of age as displayed by the diversity of the gays and lesbians gathered - no minority stereotype dominated. In fact, the dominant image was of business-suited professionals. Coming of age in that all local gay and lesbian groups had some representation. Coming of age in that the gathering consisted of more than gays and lesbians alone. It was comprised of relatives and loved ones of persons with AIDS, living and deceased, coming to bear witness and to work out their grief. It included civil rights, poverty rights, and feminist activists, including the 80 year old Atlanta heroine Frances Pauley, lending their support to a potential coalition. It contained private citizens of good will, including a construction contractor marching with his infant on his back and his wife at his arm. Parents surprised children who didn't expect them to be there. All in all, it was a Norman Rockwell American panorama assembled to present a vision opposed to that of Charles Stanley, President of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, who asserted that AIDS is an expression of God's displeasure with homosexuality.

After being galvanized in songs lead by Carolyn Mobley, Vice Chair of the Atlanta Gay Center we proceeded the five blocks from Tenth to Peachtree and Fifth Streets, where a handholding single chain of humanity circled the First Baptist Church. At that point Rev. Bruce Hill, pastor of MCC of the Blessed Redeemer delivered the following statement:

"In a recent news article, the Associated Press quoted the Rev. Charles Stanley as having said, "...AIDS is an expression of God's displeasure with homosexuals...'. We, as part of the religious community of greater Atlanta, take exception to this and similar remarks attributed to Dr. Stanley in that article.
"First of all, Dr. Stanley seems to have completely ignored the fact that the disease, which is thought to have originated in Africa, has in that nation stricken heterosexual men and women, and has also been the cause of death of many children. Beyond this, however, we wish to address the theological stance which Dr. Stanley seems to have adopted. "In the Hebrew Scriptures, the book of Job takes a lengthy look at the issue of suffering and its causes. As the narrative opens, we find God in conversation with (the) Satan. When God praises the faithfulness of Job, the adversary responds with a plan to test that faith. There follows a description of the various calamities afflicted on Job by Satan (1), among which is a horrible skin disorder. Job's 'friends' urge him to repent of his sins, which they insist must be the cause of all his woes. As the narrative continues, the reader is assured that Job had not sinned in the eyes of God; thereby refuting the attempt to link suffering with sin. "In the Christian Scriptures (the Gospel of John, chapter 9), Jesus disciples are depicted as asking, '...Who has sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?...'. In his response, Jesus makes it very clear that this issue of sin has nothing to do with this affliction; once again separating the two issues from one another. "Based on these testimonies, as well as on other Scriptures which speak of God's love and desire for reconciliation, we cannot believe that a loving God uses the Adversary's devices to punish anyone. It is as difficult for us to believe that AIDS is a punishment from God of any human being, as it is for us to believe that God punishes Jews with Tay-Sachs disease, women with toxic-shock syndrome, Blacks with sickle-cell anemia, or the members of the American Legion with Legionnaire's disease (for being too patriotic?). "We, therefore, pray that the Rev. Stanley, and others who may feel as he does, might find sufficient love within their hearts for their suffering brothers and sisters to pray for them; to work in any way they can to be sure a cure is found for this virus; to help combat the hysteria which comes from misinformation about this illness; that they not inflict any further pain or guilt on those who already suffering estrangement with this terminal illness and, finally, that they offer comfort and assistance to those stricken with this malady, in accordance with Jesus' words in the 25th chapter of Matthew: '...Whatsoever you have not done for one of the least of these...you have not done for Me.' " Following this, we marched in pairs still with pink triangles on our lapels, halfway back to the Academy of Medicine on West Peachtree and Seventh where a more truly religious gathering was held than that taking place within the walls of First Baptist. Rev. A. B. Short, shelter coordinator for Oakhurst Baptist Church and the Community of Hospitality repeated the short prayer he had earlier offered at First Baptist. He then read an open letter to Charles Stanley written by the Senior and Associate Minister of Oakhurst Baptist, T. Melvin Williams, Jr., and Nancy Sehested, and signed by 125 members of that congregation: (In regard to Stanley's announced vision of a vengeful God) "you do not speak for all Southern Baptists....your remarks against AIDS victims seem calculated to polarize further the Southern Baptist Convention on the eve of the 1986 convention which meets in Atlanta in June." "We'll be there!" promised several present. Rev. Short, incorrectly identified as a "gay activist" by one local TV station, thanked those assembled for liberating him. "Ordinarily, I am more comfortable standing on the steps of the State Capitol, in front of the Nuclear Train or the Atlanta Penitentiary" -- later that Sunday, Rev. Short spoke at a candlelight vigil in front of the Atlanta Penitentiary to protest the detention there of 1850 Cubans. "You have enabled me to stop being afraid of standing on the steps of the First Baptist Churches of the World and speaking the truth. You have liberated me to be able to do so." J. Michael Clark, former United Methodist Minister, now with Beth Haverim, Atlanta's gay and lesbian Jewish congregation, stated: "We have gathered today to respond to bad theology. Bad theology has been ecumenical from Orthodox Jews to Southern Baptists. In his response Mr. Clark drew from several of his theological writings which we have already had the pleasure of reading in Atlanta periodicals to counter bad theology with good theology, to present the image of a Divine co-suffering presence offering empowerment in the midst of tragedy. Buren Batson, vice president of the Georgia ACLU, and one of 15 cofounders of the Gay and Lesbian Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said, "If ever you doubted it, you learned this morning that we are not alone." (Among the forces keeping us from..."
being alone:) "The ACLU is here and we are watching. As during the last 65 years, we hope to be there when the crisis comes. We are prepared to use the system to try to stop the abuses which we expect to see. Thomas Jefferson said that constant vigilance is the price of liberty. You must be prepared to pay the cost." (On a personal note:) "Dr. Stanley and I share something in common...I was reared as a Missionary Baptist. One phrase I learned early on: God is Love."

Rev. Ken South, Executive Director of AID Atlanta responded to a standing ovation saying: "In my Director's position and as a member of the Georgia AIDS task force, I have to deal with many state legislators, who are not interested in civil rights for 'perverts' and 'deviants'. I want you to know that you are the best-looking group of perverts I've ever seen." Ken then proceeded to give "my Christian testimony as a gay Christian," chronicking his journey from his attempt to seek a cure from a Park Avenue Freudian psychoanalyst to his joyous acceptance of his gayness as a gift from God.

Rev. South's witness inspired several others to offer theirs - what the Atlanta Constitution described as "Baptist-style testifying." Every testimony added to the exhilaration and the cohesion of the group.

Bob Haver of UUCA received a standing ovation when he identified himself as a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This organization meets at UUCA on a regular basis. Bob took over nominal leadership of the group when UUCAr Liz McMaster left Atlanta for ministerial studies at Harvard Divinity School.

"We parents," said Bob, "are going through a coming out process ourselves."

David Chewning of Evangelical Outreach Ministries praised the presence of so many nongays, many of whom came "at great cost to themselves. Thank them personally, individually for their support, and tell them you love them."

"I want to speak as a nongay participant," said a tall black woman with a short natural hair-style, dressed in a woman's white business blazer and skirt. "If they show me on television my children's school's parent's group will be surprised. I recently applied for a job for which my qualifications and references were excellent. I was told this by the interviewer, but I also was told I wouldn't be hired because I looked gay'."

George Brenning, outgoing Director of the Atlanta Gay Center, founder of GOAL - Georgians Opposed to Archaic Laws, and Moderator for the day, said: "Let's talk privately afterward. If this company is one of 500 national corporations which have enacted sexual orientation nondiscrimination personnel policies, we can intervene and remind them." (A personnel policy which prohibits discrimination against those who are gay should also apply to those whom an interviewer considers to "look" gay).

Buren Batson struck up the positive theme again. "In the past, police protection of demonstrators has often been police harrassment. And I have often been a guest of the police as a result of my protesting such harrassment. But today the police (along the march route and in front of the First Baptist Church) were really there for your protection. They did an excellent job. A new era of cooperation has begun. And to keep it going, please thank the police officers directly involved and/or pass the thanks on through your local police officer."

Congratulations were extended to the Metrocouncil, the coordinating body for all Atlanta gay and lesbian groups, for the professional organization which produced the euphoric success of the day. The Metrocouncil will also be responsible for the 1986 Gay Pride Week Abberation in June, and the evidence of the Circle the Church Affirmation bodes well for the future. The Chairman of the Metrocouncil spoke. "I also head the Gay Atheists. We have held that religion causes more problems than it solves. Religion is the problem. However, such considerations are not important in the face of the unity of today."

Local television coverage was surprisingly respectful, with no attempt to focus on the bizarre and the sensational, as in the past. Local stations ran Circle the Church and the Academy of Medicine sequel on the 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM broadcasts. By comparison, the small Monday morning article in the Atlanta Constitution was inadequate, giving no sense at all of the historic importance of the occasion.

The occasion was ultimately not a protest against a Pharisee, but an affirmation of a community, of a people, and a joining of that community with other communities and individuals of good will. This forging was symbolized by the closing, weaving chain of all present singing We Shall Overcome.
Time For All Gay People to Stand Up and Say Just Who We Will Be." By the conclusion of this whole-making experience, we realize another stanza must be added:

Now is the time for all Good People
To Stand Up and Say Just Who We Will Be,
To Stand Up and Fight,
To Fight for the Right
The Right to Be Free.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1986. HEART STRINGS:
Celebrity Musical Production to Benefit AIDS Research and Treatment, Fox Theatre.

The Atlanta Journals-Constitution's arts columnists did the good job of chronicling this event that their reporters failed to do with regard to the Circle the Church gathering two Sundays previously. They duly noted the riveting applause given the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus merely for walking out on the stage.

Almost 500 performing and creative artists donated their services and/or presence. The first page of the program proclaimed: "Atlanta, the city that was once too busy to hate is proving again tonight that it is not too busy to care." As Atlanta's Gay and Lesbian Community came of age on February 9, here's hoping that Atlanta's larger community came of age on February 23rd.

The musical numbers were framed by narrations excerpted from the diaries of Itty Hillesum, An Interrupted Life. Itty Hillesum, a Dutch Jewess, wrote these words of courage, comfort, and reconciliation before her life was taken at the age of 29 at Auschwitz, by the Nazi Holocaust. The narrations were particularly meaningful to this writer, as two weeks prior to Heartstrings, he heard them woven into the memorial service of a loved one who died of AIDS. It is noteworthy that they are being rediscovered today by different people in different places who seek to avert a new Holocaust by Hysteria.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1986; 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM. A DRASTIC LIFE CHANGE presentation by Bill Cutler.

About February 9, 1971, the person who is now Bill Cutler rejected the person he had been and made a total break with his past. The past had included a successful rising academic career as an English professor at prestigious northeastern colleges, where he was popular with students, was a social activist, and managed to publish rather than perish (professionally, that is). At the peak of his career, he lived on the Wellesley Campus with his lover. When he was passed by for tenure, Wellesley students forced the administration to reverse their decision. Despite receiving tenure at Wellesley, where his future would now have been assured, with his lover by his side, and adoring students at his feet, the young professor moved on to Haverford College - without his lover. At Haverford things did not go well.

At one point he left Haverford on a trip with his lover without telling his colleagues. He began having fantasies about suicide. December 25, 1970 marked one of two suicide attempts. He had himself committed to a psychiatric hospital in Philadelphia and after release started back teaching the second term at Haverford.

The end of the line was a class where he was teaching The Souls of Black Folk by W. E. B. DuBois. "Either the students had all had frontal lobotomies or they had not read the book. I couldn't make any connections."

At that point the young professor decided not to try to make connections, but to sever them: "I decided to cut out. I was going to act as if I were dead, I was going to make no move toward anyone who ever knew me, to abandon the life I had lived up to that time. I had reached a dead end....I had to do something else.

"I continued teaching class as if nothing had happened. But my life had changed. I pretended to teach. I had one more appointment with my shrink. I pretended with him. I did not tell him about my plan. I made it seem that everything was moving forward. "I completed all my obligations. But what was I going to do? I'd go to a gay bathhouse. I needed a place to sit and think.

At the steam room in the Camden, New Jersey Club Baths, it came to me: I was in a good position. I had made no plans that had to be unmade.

"I did not go back to my house. It was important to me to die to everybody who knew me. I had to leave no trace. "I gave myself a new name - the name you know me by. I'm no longer an English professor. What do I have? Fifty dollars in my pocket, a car, a savings account in a Wellesley bank with a few thousand dollars.

"I drove to Wellesley, took the money out of the account, and sold the car. Now I could start to start again.

"Where was I going to go? My personality
was like Gerald's in D. H. Lawrence's *Women In Love*: I had a need for the cold. Since people knew about my need for cold, the logical thing was to go South -- to circumvent their expectations. I could be traced north (from New Jersey) to Wellesley and my friends would think I was going on further north -- to Montreal, or Labrador.

"It's amazing what you can do. I got my money out of the Wellesley bank without a passbook. The only drama occurred in the disposal of the car. I was trying to sell a convertible in February and I was taken. When you're changing your whole life, you imagine that everyone is interested. So few are.

"From a suburb of Boston, I bought a bus ticket to New York City. I destroyed and discarded all my ID's. I bought a suitcase, necessities and a book - John Fowles' *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. I got the feeling: if the bus would turn over, there would be no ID. So I wrote my new name in the book, William E. Cutler.

"In NYC I changed for a bus to Durham, N.C. I had thought about New Orleans. While still in the baths in Camden, New Jersey, I noticed a list of all the Club Baths locations. Atlanta was on the list. OK. Why not? Atlanta -- its south.

"In the Durham bus station restroom in the early morning, I shaved my beard down to a goatee. On February 12, 1971, I arrived in Atlanta, checked into the YMCA, immediately went to the downtown library and got a card under the name of William E. Cutler showing my address at the Y. I took my cash to the Branch at Home Federal. They asked no questions and were happy to take my money. The account at Home Federal gave me another piece of ID.

"One problem: I didn't have a draft card, which you were then supposed to have until age 35. I was 34½, so I had to invent a new birthdate.

"But why did I have no Social Security Card? A question any prospective employer would ask. I invented a story of a wonderful, indulgent father who supported me all my adult life so that I could write the Great American Novel. My fantasy father, however, didn't help me get a job. No one wants to hire a 35 year old with no work record.

"My money was disappearing into the coffers of the Y, until one day I had a revelation. I remembered that the New York Times printed a list of bankruptcy notices. I could now announce to the world that for 20 years I had worked for an import/export firm run by my Daddy, which had just gone bankrupt. They wouldn't be able to check my references.

"Then I saw a want ad for a wine consultant at Green's. The ad said no experience necessary. I was interviewed by a kid who had just graduated from college as an English major. All he wanted to talk about was Mark Twain, so he was enchanted with me. He turned me over to the owner, Jerry Greenbaum, who noted the New York address of my Daddy's bankrupt import/export firm, which I had written on the application.

"'Isn't that close to the Empire State Building?' Mr. Greenbaum was disarmed and duly impressed when I told him it was closer to the Chrysler Building. There was still another step.

"If you work in a liquor store, you have to take a polygraph test. I went to see Mr. Robinson, and sat down cool as a cucumber until the questions came: Have you told us your real name? Have you told us the truth about your past employment? Have you ever lied to your supervisor? Have you ever taken drugs? Have you ever stolen from your employer?

"I thought I was a goner when Mr. Robinson said 'I think we need to go over this test again.' However he spent time on the drugs and stealing questions where I wasn't lying.

"I went through the motions of checking back with Green's to be asked, 'When are you going to report to work?' All they in fact paid attention to on the polygraph was whether I got drunk or stole from an employer.

"Before starting at Green's I went to the Social Security Office, told them I was 35 and had never worked. I got my Social Security card without a question. That would not happen today.

"Without a birth certificate you can't get a driver's license. So to get around, I bought a bicycle.

"I now had a job, apartment, and an income. I discovered that I loved being a bicyclist. It was wonderful therapy and good exercise. Every day I would bicycle 50-60 miles all over Atlanta before going to work on the 3-11 shift. The job involved some lifting, some physical labor. So I began building myself up physically.

"I got involved in writing for the Great Speckled Bird, another kind of writing I had never done as a college teacher. I wound up doing all the things I had really wanted to do all along."

However: "I discovered that what mattered to me the most was still my lover."
Four months after disappearing, I called him up to see if he felt the same. He did and came South, and the time we spent together here were the best years of my life."

PERIOD FOR QUESTIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND RESPONSES.

Question: Did you not feel guilty having left your mother, your sister, your lover up in the air?
Answer: Only later did I learn about what my mother had gone through. Waiting long nights for a phone to ring for four months. She had paid a private eye to go look for me in the gay baths of Montreal and New York City. But I had to kill myself - metaphorically - in order to find myself.

Question: Did you ever get your driver's license?
Answer: When my lover came down with my belongings he brought my birth certificate. I had legally changed my name, and my documentations was now in order so that I could get my drivers license. But the bicycle for me continues to be an incredible metaphor for freedom. With it I am free to do almost everything I want under my own power.

Question: Why did you select William E. Cutler as your name?
Answer: I was teaching W. E. B. DuBois when I made the drastic change decision. William is his first name. The initial E. was for his second name which I erroneously thought was Evars. Actually it was Edward - my first name in my previous life. Cutler? - I don't know why I chose this. My mother says "cut and run." A cutler makes cutting implements. I had a hard time remembering Cutler once I chose it. When I went to sell my car in Wellesley, I forgot and called myself Curtis. I had to insist to myself that I was Cutler. I made my lover call my mother to tell her I was in Atlanta. She was gallant. She came down to visit us several times in Atlanta. She refused to call me Bill or William, but while here she introduced herself as Mrs. Cutler.

Observation: It seems that you refused to accept your life as a Frank Capra movie. You had a lover with you, professional success, the esteem and support of your students, who were so popular that they got you tenure -- the Frank Capra little people against the power structure. Response: I had been a real loudmouth rebel against the voice of authority. I was prone to flamboyant gestures, like leading antiwar demonstrations in my academic robes. When I went to Haverford, I felt I had failed my obligation to my students at Wellesley and what they had done for me. This helped me to go off the deep end.

Question: Why was your reaction to not getting tenure (at Wellesley) so severe?
Answer: There were things about myself I could not understand. I was so confident that I would get it. I had not been promoted at any previous job at Columbia College. But I thought here at Wellesley I was in the right niche - I had found the perfect job for me. I did the right things. I attended all the faculty teas. Students loved me. I published. However, I had recently written a broadside attacking tenure published in the school paper.

Obviouisly, now, I resented a lot about academic life. My father had been a distinguished editor and publisher, but an absent papa. My mother was also a distinguished editor and publisher; but she had a nervous breakdown, and was psychologically somewhere else. While growing up I had no nurturing parent. Thus, I was in doubt about my own achievements. I felt I never could be good enough. The crazy period at Haverford was triggered by what went on at Wellesley the year before.

I did resent being an academic. I felt I had picked the easy way by choosing academe. If I wanted to make my mother happy I would be out being a writer, an editor in the REAL world.

I took sleeping pills the first and second time I tried to commit suicide. It was unimaginative what I took. They couldn't possibly have killed me.

In the middle of where my life was falling apart, I had the fantasy that I was going to jump off the Brooklyn Bridge. One day I set out to do it. I couldn't find it. I could see it from my car, but I couldn't find the street to get on to it to jump off. Why Brooklyn? I felt a new person in Brooklyn was going to be the answer to my prayers, but he wasn't.

My father worked himself up from Nashville to Harvard - by himself. He insisted I had to go to Harvard, where he had gone and been so distinguished - in his shadow. I couldn't stand being who I was the son of and the name I bore. The very name I came to take, however W. E. - Edward - was the name I was running away from.

My father had been dead 12½ years when all this occurred. He died when I was at the graduate school I had chosen in California, 3,000 miles away from him - my first strike for independence.
Observation: It seems you spent your life running away to be yourself. You ran away from your parents into academia. Then you ran away from the academic persona you had created to become your parents. They were writers and editors. You became writer/editor for Brown's Guide to Georgia, Knife and Fork, etc.

Response: It is fascinating to try to find out how much of what you become is ripped from the fabric of life or part of the seamless web.

Question: What is the status of the efforts to publish your autobiography, Into Thin Air?

Response: The manuscript continues to make the rounds. At one company it had been strongly approved for publication by all members of the editorial board; but the approval was rescinded by the owner. Many of the meditations, much of the development, take place in bath houses. At present, the book is a political casualty of the AIDS crisis.

IN MEMORIAM

We fondly remember Judy, who contributed so much to the dissemination of this Newsletter. We share the sorrow of Suzanne and of Judy's other loved ones.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Red stickers have been placed on the mailing labels or envelopes of those readers whose subscriptions have expired. Mailings will not continue after the second red sticker. We thank those who have sent in their subscriptions since the beginning of February and we look forward to hearing from more subscribers in March.

Complimentary status is available to those in financial difficulty.

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PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC CALENDAR
SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1986, 8:00 P.M. BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER POTLUCK DINNER. HELD AT QUAKER HOUSE. MEMBERS OF ALL GAY/LESBIAN RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN ATLANTA ARE PARTICULARLY INVITED.

The Quaker Meeting House is located at 1384 Fairview Road, on the corner of Fairview and Oakdale Roads. (Please do NOT park in the driveway). If you have any questions please feel free to call Alonza Wade, Co-Chair, 874-6203 (Eve) or Ken Marshall, Co-Chair, 794-0264 (Eve).

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1986, 8:00 P.M.: UULGC PROGRAM. GAY SAINTS. Presented by J. Michael Clark. Michael Clark was ordained a United Methodist Minister, and is currently associated with Haverin, the Jewish group in Atlanta for gays, lesbians, and their friends. During the Circle the Church gathering of February 9, Michael countered the bad theology of Charles Stanley (President of the Southern Baptist Convention) with good theology.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1986, 8:00 P.M. UULGC PROGRAM. Gay themes in the current New York and Atlanta Theatre Season. Presented by Don Jordan.

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1986, 8:00 P.M.: UULGC PROGRAM. An Account of THE SECOND ANNUAL UULGC CONTINENTAL CONVENTION, SAN DIEGO, CALIF. UUCA Affiliate Minister, Rev. Joseph Chancey, will report on this meeting which he attended in February. Joe will also share his experiences in the Bay Area conferring with the Affiliate Minister for AIDS outreach at the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco and with the Pacific Center at Berkeley. As a prelude to that presentation, Joe has written the following essay.

AN AIDS MINISTRY
by Joe Chancey

What is an AIDS ministry? In one form or another, that is the question that is probably asked of me most often in regard to my position as Affiliate Minister for AIDS Action at the U.U. Congregation of Atlanta. Most people make the assumption that I spend a lot of time in the hospital with people that are dying from AIDS and that I have done a lot of memorial services for people who have died with AIDS. While I have done those things they have not taken the bulk of my time though that may easily change in the not too distant future.

At the request and recommendation of our Senior Minister, Terry Sweetser, the church Board made me Affiliate Minister in December of 1985. My interest in AIDS long preceded that. Affiliate Ministers are not paid and I earn my living at another job. I meet regularly with Terry and am always open to suggestions from him and others, but basically I define my own ministry. It's more a matter of practicality than anything else.

Like many of the people who will read this my interest in the AIDS crisis goes back to when it first started to hit the press -- the summer of 1981. It was about August when I got a call from a church member who works at the Centers for Disease Control. What was to become the CDC AIDS Task Force needed a cross section of gay men for a study. She thought I might be able to help them figure out a way to get a representative sampling. I was flattered to be asked and eager to help. I met with Dr. Jaffe and some other task force members. I didn't do them much good. Every suggestion that I (or
anyone) came up with had flaws in it. It was an impossible task since it involved a largely anonymous population. But I made good use of the contacts.

I was chairing our local (and now defunct) Religious Council for the Advancement of Gays and Lesbians, an umbrella organization for about nine local and regional organizations. We had a program on what was then called GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency) and later called AIDS. We were able to get Jim Curran, head of the CDC Task Force, to speak. The program was good, but very frightening. We had gotten articles into the local gay press and distributed fliers in the bars and even at the baths. Attendance was poor. But who wants to hear about an epidemic?

A few months later a few people got together and started AID Atlanta. I attended a meeting or two and wished I had time to be involved. I was Co-Coordinator for UULGC and serving on the Board of the Atlanta Gay Center and that was more than enough! But I continued, mostly through the media, to follow the disease and efforts to combat it. My term of office with UULGC expired and then, suffering from a prolonged case of burnout, I resigned from the Board of the AGC, effective in January of 1985.

That spring AID Atlanta started its "P.S.* I Love You (*Play Safe)" campaign. My best friend was helping to spearhead it and I decided to get involved. We use a party format to teach gay men about low risk sexual behavior. In many respects it is similar to the UUA "About Your Sexuality" program. I see gay men come to each party afraid and even angry and in short time they are laughing, participating in the program, and learning that they can continue to be sexual — and enjoy it AND take the worry out of being close. It has been an empowering experience for many, ranging from the celibate and depressed to the sexually compulsive.

It isn’t just the information that is passed on. That can be obtained from a number of sources. It is the process of getting together with other gay men who have the same concerns and realizing that you really can do something to protect yourself, to protect others, to stop the epidemic. A number of men have come back to the parties a second or third time—not for more information, but for the process of the experience itself.

I work as a psychiatric counselor at Georgia Baptist Hospital where I am out to my coworkers. I have done inservice programs on AIDS for the staff of both our psychiatric units and I recently sent a letter to the hospital administrator on ways to improve services for AIDS patients and their families. He sent me a nice response and sent a copy of my letter to the hospital’s social services department.

I am a member of Black and White Men Together/Atlanta and serve on the joint BWMT/AID Atlanta committee for minority outreach. Here at UUCA I work with church members who want to get involved in AIDS work and try to help them find the work at AID Atlanta that they will find most rewarding.

At this point I have conducted one memorial service for a U.U. man who died of AIDS. (His daughter recently told me in a letter that her aunt now has AIDS, the result of a blood transfusion.) And I keep in touch with a couple of other people with AIDS or ARC.

Ministers are usually generalists and my work with AIDS is no exception. Sometimes I wonder if I should be doing something else, something more, but usually I know that I’m doing what I can. And that includes taking care of myself.

AIDS is a challenging disease. You may have noticed that I have used the terms "persons with AIDS" (PWAs) and "persons with AIDS Related Complex" (PWARC), but not the term "AIDS victim". Most PWAs do not like the term "victim". I don’t either. Would you like to be called an AIDS victim? a cancer victim? It is very disempowering. But in a larger sense, we probably need to keep using the term. Even for those of us who never get the disease, even for those who never are exposed, who never become carriers. We are all touched by it; we are all affected by it; we are all threatened by it. And in that sense we are all AIDS victims.

The biggest challenge of AIDS is to refuse to be a victim. Until recently I thought of it as a terminal disease. But I am beginning to read about and hear about people who have apparently recovered, who have healed themselves of AIDS. If people can
walk barefoot over hot coals why can’t some­one be healed of AIDS? And if one, why not many? I am hungry for more information. In the meantime I will continue to do what I can and hope that here or elsewhere you may find ideas on how you can help.

ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1986: GEORGIA ASSOCIA­TION OF PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PRO­GRAM: AIDS AND PROSTITUTION.

Speakers: Dolores French, founder and president of HIRE - Hooking Is Real Employment. Louis Darrow, Soci­ologist with the Center for Disease Control, now studying AIDS and prostitutes, both male and female.

Louis Darrow: I have been with CDC as a sociologist for 25 years. I began in 1961 in New York. Then the concern with sexually transmitted diseases focused on New York gays and adolescents. At that time there was no concern with STDS and prostitution.

Such concern arose in 1976 when a new strain of gonorrhea appeared in the U.S., primarily in the Englewood section of Los Angeles, traced as having coming in from Southeast Asia via servicemen based in Korea and Vietnam who had stopped in the Philip­pines. Then I was assigned to interview prostitutes there to see why the gonorrhea was appearing only in certain sections of Los Angeles and not in others.

After one week of interviewing, it became clear that the women in the Englewood area were much different from prostitutes in other areas. Their customers were mostly black men who were IV drug users. In this area we immediately started nonpenicillin treatment of prostitutes arrested in order to eliminate PPNG. But, without follow-up of those treated, PPNG, has spread to other areas of California.

In April 1985 the Centers for Disease Control started to investigate prostitutes throughout the USA who had AIDS or who were screened for HTLV III antibodies. In Miami AIDS screening clinics, 40% of prosti­tutes tested positive. In Seattle’s King’s County 5%-6% of 96 women arrested tested positive.

CDC decided to focus on New York, on the Southeast, particularly Miami, on San Francisco, and on Los Angeles. The Georgia Dept. of Human Resources was one of the in­stitutes and agencies that CDC was able to fund to participate in this study. Georgia, DHR decided to include Escort Services in the prostitute studies.

The study has not been concluded, but thus far we are discovering that most women in prostitution are infected from IV drugs and not from sexual partners.

One of the purposes of the study is to discover the range of infection in various geographical areas. I’ve mentioned the rates in Miami and Seattle. On the high end of the scale, 88% of the prostitutes studied in Luanda (Africa) were found to be infected with HTLV III virus. On the other extreme, no women in Colorado Springs, most of whom were IV drug users, were infected.

In Africa there is no history of IV drug abuse but scarification is common. Also sterilization at clinics is rudimentary. A prostit­ute who goes to a clinic in Africa for STD treatment is likely to be inoculated by a nonsterile needle. Thus, she gets hepatitis, etc.

Question: Has the use of condoms since the initiation of safe-sex educational cam­paigns reduced the incidence of STD’s, in­cluding AIDS in gay males?

Answer: There is no hard data on the effectiveness of condoms in gay studies, since gay men have not used condoms regularly for a sufficiently long period. It is in the prosti­tute studies, where there has been a history of condom use, that we will get the hard us­able data on the effectiveness of condoms in the prevention of infection.

Dolores French: "Very few call prosti­tutes have any STD problems from clients. Most clients (of Atlanta call girls) are subur­ban men who see one or a few women over a long period of time - months - years. The biggest health problem of (call) prostitutes is diseases that male clients transmit from their wives: vaginitis, uterine infections, etc. Since my first sexual experience and after 8 years as a prostitute, I have had no STD.

The biggest health problem a prostitute faces is catching air borne diseases - colds, etc. We have occupational problems, like
sculptured nails. Prostitutes are careful not to get semen on fingers, careful to avoid anal penetration. Most prostitutes are actually paranoid about germs, and compulsive about cleanliness.

"Alcoholism and drug use - speed, sleeping pills are much more characteristic of the women on the street than of the call prostitute. But the general prostitute suicide and homicide rate is as high as 5% a year. Three weeks ago a woman was killed at the Guest Quarters.

"Anxiety is very high among call girls. Business is down 50% - 75% because of fear of AIDS. In Miami one Judge Baxter is running a TV public service (?) announcement that states: 'Going to a prostitute is playing Russian roulette. You have a 25% chance of catching AIDS'. Atlanta judges are saying the same thing to Johns arrested by decoys.

"We have seen proposals to enforce HTLV III testing of all convicted prostitutes and to tattoo those who test positive. Yet not a single case of AIDS transmitted from female to male has been traced back to a prostitute. The purpose behind this hysteria is to persecute rather than to rationally deal with the problem.

"On the Mayor’s Task Force on Prostitution I found that most people do not oppose prostitution. People just don’t want it in their neighborhoods, generally. With one exception: we discovered one realtor who wanted a red light district where he owned property so he could raise rents. A redlight district upgrades a rental neighborhood. The Task Force has found only a few ministers and fundamentalists who have come forward to oppose prostitution.

Some enter prostitution because of health problems. One woman is working to raise money for heart surgery. Another is raising money to take care of a child with multiple sclerosis. A third is legally blind and can’t get a decent job; this way she can work in her home. At the bottom of the scale, the woman on the streets is there out of desperation. She did not make a career choice."

Question: Is battering a problem in prostitution?
Answer: Battering is a personal relationship problem - not a professional problem.

Question: How healthy are your customers? How can you get your customers to use condoms?
Answer: I’ve only seen one case of genital herpes in a customer. Lately customers want to use condoms.

Question: What is your opinion on licensing prostitutes?
Answer: I would agree to licensing only after decriminalization.

Question: Do prostitutes share safe sex techniques with each other?
Answer: Yes, but to do so is illegal. It has been legally interpreted as teaching someone to commit an act of prostitution.

Question: Do you have a quarrel with any members of the medical profession?
Answer: I have yet to be treated for chlamydia. Doctors don’t think it’s necessary. I do.

Response: Testing for chalmydia currently produces too many false results. Physicians would rather treat it prophylactically than test for it.

Question: What does a call prostitute make in Atlanta?
Answer: Prostitutes’ prices and expenses are higher here than anywhere else because prostitutes are prosecuted more vigorously than elsewhere. Women in Atlanta charge $200 – $500 per hour because of expenses.

A final word on the CDC study and confidentiality: No names have been or will be collected of any participant.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1986, 8:00 P.M. UULGC PROGRAM: THE ECONOMICS OF EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION presented by Dr. Russ Shannon.

Much was offered on the economic results of discrimination. Statistics show that women in the workplace currently make 60-65% the pay of men. Unemployment for black teenagers is 39.1%, more than twice that of teenagers in general (17%). By the late 1800’s blacks in the South were making economic progress, a progress that was reversed by the passing of Jim Crow laws, vagrancy laws, enticement and contract enforcement laws and emigrant agent laws. The result was that blacks were discouraged from leaving the land and tied to poverty level sharecropping. This was an example of State and
local government's working in a negative way. The Civil Rights Law of 1964 prohibited discrimination not only by private employers but by governments.

Moral wrong codified into law produced an adverse economic condition for millions of American citizens. It took more law to undo both the moral wrong and the adverse economics. The laissez-faire economic system of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was incapable of accomplishing this.

Economics alone does not hold the key to ending discrimination since economics alone did not cause it. Yet many have despair of further activism in the law-making and in the judicial arenas. Instead, members of minority groups have been turning to networking, to seek out and get each other better jobs or other favorable economic situations. This has been going on all over the country with women's groups and with gay and lesbian groups.

Discrimination has affected the economic condition of gays and lesbians by encouraging many who wish to live an open lifestyle to remain in low-paying positions where their openness is not an issue in job retention. Gays and lesbians in high visibility public prestige positions have felt direct or indirect pressure to remain in the closet to protect their job retention.

One group member, a rising young professional, described his experience recently when his participation in the Circle-the-Church demonstration was broadcast on television (see the February newsletter for a full account of this gathering).

His immediate supervisor received several complaints from other managers on and above his level. His manager, a black male who perhaps is predisposed to sympathize because of his own heritage of discrimination, has thus far supported him, and has acted to prevent these complaints from going further. But our group colleague is due a promotion soon. Whether that promotion becomes effective is still open to question.

Networking and other independent non-government economic activities alone will not secure this colleague his employment rights. The inclusion of sexual orientation among the categories of prohibited discrimination at the highest level of the law is essential.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1986: 8:00 P.M.: UULGC PROGRAM: AN EVENING WITH DR. JANE GAVIN.

Dr. Gavin: I am a psychotherapist coming to psychotherapy through social work and a PhD from Catholic University. Of Irish and German background, I had always felt weird, that something was wrong with me. In 1975 I read Father McNeil's The Church and Homosexuality, a provocative book. Hiding out in the closet, I began moving toward that place where I had to get a grip. I started testing the water, talking to friends about the book, realizing more and more that we needed to get out of the back of the bus.

Through discussions with a friend at the monastery in Conyers, I was led to Dignity, and at Dignity I found my first forum for speaking out my thoughts on what had to be done in Atlanta to help us get out of the back of the bus. What had to be built: an organization to be called Tempo. Tempo: in tune with the times...or in tune with what people were ready for.

Tempo was incorporated in 1978. It was to be a teaching center and a treatment center. The goals were, in part, to systematically collect and disseminate information, to explode myths, to offer education to the helping professions to enhance their understanding of their gay and lesbian clients, to integrate homosexual men and women along with minorities into the societal mainstream.

We opened an office on 10th and Peachtree and started a Crisis Line. Our contact with the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia got us a student intern. We went to work on building the spirit, with people on the staff both straight and gay.

But intimate infighting developed, a separation that we could not overcome. After the infighting I felt spent, disenchanted. I had spent my spirit...and some of my money. So relevant to me was that cartoon of a cat having kittens. A child observing the birthing exclaims: "Mommy, the cat just fell apart!" That's the way I felt. But what lovely kittens!

What was left was a spirit, a thought, a dream. A Crisis Line, which contributed to the Crisis Line of the Atlanta Gay Center. The thrust of Tempo was absorbed into the thrust of the Atlanta Gay Center (which actually had been formed earlier). There has been a ripple effect until today.
As I reenter community activism, I now feel positive. The social scene is now much more than the bar scene. Separatism within the community is dissipating tremendously. In the early days of Tempo, the men would hug the men, the women would hug the women. Now we all hug each other. As I work on the Board of AID Atlanta, I find reasons to be positive.

At the 2-day AIDS 101 workshops, I look into the faces of the volunteers and I know that people want to be together. These workshops turn out to be not just training sessions for volunteers, but community education. Many here would be amazed at the number of straight people involved with AID Atlanta. For example the full-time social worker is straight. But ultimately - and this is one of my causes - what difference does it make?

I am positive because I see energy going into accomplishment, and not into one-upmanship. And the energy and money do not drain to the cause of persons with AIDS from other causes in the gay community. In this time of tragedy and possibility I would like to say this to you: Listen to what is outside of you. Listen to what is inside. And act on what you find is true.


Nancy Paris: I am on the State AIDS Task Force. My work with AID Atlanta is to coordinate between their clients with AIDS and Hospice Atlanta.

Hospice Atlanta is 10 years old. It was strictly volunteer until 3 years ago. We have agreements with several hospitals. If a hospice patient is admitted, the hospital will not go through all the diagnostic procedures; it will not do "heroic" work to prolong the patient's existence. The hospital will provide palliative services.

Patients joining Hospice Atlanta sign an agreement stating they do not expect curative treatment, that they understand they are getting palliative services. Ordinarily a patient dying at home must go through a postmortem examination, a process that can be trying for those left behind, who feel like criminals. A law was passed last year in Georgia (with our input) that eliminates the mandatory postmortem for a person dying at home if he or she was enrolled in a hospice program.

Family members and patients go through their own processes facing death and dying. It is not so simple as Elizabeth Kubler Ross set it out. Anger can surface at any time. We've had threats of lawsuits twice—but, really, such threats tend to be the result of feelings of helplessness.

We have a rule that those family members not actively involved in the care of the patient do not have a vote in the treatment decisions.

Most Hospice Atlanta patients have cancer. They have been through radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and it becomes obvious there will be no cure. Doctor and patient together decide that curative treatment methods are no longer viable.

In general the average patient in hospice lives two months. We work to assuage the pain. We are not interested in cause or diagnosis, but in keeping the patient comfortable. Medication is chosen which does not overly interfere with the patient's ability to interact with the environment, but also makes the patient as comfortable as possible.

All patients know they are terminal. Most are not surprised when Hospice is called in. Sometimes we encourage the patient to go to the hospital at the time of death for appropriate treatment for crisis conditions such as hemorrhaging.

We cannot care for the patient without looking at the family system. The patients and family members best able to talk with our social workers are those best equipped to deal with the process of dying.

We often die the way we live. A whining mother who conducted her life so as to make her daughter feel guilty managed to die the one moment the attentive daughter left her bedside to quickly get some essentials at the store. She had the phone in her hand as if calling for help, a position further designed to devastate her daughter.

The social worker works with the patient and family before death and works with the family after death. Trained volunteers work like extra members of the family when needed. Health aides bathe the patient, etc. Several other people are involved, all
coordinated by the nurse with the patient's physician. There can be role blurring among nurse, social worker, aide, and trained volunteer — except for mandatory adherence to the standards of nursing practice.

Therapy can be provided: physical, speech, art, music. Some of the best results come from this. Imaging, general escape, can provide necessary alleviation. One music therapist works with patients to produce songs of their lives. The patient produces the lyrics, the therapist sets lyrics to music.

The Visiting Nurse Association also provides services.

How did Hospice Atlanta get involved in the care of AIDS patients? Two years ago I was called by Ken South, Executive Director of AID Atlanta. My roommate at that time was involved in psychiatry and neurology, and she had been greatly affected by friends who were dying of AIDS.

At that time we assumed all AIDS patients were going to die. Then I was not at all fearful of taking AIDS patients into Hospice Atlanta. As Administrative Director, I did not feel that the issue even needed to be brought before the Board. However, the Board turned out to be shocked. Hospice Atlanta did six months of soul searching. Our staff needed a lot of time to be prepared to be able to do this kind of thing.

In Hospice we have been used to people over 50. With AIDS, the patients are primarily in their 20’s and 30’s — there are different kinds of pressures.

For AIDS patients there is a lot of up-and-down, a lot of seeming rebounds. A patient may look very good — you might think he’s on the road to cure — But that may be the moment before the final crumple.

The more patients we care for the more we feel more alike than different. The more we feel the need to minister to and strengthen family and extended family. Through the image system, AID Atlanta trains volunteers.

A personal experience is the key to what has held my commitment. When I was nine, I started asking questions about my grandfather. I later learned he had died of tuberculosis. When he was diagnosed he was sent away, segregated from his family, for fear of contagion. In his isolation and sorrow he drank bad bootleg whiskey, which caused him to develop Jade’s leg syndrome and hastened his death. Think of the life-long burden placed on my father and his brothers by not being able to see their father during the long eight months of his dying in the sanitarium. This experience is so similar to what persons with AIDS go through.

Hospice Atlanta has had 25 AIDS patients, not a lot, considering that AID Atlanta has 135 clients. Only 4 or 5 have died as yet. One left us to pursue an experimental therapy treatment.

There is a Hospice support group held at St. Joseph’s Hospital for family members. Primarily mothers and sisters of PWAs have availed themselves of this service.

Hospice cannot change the family’s relationship. We have to accept our limitation on this score. The issue about having AIDS or being gay has usually been dealt with by the family by the time we are called in.

Generally the family at this point may be trying to be secretive with the neighbors. Families have the most difficulty accepting the PWA, when they have small children in their households. Then we have to play a role in dispelling their fear of contagion.

Hospice Atlanta volunteers have the option not to work with AIDS patients. But, except for pregnant women, paid staff members do not. We have support group meetings for staff to help prevent burn out. There has been virtually no staff turnover — this is a really neat group.

We provide education to families by the natural way we treat the patient with AIDS, by touching, holding, hugging.
Please clip out coupon below and mail with reimbursement to the address indicated. Thank you.

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PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC CALENDAR

THURSDAY, June 11, 1987, 8:00 p.m. UULGC Program at UUCA, Room 112. An Evening With Diane Stephenson, Coordinator of the Georgia AIDS Action Coalition. Diane will discuss the failures, the successes, the achievements of this lobbying group during the last session of the Georgia State Legislature. Diane will also discuss GAAC's plans for the future: the dangers and challenges ahead, the snowballing hysterical political attacks on civil liberties that must be faced. Diane Stephenson, by the way, is a founding member of UULGC at UUCA and it is a wonderful experience having her back with us.

THURSDAY, June 25, 1987, 7:30 p.m. UULGC Social. Specifics to be determined.

NOTE: In July and August the church is closed on Thursday evenings. For these two months UULGC meetings are switched to Wednesday. Also during the summer months we like to alternate "formal" programs with socials for regularly scheduled meetings.

JOURNAL OF ACTIVITIES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

THURSDAY, April 16, 1987; 8:00 p.m. CONCERT AT UUCA SPONSORED BY UULGC: ROMANOVOVSKY AND PHILLIPS AND SUEDE; presented by the Atlanta March Committee for the benefit of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

400 gathered for a moving, community-building experience, already effectively chronicled in The News April edition. Gifted as the named performers were, The News concluded: "The evening's most memorable performance, however, came not from Suede or Romanovsky and Phillips, but from Gail McKay, the brilliant sign language interpreter who worked tirelessly throughout both sets. Her expressive, clever, and responsive interpretation proved to a mostly hearing audience that the language of the body is the language of the soul, and earned her several rounds of obviously appreciative applause."

A brilliantly bawdy high point (low point?) was Gail's graphic signing of the Romanovsky and Phillips/audience singalong of "Don't Use Your Penis for a Brain."

In the wake of the concert's success, the Atlanta March Committee sent letters of appreciation to UULGC and to Anne Atherton, secretary of UUCA. We print the latter letter below:

16 May 1987

Dear Anne:

The members of the Atlanta March Committee and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the efforts of you and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation during our fund-raising concert on April 16th. The evening was a very special success for us as every thing went smoothly throughout the planning and execution stages. You must all be proud of the wonderful fellowship that exists within your congregation and your sense of responsibility to your community. This fact is very definitely not without notice among members of the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay com-
community. Please extend my very special thanks to Mark Greshem for his wonderful technical assistance and friendship during my many visits there. The contribution of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation will be one of great importance to the local efforts of the March on Washington. Thank you again for the opportunity to work together.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cathy Woord

Cathy Woodard
Atlanta March Committee
P. 0. Box 50468
Atlanta, GA 30302

Initially The Atlanta March Committee was seeking a place to rent for the concert. It was Anne who informed them that if they could arrange to be sponsored by UULGC, which is considered an integral component of UUCA, then there would be no rental required.

As the result of referrals by sensitive UUCA members in official positions, such as Anne Atherton and Laine Shell, Director of Social Concerns, UULGC now sponsors several groups which meet on church premises: Dignity Atlanta, Friends Atlanta, Relationships Anonymous, and the Atlanta Chapter of Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International.

UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, AN EVENING WITH PSYCHOTHERAPIST ALAN M. YORKER.

Alan’s talk is here excerpted briefly: "I’m here tonight as a crusader, spreading the word. My specialties in psychotherapy include the family and human sexuality. Georgia has a glut of shrinks but a paucity of sex therapists. There is no training in Georgia for sex therapists and there are no researchers in the area in Georgia. I had to go to San Francisco for training.

"Until 1965 no American Medical schools provided sex education. The University of Pennsylvania Medical School was the first to make sex education a requirement for an M.D. In this decade the pendulum has swung back as far as sex education is concerned. Fewer medical schools are offering it. The State of the Art of human sexuality research was found on the East Coast at Johns Hopkins University, where John Money is the leading researcher, and on the West Coast at Stanford.

"The study of sexuality involves several disciplines: mental health, the study of children, the science of hormones, endocrine research, study of genetic ‘mistakes’, and the science of CAT scans.

"With CAT scans we can look at how the brain is developing. We can see the hippocampus, that nugget in the brain that has the wiring for sexuality. We now know when the hippocampus is doing most of its growth: from ages 4-6, the brains of children are most rapidly developing their sexual wiring. They are picking out specific other people of the same and/or opposite gender to whom they are attracted. The emotional precursors are being set down for the individuals adult sexual orientation. There is an affectional rehearsal involving rehearsal/behavior. This experience is normal. This experience is important.

"Many people don’t have an appropriate bonding during this period. Thus they end up bonded to minors, animals, dead bodies, objects. I don’t regard same sex bonding as inappropriate. In sex therapy we help the individual become comfortable with his or her appropriate bonding, or to shift from inappropriate bonding."

Alan described his experience the previous summer doing post graduate work at the Kinsey Institute. The Kinsey Institute is one of only three such sex research repositories/think tanks in the world. Alan closed by describing specific examples and his treatment of them in his practice, and by discussing the dynamics of coupling: hunters and nesters, staying together, coexisting or not.

The relevance of Alan’s presentation was attested to by the length of time he was engaged by individual attendees afterward during the social period.

APOLOGY/RETRACTION TO MARTHA GAINES

Martha Gaines expressed her displeasure with the April newsletter’s account of the March ACLU Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter Program: Lesbian/Gay Civil Liberties and the Democratic Convention. Ms. Gaines stated she felt that the meeting was totally confidential and that she did not ex-
pect to find herself quoted. She was especially upset because the article quoted other participants as making very negative comments about political figures in the Georgia legislature whom she regards as friends or as persons who have been responsive to her political concerns. She has already sent her apologies to these persons.

It must be emphasized that the Newsletter article does not quote Ms. Gaines as saying anything negative concerning any Georgia political figure. On the contrary, Ms. Gaines’ positive political approach was emphasized.

Nevertheless, we apologize to Martha for any embarrassment she felt because of the article. Martha’s actions for and commitment to the civil rights of Georgians in particular, and Americans in general merit our continuing esteem.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Red stickers have been placed on the mailing labels or envelopes of those readers whose subscriptions have expired. Mailings will not continue after the second red sticker. We thank those who have sent in their subscriptions since the beginning of April through May and we look forward to hearing from more subscribers in June and July.

Please clip out coupon below and mail with reimbursement to the address indicated. Thank you.

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Don —

Despite the 2 UCA Church Newsletter, all WHYC June meetings are on Thursday.
PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1987, 7:30 P.M. UULGC Social and program at the home of Ed and Peter. Bring a beverage and a snack to share. The program will be the screening at 8:00 p.m. of an Afternoon Special videotape on a gay theme directed toward young people. If you need directions call Peter or Ed at 885-1597.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1987, 8:00 P.M., UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, Room 112. Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project, Inc. SAME has brought many theatrical experiences to Atlanta, one of the most gripping being Warren, by Rebecca Ransom; released in April Amethyst a new Literary Journal for Lesbians and Gay Men, hosted in June the Atlanta appearance of Armisted Maupin, reading and autographing his new book, Significant Others. Join Jeffrey Laymon and/or another representative for discussion of SAME’s inception, growth, achievements and future plans.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1987, 8:00 P.M. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, Room 112. Subject to be announced. Planning for the coming year may constitute a part.

WARNING: Keep this newsletter as a reminder through early September. There will not be another issue before then.

JOURNAL OF ACTIVITIES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987, 8:00 PM: UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA: REVEREND JOSEPH CHANCEY ON THE ANNUAL CONTINENTAL CONVENTION OF UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALISTS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS held in February 1987 in Toronto. The sense of mission, of forward thrust, and of increased morale in this Unitarian-Universalist Association continental affiliate organization communicated in Joe’s presentation is clearly evident in the recently received May issue of the UULGC World, which also covers the Toronto festivities in depth.

In 1981, when John Michael Cooper became editor of our local UULGC/UUCA Newsletter, it became obvious that we had a class publication. Similarly, the Toronto experience appears to have provided a breakthrough for the continental UULGC and its publication. The organization deserves your membership and the UULGC World deserves your readership. Both have become class acts.

Randall B. Klett of the Fund Raising Committee provided this update on June 8, 1987:

"The first returns from our membership and fund drive are arriving. With the early returns and our carryover from the current year, we are already at about 25% of our goal of $22,500. To those of you who have already replied, I offer my sincere appreciation; your membership cards will be in the mail fairly soon. Having a full-time director in the Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns for the last month has been helpful. Jay Deacon has been working on a number of projects; The AIDS
Action Working Group and Task Force from the Board have reached a mutually acceptable plan for both immediate and long range UUA response to AIDS (details will be provided after the Board of Trustees meet at General Assembly); The October 11 March on Washington (expect to hear more at GA and in the July UULGC World); The Spring issue of the UULGC World is in the mail; Jay has made trips to the Ohio-Meadville UULGC Conference and to the Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. "Jay will be making further trips around the country this fall. If you would like to have him visit your local church or UULGC Chapter let him know. He will not be able to accept every invitation; but he will try to accept as many as possible. Chas Grindle, Co-coordinator of the UULGC is visiting the West Coast in July. Again, if you'd like to see Chas in your area let him know (Box 7661, Portland, ME 04112 or (207) 775-2220).

"We are enclosing a membership form for your convenience. If you know someone who is interested in the UULGC who is not on our mailing list, please write their name(s) and address(es) on your membership form."

Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns Membership form.

Membership includes subscription to UULGC World.

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THURSDAY JUNE 11, 1987,
UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA.
The Georgia AIDS Action Coalition (GAAC) Presentation by Attorney Gil Robison.

GAAC in 1986 grew out of the need for political, including lobbying action, to benefit persons with AIDS and persons with ARC, which AID Atlanta, as a tax exempt social service agency, could not become involved in. GAAC now consists of three committees: (1) legislative logging, (2) monitoring of state agencies, such as the Departments of Education and of Human Resources, (3) direct action and media watch.

In the 1987 General Assembly horrible AIDS bills were introduced by Representatives Betty Clark, Eleanor Richardson and Billy McKinney with an amendment by state senator Culver Kidd. Such bills seek a quick fix, a simple answer to a complex question. Such bills were referred to the Health and Ecology Subcommittee, one member of which was Nan Orrock, representative from Grant Park, and a UUCA member - a good worker. Committee members felt that they were being asked to make decisions that they didn't have the information to make. Thus, GAAC proposed a five-year plan to be developed by the State Department of Human Resources - to take the planning away from political nonexperts on the subject of AIDS (House Bill 166).

Billy McKinney's mandatory testing bill failed in the 1986 Assembly, so he tacked it on to Richardson's more innocuous bill of 1987 which permitted sharing of AIDS information among health care providers of the same patient. Senator Culver Kidd added to this conglomeration the mandate that anyone who has a blood test in a hospital be tested for the HIV antibody. This conglomeration failed to pass the 1987 GA only because it was not appropriately introduced until 7:45 p.m. on the date of the final session, and the Senate was scheduled to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. - a technicality.

When the legislature reconvenes in 1988, other, worse mandatory HIV testing legislation will be introduced. McKinney and Kidd courted publicity in a press conference where they lied that their legislation is similar to that proposed by Reagan's Surgeon General Koop. Strangely the insurance industry opposes all this proposed mandatory testing; they will have to pay the tab.

Some of this proposed legislation attempted to answer the unanswered ques-
tions in Georgia case law on the physician-patient relationship. Eleanor Richardson's H.B. 107, already referred to, for example, attempted to clarify Georgia's Informed Consent Law. In Georgia, you must be informed of and made to understand your medical treatment before you can be treated. But is testing (i.e., for the HIV antibody) treatment? Under Georgia case law, this is unclear.

The physicians and other medical care givers who oppose mandatory testing have thus far spoken out softly. The longest-time most outspoken physician proponent of mandatory testing, pediatrician Dr. Andre Nahmias, under the guise of "protecting our children" has allowed the spread of false information about 20 alleged pediatric cases of AIDS in Georgia. Actually, to date there have been only nine total, cumulative pediatric cases of AIDS in Georgia.

A lot of unverified anecdotes have been dwelt on as truth by legislators as "justification" for their draconian proposed legislation. Legislators love to dwell on anecdotes of people who are consciously passing the virus along by unsafe sexual practice. The media are also focusing on these anecdotes as "fact." A reporter in Fulton County "heard" of a woman who is seropositive, a resident of Douglas County who has "infected" ten men. This unverified story will appear in a legal newspaper.

The study of prostitutes (female) completed by the CDC shows very little seropositivity among those who are not drug addicts. Yet targeting this group is an easy political ploy.

There is projected a study of male hustlers in Atlanta. I've discovered some ignorance among male hustlers who have been my legal clients. They say they are practicing safe sex. What they describe to me is not safe. One says that since all his customers are married men, they must all be safe. Another says, "I can recognize signs of AIDS in prospective customers - sunken eyes, flushed face, swollen forehead - and I refuse their business." Customers of hustlers and prostitutes require educating. Testing after the fact will not halt the spread of the HIV virus.

With the general atmosphere of hysteria across the country on the AIDS issue, GAAC cannot be successful if we are very aggressive. Now we would do well to concentrate on confidentiality, on strengthening the State Handicapped Nondiscrimination Law.

In the 1988 Georgia General Assembly, we may have to trade off something bad for something good. The something bad will be a testing bill - there's no question - it's going to be bad. The something good will be protection of the rights of Persons with AIDS and Persons with ARC; we will work as hard as we can to get what we can.

It's going to be hard. The Georgia General Assembly is like a zoo. It's not an effective form of government. There is not an institutional process for reaching reasoned, thought-out decisions. Yet, there are quite a few beacons of reason in surprising places.

What will be done with HIV test results? Five states already have mandatory reporting. Closest to Georgia, in Columbia, S.C., thus far they just collect it. In Georgia the results will probably go to the state Department of Human Resources to be kept. What will be done with them remains to be seen. Some proposed General Assembly bills have quarantine provisions.

GAAC's work is cut out for it. We have to continue our attempts to educate both the legislature and the public. We will continue to develop our network throughout the state; GAAC's members have thus far been volunteers. In 1988 we will need a paid representative at the General Assembly for every one of the 40 days it will be in session. We need to establish an annual budget of $10,000 - $20,000, to include the monitor's salary. Contributions can be sent to the Georgia AIDS Action Committee, P. O. Box 7482, Atlanta, GA 30357.

SOCIAL AND PROGRAM AT THE HOME OF ED AND PETER.
SCREENING OF THE VIDEO TAPE "NOT ALL PARENTS ARE STRAIGHT," shown earlier in the week on public television. Focusing more on the children then on their gay and lesbian parents, this film served as a reinforcement of the children's panels held in Atlanta as part of the 8th Annual International Conference on Gay and Lesbian Parenting Issues, held June 5-7, 1987 at the Atlanta Ramada Inn Central.
The same issues were shared during the live panels as on the film: wanting to be able to talk to a peer, but afraid confidentiality will be violated; fear that homosexuality will be "catching;" fear of rejection by peers - "faggot" among preteens and teens has become a generalized put-down name meaning bad person. On the positive side, the children were often brilliantly articulate and understanding. They expressed their love for their gay or lesbian parent, the growing ease of communication with that parent, and the being with that parent as a freeing growth experience.

Other panels attended at the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International convention were: Co-Parenting and Gays in History. The Co-Parenting Panel was a tantalizing experience for many in the audience who had hoped to get pointers for resolving contentions between gay and straight parents. The panel, however, was almost too enlightened. It consisted of a lesbian couple, the ex-husband of one of the former and his current wife. The ex-spouses were clergypersons, particularly adept at interpersonal communications. The other lesbian also did graduate work in religious studies. The new wife has an identical twin sister who is lesbian, and is therefore particularly sensitive and sensitized. However, while gay/straight issues are not difficulties requiring resolution among these co-parents, the panel had important insights to impart in raising the same child/children in two households where the parents have different value systems: in this case, one household is vegetarian, the other is not; one household permits television, the other does not, etc. Issues arise that have to be negotiated even among the enlightened.

The Gay History presentation by a Georgia State University professor was amusing and illuminating. One example of amusement was provided by the reading of an unexpurgated translation of a passage from an Aristophanes' Comedy, wherein one mature man rates his also mature male friend for lack of hospitality to the former's adolescent son: "why do you not greet my son when you see him in the street as he comes from the gymnasium? Why do you not offer him a gift? Why do you not feel his balls?" Visual aids were passed around in the form of a copy of Sir Kenneth Dover's book Greek Homosexuality. This volume contained scores of photographs of Greek vases painted with a standard courting scene of a mature male with a gift in one hand, reaching down with the other toward the genitals of a younger man - an icon of a classic relationship in the Greek Golden Age. Vase paintings of lesbian and heterosexual couples in similar poses were also shown.

The Saturday Luncheon featured riveting speaker Karen Thompson, one of the "Ten of Whom We Are Proud" spotlighted in this year's Advocate Gay Pride Issue. Karen's two year battle to restore the competency of her lover Sharon Kowalski has tapped such resources in her that she is now a charismatic figure.

Guest speaker at the Evening Banquet was Carol Lynn Pearson, author of Goodbye, I Love You, which details her relationship with her gay ex-husband, whom she invited back into her home to be taken care of until he died of AIDS. Ms. Pearson was candid in saying that she had "left several things on the shelf," and did not appear altogether comfortable in the company she was keeping for the evening. She remains a devout Mormon, and wondered aloud what her bishop would think of her being on the dais "with a drag queen" (Charlie Brown, recipient of the GLPCI service award for tireless fundraising efforts for Persons with AIDS.

Ms. Pearson's very ambivalence was curiously moving, and added a note of complexity to the evening's aura. She read one of her poems, about giving blood; in the act of giving she is able to flow with the blood, to wash away the barriers that exist between herself and others. The poem was particularly poignant when read to a high-risk group advised not to donate even if the most recent HIV test is antibody negative.

Ms. Pearson closed by admonishing the parents present to be the best parents they could to their children, as her husband was the best parent he could be to their children; to be the best friend they could be to the other parent of their children, as her husband was the best friend he could be to her.
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1987; 4:00 P.M. INTERFAITH AIDS MEMORIAL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Two speakers provided very personal memorial meditations. A mother paid tribute to "my beloved son, one year after his death. Originally, I thought, what a waste. Now I know this was not the case. My son's 21 years were not a waste, but a life of accomplishment, a gift of love. He got his first job at age 16, owned his first Cadillac at age 17. Securely established in his profession, at 18, he made more money - honestly - than most people twice his age. He served his country in the military. His life was a gift to me and to those who loved him. He was my friend, my confidant, my son."

A second speaker extolled his partner, who, before his death had become a spokesperson for PWAs. "From him I learned the meaning of unconditional love."

"Ken South, Executive Director, AID Atlanta: "It becomes increasingly difficult to come here every year - to look into your faces - to know what to say. The reality is that we all have AIDS. AIDS has affected all of us in three ways: personal, public, and corporate. Personally we feel grief. Publicly, we must gather together to feel, to express community. Corporately, we are part of the system, the larger system."

"We need to come together on three levels (where we have been or are involved with AIDS) to express the stages of grief: denial, anger, acceptance."

"As a community we have been facing AIDS for five years. Five years are longer than the American experience of World War II."

"As a community we have grown past denial. We have experienced anger, and we are still angry. As a community, we have been involved in bargaining: If only there is a cure!

"As a community, we are getting tired, getting burned out. We're turning our anger inward - when you do that, you get depression. The signs of this are inward fighting, fighting among ourselves, apathy."

"The general American public has just started the process. They've just heard it's not only a gay disease. They're three years behind us in awareness - but now they're at the stage of anger. For all these years there has been no legislation to deal with AIDS. Now there are several laws proposed - and all but two are punitive, placing blame and punishment on the victims."

"What can we do? We can turn where we are in the cycle of grief into constructive anger. We don't have time to wait for the general public to go through these changes. We need to turn our anger into action, to fight the good fight, to turn oppression into health."

Finally, we excerpt the offertory words and the meditation of Bruce Garner, President of the Board of AID Atlanta: "AID Atlanta is caring for 36 new cases in June; 300 cases are active. We receive no money from any government but Fulton County - not from the State of Georgia, not from the City of Atlanta. Therefore we appreciate your generosity."

"Grief doesn't change. What does change is who, when, how, why. This battle is fought with bed pans and respirators."

"And when it ends, we must rend our clothes - but within, internally. [After all], our loved one must die of something socially acceptable in order for us to be able to show our grief publicly.

"We must take the time to cry, to feel the pain - or else we are only performing a chore."

"There are sources of happiness, of regeneration, times when the presence of God is felt.

"Anger makes us want to blame. It's OK to blame God. God can take it. God did not cause AIDS. God did not single out a particular group for the curse, any more than He cursed a child with cerebral palsy."

"God, teach us to laugh again. But never let us forget that we cry."

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1987; 8:00 P.M. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA; An Account of the American Psychiatric Association Convention (APA) held in Chicago, Illinois, May 2-7, 1987. A focus upon psychiatric issues of importance to lesbians and gays. Presenter: Peter J. Bryg.

The July 1986 UULGC Atlanta Newsletter dealt with the APA Convention of 1986 - Washington, D.C., in depth. Since that time the new development has been the removal of ego-dystonic homosexuality as a condition sanctioned for..."
treatment in the Diagnostic Manual of the APA (DSM-III Rev.). Striking new developments on gay/lesbian issues did not emerge. But further developments of previously introduced scholarship, research, clinical work and action items were presented: gay and lesbian parenting; gays within the family; sexual orientation in the siblings and cousins of gays and lesbians; confidentiality and the ethical psychiatric role with regard to homosexuality and the military; treatment of AIDS dementia; gay/lesbian alcohol/drug dependence; the psychiatric role in speaking out against hysterical political reactions to the AIDS crisis, the growing importance of the Caucus of Homosexuality Identified Psychiatrists as a voting minority member of the APA general assembly; the growing importance of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists as an affiliate of the APA--this convention marked the first time that a sitting APA president came to address AGLP and to get input from it.

If reader interest warrants, a more detailed write-up will be set forth in a future newsletter.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Take the second left (Hansell St.)
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Take Monroe Drive, which turns into Boulevard, south. Take the second left onto Hansell St. after you cross I-20. We are at the end of the street on the left.
PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC CALENDAR

THURSDAYS, April 9 and 23, 1987. These scheduled UULGC program dates are canceled so that we can focus our time and energies during the month on sponsorship of the following event:

THURSDAY, April 16, 1987; 8:00 p.m. IMPORTANT!!!

The Atlanta March Committee, in association with the Unitarian Universalist Lesbian/Gay Community, is sponsoring a benefit concert on April 16th for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The featured performers are Romanovsky and Phillips, a widely known, highly entertaining duo from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Romanovsky & Phillips have played throughout the United States and are pleased to be performing in Atlanta for the first time next month. Their act includes songs, both humorous and serious, touching on the many concerns of lesbians and gay men.

Opening for Romanovsky & Phillips will be Suede, a lesbian singer-songwriter from Baltimore, in her Atlanta debut. Suede has performed all along the east coast from Provincetown, Mass. and now stretching as far south as Atlanta, Ga. She performs quite a bit in New York City and has played at the Michigan Women's Festival, NEWMR, Campfest, and Winter Womyn Music I in North Carolina. She has shared the stage with Kate Clinton, Alix Dobkin and Lucie Blue Tremblay to name a few. She has a voice that can make you cry and a sense of humor that may make your sides ache.

Most assuredly, many members of UUCA and everyone in the lesbian and gay men's community will find something to enjoy at this evening of music benefiting the March on Washington. The concert will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1911 Cliff Valley Way (on the I-85 access road at the N. Druid Hills Rd. exit) at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, April 16th. Tickets are $8 in advance, $10 at the door and are available at Charis Books and More, The Boy Next Door, Video Library and The Bar on Peachtree. The church is barrier free and the concert will be ASL interpreted for the hearing impaired.

The performance will take place in the UUCA Sanctuary. All of our readers are urged to support this worthy project, in which UULGC and UUCA are pleased to have a part. Further information can be provided by the Atlanta March Committee, P. O. Box 50468, Atlanta, GA 30302. Contact persons are Christina Cash 404/425-8908 and Cathy Woolard 404/377-8312.

Stephen Drewes of the Bay Area Reporter has described Romanovsky and Phillips as "a perfect performing pair—one dark, gentle, and introspective, the other brash and bitchy in an always good-humored fashion. All their songs are about the experience of being gay, and range from bitter and regretful ("Lost Emotions") to joyous ("Let's Flaunt It"). Some of their stuff is disturbingly on target. 'Outfield' dredged up memories of high school days I thought I'd managed to bury forever. Romanovsky and Phillips aren't only good songwriters, they're also first-rate musicians and singers who perform with charm and flair."

Lyn Jensen of the Music Connection has commented on their musicianship: "One of the treats of folk is how much the artists get from so little. Here all the musical accompaniment necessary is provided by Ron's guitar and, occasionally, Paul's piano. Their two emotive tenors mesh perfectly. It's what they do with this basic framework that's distinctive."

Are Romanovsky and Phillips limited in appeal to a specialized audience? No, says Karl Byrn of Calendar Magazine in reviewing one of their record albums: "If you're straight and you think you
might have trouble listening to an entire album of songs about the gay lifestyle, guess again. Romanovsky and Phillips’ Trouble In Paradise is the second disc by the gay couple/musical team, and it’s highly listenable thanks to varied styles and crafty arrangements. But best of all, the gay subject matter is anything but limiting; the songs are exceptionally well-written, witty and touching, with meaning for gays and straights alike.

"Only the rag-style 'Homophobia' is politically dogmatic; though its protests are just, the tone is dry. The tender, simple piano ballad Lost Emotions eloquently speaks of immense personal pain. Elsewhere, the light, modern doo-wop ditty 'What Kind Of Self-Respecting Faggot Am I?' satirizes gay stereotypes ('Don't own a single record by Barbra, Bette or Judy,' Romanovsky laments) while 'Must've Been Drunk' satirizes denial ('Maybe homosexuals have bottled up this beer,' sings the confused heterosexual protagonist). Other witty tracks, like the calypso-style 'Don't Use Your Penis (For A Brain)' or the baroque-quartet-meets-Tin-Pan-Alley 'Wimp' are simply too entertaining for straights to ignore. Similarly, 'To Myself' is a plain and simple love song for any sexual preference, and although 'He Wasn't Talking To Me' and the title track are clearly about gay love, they contain a universal wisdom. Though decidedly single-issue, Trouble In Paradise is too broad-based to be confined to any one audience."

Flyers on both the Romanovsky and Phillips benefit and on the Atlanta March Committee are appended to this newsletter.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987, 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, ROOM 112. REVEREND JOSEPH CHANCEY ON THE ANNUAL CONTINENTAL CONVENTION OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS held in February 1987 in Toronto. Issues and Sharing.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987, 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, ROOM 112. AN EVENING WITH PSYCHOTHERAPIST ALAN M. YORKER: GAY AND LESBIAN COUPLING: HUNTERS AND NESTERS - STAYING TOGETHER - OR NOT.

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1987, 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, ROOM 112. AN EVENING WITH DOUG ZAUDERER (who became a hero of the fight to retain the City of Atlanta Sexual Orientation Nondiscrimination ordinance when he publicly confronted his brother James, the leader of the opposition Citizens for Public Awareness). On this stimulating evening Doug offered many reminiscences and reflections on family relationships which are too confidential to recount here, but which provided the backdrop for his long in coming, but sudden transformation from private person to public activist. We thank Doug for sharing himself with us.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1987. NEWS RELEASE FROM COUPLES, INC.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On March 1, the Coordinating Committee for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights received a report outlining the basic plans for The Wedding for October 10,
In the history of gay entertainment, I doubt there has ever been an act like Romanovsky & Phillips. They have something that all cabaret acts need but few have: charisma and originality. Their hum-mable melodies and uproarious lyrics are complimented by a magnetic stage presence...proof that Rice-A-Roni is not the only treat San Francisco has to offer.

—No Bad News, St. Louis

“Romanovsky & Phillips have attracted a following as diverse as the entire gay population. When they sing, they show that their conviction and courage can and will continue to go a long way.”

—The Connection, New York

“They come across with a warm, appealing immediacy, delighting in themselves as gay men and lovers, yet also poking fun at some deserving targets within the gay experience.”

—The Advocate

“A fast paced and fascinating duo with just the right amount of flash and camp.”

—GLC Voice, Minneapolis

“Romanovsky & Phillips will turn the head and heart of even the most staunch separatist...a definite breath of fresh air from the male side of the world.”

—The Lesbian News, Los Angeles

“A musical reaffirmation of lesbian and gay pride.”

—Gay Community News, Boston

“Romanovsky & Phillips are filling some long-neglected gaps in our musical culture. They are fresh, funny, honest and loving.”

—Meg Christian

“Philosophical, funny, and serious about the fact that gay is not just good, it’s glorious!”

—New York Native

“The hottest act to come out of San Francisco’s gay ghetto. For two hours, they kept their audience enthralled with their blend of music and satire.”

—The Weekly News, Miami

“R&P had the audience singing, cheering, participating in surveys, laughing and crying throughout the evening. They had us feeling like a family rather than an audience.”

—Equal Time, Minneapolis

A BENEFIT FOR THE NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS

APRIL 16, 1987
8:00 P.M.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
1911 CLIFF VALLEY WAY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

TICKETS: $8 IN ADVANCE, $10 AT THE DOOR
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON AT
CHARIS BOOKS AND MORE
THE BOY NEXT DOOR
THE VIDEO LIBRARY
IN SHORT, IT'S A MARCH FOR:
The legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships
The repeal of all laws that make sodomy between consenting adults a crime
A Presidential order banning anti-gay discrimination by the federal government
Passage of the Congressional lesbian and gay rights bill
An end to discrimination against people with AIDS or those perceived to have AIDS
Massive increase in funding for AIDS education, research, and patient care.
Money for AIDS not for War.
Reproductive freedom. The right to control our own bodies, and an end to sexist oppression.
An end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa.

INCLUDING...
• Cross Country Train
• Veterans Memorial Service
• National Gay & Lesbian Congress
• The Wedding
• A National Lobby Day
• An AIDS Quilt
• Anti-Gay Violence March
• An Act of Non-Violent Civil Disobedience, October 13th

DEMANDS WE'LL TAKE TO WASHINGTON...

CHOOSEN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:
That lesbian and gay male domestic partners be entitled to the same rights as married heterosexual couples; that social services for lesbian and gay youth be greatly augmented

SODOMY LAW: That all state and federal laws criminalizing consensual sex be repealed as they violate the constitutional right to privacy

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION: That the President ban by executive order all discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal government particularly in the military and in immigration; that the President end exclusion of people with AIDS or HIV-antibody positivity from governmental employment

AIDS: That discrimination based on real or perceived AIDS or HIV-antibody positivity be ended in the public and private sectors; that funding for AIDS education (including safe sex information), research, and patient care be massively increased; that these monies come from the military budget, not existing social services

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION: That the federal bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation be passed

FAMILY HEALTH: The right to control our bodies and practice our sexuality freely; free and safe abortion, contraceptives and other family planning services on demand; the right to raise our children free of the intervention of the courts

RACISM: An end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa

Imagine yourself there... be counted, get involved
If you’re the member of an organization... begin planning now for your busloads
Be assured of your visibility in D.C.

NATIONAL FUND RAISING DAYS
MAY 1
JULY 4
SEPTEMBER 11

Atlanta March Committee
P.O. Box 50468
Atlanta, GA 30302
(404) 377-8312
As members of the lesbian and gay movement, we too are affected by rising racism and sexism which oppresses people of color and women; thereby the liberation of lesbians and gays is intricately linked to the struggles against racism, sexism and anti-semitism. We realize that "none of us will be free until we are all free." We therefore call upon all of our sisters and brothers to actively confront racism on all levels both within our movement, and in the larger society. We demand an end to racist and sexist oppression. We demand an end to all social, economic, judicial, and legal oppression of people of every race, age, gender, transgenderal orientation, ability, class, ethnicity, faith, political ideology, and sexual orientation.

Veterans Leading Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery
AIDS Quilt • March Against Death • Performances of Gay & Lesbian Bands
& Other Cultural Events • Mass Wedding • A Demonstration...

FOR LOVE AND FOR LIFE
WE’RE NOT GOING BACK!

Atlanta March Committee
P.O. Box 50468
Atlanta, GA 30302
(404) 377-8312

National March Office
P.O. Box 7781
Washington, D.C. 20044
(202) 783-1828
(202) 783-1830

Let’s meet
with 500,000 of our friends for a

NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS

Washington, D.C.
October 11, 1987
1987. The Wedding is a national demonstration officially sponsored by the National March on Washington to emphasize the demand that lesbian and gay domestic partners in committed same-sex relationships be entitled to the same rights as married heterosexual couples. The demonstration will include a non-sectarian union ceremony to celebrate existing on-going relationships followed by a reception for the participants, guests, sponsors and media representatives.

The report was presented by Carey Junkin representing COUPLES, Inc. This Los Angeles based group is the National Organization for the Advancement of Lesbian and Gay Couples.

The goal of The Wedding is to have at least one thousand couples celebrate their existing on-going committed relationships in such a way to draw attention to the March demand for couples' rights. The Wedding is not intended to be a marriage ceremony for new couples, nor will the organizers restrict participation by defining couples or acceptable relationships.

COUPLES, Inc. will be inviting representatives of numerous religious groups and non-religious leaders to serve on an advisory board to help define the demonstration. Several nationally recognized figures will be invited to conduct the demonstration.

The Wedding is to be held at 2:00 pm on October 10, 1987, the eve of the March on Washington to help draw attention to the March. It is also scheduled to encourage couples to come to Washington for the entire weekend to participate in the other sponsored events.

This self-supporting event will turn over excess money collected to the National March Committee to help build and pay for the March and Rally.

To respect the diversity of the gay and lesbian community, COUPLES, Inc. will make a special effort to encourage participation by women and people of color. This effort will work toward the March goal of including at least fifty percent women and twenty five percent people of color.

For more information on the March on Washington contact the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Woodward Building, 733 15th Street, N.W., Room 315, Washington, D.C. or for The Wedding contact COUPLES, Inc. P. O. Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013.


MAURY WEILL, PRESIDENT ACLU/LGRC: "We have been watching the state legislative process at the just adjourned Georgia General Assembly with fear and trembling. There have been some positive results. Chris Hagen created a strategy for the passage of House Bill 66 and Chris was down at the General Assembly every day implementing that strategy, along with Gil Robison and Pat McCrary. As a result HB 66 has passed; it calls for the Department of Human Resources to develop a needs assessment regarding the State's attack on AIDS. The passage of House Bill 66 precluded - for this session, at least - passage of more dangerous and discriminatory legislation with regard to AIDS testing, etc.

"House Bill 1047, which calls for mandatory screening for the HIV antibody of anyone convicted of sodomy or other sexual crimes, was introduced so late that it was not heard. But it will be on the agenda next year. We cannot lower our vigilance.

"Another dangerous bill to fight next year is HB 831 sponsored by Republicans Betty Jo Williams and John Lupton. It will require testing for the HIV antibody on anyone who works in a bar or who handles food.

"We're passing out today a draft proposed ACLU of Georgia policy opposing the mandatory screening of prostitutes.

"Our panel tonight will discuss the Democratic Convention Meeting here in Atlanta in 1988, the Democratic Party and the democratic process. The next year will provide a real opportunity to present a gay/lesbian agenda and a range of civil liberties issues that the American Civil Liberties Union should put in the hopper. Addressing these tonight are: Martha Gaines, past president of the Georgia Chapter of the National Organization for Women and past president of ACLU of Georgia; Lee Harrington, political con-
consultant, active on the Houston political scene and at the last Democratic National Convention, founder of the new gay/lesbian Democratic Party Chapter in Atlanta; Chris Hagen, lobbyist in the Georgia General Assembly."

Martha Gaines: "I want to talk about the political process in general. You will not become an effective political force between now and August 1988 - you must look farther down the road. You must build a base, build credibility. You must go where folks are - not just talk to yourselves.

"Get out into the community and deal with larger issues. It takes enormous commitment. In 20 years, I have been head of eleven organizations - on boards of directors of several national organizations. The result is that I can make a telephone call to a person in power and get that call returned. That's a big thing. That's getting listened to.

"Get involved - that's one way of amassing influence. Become a candidate yourself or assist another candidate. Get involved in the political process. Get involved in political parties.

"How? Find out where the party meets. Go to that meeting. The first few years lick stamps, stuff envelopes. Make yourself useful. Meet folks. Get involved in your neighborhood. Become one of a lot of people. One person alone does not make a difference.

"There is not much public glory in having power. I can name people who sit back and wield real power that you have never heard of. We need to tap into that underlying power that sets the agenda.

"What can you do right now to make the Democratic National Convention work for you? Help shape the platform. Get people elected as delegates. Put the DNC on the front burner now - before they get here. Find outlets now. Get on TV now. Let the Democratic Party know what we want and expect. Make yourself a part of the political scene so that you can get called on for feedback by the party. DNC won't seek out your input just because it's the right thing to do. But they will - if you demand it."

LEE HARRINGTON: "In power politics, there is a fine line between being accommodating and burning down your opponent's house; a fine line between finesse and fear.

"The problem in Atlanta is that we are too comfortable in our closets. Gays in the closet are our own worst enemies - not city hall, not the governor's office. Until we come to terms with our own self-esteem, it's going to be very difficult to have influence.

"There is a National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Organizations. Our new Atlanta group will join it. We will meet with other representatives of the Association at the DNC.

"It will be difficult for gays and lesbians to have a great voice in 1988. But there is still 1992. We can make long range plans.

"Locally we can think in terms of redrawing voting district lines. Currently Midtown Atlanta is split into two City Council districts. We can work on getting Midtown into a single district. We can work on getting qualified gay and lesbian candidates elected to City Council and the General Assembly. The heart of the effort will be developing a mailing list and keeping it up to date. We need to develop endorsement cards with a list of candidates we have endorsed, and mail them out.

"We need to deliver a block vote AND THEN take credit for that vote.

"At least get involved in the National March on Washington October 11, 1987. All of us should make a personal commitment to be there. People will come back from that energized, ready to work. And we will need to have work ready for them."

MARTHA GAINES: "I want to follow up. When you do something, take credit for it. In order to have access you have to take access. We're going to still be fighting this battle for 20 years. But unless we lay the groundwork now, we won't have the chance to succeed then. You must make alliances with those who have compatible social agendas."

CHRIS HAGEN: "In the Georgia State Senate, HB66 had support from all Republican senators, except two from DeKalb County. It's interesting about Republicans. Since their election, several are more liberal - or more libertarian - than Democrats.

"With regard to the Democrats, the progressive wing of the Georgia State Democratic Party does not have access to Governor Joe Frank Harris, certainly not in the area of appointments, for instance.
"We must give the devil his due, however. Joe Frank did send his floor leader in to the General Assembly to oppose the mandatory HIV testing bill No. 107 - because it would cost the state seventy million dollars.

"In the General Assembly there are some fine delegations from Muscogee County (Columbus), Dougherty County (Albany) and Savannah. The Fulton/DeKalb County House delegations are the worst collection of elected officials - they are ignorant bigots. Except: thank God for Jim Martin and Nan Orrock, the freshman representative from Grant Park. In addition to Jim and Nan, the only Fulton/DeKalb (Atlanta) House delegates worth anything are Lorenzo Benn, Mabel Thomas and Georgianna Sinkfield. The Fulton/DeKalb Senate delegation is decent, except for David Scott.

"Back to the House: John Lupton (Buckhead) voted against us every time. Additionally he cosponsored both the marriage HIV testing and the food handlers HIV testing bill. We need to work to replace Lupton and Barbara Couch and Billy McKinney (who came after me after he lost one of his bills) - three sorry excuses for legislators."

LEE HARRINGTON: "The next G/L Democratic Party Meeting will be Monday, April 20. The first was well-attended: 30 people showed up,"

MARTHA GAINES: "Have any of you ever attended a local party meeting? That's where you must start."

On local elections: "John Lupton only won by 2% of the vote. He's very beatable. Barbara Couch is also very beatable. But Billy McKinney is ensconced. You don't have to try to beat everyone who votes against you. Just the key people. You just have to beat two or three. Most legislators are a bunch of Indians, a herd."

"And after the elections, you're going to have to talk to the victors. They may have opposed you on big issues in the past, but can support you on other issues. I can talk to Billy McKinney. Billy and Chris duked it out on the General Assembly floor, but they get along well at parties."

"Also: make sure you thank your friends: Nan Orrock, Paul Coverdell, Eldred Schumake, Jim Tysinger, Ken Workman.

"Leading up to the convention, get involved in a variety of campaigns for president. It's a mistake to sit around and pick out from the primaries the one who's the most liberal - who's not going to win, and who will leave us with egg on our faces. There is a variety of folks who are going to represent us better than Ronnie Reagan. Cover the bases.

"A final word on alliances. We feminists and gays have got to get together again, since our agendas now match."

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1987; 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA. AN EVENING WITH BILL GRIPP, COORDINATOR, ATLANTA GAY CENTER HELPLINE.

BILL GRIPP: We hold Helpline Training twice a year, teaching basic listening skills, working on developing a background for the solution of problems called in, through referrals: i.e. legal, medical/health referrals. We have occasion to refer callers to other groups sponsored by the Gay Center: the Married Men's Group, The Teenage Group, which has two subgroups - those under 18 and those 18-20.

Since there is a lot of attrition among Helpline people this Spring we're contacting past workers in the attempt to bring people back.

Through my involvement with the Helpline, I get to be with the most likeable group of people I've ever met. I found my life-partner here. The Helpline has been the springboard to set up other things; for instance, a Life Assessment Group. We're planning to start a support group for people who screen positive for the HIV antibody. These people will likely not go on to develop ARC or AIDS, for which AID Atlanta provides support groups, but they need support and to support each other after discovery.

QUESTION: What specific changes have occurred at the helpline over the years?

BILL: Over the years there was continuous growth from year to year, peaking in 1985 with 8,500 calls, a 35% increase over 1984. We have continued at about that peak level.

Changes: We get more calls from parents. These calls are not all hysterical as they used to be. One quarter of the parents are looking for ways to be supportive. Some of them say, for instance that
their son doesn’t know that they know he’s gay, but that they want to know how they can let him know they affirm him.

A favorite recent call from an 80 year old grandmother sounded like a throwback to the beginning of this century. "Do homosexuals have sex organs in their mouths?" she asked. Our volunteer resisted the temptation to respond: "As often as possible."

QUESTIONS: Have there been changes in attitude in the kinds of calls over the year?

BILL: Calls are computer coded as to kind. An unfortunate change has been the rise in antigay violence. For the period we have been keeping records, there has been a 30% - 45% rise in this kind of call. The actual incidence of antigay violence must be that much more horrible, since most such crime is not reported.

QUESTION: What about frequency of calls?

BILL: Frequency of calls depends on what’s in the news. We had particularly great numbers of calls after the televising of the Marlo Thomas movie, Consenting Adults, and after the Supreme Court Hardwick decision.

While the number of calls remains at the 1985 peak, the time each call takes averages longer.

QUESTION: Has there been a change in the age of the callers?

BILL: We advertised in the Purple Cow, a publication distributed in the junior high schools. That sparked several calls from teenagers. High school counselors are directing gay and lesbian young people to us. Joey Davis, the top Atlanta School Counselor of the Year has worked on our Helpline. As a result we have gotten calls from way out of Atlanta. These calls led to the teenagers’ groups.

QUESTION: Would you discuss other AGC programs?

BILL: HIV Testing. AGC has the one absolutely confidential official Fulton County HIV screening clinic. The person to be tested is given a number. No records are kept linking that number with a name. Fulton County supplies two epidemiologists, medical supplies, and pays our AGC Administrator. AGC supplies physicians on a volunteer basis and the space. It’s our one profit making activity. It’s been so successful that we just opened a third night. We explain to the person before the test just what it means, and we have follow-up explanations when the person is told the results. We are strongly considering holding the HIV positive support group(s) the same night(s) as the clinic so that those who get back positive results have somewhere to go immediately.

Another activity is Women’s Sensitivity Night. A female doctor educates and treats sexually transmitted diseases affecting women, particularly chlamidia. We have more women on board at AGC than ever before.

AGC is being facilitative to other organizations. In connection with our Anti-gay Lesbian Violence project, I have been interviewed for Finnish, French, German, and Australian TV. This month I did an interview for Mexican TV.

QUESTION: One of our UULGCers has been a Helpline volunteer. Will you describe your experiences, Edie?

EDIE: People from out of town, people just arrived in Atlanta call us. We provide guidance as to how to find community in Atlanta. We feel that we have impact: often we are the first "out" gay person the caller has talked to.

BILL GRIPP: Being here tonight arouses a happy memory. I have a warm spot for the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Fifteen years ago I had just moved to Atlanta from Chattanooga, which was not then a good place to be gay. Soon after arriving some friends brought me here for an evening of Greek dancing. Here at UUCA were people, gay and straight, of various ages, all kinds, dancing, playing together, accepting and affirming each other. It was an introduction to the possibilities of life in Atlanta.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 1987; 7:00 PM: ORDINATION OF MARY SUSAN MILNOR AT NORTHWEST UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF ATLANTA.

An overflow crowd packed Northwest U.C. for the impressive service and reception. We gathered to express our appreciation and support for Susan’s several years of
creative contributions to UUCA and her more recent service to the Northwest Congregation and the UU Fellowship of Middle Georgia. Most of all, we gathered to celebrate Susan herself.

As part of the service a charge was read to Susan: a quotation from the charge of William Ellery Channing on the ordination of Rev. R. C. Waterston. The ordinand was counselled to speak not as an echo but as a living soul. We were reminded of the Sermon on Sermons delivered last year to UUCA by Senior Minister, Terry Sweetser, Susan’s husband. In the Sermon on Sermons, Terry said he would never deliver a sermon unless he had first lived it. We’ve been able to observe this even in Terry’s historical sermons; for example, in the sermon on Hosea Ballou, he described his interaction with a present-day resident of Ballou’s hometown.

We’ve happily observed in virtually all of the UU ministers we’ve heard over the years, the absence of second-hand platitudes, and the presence of first hand engagement in the spiritual issue presented. Hearing the Channing charge, we are made aware that living your sermons is a Unitarian tradition.

And we congratulate Susan on her official entry into this tradition.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Red stickers have been placed on the mailing labels or envelopes of those readers whose subscriptions have expired. Mailings will not continue after the second red sticker. We thank those who have sent in their subscriptions since the beginning of March and we look forward to hearing from more subscribers in April.

Please clip out coupon below and mail with reimbursement to the address indicated. Thank you.
PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1987; 7:30 PM. UULGC social program at the home of Ed and Peter. Call 885-1597 for directions. Bring a beverage and a snack to share. The program will be the screening, promptly at 8:00 pm of the Phil Donahue program featuring three gay Roman Catholic clergy and lay theologians.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1987; 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, ROOM 112. THE ATLANTA GAY CENTER HELPLINE: ITS ACHIEVEMENTS, ITS NEEDS. SPEAKER: Bill Grip, Helpline Coordinator. Also speaking will be UULGCers who have been helpline volunteers: Edie and Charles.

THURSDAYS, APRIL 9 and 23, 1987. These scheduled UULGC program dates are cancelled so that we can focus our time and energies during the month on sponsorship of the following event:

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1987; 8:00 PM. ROMANOVSKY AND PHILLIPS, A CABARET PERFORMANCE OF SONG AND COMEDY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ATLANTA MARCH COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ATLANTA. All of our readers are urged to support this worthy project in which UULGC and UUCA are pleased to have a part. Background is provided by this press release from the Atlanta March Committee, P. O. Box 50468, Atlanta, GA 30302. (Contact persons: Christina Cash: 404/425-8908, Cathy Woolard: 404/377-8312).

ATLANTA WILL HOST THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS.

Atlanta - The National March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights continues to organize and grow throughout the country. Scheduled for October 11, the march may prove to be the largest and best attended of its kind in lesbian/gay history if recent work is any indication. The second national conference, held in Los Angeles the weekend of January 17-19, focused on producing a concise list of demands and working out logistics to insure a safe and productive demonstration of lesbian/gay sentiments. Demands include, but are not limited to, legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships, repeal of all laws that make sodomy between consenting adults a crime, a massive increase in AIDS education, research and patient care, and a presidential order banning anti-gay discrimination by the Federal Government. Along with these demands, the National Steering Committee also accepted a proposal for a veteran-led service at Arlington Cemetery to commemorate the sacrifice made by thousands of lesbians and gays in the armed services. A calendar of events was created for activities leading up to the October 11th march. Included are three national fundraising dates - May 1, July 4, and September 11. Local chapters of the National March will hold fundraisers and benefits on those dates with proceeds going toward both national and local efforts. Atlanta's March Committee will be busy the weekend of May 1-3. They will sponsor the third national Conference on those dates along with the National Fundraiser. A Civil Disobedience Workshop is also scheduled for May 2. On April 16, the Atlanta March Committee will bring Romanovsky and Phillips, A cabaret act with both lesbian and gay appeal, to town for a benefit performance. Times and locations for fundraisers and the National Conference will be announced soon. Interested persons are encouraged to attend meetings of the Atlanta March Committee held every other Tuesday at 7:30 PM at the North Highland Branch Library. Meetings will be held March 10, March 24, etc., everyone is encouraged to attend. There is a lot of work to be done to make the October 11th March a reality.
As members of the lesbian and gay movement, we too are affected by rising racism and sexism which oppresses people of color and women; thereby the liberation of lesbians and gays is intricately linked to the struggles against racism, sexism, and anti-semitism. We realize that no one of us will be free until we are all free. We therefore call upon all of our sisters and brothers to actively confront racism on all levels both within our movement and in the larger society. We demand an end to racist and sexist oppression. We demand an end to all social, economic, judicial and legal oppression of people of every race, age, gender, ability, class, ethnicity, faith, political ideology, sexual orientation and transgender orientation.

JOURNAL OF ACTIVITIES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1987
FIRST PLANNING MEETING - GEORGIA PRIVACY COALITION.
SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS: AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, LIBERTARIAN PARTY, AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF GEORGIA.

Initially called by Nick Danna, over 18 persons representing about 15 Georgia organizations gathered to share a range of privacy concerns and to plan a series of actions during 1987.

1. CONCERNS

Lynn Hampton of HIRE: Hooking is Real Employment: "Our concern is the proposed bills in the State Legislature imposing mandatory testing of prostitutes for AIDS (i.e.: the presence of the HIV antibody). It's easy to slide something like this through the legislature. Prostitutes are not popular citizens. But this will set the precedent for mandatory testing of gays next year - or who else the year after? Of 100 prostitutes interviewed and tested in the most recent Georgia AIDS screening project only one was positive, and she was a drug user who knew she was positive before the screening. HIRE is opposed to mandatory testing for any single person or groups of persons."

Georgia Abortion Rights Action League representative: "Of course our concerns include the right to terminate pregnancy and harassment of abortion clinics. The Minor's Access Bill being considered by the state legislature is of great concern."

Georgia National Organization for Women representative. "We have been looking for just this sort of coalition. When the Equal Rights Amendment was defeated, we lost steam."

National Lawyer's Guild representative: "Our concerns are for individual rights, and they focus on mandatory drug testing and the use of the polygraph in the workplace."

The American Jewish Congress representative: "We have submitted briefs to the Supreme Court in the Hardwick sodomy case, and our current concerns are mandatory testing and abortion choice."

The Political Rights Defense Fund representative: "The right for organizations to function legally without government harassment or surveillance."

The Freedom from Religion Foundation representative: "Our range of concerns is broad, including the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's monitoring of anti-nuclear protest activities."

Libertarian Party representative: "We uphold private rights without compelling government intervention. We seek solutions that don't compel people to do anything."

The Feminist Health Center representative. "The Minor's Access Bill in the legislature is also our concern. A similar Minor's Access Bill (requiring parents' being informed and giving consent with regard to birth control information disseminated to the minor child) was declared unconstitutional in Minnesota. "Our general concern is women's right to be free from harassment. This includes a woman's right not only to an abortion, but a woman's right to get pregnant - the right of single women and lesbians to get pregnant. Hindering this right is the State of Georgia, the only state that has a law that says a medical doctor has to perform artificial insemination."

Gene Guerrero, Executive Director, ACLU of Georgia: "It seems that we face such a crisis with proposed legislation before this session of the Georgia General Assembly that we need to constitute a broad-based conference on privacy, in the context of a Commission on Celebrating the
Bicentennial of the U. S. Constitution, September 17, 1987. We need to set up times and locations, get key speakers on such topics as worship—the separation of Church and State."

Michael Halperin, cooperating attorney, ACLU: "The majority of Georgia citizens looking at this group, might think: 'But that's not me'. What this group of organizations can do is to show mainstream Georgia that privacy issues do have meaning to them. All of these issues go to everyone's real life. We must bring this home to the nice white heterosexual home-owning Democrat in Douglas County: you can be forced to be screened for the HIV antibody—what will happen to you when you get tested false positive? We must get specific about what this group can do."

Alexander Wallace, coordinator, Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Lesbian and Gay Organizations (MAGGLO): "There are arch conservatives out there who are not crazy, and with whom common cause can be made. One example would be the gentleman who wrote the article 'A Conservative's Approach to Plant Vogtle.' A marketing approach can be developed to get others to join this privacy coalition."

Female representative, National Lawyer's Guild: "An invaluable opportunity is afforded to address young people on what the Bill of Rights is in place to do for you. We can invite eighth grade civics teachers to come to the conference. A big conference, for example, can be staged at the Jimmy Carter Library. Public education is very important."

2. ACTION

Those assembled constituted themselves as a Privacy Caucus with a threefold thrust:

(a) Lobbying against invasive proposed legislation now before the Georgia State Legislature, and for legislation protective of privacy. Dangerous legislation includes the bills of Reps. McKinney, Betty Clark, and the Minor Access Bill. The Caucus hopes to use the services of lobbyists now working with the General Assembly: J. Montez, Georgia N.O.W. part-time lobbyist, Demetrius Mazacoufa, ACLU of Ga. lobbyist, and Heather Bray, lobbyist for the Coalition Against the Death Penalty. A legislative alert newsletter is proposed to be developed for mailings to members.

(b) An event will be planned to commemorate the anniversary of the Hardwick Supreme Court decision, on July 1, 1987.

(c) A culminating privacy conference of all interested groups, with a national-level public speaker, and public events on the bicentennial of the U. S. Constitution, September 17, 1987.

Volunteers for the Planning Committee included representatives of ACLU, NOW, GARAL, the Libertarian Party and the National Lawyers Guild. Alexander Wallace is coordinator, and MAGGLO will provide the administrative clerical support staff.

The next meeting was set for 7:30 P.M., Thursday, February 26, 1987 at the Highland Branch of the Atlanta Public Library.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1987, 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA: SURVIVING AS A GAY CATHOLIC IN THE WAKE OF THE AUTUMN 1986 VATICAN STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND AIDS. (issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith—formerly the Office of the Inquisition). An evening with Billie Mills, President of Dignity Atlanta; Dr. & Mrs. Ray Barreras, past officers and current Board Members of Dignity Atlanta, and Ken Greene, Dignity Regional Representative. Billie Mills: "Dignity was founded by an Augustinian priest in San Diego in 1969. It is the oldest gay organization that still exists. Dignity Atlanta is twelve years old. We now have four liturgies a month. One has a women's focus; wherein women do everything—deliver the homilies, etc.; well, we participate as much as is now allowed by the Church—women don't consecrate the host. "Three priests currently work actively with us. One is particularly active elsewhere working with AIDS patients; he has had over a 20 year history of civil rights activism. One is active in the black community. The third is active in the gay community. Like you, Dignity also has programs during the month, at which attendance is 8 to 20 of 31 registered Dignity Atlanta members. "In November 1986, the pastor at the Church where
we meet told us that Archbishop Donellan had informed him that he would be sending him a letter implementing the Vatican Letter to the Bishops. So the next Sunday we met at the Atlanta Gay Center, but only once. The pastor contacted us and said, 'you, don't have to leave until the letter comes.' The letter came in January.

Ken Greene: "Eighty percent of the American Bishops have put Cardinal Ratzinger's letter in File 13. They've decided to leave it alone. Right now only seven or eight bishops are talking about doing something; They are men in positions where they feel they need to do some political brown-nosing to secure themselves with the Vatican."

A copy of Archbishop Donellan's letter was circulated. While it quotes Cardinal Ratzinger's letter and warns against using church property in a way that might affirm the gay/lesbian life style, it does not contain a direct order for the pastor to expell Dignity Atlanta.

Billie Mills: "The pastor tells us now that if we are seriously looking for another place, we can stay at his parish church until we find that place. We love the pastor, we love being at his church, but we are seriously looking. As we have not yet found that place, we may soon enter a period of musical chairs."

Trudie Barreras: "A strategy has been proposed that we go as a group in a body with identifying symbols to regular parish masses. This would be a witness and a protest. But that's all it would be. It would not be the community-building experience that our own services have been. We have worked hard to place inclusive language in our liturgies to help build community. Nonsexist, inclusive language does not now exist in the standard parish service. We would lose our flexibility."

Laine Shell, UUCA Director of Social Concerns, was visiting with the group for the evening. Her presence highlighted the very different position of UULGC within the congregation and within the UUA denomination. UULGC/UUCA is a subcommittee within the UUCA Social Concerns Committee. Not only is UULGC not an outcast; it is institutionally a part of the whole. Laine invited Billie to contact UUCA senior minister Terry Sweetzer to see about our suitability as a Dignity meeting place. UULGC volunteered to serve as a sponsor in order to secure rent-free status at UUCA for Dignity, continuing the tradition of support set by the UUA statement opposing Cardinal Ratzinger's Vatican letter. (The text of that statement will conclude this article.)

Question: In the wake of the Vatican letter, what forces now remain to sustain you as a gay Catholic, as a member of Dignity (Dignity's membership is not exclusively gay/lesbian, as evidenced by our visitors this evening. The current Continental Vice President is a straight woman), as an individual and within community?


"In Dignity we remain what we have been - a family. The Vatican letter doesn't say anything we have not already heard. If sexuality is a gift to heterosexuals, it must be an equal gift to homosexuals. We have reconciled our faith to this gift and we are here to celebrate. I've already said that Dignity (Continental) is the oldest gay organization still functioning. It takes stubbornness and willpower to exist - the belief that you are right. Dignity Atlanta has been here for 12 years; there is no lessening of membership, no move to leave."

Ken Greene: "Dignity is very strong in certain sections of the country. Chapters of 500-600 are so large as to constitute parishes. In Manhattan, Dignity has a 300 registered members, while 600-700 attend services. Some members of the Church hierarchy saw this as a threat to their power. They wanted the Ratzinger letter to use it as an excuse for reexerting their control."

Trudie Barreras: "The Church is not the hierarchy. The Church is US. Women in many ways have had a harder time than gays. It is possible to be a gay male and be a priest. Now, no woman can be a priest. The bishops need ministering to as well as the laity. The Bishops have missed
the boat, but we can’t write
them off.”

A chapter is closed, but
the book hasn’t ended. Epis-
copal Bishop Judson Childs
has attempted some quiet be-
hind-the-scenes education
with Archbishop Donnellan,
although, for the present,
"Tom is hard-headed." Donel-
lan’s ministry to gays and
lesbians has thus far been
limited to sponsoring
"Courage," a Catholic gay
alcohols anonymous, which
seeks to support the one or
two in Atlanta who show up
every once in a while to
attempt to be "converted" to
heterosexuality.

Ken Greene: "The value of the
letter is that it will increase
public awareness. It has al-
ready inspired a law suit. The
city stadium in San Diego had
been booked for the Pope for
his next USA visit. The
Ratzinger letter shows that
the Church officially discrimi-
nates. It is a violation of law
to allow government property
to be used by an institution
that discriminates. You can’t
make a discriminatory state-
ment without its costing you.
There may be economic reper-
cussions throughout the coun-
try on the Church’s offi-
cial policy of discrimination.

"For the moment our sup-
port is not in the official
Church, but from other
groups like yours. Individu-
ally on the local level, you
can write to Bishops who are
attempting to implement the
letter, with your views. You
can write letters of support
to those parishes and clergy
who continue to provide
refuge for Dignity and for
gay and lesbian Catholics."

Billie Mills has participated in
several TV interviews since
the issuance of the Ratzinger
letter. The public was invited
to the next AIDS Healing Ser-
vice in Atlanta, which will be
sponsored by Dignity Atlanta
at the Holy Spirit Church at
4449 Northside Drive, N.W. on
February 29.

Observation. Cardinal
RATzinger - the most appro-
priately named churchman
since the prosecutor of Joan
of Arc - CAUCHON.

AFTERWORD: The second Sun-
day after presenting the
UULGC program, Dignity
Atlanta held its first liturgy
in the sanctuary of UUCA.
The members felt they had to
remove from the beloved pas-
tor who had supported them
the pressures building against
him from forces in the Atlanta
Church hierarch.

On that note, we’ll close
with the text of the publicized
position of this denomination
on the subject.

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
RESPONSE
TO VATICAN
STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUAL-
ITY AND AIDS

By F. Jay
Deacon Director, Office of
Lesbian and Gay Concerns

THE RECENT LETTER to
Roman Catholic bishops from
the Congregation for the
Doctrine of the Faith demon-
strates again — in its asser-
tions about sexuality, gay and
lesbian people, and AIDS —
that the Catholic hierarchy
and its archaic religious
assumptions pose a serious
threat to the well-being of
those who deviate from the
church’s specifications about
what constitutes "valid" psy-
chosexual orientation or
behavior.

Further, the statement
gives compelling evidence of a
willingness to look past the
facts in favor of long-held
and emotionally-laden preju-
dice. Its linkage of homosexu-
ality with AIDS is both igno-
rant and mischievous.

The assertion that the
sexuality of gay and lesbian
people constitutes "behavior
to which no one has any con-
ceivable right" itself constitu-
tes an astonishing arrog-
ance. It belies a wish to
establish a theocratic state in
which an equation is drawn
between the Catholic hierar-
chy and God and the rights
of citizens may be rationed by
the church according to its
doctrines. The point is only
heightened by the charge that
the gay community invites
violence by promoting civil
rights protections.

The assertion that homo-
sexuality threatens the lives
and well-being of the public
because it leads to AIDS is
unpardonably remote from the
facts. Indeed, the far more
devastating AIDS epidemic in
East and Central Africa is
being spread almost exclu-
sively through "normal" het-
erosexual intercourse. AIDS is
a disease, related to a too-
little understood virus, not a
punishment inflicted by the
cruel deity of the bishops.

In the bishops’ view, sexuality
remains the object of fear and
loathing. Prejudice and dis-
 crimination are thus less
objectionable than departure
from doctrines conceived in a
time when primitive notions of
sexuality prevailed. These no-
tions have been codified into
eternal truth by the Catholic
hierarchy; but they are of
little value to the modern world and, indeed, pose a serious threat in a time when starvation and overpopulation meet with papal prohibitions against birth control; when women, who now press their claims for equality with men, meet with the stubborn insistence that the male bears more "natural resemblance" to God than the female; when gay and lesbian people, long denied full inclusion in the public realm and instead treated to violence and hate, find their pariah position reinforced by Rome; and when the growing crisis of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which demands intelligence and compassion, meets instead with ancient superstition.

Such outworn assumptions have a long history of resistance to the common good and to the growth of human consciousness. Biblical preachers of little more than a century ago declared the institution of slavery to be God’s will. Left-handedness was regarded as a perversion. The rights of women have long been opposed by those who, claiming to speak for God, have quoted the Judaeo-Christian scriptures. Today, the social institution of Apartheid is held by South Africans as an expression of the divine will as detailed in the Bible—a position officially abandoned by the dominant Dutch Reformed Church there only this past October.

Unitarian Universalists urge reflection upon outworn religious assumptions and propose a serious religious alternative that affirms reason, science, human intuition and lived experience as profoundly as it affirms ancient religious traditions. We see the current controversy about sexuality and AIDS as religious in nature. It is a controversy in which all participants must respect the rights of others to differ. We affirm the right of the bishops to believe as they may. We do not affirm their right to impose their prejudices upon others in a way that distorts facts, feeds public prejudice, or denies civil rights and liberties to those with whom they disagree. The Vatican letter oversteps the bounds of decency and mutual respect in a pluralistic society.

The author commented on the public reception of this position:

The UUA’s PR department sent the statement to the press, which didn’t make much of it, but UPI picked it up and a story appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle and the LA Times. The Times story begins: "The Unitarian Universalist Association, in a blunt assessment, says the Vatican’s statement on homosexuality was laced with ‘archaic religious assumptions’ and an ‘astonishing arrogance’ that threatens homosexuals’ life styles. The statement this week by the liberal denomination ... is an unusual breach of normal ecumenical etiquette ..."

We conclude this section with a call to action: UULGC members, newsletter readers, people of good will, are urged to join the protest circle now scheduled to surround Christ The King Cathedral at 10:00 AM, Sunday, March 8, 1987. The event is sponsored and being organized by the Atlanta Gay Center and Dignity Atlanta. Its purpose is to protest the fact that as of this writing Dignity Atlanta is one of only four chapters in the United States which have been put off Church property in response to Cardinal Ratzinger’s Vatican Letter on "Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons." The contents of the Vatican letter repeat what the Reverend Charles Stanley alleged last year: that AIDS is God’s judgment on the homosexual lifestyle. As people of good will circled Reverend Stanley’s First Baptist Church of Atlanta in February of 1986 to protest his libel of God, so, slightly more than one year later, another Circle the Church protest is necessary to bear witness against renewed human viciousness in the guise of religion. Call the Atlanta Gay Center for details.

AID ATLANTA HAS NEW ADDRESS.

On March 15, AID Atlanta’s new headquarters will be at 1132 West Peachtree Street (corner of 13th St.)

Having grown from a staff of three the agency now employs 20 persons who, with 300 volunteers, are presently crowded into 2400 sq. ft. of space. The new quarters of 8300 sq. ft. will not only guarantee privacy for meetings between PWA’s and their case managers but will also provide space for meetings of the Board, staff, volunteers and program committees. Until the move these meetings have had to be farmed out to other locations.

AID Atlanta has a critical need for usable office furniture and for volunteers to help with the moving. Inter-
ested persons should call Adrian at 872-0600.

**AID ATLANTA MONTHLY CALENDAR.**

Month: March 1987

Support Group Meetings (call 872-0600 for locations)

- Bereavement Group
  - Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
- Lymphadenopathy/ARC Group
  - Mon. 7-9 p.m.
- Friends & Partners
  - Wed. 7-9 p.m.
- PWA (Persons with AIDS) Group
  - Tues. 7-8:30 p.m.
  - Wed. 7-9 p.m.
- PWA/Minority Issues
- PWA/Wellness Group
  - Tues. 7-9 p.m.

PWA/PWARC WOMEN'S GROUP.

Meets the first and third Mondays of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the AID Atlanta Office. Karen Geney and Sarah Holmes are the facilitators. Please call 872-0600 for further information.

**FIGHT THE FEAR WITH FACTS**

Register today for AID Atlanta's AIDS Awareness and Action Week-end. March 21-22, 1987 at the Piertremont Plaza Hotel, 590 W. Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA 30308. The cost is $20.00 for the entire weekend. Please call 872-0600 for further information.

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Red stickers have been placed on the mailing labels or envelopes of those readers whose subscriptions have expired. Mailings will not continue after the second red sticker. We thank those who have sent in their subscriptions since the beginning of February and we look forward to hearing from more subscribers in March.

Please clip out coupon below and mail with reimbursement to the address indicated. Thank you.

**SUBSCRIPTION COUPON**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta
1911 Cliff Valley Way, N.E.,
Atlanta, GA 30329

Enclosed is my check for $6.00 made out to UULGC, for a one-year subscription to the UULGC Newsletter.

Name__________________________
Address________________________
City___State__Zip_______
Telephone No.____________________
PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC
CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1987, 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, ROOM 112. AN EVENING WITH BILLIE MILLS, PRESIDENT OF DIGNITY ATLANTA, WITH DR. BARRERAS.
A presentation with Question-and-Answer session on surviving as a gay Catholic in the wake of the Vatican statement on homosexuality and AIDS issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (formerly, the Office of the Inquisition); what forces now remain to sustain the gay Catholic as an individual and within the community?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1987, 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, ROOM 112. AN EVENING WITH DOUGLAS ZAUDERER, NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER OF THE ATLANTA GAY CENTER. What has happened to Doug since his heroic stand against attempts by his brother James and the Citizens for Public Awareness to repeal the Atlanta city sexual orientation non-discrimination ordinance? What has happened to Doug since being fired by his homophobic, closeted-gay previous employer? How is he faring in his pursuit of life, liberty and happiness?

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1987, 7:30 PM. UULGC SOCIAL PROGRAM at the home of Ed and Peter. Call 885-1597 for directions. Bring a beverage and a snack to share. The program will be the screening, promptly at 8:00 PM, of the Phil Donahue program featuring three homosexual Roman Catholic clergy and lay theologians. This is a rescheduling of the iced-out program previously set for January 22.
to recognize and support what we are doing. It was most encouraging that, after telling David Pohl what I'm doing, he invited me to apply to be moved from associate to full fellowship; which I did while I was there. The Fellowship Committee was meeting that week.

We also began organizing ourselves and elected a steering committee and set up other committees.

I also met with a number of denominational people regarding the UUA and AIDS issues. The UUA AIDS Task Force had not been officially reconstituted at that time but clearly has its work cut out for it. Much is going to have to be done in the districts by the districts.

"Now for some Atlanta background: In November 1985, UUCA Senior Minister Terry Sweetzer invited me to become UUCA’s non-paid Affiliate Minister for AIDS Outreach - a part-time or occasional function.

"Since that time the need for a UU AIDS outreach has been demonstrated to be a full-time need. In the summer of 1986 we began talking about constituting a Benevolent Fraternity to meet that need. The form of such a community is that of a nonprofit membership corporation, in which the members employ a minister to go out into the community for AIDS outreach."

Both UU Congregations and one of the three UU Fellowships in Atlanta are represented on the Board of what is now the Unitarian-Universalist Metro Ministry, Inc. of Atlanta. As of this date all Atlanta UU Congregations and Fellowships—except the Emerson Fellowship—have pledged to support it.

On the following Sunday, January 18, 1987, Terry Sweetzer publicized the Metro Ministry as a part of his sermon. "Justice, Equity and Coming to Passion." After the UUCA Sunday service Metro Ministry Board members gathered in the Sanctuary to answer questions and sign up members. It is assumed that similar meetings have been held at the other cooperating congregations and fellowships.

The Metro Ministry brochure was enclosed with the January 18 UUCA Order of Service. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter.

How can UULGC help? In the form of publicity - paying for advertisements, say in publications of the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild and of the Atlanta Gay Center, in soliciting gay and lesbian friends and acquaintances to sign up as pledging members.

There is much to do. There is now a candle where there should be a lighthouse.

Let us close with the words of Reverend Chancey on the background to the thrust for a UU Spiritual Witness in the Atlanta Community. Joe first makes a comparison to classic Roman Catholic outreach efforts.

"The polarities in Roman Catholic religious orders can perhaps best be characterized by the Dominicans and Franciscans. Dominic and Francis were contemporaries. Dominic was a scholar and members of his order were and continue to be intellectual and well educated. Francis couldn't care less about education and books. When one of his follow-

ers established a school within the order he came in and tore it up. His ministry was to and with the people.

"I don’t believe in polarization of this sort. But within Unitarian Universalism I believe we tend to be much more Dominican than Franciscan. I, of course, have something more Franciscan in mind for the UU Metro Ministry of Atlanta. We articulate well our valuing of the worth and dignity of each and every human. However, if one wants to be affirmed by us one must first find us. I doubt that there is a UU society on the continent that does not have members involved in some kind of social action, many of them being organized or recruited through the local congregation. But institutionally we do so much less than we can. It is certainly not out of any lack of caring. I believe we lack a sense of vision—of who and what we are and of what we can become.

"In orthodox Christianity, they say that the word became flesh and dwelled among us, in the person of Jesus. In Unitarian-Universalism the word is the belief in the dignity and worth of every human being, and in the never-ending search for truth. And our word, our values become flesh as we live them out.

"What I propose is an institutional affirmation, articulation and enactment of those values in the community at large. The purpose of the Metro Ministry is to provide various and specific social service urban ministries that demonstrate our values and enable people to lead more fulfilling lives.

Page 2
"The first ministry is (and I use the present tense since it already partly exists) an AIDS Action Ministry. The full time ministry will be a balance between: (1) direct ministry to people affected by AIDS (persons with AIDS, ARC, their families and friends), (2) working and networking with various agencies, coalitions, and organizations, (3) speaking engagements in the community as well as at area and district UU societies, (4) time spent in reading, writing and preaching. But the major emphasis will be on providing direct ministry to people affected by AIDS.

My roles range from the priestly and purely sacramental to that of social worker to that of friend. Usually it is a combination. I have, and will as my time permits, conduct speaking engagements and educational programs. I have not written an AIDS sermon. I have the ideas, I have the materials. I do not have the time.

"When I hear a volunteer from AID Atlanta tell of visiting a PWA who is in the hospital and literally on his death bed, and seeing a pamphlet on conversion for homosexuals left there by someone from First Baptist Church, I know this ministry is needed. When someone who has AIDS wants one of the traditional sacraments, but has a theology that is more Unitarian Universalist than orthodox Christian, I know there is a need for this ministry. When I get people who were reluctant to use social services to do so, and they still want contact with me, I know there is a need for this ministry.

"I could give more examples of things that I will do in this ministry, things that are not being done at all or things that not enough people are doing. But I believe there is one more compelling reason for us to engage in this project.

"There is a beautiful interview in the September 1986 UU World with Kay Montgomery, UUA’s Vice President for Development. In that interview, Kay says: "For me, Unitarian Universalism calls for being completely present in the world. At its heart is engagement. It encourages us to be open to what is beautiful and to be outraged at injustice. It’s an active rather than a passive religion. There’s a quote that says, ‘nothing is settled, everything matters.’ For Unitarian Universalists—for us—nothing is certain and everything under the sun gives us reason to care."

"We need to be present and engaged in the world. As important as what we do for others in this ministry is, let us not forget that we, quite rightly, are also doing it for ourselves.

"Kay also speaks of a radical theology, contradicting Calvinism and the Protestant ethic, suggesting that pleasure can be more productive than guilt or pain: that we do what we do best, and by extension what we enjoy. I believe that being present and engaged in the world is one of the things we do best and enjoy most and that this kind of social ministry is long overdue not just for society, but for us, also."

In the January 19, 1987 UUCA Newsletter, Terry Sweetzer provided further encouragement for joining the Metro Ministry:

"Our congregation has a chance to participate in one of the most exciting Unitarian Universalist outreach ministries to come to Atlanta. Metro Ministry is a dream formulated by many of us over the last year as a first step in bringing a uniquely U-U, direct ministry to people affected by our community’s social problems.

"The Unitarian Universalist Metro Ministry will be organized, in many respects, like one of our congregations. We will have voting/pledging members, a Board of Trustees and a minister. The difference between Metro Ministry and the congregation of which you are a part is that the ministry is not provided to the congregation but in the Greater Atlanta Community.

"Presently, there is an organizing board on which I am privileged to serve as chair. As soon as we have enough charter members willing to pledge at least $120.00 a year, the membership will have an opportunity to elect a new board and to participate in the calling of our first minister.

"We think this is an idea whose time has come and hope to have all of our 300 charter members in the next few months. You will find a pamphlet in this newsletter which tells about Metro Ministry’s first program initiative to minister to those in our community affected by Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Also, there is information
about how to join Metro Ministry as a charter member.

"The challenge of Unitarian Universalists to respond to and care for the disadvantaged of our community was recognized at the very beginning of our organization in America. William Ellery Channing, 'father' of American Unitarianism, noted that 'the elevation of one part of the community.' resulted in the 'depression of another.'"

"Concerned Unitarian Universalists in Atlanta still believe that the challenge of helping those now brought low by circumstances of society and fate is ours to engage. We want to do it; we think Metro Ministry is a way to start; and we urge you to join us."

That evening, in the second Eugene Pickett lecture of the 1986-87 church year, Rev. Jack Mendelsohn further illuminated the meaning of Metro Ministries to the UU denomination.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 1987. UUCA EUGENE PICKETT LECTURE delivered by Jack Mendelsohn, currently minister of the First Unitarian Church of Bedford, Massachusetts, and author of the best seller, Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age. The December 1985 UULGC Newsletter printed Dr. Mendelsohn's sermon AIDS and Religious Communities, one of the earliest UU denominational witnesses on the subject. The theme of Jack's lecture was Love, Power, and Empowerment. Jack made this theme especially appropriate for delivery on the eve of the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

At Crozier Theological Seminary in Philadelphia the young student Martin Luther King, Jr. approached a philosophical dilemma. He was in the process of developing a personal theological doctrine of love. But then he came up against the writings of Nietzsche. Nietzsche derided religion, with its emphasis on love, as encouraging individual (and collective) slavery. Religion ignored the central human element, the will to power, and thus, cultivated in its adherents powerlessness.

From this discovery of Nietzsche, King sought a synthesis of love and power. Power is the ability to achieve purpose, to implement the demands of Love and Justice. Love is too often misunderstood as a resignation of power. Power without love is reckless and abusive. Love without power is weak and insipid, sentimental and anemic.

The religious synthesis of love and power seeks the empowerment of the powerless, who, when empowered, can express and share their creative love. This synthesis impelled the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. The results can be seen on the television documentary series Eyes on the Prize now being aired on the Public Broadcasting System. Jack Mendelsohn was an advisor to this series, which was created and produced by another UU, Henry Hampton.

Today, empowering the unempowered is essential to Unitarian-Universalism, if it is ever to be anything but a small, mostly white, educated, comfortable, unheard of middle class movement. UUs will have to work at inclusiveness. Inclusion is more than having in the same congregation humanists and deists, Christians and non-Christians. It is more than intellectual pluralism. The unempowered must be included so that they can be empowered, and we can be enriched by their empowerment.

The work of including and empowering goes beyond inviting tokens to come and be uncomfortable in our existing congregations and fellowships. It involves our going out to where we can work for empowerment. It may involve our cooperation with other denominations.

One example is the Church of the United Community in Roxbury, Massachusetts. It involves a team ministry and three denominations serving a mostly black congregation. Unitarian-Universalists have joined the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. A husband-and-wife team serve as co-ministers. The husband is a Black United Church of Christ minister; the wife is a white UU minister, who is fascinated with UU history.

Other examples are found in Los Angeles, where monies from the UU Whitney M. Young Fund for Urban Ministries are used to support a UU Korean Congregation and UU Hispanic congregation. The Whitney Fund also supports a UU Hispanic congregation in San Diego.

The way for UUism may be, as above, to support unempowered groups in empowering themselves rather than to try immediately to integrate them into white middle class congregations, where they will
remain submerged—if they choose to return. UUA has provided one shining example of successful problem solving in the last decade: getting women into the ministry and supporting them there. A problem was finally verbalized as a problem, and specific measures were taken to achieve a remedy. The example of this process can be applied to the attempt to achieve a UU rainbow coalition.

Mendelsohn described his past eight years with the suburban First Unitarian Church of Bedford, Mass, as his first experience in a nonurban church setting. He spoke warmly of his experience at the then largely integrated, now majority black, First Church in Chicago, where he shared a ministry with Don Jacobsen (now UUCA Associate Minister), whom he saluted.

In an aside he referred to the five American presidents who were Unitarian: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Millard Fillmore and William Howard Taft. "Well, Jefferson wrote he would be a Unitarian alone. But he was officially a member of the Episcopal Church. William Howard Taft, on the other hand, was an active Unitarian lay leader. He held the post of moderator, the highest nonprofessional denominational post. Taft was tall and huge—over 350 pounds—he would not have fit through the sanctuary entrance on my left. Once he was in a receiving line, when a diminutive man introduced himself to Taft as a Unitarian. Taft looked down on his greeter, seized his hand, and beamed; "We are a wonderful people!"

Mendelsohn's appearance at UUCA was an early highlight to a week of activities celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday, which culminated Saturday, January 24, with a second Civil Rights March in Forsyth County, Georgia. Several UULGC and UUCA members participated in the latter.


PANEL MEMBERS: 1. Jim Martin (D) District 26 Representative to the Georgia legislature; winner of the 1986 LGRC/ACLU award in recognition of service to the Atlanta Gay/Lesbian Community.

2. Demetrius Mazacoufa, longtime lobbyist in Georgia; for several years has been lobbyist for the State Nurses' Association. Currently is lobbyist for ACLU of Georgia. Has contributed services to the Georgia AIDS Action Committee (GAAC).


4. Gil Robison, Attorney, Member of GAAC. Monitor of proposed legislation affecting persons with AIDS and Gays/Lesbians. Founder of First Tuesday, Atlanta's Gay/Lesbian Chapter of the Democratic Party.

Rep Jim Martin: "I'd like to make some general comments. I see Chris every day at the legislature. He's doing a fine job. I feel that we're more prepared this year than last.

"All AIDS legislation must first go to the Health and Ecology Subcommittee which is headed by George Hooks, a good man. Chairman Hooks will not let any bill get out of committee unless it is perfected. That includes the Betty Clark bill (House Bill 36 proposes to charge with a misdemeanor every PWA and every person who tests positive for the HIV antibody and who fails to inform his/her medical/health practitioner prior to receiving service from such practitioner.)"

"Billy McKinney's bill proposing to apply the existing state sodomy law only to homosexuals, and to remove consensual heterosexual sodomy from the behavior prohibited must come before the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member. I will try to substitute our bill, which proposes to eliminate all consensual not-for-pay sodomy from the behavior defined as illegal. We will also attempt in the last 21 days of the session to amend the current solicitation for sodomy code so that it no longer covers consensual acts not involving payment.

"In the area of appropriations there has been limited disaster. The money for AIDS
that we in the legislature put into the budget last year is there. But you can’t find it specifically. Through scrutiny, Chris Hagen discovered that $300,000 for the Grady AIDS Clinic is part of the $30,000,000 continuation resolution. But it is not specified. The AIDS budget is going for Grady, AID Atlanta, and two other items. The Governor’s Office is willing for the money to go to AID Atlanta in hidden fashion, provided it is not out-and-out specified as such.

CHRIS HAGEN: "Line item 16 of last year’s budget showed a Dept. of Human Resources request of $872,000 for AIDS funding, followed by the Governor’s request of $0. The $876,000 was personally taken out by Governor Joe Frank Harris. We subsequently found $300,000 still in the budget for educational funds, epidemiology, etc. We can find a way to put AID Atlanta money back into the budget. We can make it DHR Money for them to pass through another agency. But this opens up problems of church-state relations, so a new pass-through agency must be found for AID Atlanta.

"Representative Eleanor Richardson is Chair of the Appropriations Committee; she is also on the Department of Human Resources House subcommittee. Although she is sponsoring other AIDS legislation that sanctions the violation of confidentiality, she is willing to help us on getting the AIDS money. Governor Harris has opposition to his blocking AIDS money from many legislators from members of his own staff, and from his own Office of Planning and Budget.

"Tomorrow there will be a meeting on Betty Clark’s House Bill 36. You should know that it was prepared by Dr. Andre Nahimas of Emory University and by Judge Eldridge, the two men who are behind most of the discriminatory AIDS-related legislation being proposed at General Assembly. Five persons will speak against the bill: they will include Atlanta City Councilwoman Mary Davis, who will testify as a member of the State AIDS Task Force; Bruce Garner, President of the Board of AID Atlanta; Bruce Rose and Pat McCrary.

"Betty’s bill is discriminatory in nature; it singles out AIDS and no other communicable diseases. The chance for getting this bill out of committee is nil. The state of California has a law that states exactly the opposite of this bill. In California, it is illegal for a medical worker to disclose her/his patient’s status with regard to AIDS without that patient’s consent.

"Since Betty Clark is chair of the Standing Committee of the House, she has the authority to ask for a hearing on this bill. Most members of the subcommittee are opposed to this bill."

DEMETRIUS MAZACOUFA.

"Legislators in general want to do in medical legislation what is medically correct. They want to see a clear consensus in the medical community before they act. Since there is dissension in the medical community on the issue it addresses, it is not likely that the Clark bill will pass out of committee. Buddy Childers (Chair of the Health & Ecology House Committee, 15th District – Rome, Ga. Representative) asked me about the bill. He said, ‘We’re not going to have the dog and pony show that we had last year.’"

"DHR Commissioner Ledbetter has already sent the committee a notice opposing the Clark bill. Buddy Childers may try to get all the opposing factions to work something up for 1988. The danger of HB 36 is that by forcing those who know they are HIV antibody positive to go public, it will make people fear to take the test because of the negative impact."

GIL ROBISON: "The Georgia Fair Employment of the Handicapped Code, in effect since 1982, is only designed to get the handicapped through the front door. We are attempting to redraft legislation defining communicable diseases, to exclude AIDS and thus enable this condition to be subject to the handicap code. DHR has suggested that communicable disease excluded from the handicapped code be defined as airborne communicable diseases. This would include highly infectious diseases like hepatitis, but exclude AIDS, which can only be communicated through exchange of bodily fluids.

"We need to get an organizational front so that legislators can embrace our legislation and still go back to their constituent districts and brag about how conservative or mainstream they are. We
need to make coalitions with groups perceived as mainstream, such as the Easter Seals lobby.

"I am chair of the Georgia AIDS Action Committee. We have set up a centralized legislation monitoring system. Chris Hagen gets the proposed state legislation on his personal computer - he plugs in prior history with a daily update. Chris produces a composite - a daily worksheet on each bill and what needs to be done. To help us with the doing, we need volunteers. Volunteers are asked to contact GAAC Coordinator Diane Stephenson (UUCA member, founding member of the Atlanta UULGC, former Director of the Atlanta Gay Center)."

DEMETRIUS MAZACOUFA: "The work of the volunteer is critical to the success of most lobbying that goes on at the legislature. Volunteers do have impact on the legislative process. We need someone to be a conduit for the transmission of information. Volunteers can serve as contact persons. Other volunteers can call and write their area legislators. Individual nurses based all over Georgia have been invaluable to the success of my lobbying efforts for the Nurse’s Association."

CHRIS HAGEN: "The City of Atlanta lobbyist, Bill Alexander, has been helpful to us. We can make coalitions with other lobbyists, for example, those representing health organizations. When you hang around the legislature and get to know people, things become possible. People offer us copying services, secretarial services, law clerks to do research. Some legislators from South Georgia say, 'We never had an open homosexual come to talk to us before.' You are not rejected out of hand.

"Billy McKinney’s Forced Testing/Quarantine Bill is being reintroduced this session. As with the other dangerous AIDS-related bills, it was drafted by Judge Eldridge at the suggestion of Dr. Nahimas. "Eldridge and Nahimas have also drafted what is being offered as House Bill 107 introduced by Eleanor Richardson (Post 52). On its face the bill seems innocuous, but, as written, it violates confidentiality in subsection 31-9-9 (6) (2) by waiving the patient’s privacy privilege for any disclosure of information by a health care provider, when the information to be disclosed is obtained by the provider as the result of treatment, care, testing, or examination in the ordinary course of business."

George Hooks and Buddy Childers have had long talks with Chris Hagen on this bill. Eleanor Richardson has been told that HB 107 will not be scheduled for a hearing unless and until the confidentiality loophole abuses are closed.

Back to Chris Hagen: "We need a straight redneck from Clayton County who can help us with one piece of business. We need to get our own whom we can use in local communities all across Georgia. The Georgia State Legislature is not like the Atlanta City Council. You can’t drag things out. The Legislature goes so fast that if you don’t run with it you don’t know what’s happening."

AID ATLANTA MONTHLY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY

Support Group Meetings (call 872-0600 for locations)

- Bereavement Group: Thurs. 7-9 p.m.
- Lymphadenopathy/ARC Group: Mon. 7-9 p.m.
- Friends and Partners: Wed. 7-9 p.m.
- Parents/Family Members Group: Mon. 7-9 p.m.
- PWA (Persons with Aids) Group: Tues. 7-8:30 p.m. Wed. 7-9 p.m. PWA/Minority Issues
- PWA/Wellness Group: Tues. 7-9 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- PWA/PWARC WOMEN’S GROUP

Meets the first and third Mondays of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the AID Atlanta office. Karen Geney and Sarah Holmes are the facilitators. Please call 872-0600 for further information.

WELLNESS WEEKEND

Will be held February 28th and March 1st, at the Pierremont Hotel. Registration is $25.00. Call 872-0600 for more information.
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Red stickers have been placed on the mailing labels or envelopes of those readers whose subscriptions have expired. Mailings will not continue after the second red sticker. We thank those who have sent in their subscriptions since the beginning of January and we look forward to hearing from more subscribers in February.

Please clip out coupon below and mail with reimbursement to the address indicated. Thank you.

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1911 Cliff Valley Way, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30329

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Address_______________________

City_____State____Zip__________

Telephone No.__________________
PROJECTED ATLANTA UULGC
CALENDAR

THURSDAY: JANUARY 8, 1986;
8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT
UUCA, ROOM 112. A PRESENTA-
TION BY REV. JOSEPH K.
CHANCY ON HIS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY TO MINISTER TO
PERSONS WITH AIDS.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1986;
7:30 PM. UULGC social pro-
gram at the home of Ed and
Peter. Bring a beverage and a
snack to share. The program
will be the screening,
promptly at 8:00 PM, of the
Phil Donahue program featur-
ing three homosexual Roman
Catholic clergy and lay
theologians.

JOURNAL OF ACTIVITIES NOT
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19,
1986. AMERICAN CIVIL LIBER-
TIES UNION LESBIAN/GAY
RIGHTS CHAPTER PROGRAM:
MANDATORY TESTING FOR
AIDS.

I Preliminary Matters: Update
on attempts to gather peti-
tions to place the City of
Atlanta Sexual Orientation
Nondiscrimination Ordinance
on the Ballot for voter deci-
sion: As of this date one
petition gatherer was ob-
served at the Five Points
Marta Station. The petition
gathering effort is centered
at the First Baptist Church of
Atlanta located at 754
Peachtree Street, NE. (881-
1221). Three hundred petition
gatherers have thus far been
assembled. Nancy Schaeffer,
on the Morals Committee of
First Baptist, who testified
against the ordinance at the
repeal attempt before the City
Council Executive Meeting,
is the prime mover. There is
indication that Schaeffer and
company are using First Bap-
tist's Computer and Staff
which could endanger the tax
exempt status of that Church.
The goal of the group was to
have gathered the minimum
signatures by December 15.

II Alexander Wallace has written
a grant request to the Fund
for Southern Communities to
support a Privacy Coalition
convention of interested orga-
nizations in Atlanta.

III On November 11-14, ACLU/
LGRC representatives attended
and participated in the New
York City Planning Meeting
for the 1987 March on Wash-
ington for Gay and Lesbian
Rights. 300 voting delegates
represented 150 organizations.
There were also nonvoting ob-
servers. Workshops were con-
ducted on Civil Rights and on
Anti-Gay and Lesbian Violence.
An executive Committee of 10
was set up, and a steering
Committee of 65 delegates. The
National Office was moved to
Washington, D.C.

The date of the March is
set for October 11, 1987, the
Sunday preceding Columbus
Day, to make the March acces-
sible to the most people. Re-
lated events will include a
Freedom Train from California
to DC, which will pick up
people along the way. By Jan-
uary 15 a Southeastern Re-
gional Steering Committee
will be formed. It will include
one person with AIDS and one
physically challenged represen-
tative. One mandate from
the November Planning Ses-
son is gender parity and 25%
representation of people of
color among the organizers.

IV Background to Mandatory
Testing for AIDS proposals in
Georgia: The Board of the GA
State Dept. of Human
Resources has put out AIDS
regulations for public com-
ment. They include sections
on Mandatory Testing. The
document is seen as only a
step toward routine required
screening. State representa-
tives of DHR have said they
are not the appropriate group
to attempt to stop this move.
Many are looking to the ACLU
to oppose it.

There is a proposal that
every prostitute convicted in
the state shall submit to HIV
antibody testing. Every per-
son convicted of prostitution
outside the state but found
within Georgia shall also be
required to submit to HIV
testing.

V Ken South, Executive
Director, AID Atlanta. "AID
Atlanta has adopted as its official statement those of the National AIDS Network and the National Lesbian/Gay Rights Task Force. The test has some valid uses, but they are conditional. ...when used in a truly confidential way with the full consent of the person being tested for the purpose of decision-making.

"There is a Civil Rights Domino theory which the DHR proposals may put into practice. If you allow testing for the most vulnerable groups (i.e. prostitutes), other groups will suffer. Why testing? Why testing of female prostitutes. Clinically we cannot document the transmission of the AIDS virus from female to male. Testing is the answer of a frustrated bureaucracy that wants to look like it is doing something."

VI

Dolores French, Founder/Head of HIRE - Hooking Is Real Employment: "I was approached by the Ga. Dept. of Human Resources to participate in the AIDS Task Force. I agreed, because I realized that the only way I could keep up was to participate. The only way to get statistics to protect prostitutes is to participate.

"Prostitutes do not show as high an incidence of AIDS as do sexually active women who are not prostitutes - if you exclude IV drug users. Most prostitutes who have tested positive to the HIV antibody have been IV drug users.

"So, if any group is subject to mandatory testing, it should be the clients of female prostitutes, since transmission from male to female is clinically proven, but transmission from female to male is not.

"I participated to have tests administered to those not incarcerated, so that we would have a broader base. Only 10 - 15% of female prostitutes are streetwalkers, who comprise most of those incarcerated prostitutes.

"I am enraged because there is no statistical or scientific reason to do this. Anything to be tried out on a particular population can be tried out on prostitutes first. Then it can be expanded to less vulnerable groups."

Why is the incidence of AIDS so low among prostitutes? "Prostitutes all over the world have understood safe sex practices for a long time - the use of the spermicide Nonoxynol 9, sterilization of toys. I wouldn't let sperm touch me - long before we knew anything about AIDS.

"But at the International Meeting of Prostitutes in Brussels, we had some safe sex issues to deal with. In German brothels, prostitutes by law are not allowed to use condoms/prophylactics unless customers request it. German streetwalkers, while not so required by law, must follow the same unsafe practices to remain competitive. The Convention sent a letter to the German government to demand that they pass a mandatory law that prophylactics be used in brothels.

"In England and Australia clients are as bad as in Germany about not wanting to use condoms." Client education is a must.

VII

MICHAEL HAUPTMAN, SECRETARY, ACLU OF GEORGIA: "The concept behind the attempt to legalize testing relates to quarantine powers to keep society healthy. But mandatory HIV antibody testing is a direct violation of the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It has no rational basis. It will also violate Federal commerce laws. States cannot regulate commerce leaving the state or coming into the state. A hypothetical example: A busload of reformed Christian hookers is traveling through Georgia from Miami, where each hooker has been "saved." The DHR proposal, by enabling the bus to be stopped and every born-again hooker to be detained for forced-testing, violates interstate commerce."

Another concern, "You know how bureaucracy screws up. There are mixups. Will the results on the person tested be his/hers or someone else's?"

Also: "What if someone arrested for prostitution says she is you? The City of Atlanta doesn't verify who you say you are when they arrest you. The only check will come if a police officer recognizes the arrested person from the past."

VIII

Buren Batson. "The LGR Chapter can draft a statement and get the ACLU of Georgia to submit it for reading at a public hearing on this proposal. We can often accomplish things through administrative processes rather than through legislation and litigation"
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1986: The Annual Bill of Rights Dinner of the AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF GEORGIA.

A glorious celebration of Americans. This year's theme involved awards to activists in cases where the ACLU participated and lost; but these cases will ultimately precipitate political and legislative and social advancement in American civil liberties.

The first set of awards went to principals in the U.S. Supreme Court Case of Bowers v. Hardwick: George Brenning, Michael Hardwick, Clinton Summerall and Kathleen L. Wilde. Kathy commented for the group. "I think the Hardwick case provides a lesson in both the catalytic power and the limits of legislation. People saw both their own self-interest and justice in the same light. The Supreme Court Decision was institutionally catalytic: as a result, the National ACLU now has a Lesbian/Gay Rights component and a full-time cooperating attorney.

"After the Decision the hardest thing we [principals] had to come to terms with was that we had made all the right decisions - legally. There was not something else we could have done. "We lost because we didn't have a political base. We needed to prepare a groundswell [of political support] beforehand.

"We've done all we can with the legal process. The rest is up to you. Good luck."

George Wilson, speaking for another group of awardees (The Gwinnett County Anti-Censorship Advocates) offered a sobering reminder: "In this country Freedom and Liberty is always an unfinished business."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1986, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. RECEPTION FOR JEFF LEVI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE (in an affluent North Atlanta neighborhood).

Jeff: "My being here today is part of the Regionalization Thrust of the NGLTF - an effort to get out of New York and San Francisco. We realize that the concerns of New York and San Francisco's gay/lesbian communities are not the concerns of gay/lesbian Middle America, where issues such as coming out in the workplace and in your neighborhoods are still basic. Our effort is to help create an environment where people feel comfortable coming out.

"I want to tell you about the Task Force. We are a civil rights advocacy organization, but we are a national organization. We are careful not to come into the community to make judgments about the issues in that community. Before arriving, I was approached by representatives of the Atlanta Gay Center to take part in a press conference opposing Commissioner of Public Safety George Napper and his handling of antigay violence, particularly recent murders of gays. Initially I agreed. But it was a mistake, since I did not touch base with other elements of the Atlanta gay community. I discovered that there was division among various gay groups in Atlanta on how to best handle this issue, and I had to withdraw. As a representative of a national organization which seeks to unify gays and lesbians, I cannot enter a local community and contribute to division by taking sides.

"Yet anti-gay violence is one of NGLTF's most important projects. And Atlanta is one of the cities in our surveys - the bases of our project. We have carried the project forward by approaching the National Institute of Justice and members of Congress. We have been lobbying to get a congressional subcommittee to direct the National Institute of Justice to fund the project.

"The media often call on us to 'find out what do the gays think'. We direct them to the most appropriate source when we are not that source.

"We do traditional lobbying, visible testifying. But 99% of our work involves day-by-day visits to congressional offices to educate and inform, by making personal contact, by establishing our credibility.

"You may have read about Senator Strom Thurmond's reaction to my testimony, when I mentioned that twenty to thirty million Americans are gay and lesbian. The news accounts [with Thurmond inquiring what resources there were to cure them] read more cynically than the situation in fact was. Senator Thurmond was genuinely curious. A bell went off. He learned something he hadn't known before. This kind of connecting we are doing all the time with unlikely people in unlikely circumstances. And it has an impact.

"Another key to our impact is our being always there. By our being always
there we develop a level of trust. I've been on the Task Force in Washington for four years. During that time I've seen five different assistant secretaries of Health and Human Services. We are the constant, not the bureaucrats. The bureaucrats are now interested in us. Those who didn't want to talk to us four years ago, call us now.

"We've learned to be quiet when it's appropriate to be quiet, and to go public when it is necessary. I advocated that CDC get a clear consensus from AIDS-related groups, gay and nongay to build support before issuing its AIDS workplace guidelines. CDC did not do so. So, before CDC held a conference to publicize these guidelines, we called a press conference dominated by nongay organizations to endorse these guidelines. This had an immense impact on public opinion.

"From Atlanta I go to Orlando to the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners, where I will be joined by representatives of National Gay Rights Advocates. We will work to get the commissioners to ban discrimination by the insurance industry toward those suspected of being at risk for AIDS. The biggest issue on which we have not come to agreement involves testing. Our concern is the confidentiality violations.

"In Georgia we have a significant issue. The Hardwick decision demonstrates that there will be no quick fix on liberty, justice, privacy for all. But the Hardwick decision is the "Anita Bryant" of the 1980's. It is an issue that can build coalitions. We will build a Privacy Coalition with like-minded organizations - a National-Level Coalition. We will also provide resources for local privacy projects, such as that being formed in Georgia by the efforts of American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter and the Metropolitan Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Organization Council. Local privacy project people should speak to Sue Hyde, who is the NGLTF coordinator of the National privacy project.

"When people like Jim Mason of the CDC say that the key to stopping AIDS is the elimination of promiscuity and the fostering of monogamous relationships, we can then say - then there must be an official sanction for same sex monogamous relationships.

"To continue to do all this, we need you to invest in us, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. George Brenning, our new board member from Atlanta is charged with raising $2,500 from this area. Please help him."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1986 - AWARDS NIGHT RECEPTION OF AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION LESBIAN GAY RIGHTS CHAPTER, QUAKER HOUSE, ATLANTA.

Three heroes were recognized:

Jean Levine with a record of over 15 years in the Black Civil Rights Movement, and at least 10 in the Gay/Lesbian Rights Movement. An early Board Member of the Atlanta Gay Center, founder and first Vice President of the ACLU/LGRC, now public information officer for AID Atlanta.

Jean was hailed by Jane Gavin of the Awards Committee as one straight woman with a particularly long record of not only support but action for the welfare of lesbians and gays. Jean commented: "This meeting room in the Quaker House has long-time memories. The SCLC met here in the sixties - the early sixties, when there were few places for integrated groups to gather in Atlanta. Civil rights for gays and lesbians today is reminiscent of that movement then. There is a long way to go. It seems lately that we are taking two steps backward for every step advanced. But the movement will continue."

State Legislative Representative Jim Martin was also honored. Jim has introduced a proposal to repeal the Georgia sodomy law. He has also been a voice for sanity when insane proposals dealing with AIDS issues were circulating fast and thick through the last Georgia state legislative session. Buren Batson, founder of the ACLU/LGRC and currently First Vice President of ACLU of Ga., stated: "At the last Atlanta Gay Pride March, Jim Martin was at my side from the Omni to the State Capitol, marching all the way. He was the only elected official to do so."

Carolyn Mobley was the final honoree. Many remember Carolyn's charismatic leadership of the February 1986 Circle the Church Vigil and
her chairing many important community gatherings since. Carolyn is on the Board of the Atlanta Gay Center, a lay minister, accomplished musician, and eloquent spokesperson who has worked to heal and unify the community.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1986; 8:00 PM. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA: AN EVENING WITH RICHARD SWANSON, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ATLANTA GAY CENTER.

Richard provided a random sampling of the services and achievements of the Atlanta Gay Center during the past year of his association with it:

"If you are socially-oriented - sacrifice-oriented - you can help the Center meet a multitude of needs. On Monday and Wednesday nights we hold clinics for STD screening. This includes HIV screening conducted in full confidentiality. We provide education and information, form support groups and provide space for support groups. Among these, a transsexual/transvestite support group is being formed. We operate a 24 hour helpline, taking between 8,000 and 9,000 calls per year; our helpline people have prevented several suicides.

"We provide space for and cooperate with Dignity Atlanta since it can no longer meet at St. Anthony's Church [through the American Bishops' acquiescence to Cardinal Ratzinger's diatribe issued from the Vatican's modern day Office of the Inquisition].

"Finances holds us back from being the full-service agency that we need to be. We need a more sound financial base. The clinic gets some funding - some clinic people do get paid by the Fulton County Health Dept. The News, our monthly paper, costs more money than it takes in, however. Therefore, we thank your group for advertising with us and for paying up front for your advertisement."

Question: "What are the statistics on gay-related venereal disease in Atlanta?"

Richard: "Epidemiologists, those who work with Fulton County say that the rates of syphilis and gonorrhea have gone down. This is probably the result of the regularization of safe-sex practices by informed gays who seek to prevent themselves from contracting AIDS. However there are still high syphilis and gonorrhea rates among black gays, as well as a disproportionate amount of AIDS among black gays.

"There has been an increase in the number of people who come into the AGC clinic for HIV screening. When I first associated with AGC, we did only about two HIV screenings per evening. Now we do 12-15 screenings per evening. Usually those who seek the HIV screening do so because they have some symptoms, night sweats, enlarged lymph nodes, etc. Of those who test, the results are running 30% positive for the presence of the HIV antibody. Those who take the test are assured of confidentiality, because no name is ever taken."

Upcoming developments: "A program for young people ages 13 - 21 to encourage social skills. Gay and lesbian youth don't have the resources to set up groups on their own. Such a program will be especially crucial now that the 18 - 21 year-old end of the spectrum no longer have the bars as a meeting place. Traditional youth activities - hayrides, dances, rap groups, etc. - will be featured. Counselors/chaperones will include their parents, many of whom will be happy to participate in such an opportunity for their children."

Major conference. "After the New Year AGC will host a Saturday Evening Forum at the Academy of Medicine on Homophobic Violence. The AGC has thus far done a great deal of work in this area. With regard to gay bashing, the level of violence is on the increase. It has moved beyond rhetoric and name calling. Even people perceived as being gay, but who in fact are not, are being victimized. We had the recent case of a straight perceived as being gay doused with lighter fluid and set on fire."

Comments on Atlanta City Government: "Has police advertising in gay publications actually resulted in anyone being hired? I know of some who have applied. I know of none who have been hired. Andrew Young has done less for gays and lesbians in Atlanta than the Mayor of Greensboro, North Carolina has done for gays and lesbians in his city. Young has yet to sign a proclamation on
lesbian and gay pride. His proclamations tend to focus on euphemisms, generalities: i.e. civil rights for all people, etc. Commissioner of Public Safety George Napper will not come out and say that violence against lesbians and gays in the City of Atlanta will not be tolerated."

Richard presented his view of the events that led to the picketing of the Jeff Levi reception the previous Monday: The situation is very complicated. Two AGC Board Members first picketed, then went inside and participated in the reception, where there was dialogue with Jeff. Atlanta activists who opposed the AGC handling of the press conference, with its hostile attacks on Napper and Young, also remained outside the reception for periods of time to dialogue with the picketers. There is no desire to burn the bridges between the Atlanta Gay Center and the National Gay and Lesbian Right Task Force. The common concern with Homophobic Violence is too strong to permit such petty division. It is hoped that Jeff Levi and/or the NGLTF Anti-homophobic Violence Coordinator will participate in AGC's January Saturday Evening Forum.

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CHRISTMAS WEEK. MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST AT UUCA. UULGC members participated in this long-awaited UUCA traditional by providing the luminarias.
A WORD FROM MARK DeWOLFE

INTRODUCTION

Shortly after his diagnosis this past October, my good friend Mark DeWolfe sent this letter to his colleagues in the Iroquois Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association and the Liberal Religious Educators Association. I share it with you with Mark's permission. Mark and his lover, Jim, left on a Caribbean vacation the day after I spoke with him.

Joe Chancey

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Iroquois Chapter UUMA/LREDA:

I’m sorry I’m unable to be with you this week for our annual gathering; it’s the first one I’ve missed since coming to our district and already I miss you all.

Needless to say, only something truly serious would keep me away. Last Monday I was diagnosed as having pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, one of the darker diseases for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. I am now home from hospital, recuperating from the pneumonia, and making some hard decisions about my life under new circumstances.

Learning to accept the fact that I am a person with AIDS is proving to be a slow process; it’s sinking in slowly but surely. It means accepting, or perhaps just realizing, that my time here alive is limited. Limited, but still indefinite; I don’t know really how much time I have, and even if I did, I would be working to make it both as long and as rich as I can. I will, of course, be doing everything I can to prolong my life; I’m not ready to give it up yet. I’m still in love with living, with people, with the earth, too much in love to let go of life easily.

So there’s some spunk in me yet. I am in the optimistic position of having some immune response still, and once the treatment for the pneumonia is ended, I will qualify to receive the new experimental drug, AZT. AZT has been demonstrated to interrupt the spread of the AIDS virus and prolong the life of people with AIDS. It’s still an experimental drug, so there are risks, but I believe the risks are worth the try.

Through all this the most amazing discovery has been how wide and how strong is the network of love and support. If any of you hold stock in a long distance company, thank me when you receive your next dividend cheque. The caring and concern from friends across the continent has been a source of strength for me and for Jim both. Many of you have called and I am grateful.

My having AIDS is calling forth support not only for me, but for those close to me as well. The network holds up not one person, but all who stand in the intersections of its mesh. I have learned before, and I am learning again, this most important function of religious community: to face together the mystery of life, and ultimately, of death.
The South Peel congregation is also pouring out love and support in ways I never expected. They need to do it, and I am glad to receive it. In the first days of my hospitalization, we set a hospital record for number of visitors to any one patient! While I fear they may lose the vision of their own possibilities in worrying about me, I trust they will pass this test as they have others. They will need the collegial support of the other churches in the district as they face, with me, an uncertain future.

Think of me when you’re slogging back one of those cheap American beers from the coke machine — though that is not what I will miss most this week. Don’t sing dirges yet, ’cause I’m still far from death. I am there with you in my dreams and fantasies, there with you in spirit. Enjoy the days together — for me as well as for yourselves.

L’chaim!

/s/ Mark

Mark DeWolfe
PROJECTED UULGC ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1986, 8:00 P.M. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA. AN EVENING WITH RICHARD SWANSON, Administrator of the Atlanta Gay Center. The larger congregation is invited to Meeting Room 112 to share an evening with this dynamic speaker. Richard will have returned from the New York City Planning Committee for the March on Washington. He should have an update.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1987, 8:00 P.M. UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA, ROOM 112. Program to be announced. Combined with planning meeting.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1987, MONTHLY MEETING: METROPOLITAN ATLANTA COUNCIL OF GAY AND LESBIAN ORGANIZATIONS, HIGHLAND BRANCH, ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

(1) HIGHLIGHT: ED STANSELL briefed the gathering on the Fund for Southern Communities, a broad-based, private funding agency which seeks to support emerging under-empowered groups. The Executive Board currently includes one open gay person from each of three southern states. Ed solicited MACGLO and any one of its constituent groups to submit grants requests to the Fund.

Ed also invited individuals to join or support the group as a donor (Charge: $120/year). As a member, one can volunteer to be on the grants committee, participate in the review of applications for grants, and interview representatives from constituent groups in the gay and lesbian community seeking funding for community projects. Grants range from $500 to $5,000 and are made to groups with annual budgets less than $20,000. In the past few years, four gay organizations have been funded – all in the Carolinas; they included the Durham Gay/Lesbian Health Project and at least one voter registration project.

Metro Council might be able to submit a request for a grant under under the Empowerment-of-Community Funding. Such funding can be sought for the Privacy Project/Civil Rights Caucus planned for the beginning of 1987 (in response to the U.S. Supreme Court Hardwick decision). For this caucus, which seeks a coalition of all groups in the State of Georgia interested in the privacy question, the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia will provide the letterhead stationery and be the sponsoring agency for all nongay organizations. MACGLO and the ACLU Gay Lesbian Rights Chapter will do the organizing.

(2) HIGHLIGHT: Maury Weill, President, ACLU/LGRC: "As a community we are going to have a looming common enemy" (Citizens For Public Awareness, the John Birch Society, Lyndon LaRouche, Jerry Falwell, Charles Stanley, and other fundamentalist and rightist hate groups now crusading for the destruction of civil rights for lesbian and gays). "We need to put ourselves in a position to fund activities to defeat the very well-financed initiatives of these enemies."

A committee was set up to plan the creation of a Fund Raising Organization for the Atlanta Gay/Lesbian Community – a sort of Gay United Way. There is already a working model of a Gay United Way in Washington, D.C. The question was asked, "Can we in Atlanta get 3500 people to start contributing $25.00 a month?"

(3) HIGHLIGHT: Strategy is needed to fight the efforts of Citizens for Public Awareness and their hate group allies to put the City of Atlanta’s sexual orientation nondiscrimination ordinance on the referendum ballot. Funding, as described above, will be part of that strategy. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund will fund a lawyer for a two-to-three month period to challenge the state referendum law, which allows an open-ended deadline after passage of local ordinance for the gathering of the minimum number of valid signatures required to put the issue on the ballot.

A member of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition spoke on the necessity of making one’s self known
should the initiative actually get on the ballot: "People will vote against gays. But they won't vote to deny rights to the real person they know."

It was clarified that the attacks on lesbian and gay civil rights in Atlanta was part of a larger political agenda. On Friday, September 26, before the Monday Atlanta City Council vote upholding the sexual orientation nondiscrimination ordinance, Council Member Bill Campbell said that this was a way for the Far Right to get a foothold to come back to power in Atlanta.

Bruce Hill, Pastor, MCC of the Blessed Redeemer: "We now have the opportunity to be actors, rather than reactors. There is a fundamental change going on. It is our responsibility to outline our own political agenda, to be active, to energize our own community."

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1986, TOWN MEETING SPONSORED BY THE ATLANTA GAY CENTER AND THE ATLANTA MARCH COMMITTEE AT THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

(1)

On the stage was a huge poster proclaiming: "For Life and For Love: We Won't Go Back! National March on Washington For Lesbian and Gay Rights".

(2)

Richard Swanson, Administrator, AGC: [With the Atlanta City Council on September 29, 1986 rejecting an attempt to repeal the sexual orientation nondiscrimination ordinance it had originally passed in March] "We have only won a battle. The War continues. What we would like to do this evening is talk to each other, to set our own agenda items, rather than have our agenda items set for us by the outside. We need to have an understanding of where we need to go and what we need to do."

(3)

Rev. Ken South, Executive Director, AID Atlanta, shared a few words on why he thinks the March on Washington projected for the autumn of 1987 is needed. His talk was from the perspective of AIDS: "Homophobia is at the center of this epidemic. People are dying, not because of the HIV virus, but because of homophobia."

South described his experience of homophobia at a recent training session for State of Georgia employees changed with serving clients who are IV drug users. Although 50% of IV drug users in Georgia are gay, there remains a reluctance to include anything concerning sexuality in the training. The ignorance of the professional people of the State of Georgia is appalling. Professionals ignorant of their clients' conditions and needs cannot save them.

"Georgia is ninth in the USA in the incidence of AIDS, and it is the only state with such large numbers of persons with AIDS not spending a dime on patient services. Twice the Governor of Georgia [Joe Frank Harris] has stated he will not give a dime to AID Atlanta. He perceives AID Atlanta as a homosexual organization and he will not give funds which can be perceived as his supporting homosexuality."

"Homophobia is at the center of this epidemic of AIDS. Homophobia ends up in Congress, in the Centers for Disease Control, in the Public Health Service, and in their homophobic policies."

"Racism is now being combined with homophobia. In the next five years there will be more of a dichotomy between black and straight - which will be government-funded - and white and gay, - which will not. There will be an attempt to politically divide persons with AIDS into two groups - and conquer. Fundamentalist and far right politicians-of-hate will say that white gay males have money and can take care of themselves. But the same speakers are also saying that gays are hopeless sodomites who can do nothing but roam the streets looking for sex."

Homophobia makes this March necessary. And the March in turn will confront the American people with their own homophobia.

(4)

ATTORNEY M. P. SCHULDMYER, ATLANTA LESBIAN FEMINIST ALLIANCE (ALFA): "I'm proud of being the 69th member of ALFA. I don't know how it happened, but I feel it has deep spiritual meaning. ALFA is now 14 years old. We have a new building. The ALFA House is a Women Only Space. It is a paradox of oppressed sub-
groups (within oppressed groups) in our culture, that we need to go back to our own to discuss, to share our most personal experiences. But this does not keep us from joining our brothers in the larger struggle.

"The importance of the March to me is that we will get to go past the Supreme Court, to Congress...to show the American people who we are.

"There are so many issues to take to the March. Some are personal to me. I am an attorney. The Hardwick decision has made my job a lot harder. It is now clearly okay that our intimate private lives be intruded upon and prosecuted by the State of Georgia. We note that prosecution for sodomy has stepped up in Georgia since the Hardwick decision.

"I also represent gay males with AIDS. Lesbians are the lowest risk group for contracting AIDS. If AIDS is a sign of God's displeasure, then we are God's chosen people. But lesbians cannot be complacent. We are part of the total oppression. For the same reason we should not be complacent in the knowledge that sodomy laws are enforced more against gay males than against gay females.

"Lesbian custody has entered a precarious period. Today it doesn't matter if even the experts say that the lesbian mother is a wonderful mother.

"As a member of ALANON for the last two years, I see how oppressed gays and lesbians have been in the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse."

CAROLYN MOBLEY, VICE CHAIR, AGC BOARD: "This room has fond, warm memories for me" (The Circle the Church AIDS Vigil of February, 1986). "It is sad that we have to feel the oppressors on our necks before we start moving. We need to foresee the obstacles before they strike. We need to anticipate the divide and conquer tactic [black vs white--see Ken South above] before it snowballs.

"We need to get about the process of cleansing from all of us racism, sexism, ageism. We need to groom and strengthen ourselves in nurturing each other ['til we get to the point that] all the organizations can call all their members to be present and to give witness.

"I encourage each of you to do some dreaming. I want you to think about your dreams, to fill in these gaps: I have a dream of a time when____, of a society in which____, for some people who____.

"I trust we will always be diverse—there is strength in that. Unity in diversity. As a gay community we do not have to give up our diversity. The challenge is for us to keep our special focuses as we work together."

DOUGLAS ZAUDERER (in response to a standing ovation): "First, I'd like to say that I'm not the kind of person who would want to be videotaped but I am being videotaped tonight." [By CBS cameramen for the national news TV program, West 57th Street]. "I've been at home for seven years feeding the dog and taking care of the yard. I would still be there now if I had not become aware of what my brother was doing" (to deny civil rights to gays and lesbians in Atlanta).

"I've never wondered why I was gay. But I still wonder why people are homophobic. I grew up in a family where we had wonderful dinner-time conversations. Everyone could discuss or share anything, until they discovered I was gay. Then I no longer existed as a person to them.

"I can't understand homophobia from my family's point of view, so I can't understand it from society's point of view.

"My lover Alan's sister-in-law says she knows many gays who are ashamed of themselves. If gays are homophobic about themselves, can you expect less homophobia from families and from society?"

"Alan and I have two..."
black friends who live and work in Douglasville. They can't hide their blackness and they don't want to. I came to decide that I would have to be publicly honest."

After Doug's dramatic appearance before the Atlanta City Council Executive Committee: "I got 50 calls - all favorable."

When contacted by CBS, "I discussed appearing on TV with Alan and with our two best friends. They strongly encouraged me to go forward with it. Yet because of his job, Alan is very nervous. And our two best friends have great difficulty appearing on TV. This is a vicious circle that we are in. "We are the only ones who can break that circle. We can't wait for the millennium. . . . "I don't think hating homosexuals is worth the time or energy that is put into it. . . . "So, there it is."

PERIOD OF QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.

Activist speaker: "What has happened with communication? 400 people are coming to Atlanta next weekend, October 24 - 25, to attend the Rally for Peace and Justice. They will represent a wide variety of groups. The Atlanta Gay Center has been asked to contribute sponsorship to this cause; we haven't yet heard a response. Yet, I see that on October 27 there is to be in Atlanta a First Anniversary March and Rally commemorating the San Francisco ARC/AIDS Vigil. With a little planning and outreach the Vigil commemoration could have been integrated with the Peace and Justice Rally, and you could have had the participation of 400 additional people. Gays seem to be about themselves. You don't reach out to other groups. You just depend on yourselves and you can't even organize yourselves."

Jim Harlow, (Atlanta March Committee): [Gays have reached out to others] "As early as 1970 in Philadelphia 400 members of the Gay Liberation Front supported the Black Panthers. Since being in Georgia, I've been to Anti Klan Rallies in Wrightsville and in several other places. ALFA has always been there also. But they have had to fight nongay groups for the right to fight the Klan. Historically, we have had to fight to get into coalitions."

Many present, however, came to the realization that invitations to join coalitions, when offered, can never be taken lightly.

Lesbian Mother: "I'm in the middle of a custody battle. It's horrible that we have to worry about pictures being taken."

Pam Martin, ALFA: "I'm not worried for myself. I've conducted my life and my career so that it would not interfere with my being out. If we wait to label ourselves, to declare our pride in our lives, the Lyndon LaRouches will come with the pink triangles and the arm bands to label us as they wish."

Commentator: "One of the reasons Council-Member Hosea Williams said he voted against upholding the gay rights ordinance was that no gays came forward to him to ask him to support them, while many of the constituents who had loyally supported him asked him to oppose it."

COMMENTS BY TEACHERS: "All of us who are not standing up want to thank those of you who are. There needs to be a place for those of us who can't be out. You need to know what's going on in the schools. The schools are training young people in homophobia. Coaches put up posters joking about AIDS. In Bibb and Clayton Counties new teachers are required to be screened for the HIV antibody. We do our part where we can, getting students to write essays on such controversial topics as whether students with AIDS should be permitted to attend school, and we discuss their ideas, subjecting their prejudices to rational examination. But the situation will become critical nationally - with the Quality Basic Education Program now instituted, Georgia will come to be seen as an educational leader, nationally, or at least regionally."

RICHARD SWANSON (Responding to these comments and to those of a lesbian couple with two children who described homophobic treatment of their children and of themselves as parents by the DeKalb County School
System): "This indicates that many of us need to join our local PTA's - you don't have to be a parent to join. We also need to join such organizations as the League of Women Voters."

BILL GRIPP: "Everyone of us knows someone in the closet. Our biggest mistake is not asking other people to do something. There are thousands of jobs for people who cannot be public."

DOUGLAS ZAUDEERER: "I can understand the dilemmas of many here. I would never have come out publicly myself had it not been for Jimmy, my own brother."

TOM WESTON: "Coming out is a progression. There is still something you can do on the threshold of the closet. Step One: Don't put up with AIDS jokes. Step Two: Vote - they don't check your sexuality in the voting booth. Step Three: Contribute money."

BUREN BATSON (Vice President ACLU of Georgia; founder ACLU Lesbian Gay Rights Chapter): "I am struggling with very diverse feelings. I work with an organization dedicated to the diversity of American life. I get increasingly intolerant of intolerance. I get angry at the feeling that I can't do something, but somebody else can."

"To those of you who say, I can't come out. - Everyone who was filmed today [by the CBS camera crew] was where you are. Everyone. People have intimidation power over you only to the extent that you grant it to them."

My philosophy is that I don't have time for everyone to catch up. I want to move on. Know what you are doing."

"I'm now standing next to someone [Jean Levine, Public Information Officer, AID Atlanta] who was on the cover of Time Magazine - she was the only one at Selma who refused to kneel, and therefore was a sniper's target."

TIM: "Not all women are Gloria Steinem. Not all blacks are Martin Luther King. I am in seminary. I had a position as children's minister in Henry County. I was at the City Council Executive Committee Meeting [hearing from the public on the Atlanta Sexual Orientation Nondiscrimination Ordinance Repeal Effort]. I was televised. My picture appeared on every TV screen in Henry County. I was fired. But since then I have been approached by several people from Henry County who want to know about what it means to be homosexual. I just wanted you to know."

CAROLYN MOBLEY: "Life is progressive. We come out in stages. When I was in seminary, I didn't intend to come out. When I moved on into my profession I still didn't. But some information came to the attention of the Baptist Home Mission Board and I was confronted with it. I was given the opportunity to deny my homosexuality. They would have accepted my denial, said nothing more, and we could have continued on together."

"But at that point, I chose not to do so."

"...Doors open in other places. As an open lesbian, I now have a position as minister of music."

"All of us have to honor each other's choices [even though] I would like all of us to turn purple. I have no martyr complex. I didn't want to get on the cross. But when they start nailing, you have to start making decisions. Support each other in your decisions."

SPEAKER: "Doug Zauderer was fired from his job as a florist. The kicker is this: Doug's boss is gay: he fired Doug; he said, because Doug's going public is bad for business."

DOUG ZAUDEERER: "After reviewing the situation, I'm still glad I came forward. I will get another job."

KEN SOUTH: "I have a concrete proposal. Set a goal for sending one percent of the Atlanta community on the March in Washington. Since there are 250,000 gays and lesbians in Atlanta, 2,500 need to go to D.C."

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1986: UULGC PROGRAM AT UUCA: AN EVENING WITH SUSAN MILNOR.

A UUCA member and candidate for the degree of Master of Divinity at Harvard University, Susan is currently serving a ministerial internship at the Northwestern Unitarian Congregation in Atlanta. At the historic Give AID panel held at UUCA in December of 1985, Susan,
then a staff member at UUA Boston headquarters, presented the developing denominational witness and outreach to the AIDS crisis. Susan has written, co-written, coordinated and arranged many UUCA services and programs.

Susan’s comments are herewith excerpted: “While a staff member at the Unitarian-Universalist Association Headquarters, I was touched by how important the work of the UUA Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns was to so many people. The thing most important to people about that office was that it was supported and staffed by a continental religious association. It was important in that it was a witness institutionalized.

“The integral part for lesbians and gays in our denominational and congregational lives goes back to something deep in our (U.U.) historical roots: the benevolent impulse to find a commonality in people. Universalism was a radically benevolent and inclusive doctrine for its time. The recent Baptist seminary heresy trial alleged that its faculty theologian was guilty of Universalism – the late eighteenth century doctrine of inclusive salvation that is part of our own religious background; the outcome of this 20th century heresy trial is that they voted to keep him on the faculty – provided he edits (the Universalism from) his latest book.

"The specifically Unitarian heritage is also radically benevolent. In his Baltimore Sermon, William Ellery Channing did not find the Calvinist concept of God irrational. It is quite rational. Instead, Channing states, we can’t accept it; we won’t have it.

"So even going back to our theological roots we find the thrust for inclusiveness, for finding commonality in people, rather than distinctions that separate. This belonging motif came to the fore in a recent conversation I had with a new UU lesbian. She said: "I always felt I didn’t belong. Not belonging is like you don’t fully exist. Finding a religious home, where I am embraced as a fully participating member, makes me feel as though I do belong."

Discussions developed on two topics:
(1) How gays and lesbians can present their issues in UU contexts in a religious as well as a political way. How UU congregations can support gay and lesbian members religiously as well as politically.
(2) Closets. Susan commented on the sense she gets from presentations of American history that people are placed in the closet as Unitarians. "You’re much more likely to know if an historical figure is Episcopalian or Presbyterian or whatever, unless that figure is Unitarian." Susan cited The Wayside, an historical restoration in Massachusetts of a gathering place for such significant figures as Thoreau and the Alcotts. Every person on display at the Wayside was Unitarian; but in no case was their religion recognized.

It was brought up that, closer to home, John C. Calhoun, U. S. Vice President and Pro-Slavery States-Rights Advocate was a Unitarian. This reminds us of the Tom Wilson Weinberg song "The Gay Name Song," wherein the list of prominent people who turn out to have been gay or lesbian keeps building until: "J. Edgar Hoover - But we don’t want him!" One of the great ironies is that the Unitarian congregation which Calhoun helped found in Washington, D.C., All Souls, became a leader in integration efforts in this century and today has significant black representation in its membership.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1986.
GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. MONTHLY PROGRAM HELD AT UUCA. PRESENTATION BY UUCA-MEMBER WAL- TER DOWDLE, current Director of Infectious Diseases Center at the Center for Disease Control, recently rotated from temporary assignment as AIDS Coordinator of the Public Health System. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE FACTS AND ON THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF AIDS.

Facts: Recent reports from Europe show 3,000 cases in June. In Spain and Italy 50% – 60% of cases are IV drug users.

In the Americas, outside the United States there are 3,000 reported cases. The largest number are in Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Canada.

In Africa -- Central Africa is a disaster area filled with gory details. In
many Central African countries, 60% - 80% of those tested test positive for the HIV antibody. Half of several hospital wards are filled with AIDS cases. There is an estimated projection of 10,000,000 African AIDS case.

There has been considerable talk about the association of AIDS with malaria in Africa and about possible arthropod transmission. But studies show children being brought to hospitals for extreme anemia due to malaria. At the hospital they were given transfusions. Then they got AIDS. A high percentage of African blood donors are HIV antibody positive.

The USA as of this week has 26,000 cases of AIDS. Recent reports on the doubling of heterosexual cases are not borne out by CDC data, which show a slight increase up to 3.8% - 4% of the total. The largest increase in heterosexual cases is among nonwhites; blacks or Hispanics account for three times the heterosexual cases in relation to whites.

The average rate of those who are HIV antibody positive: 1.5 per 1,000 of those being tested for recruitment into the Military. This is an average. It may range from 0 per thousand in North Dakota or Nebraska to 20 per 1,000 in New York City.

In screening permanent staff, the military is likewise finding 1.5 HIV antibody positive per 1,000 tested. When they found the same rate among their colonels, the military changed its mind about the dire consequences of not having universal testing. I once advised them that if they wanted to be accurate they would need to test the same people every hour.

The expectation for the next five years is 179,000 American deaths by 1991, at a cost of 8 to 16 billion dollars.

The outcome of our PHS work and the attendant publicity has been $360,000,000 appropriated by Congress and endorsed by the Administration, emphasizing information and education programs.

The newly issued Surgeon General's report has been very important in the breakthrough, especially since the Surgeon General has been tied to conservative issues in the past. The Surgeon General's printed report pictures a condom. One year ago the Federal government would not allow the use of the word 'condom.' Now it is used and shown.

Another report, by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science took six months to prepare and covers 500 pages. It says we should spend by 1991 a billion dollars on education alone.

(2)

Since Christmas 1985, Dowdle until just recently served as Surrogate Assistant Secretary of Health for AIDS, getting experience in the way and the place at which government works. "I used to be as impatient as most citizens. While I was in Washington this time I got more and more to appreciate the form of government we have."

Walt’s position called for him to meet with far right Republican legislative groups that "wanted to know why we were coddling gays, then to go to meetings with Ted Weiss and others, who wanted to know why we were discriminating against Persons with AIDS."

Three times Dowdle met with the Dannemeyer group. (Rep. Dannemeyer, R-Calif. is the most virulently homophobic of U. S. Representatives, and advocates the most draconian measures in the fighting of the AIDS epidemic, including isolation of high risk group members). The first time there were 25 people; the second time there were 5; the third and final time, only one - Dannemeyer himself: an example of his loss of support. There is now no general political support in Washington for quarantine.

Walt stated that the work of the PHS and the CDC is not merely to steer a middle course, but to forward sound, medically correct positions. The issuance of the PHS/CDC guidelines has brought about a turnaround in attitudes. No longer is there strong sentiment for prohibiting physicians, food-handlers, etc., who test positive from practicing their professions.

There is more support in Washington for sound funding of AIDS research and treatment programs than the general public would think. Apart from the more publicized supporters such as Henry Waxman on the House Appropriations Committee and Senator, Lowell Weicker (R-Ct.), there is even Sen. Orin Hatch of Utah, a conservative
Mormon.

Major movers and shakers in the lobbying effort to secure more appropriations and to uphold civil rights have been Alan Brownstein of the National Hemophilia Foundation, Gary McDonald of the AIDS Action Council, and Jeff Levi of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. All three have done a great job in networking. They have the respect of the people they are trying to reach. Tom Stodard of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has also been effective in this area.

One thing you see is how effective appropriate lobbying can be. Most Congressmen come to Washington with zero knowledge (about AIDS). Once you get to them with education, they, in turn, know their constituents, and many know how to take leadership roles in bringing that education to them.

"Extreme people who confront don't have a lobbying effect."

One physician interjected: "But they make it possible for more moderate appearing, less confrontational people to negotiate and educate successfully."

Where do we go from here?

What about treatment? AZT is highly toxic. The long-term toxicity is a problem which will have to be dealt with. And the virus can still return. There is less optimism now than a few months ago with regard to combination/analog drugs and vaccines.

Information and education is still the way to go - and there is a long way to go before 1991 to turn this around.

A question and answer period ensued.

Q: What is your position on testing, given the accuracy factor?

A: We've had many arguments with Jeff Levi and Gary McDonald. The false positives are not that much. If all clinical tests were as good as the HIV antibody test, we would be in a much better situation. We think Jeff and Gary have come around to our position. The issue of concern is not the test itself, but confidentiality.

Q: What about an antigen test?

A: There are antigen tests. But they are not very sensitive. The likelihood of having a very sensitive antigen test is not very good. A positive test will tell you that antigens are there, but a negative antigen test doesn't tell you that they are not.

Q: How active is day-by-day White House involvement in the issue of AIDS?

A: The issue is recognized at the White House but not publicly addressed. However the White House has been receptive to the development and issuance of the Surgeon General's report.

Invited guest Ken South, Executive Director of AID Atlanta presented his concerns: "Larger AIDS groups face the problem of outrunning their resources. A major crisis is coming up soon. The Federal government will have to come up with support through the states and local governments for children and families of PWAs and for support services.

"Is new education money coming down through the states in such a way that it will really be spent for education? Old education money stayed on the state level and became salaries for state employees doing testing. With new money there needs to be clout to insure that the States getting the education money are in fact cooperating with community AIDS service groups, as is called for by Federal regulation. So far Georgia State cooperation has been limited to telephoning me and putting my name on a list.

"The next puff of smoke, politically, seems to be the attempt to create division in the PWA community. I was at an AIDS training session recently for state workers serving IV drug users. 50% of IV drug users in Georgia are gay, but there were no mention of sexuality and actual hostility by these 'professionals' when the issue was raised. There is an easy temptation for the State to funnel AIDS funds into already existing institutions. Since there are already state drug treatment programs in place, the bulk of the federal funding can be dumped into them. A divide-and-conquer concern is that it will be easier to fund IV groups, which are largely black and
straight, while primarily gay PWA groups, which are largely white, will be shut out. A new racism, combined with the old homophobia.

Ken South, recently elected to the board of the National AIDS Network (NAN), attended its quarterly meeting in Los Angeles on September 18, 19 and 20. South was selected as chairperson of NAN's nominating committee which is being called upon to double the board membership in the next year. The board's next meeting will be held during the Gay and Lesbian Health Conference in Los Angeles in March, 1987.

NAN's key issue in the next year or so will be the effort to halt a split between those AIDS agencies, such as AID Atlanta, which are perceived as white, gay, male organizations and those agencies which deal with IV drug treatment and prevention. As a result a high priority for South's nominating committee will be to expand the board to include representatives of minority groups and IV drug professionals. "Racism and homophobia must both be combatted by achieving this goal," South said.

In response to a study of NAN by B. S. Stiles, nationally known consultant in foundations and fund raising, the board recommended the hiring of two new staff members; one for minority outreach and one to develop programs to assist in providing more technical assistance to member agencies.

The National AIDS Network is a "trade association", South said, "representing over 200 AIDS social service agencies. NAN provides technical assistance in management and fund raising to help AIDS agencies get started. It is a voice for the AIDS agencies as they work with other agencies and organizations." Chaired by Paula Van Ness, Executive Director of the AIDS Project Los Angeles, it covers the ten federal regions geographically. It is presently staffed by Paul Kawata, its Executive Director and an administrative assistant.

The other ten board members are from AIDS projects and foundations across the country; the Chancellor of the University of Maryland, the Co-Director of the AIDS ward of San Francisco General Hospital.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1986: FIRST ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION; SAN FRANCISCO ARC/AIDS VIGIL SPONSORED BY THE GEORGIA AIDS ACTION COMMITTEE.

Since October 27th, 1985, an average of 25 people, including people with AIDS and ARC and their well supporters, have maintained a vigil in front of the Federal Building in San Francisco. They are backed by 40 to 100 regular visitors and 2,000 material supporters. The vigilers include two persons with AIDS who are chained to the front door. They are demanding that the Reagan administration allocate one hour of federal spending (not out of social programs), about $500 million, to finding a cure for AIDS. The Georgia AIDS Action Committee (G.A.A.C) is joining with the vigil's supporters in cities across the U.S. to commemorate its first anniversary.

MARCH!
4:30 P.M., CENTRAL CITY PARK, TO THE RICHARD B. RUSSELL FEDERAL BUILDING.
RALLY!
5:00 P.M., at the RUSSELL BUILDING.

Under banners proclaiming "Support the San Francisco ARC/AIDS Vigil" and "Money for AIDS Research; and Care/Not Contras and Star Wars," fifty of the hard-core faithful participated. Media coverage was provided by TV's Channel 2 and WGST-Radio.

After introductory remarks by Gil Robinson, the following comments were made by our own Diane Stephen-son, President of G.A.A.C., first Director of the Atlanta Gay Center, and founder of UUCA's UULGC.: I represent the Georgia AIDS Action Committee (GAAC), the primary sponsor of this action today. We appreciate your interest, your support and your presence here.

We assemble to commemorate the first anniversary of the San Francisco AIDS Vigil. Since October 27, 1985 an organization known as "Mobilization AGAIN AIDS" has maintained a vigil in front of the Federal Building in San Francisco. Today we join that vigil and the four demands which are being made:

1) One hour of federal spending allocated to finding a cure for AIDS (500 million dollars.)

2) Persons suffering from AIDS related complex be ex-
tended the same benefits and social services as those persons diagnosed with AIDS.

3) Drug treatments legally available in other countries be made available in the U.S.

4) The Reagan administration and other government officials publicly condemn the bigotry around the AIDS crisis and develop widespread public education about the facts.

Now, just a brief word about GAAC (Georgia AIDS Action Committee). During the rally we will be circulating baskets for your contributions to our efforts.

GAAC is an organization of citizens concerned with making a major impact on public policy surrounding the AIDS issue in Georgia. We are about:

1) State and local legislation relating to AIDS prevention, education, research and treatment.

2) Addressing issues pertaining to the rights of persons with AIDS and AIDS related complex.

3) Monitoring the state task force on AIDS and the policies and actions of government agencies.

4) Legal actions necessary to affect public policy changes when discrimination is involved.

We welcome your participation with us.

I want to thank each of you again for being here. We are all in the midst of an epidemic. It is an epidemic that can be totally reversed—if...we all work together to find the way.

Richard Swanson, (AGC Administrator): "My comments are brief, and addressed to two people.

1. The Great Communicator, President Ronald Reagan who has yet communicated no words of leadership on the subject of AIDS.

2. Our First Christian, Georgia Governor Joe Frank Harris, who has denied funding already appropriated by the State Legislature.

We’ll defeat the disease, whether or not personal leadership is shown by our top elected officials. But if you continue to block desperately needed funds, the people of Georgia will remember."

Rev. Ken South (AID Atlanta): How important it is that we are here. We are a small group, while the epidemic is huge. But our presence will help other people and ourselves.

"I want to bring these national demands down to the level of Georgia. These are not pie-in-the-sky things fit only to be said at rallies. 5,000 people in Georgia have ARC. At Grady Hospital people are dying of ARC. But they can get no financial assistance from Medicaid and Grady Hospital can get no government funding to care for them.

"37,000 Georgians by today have tested positive for the HIV antibody. By 1990 there will be 6,780 cases of AIDS in Georgia. The average cost per person with AIDS is $470,000. If you want to prevent or mitigate that, there will have to be funding now, preparation now."

(South and several others wore buttons that stated: "If AIDS were Cancer, we’d spend billions to find the answer.")

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Red stickers have been placed on the mailing labels or envelopes of those readers whose subscriptions have expired. Mailings will not continue after the second red sticker. We thank those who have sent in their subscriptions since the beginning of November and we look forward to hearing from more subscribers in December. Please clip out coupon below and mail with reimbursement to the address indicated. Thank you.

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Enclosed is my check for $6.00 made out to UULGC, for a one-year subscription to the UULGC Newsletter.

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