

Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing For The 21st Century.



Sponsored by the
Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

WANTED: SINGERS

Lesbian and Gay Men of Color and Family Members and Friends:

**Join the Celebration '90 Festival Chorus
for Gay Games III and Cultural Festival
in Vancouver, BC, August 4-11, 1990!**

**We all know how white most gay and lesbian choruses are!
Here's an opportunity to help change that...**

**Conductor Carol White is determined to organize the
Celebration '90 Festival Chorus with full participation by
women and men of color. She is totally committed to the
concept of inclusivity:**

**Write or call Carol and let her know that YOU want to help
change the status quo:**

**Celebration '90 Festival Chorus
P.O. Box 61388
Denver, CO 80206
(303) 331-2306**

**Tell Carol you heard about her at the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership
Conference and AIDS Institute!**

- LESBIANS AND GAYS TOGETHER •
 - ALL RACES AND CULTURES TOGETHER •
 - ALL AGES, FROM TEENS TO SENIORS, TOGETHER •
 - BLACKS AND WHITES AND ALL COLORS TOGETHER •
 - MEN AND WOMEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD TOGETHER •
 - HOMOSEXUALS AND HETEROSEXUALS AND BISEXUALS TOGETHER •
-



February 17, 1989

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

You are part of a new energy, a new spirit -- a new movement.

All across America, Black Lesbians and Gay men are stepping forward with increased confidence and determination. We are translating our dreams into goals, and our goals into achievements. We are expanding our alliances and developing new strategies. We are taking our rightful place in the Black community, in the Gay and Lesbian community, and in every area where decisions are made that affect our lives.

We face extraordinary challenges. AIDS has taken too many of us, and still it is not over. The hard-won gains of people of color, of women, and of Gay men and Lesbians are under attack. We are weary from these and other battles.

Yet with each passing day there are more of us who dare to step forward. With each passing day we are clearer, more determined, and more united. Black Lesbians and Gay men are on the move. And you are the engineers of this nation-wide movement.

We believe this weekend is also a part of that movement. This is a special time, a magical time, because we are here to share with each other. It belongs to you. You are it's creators. We, the members of the planning committee thank you for allowing us to participate in it's care. We have done our best to care for it and nurture it and we have faith that you will make it all that it can be.

We have but one request. Take the time this weekend to meet each other, to talk with each other. Take the time to love each other, to heal each other. Take the time to get prepared for the 21st Century.

With Hope

Phill Wilson
Chairman,

P.O. Box 29812
Los Angeles, CA 90027
•213/667-2549•

"Love is for everyone..."



R. STEELE © 86

Unity Fellowship Church
"for all people"

Rev. Carl Bean, Pastor

February 17, 1989

Welcome

It is with great joy, warmth and excitement that the Planning Committee of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference welcomes you to Los Angeles for what we feel is an historical event.

In the midst of a world climate bordering on apathy and uncertainty, we have taken extra care to plan a weekend that provides for the unique interests and needs of the Black gay and lesbian community. In other words: A Safe Space.

We hope you find this weekend instructive, inspirational and most of all empowering. Among you are some of the greatest minds Black America, Gay America, Black Gay America and/or AMERICA has to offer. We encourage you to meet each other, network, connect and strengthen that family which is US.

This is your conference. Bend it, mold it, make it what you will. And if you don't see it, don't be afraid to ask. Many of the workshops are designed for interaction and the entertainment is designed to send you into exhilaration. Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing for the 21st Century is the theme for 1989. However, through the activities of this weekend, we hope to make this theme an integral part of our lives.

Thanks for coming, Your participation makes all the hard work worthwhile. Enjoy!

With Love,

The Steering Committee

Ruth Waters, Banquet
Yolanda Whittington, Public Relations
Sylvia Rhue, Multi-Media
Leonard Simon & Katrice Jackson,
Cultural Arts
Joannie CoCroft, Registration
Christine Tripp & Doug Ware, Program
Mark Haile, Special Needs
Chi Hughes, Newsletter and Journal
Lauren Metoyer

Juan Lombard, Logistics
Dennis Odums, Volunteers
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Constance Jones
Sandra Tignor



*Where the news is colored
on purpose.TM*

BLK ■ Box 83912 ■ Los Angeles, California 90083-0912 ■ 213-410-0808

Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing For The 21st Century.



**The Second Annual Black Gay and Lesbian
Leadership Conference and AIDS Institute
February 17-20, 1989**

Lift Every Voice And Sing

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
past has taught us.
sing a song full of the hope that the present
has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on til victory is won.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
Our God, where we met thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the win on the
World, we forget thee,
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

NATIONAL GAY RIGHTS ADVOCATES
C O N G R A T U L A T E S

the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum for sponsoring another successful conference.

We celebrate your vision for the Black Gay and Lesbian community.

540 CASTRO STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114 • (415) 863-3624
8901 MELROSE AVENUE • W. HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 • (213) 650-6200



Congratulates the
Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum
on Successfully Presenting the 2nd Annual
National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference

Black and White Men Together is a gay interracial organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends we engage in educational, political, cultural and social activities as means of dealing with the racism, sexism, homophobia, and other inequities in our communities and in our lives.

BWMT / L.A. holds consciousness-raising rap groups every Saturday at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Our Health Education Committee is conducting safer-sex workshops entitled "Hot, Horny & Healthy!", designed specifically for Black gay and bisexual men. Other social and educational activities are held on a frequent basis. Call us for information about upcoming events or to schedule a Hot, Horny & Healthy! for you and your friends or organization.

Black and White Men Together / Los Angeles; 7985 Santa Monica Blvd.; Ste. 109-136; West Hollywood, CA 90046; 213/664-4716

WHY A NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In these days of the Reagan administration, contra-gate scandal and the AIDS epidemic, Black gays and lesbians are urged to come together and discuss our common experiences. The Black Gay and Lesbian community is under serious attack. We must defend and maintain our hard fought for rights and liberties. In the present political and economic climate, we are being barraged by reactionary forces, that wish us back into the closet.

The continuing AIDS epidemic is bringing the issues of health care to the forefront for us and other minorities. We are faced with an uncaring, unfeeling administration that would rather lock us up and test us than provide affordable medical care. This has manifested itself in ways such as mandatory AIDS testing of immigrants, prisoners and military personnel. Mandatory testing can serve no better purpose than to set up a laundry list of possible government victims. Black gays/lesbians and other minorities would undoubtedly head the list.

Black gays and lesbians are battling against racist obstacles. We are coming together to deal with these barriers. We are starting our own AIDS support services across the country, from the National Minority AIDS Council to the Minority AIDS Project of Los Angeles.

New leaders of these organizations are emerging to lead the fight against homophobes and racist. We are witnessing a strong and proud Black Gay and Lesbian leadership that has taken up the gauntlet in opposition to those who would deny us. We have begun the struggle which will lead the way forward. Through this leadership on the local and national level, we can empower our brothers and sisters to move ahead with confidence.

This represents a major step forward for the Gay movement. A strong seasoned Black leadership will give the overall Gay movement access to a broader range of support, both from within and without. This is a positive step, of course, if for no other reason than it further legitimizes the struggle for Gay and Lesbian rights.

Creative and effective Gay and Lesbian leadership is important for the Black community because homophobia creates splits in families and divides Black men and women because of fear and ignorance. Black Gays and Lesbians seek the same goals as other Black men and women: professional success, personal happiness, a strong bond with a partner and to contribute to OUR community. We are members of the same family, living in the same house. The strength of that house is inextricably connected to our collective strength.

Moreover, this newly emerging leadership, if nurtured and supported, will be able to deliver invaluable service to a segment of both the Black and Gay community that has long been neglected. No one has ever successfully addressed the needs of Black Gays and Lesbians, and for that reason this group is far less conscious, productive and loyal to either the Gay or Black movement as a whole. In fact the perceived lack of attention that Black Gays and Lesbians have received from the institutionalized leadership has assured that Black Gays and Lesbians would be at best indifferent to a Black, non-gay agenda and at worst hostile to the goals and objectives of the non-Black, Gay movement.

Part of the nurturing and supporting of new Black Gay leaders is for us to come together to share our struggle with one another, and to gain strength from our numbers. This conference will be the first attempt to provide us with a national forum from which to address the past, share, discuss and celebrate our future.

Minority A.I.D.S. PROJECT

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Rev. Carl Bean, Founder

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Roger Pamplin
George Hurt
Linda Rodriguez, LCSW
Xyline Bean, M.D.
Ann Johnson

The MINORITY AIDS PROJECT (MAP), a non-profit corporation, was established because of the concern that I and members of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church had regarding the AIDS crisis in minority communities. The congregation began to formulate plans to meet the challenge with the aid of the Brotherhood Crusade and Assemblywoman Maxine Waters.

We started making contacts and speaking to Black leaders in the community. I and church volunteers reviewed printed material on AIDS. After careful study, we concluded that very little information addressed the needs of minority persons with AIDS and/or their significant others, thus The MINORITY AIDS PROJECT was founded.

The Project was founded in 1985, to increase education and coordinate access to health services for the underserved people of color communities as well as AIDS and ARC (AIDS Related Condition) patients. The type of services include

Minority A.I.D.S. Hotline: A confidential telephone line providing health information, referral and crisis intervention for persons with concern about AIDS or ARC.

Dignity House: The Project operates a residential shelter for ambulatory persons with AIDS (PWA's).

Comprehensive Case Management: Individual needs assessment, referral and follow-up assistance.

Community Outreach and Education: Bilingual and culturally sensitive presentations through forums, workshops and in-service trainings.

"Buddy" Program: Trained volunteers to provide support and be 'special friends'.

Seminars and Conferences

Speakers Bureau

Because you have shared your time, talents and resources we are able to continue this much needed work in our community.

THANK YOU FOR COMING HOME FOR FRIENDS.

Sincerely,

Rev. Carl Bean
Rev. Carl Bean

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4040
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-5215

JIM LOTT
CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT OFFICE
4401 CRENSHAW BLVD
SUITE 300
LOS ANGELES, CA 90043
(213) 295-6655



California State Senate

DIANE E. WATSON

TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

CHAIRPERSON

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

28 June 1988

Phill Wilson, Chair
Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Coalition
P.O. Box 29816
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Thank you for advising me of the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Coalition's (BGLLC) recent plans and endeavors. I wanted to confirm to you in writing my full support of the Coalition's efforts.

I understand that BGLLC has developed and is pursuing funding for projects which will include a program providing a full complement of AIDS services directed toward Blacks and other minorities who are HIV infected or at high risk of exposure, and their significant others. As Chair of both the Legislative Black Caucus and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, I cannot stress how essential I feel that this focus is. As the demographics of AIDS changes, it becomes evident that those at highest risk of exposure to this disease will soon be ethnic minorities -- the very group who receive the least, and least effective prevention, treatment and health care services.

I am particularly gratified that your program will build upon what we have learned about the importance of promoting responsible behavior and preventive techniques as part of enhancing the individual's self-esteem and personal efficacy. This is the kind of innovative, holistic approach which must be encouraged and supported if we are to quell this epidemic.

Phill, if there is anything I can do to help make BGLLC's project a success, rest assured that you can count on my full support and that of my staff. If you ever need anything, don't hesitate to call on me.

I look forward to your program's success, and to working with you to further our mutual goals.

Best of luck,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane E. Watson".

DIANE E. WATSON
State Senator

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CHAIRPERSON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHAIRPERSON
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE
BLACK CAUCUS

BUSINESS AND
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CHAIRPERSON
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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
IN GOVERNMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

W A N T E D

GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN WHO CARE ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY

STOP AIDS

LOS ANGELES

A COMMUNITY EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNICATION

With thousands being diagnosed nationwide and no medical cure or vaccine treatment in sight, the terrible truth about AIDS is something none of us can afford to ignore. But we can do something about it. STOP AIDS/L.A. invites you to participate in a series of discussions that is unprecedented in the history of our community. Its goal is to bring together gay and bisexual men from all walks of life to discuss the urgent questions we all face:

- How can we stop spreading the AIDS virus around in our community while we're waiting for a medical solution?
- How can we best adjust to the incredible changes that are taking place in gay values, sexual behavior and lifestyles?
- How can we organize the community to bring an end to the epidemic?
- How can we find ways to turn the negatives of this epidemic into positives while dealing with the tragedy of AIDS?

**STOP AIDS/L.A.
IS NOT ABOUT
WHAT KIND OF SEX
IS RIGHT OR WRONG.
IT'S ABOUT
SUPPORT AND SURVIVAL**

- Find out from other gay men how they are dealing with the AIDS epidemic.
- Say what you need to say about AIDS prevention.
- Learn from one another.
- Contribute to the campaign to end the epidemic.

**THE ONLY PRICE FOR
ADMISSION IS CONCERN.**

- It takes just one evening.
- Stop AIDS meetings are confidential and moderated by trained group leaders. They are being held almost every day in the homes of volunteer hosts throughout the city.

- Join the thousands of gay and bisexual men who will be participating in Stop AIDS meetings during the coming year. Together we can end this epidemic.

**CALL FOR A RESERVATION
TODAY. IT'S IMPORTANT.
IT'S FREE. OUR HEALTH
DEPENDS ON IT.**

The STOP AIDS/L.A. Office
8512 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069

**213
6 5 9 - 4 7 7 8**

For Information and Reservations call
Mon. through Thurs. 10 AM to 9 PM

WE CAN STOP AIDS.

STOP AIDS/L.A. is a project of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center funded by the County of Los Angeles.

THE CENTER

THE GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

A Non-Profit Human Services Organization

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Karen Aitchison
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June 28, 1988

Phill Wilson
Chair
Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum
P.O. Box 29812
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Dear Phill:

I am excited to hear about your plans for the Second National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and AIDS Institute. Your success last year certainly is a strong foundation upon which to build an even bigger effort.

I want to let you know that The Center is in whole-hearted support of the conference and the AIDS Institute. The work you all have been doing around AIDS in the Black community is of major importance. This institute and conference stands to advance that work among Black lesbians and gay men in a very substantive way.

Good luck to you and your co-workers in this effort. I hope funders are strongly responsive as the work is of such importance. Please let me or Torie know if The Center can be helpful in any specific way.

Sincerely,



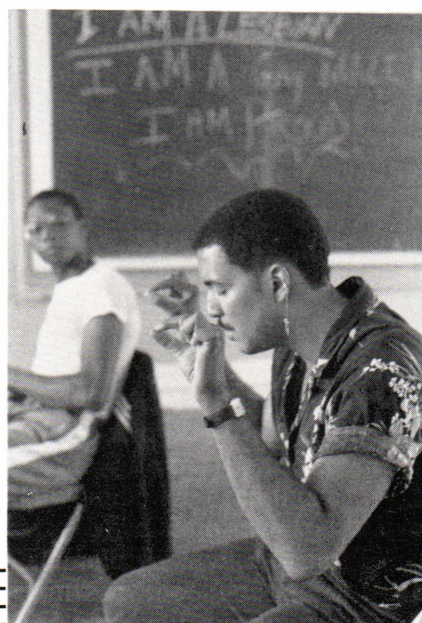
Nancy Angelo
Interim Management Team

NA:jb

Members In The Forefront Of The Black Gay & Lesbian Community



Denitra Vance



Jim Marks

Assoto Saint



Jim Marks

Rev Carl Bean with members of Washington D.C.'s AIDS community. Form left to right, Gil Gerald, Rev. Carl Bean, Frederick Garnett, U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, Suki Ports, Amanda Houston-Hamilton, and Paul Kawata.



Gil Gerald with Rev. Carl Bean to the right and Phill Wilson on the left



Barbara Smith and the late writer Joseph Beam

Jim Marks



Charles Stewart and Angela Davis



Colin Robinson

Jim Marks



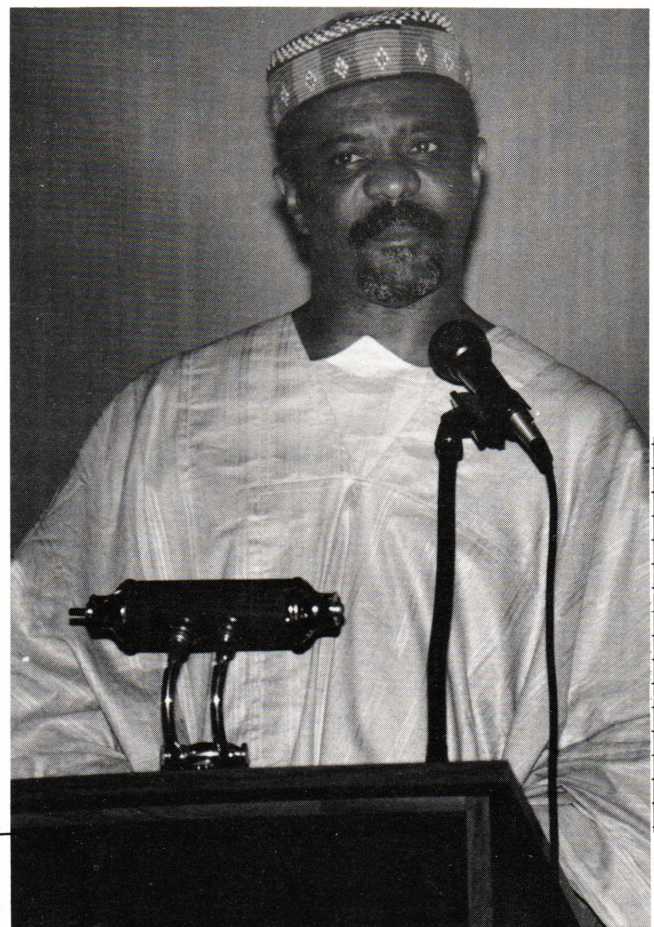
Jim Marks

Rev. Rene McCoy



Jim Marks

Essex Hemphill



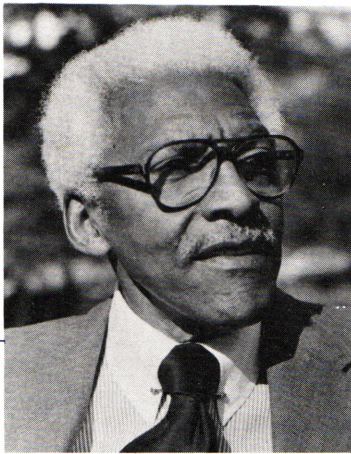
Jim Marks

A. Billy S. Jones



Jim Marks

Michael Moore & Pat Norman



Jim Marks

Bayard Rustin



Jim Marks

James Credle



Jim Marks

Phil Wilson & Craig Harris



Jim Marks

Rev. James Tinney



Jim Marks

James Baldwin

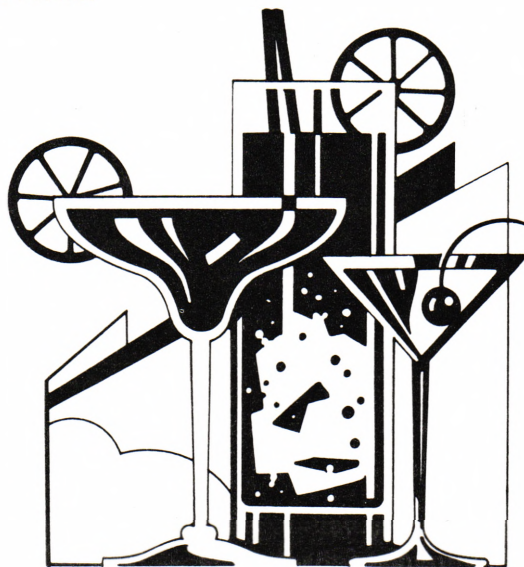
JEWEL'S Catch One

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	*Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays	*Sundays
JEWEL'S ROOM						
Oldies but Goodies; free buffet; no cover	Happy hours; free buffet; no cover	Ladies' Night No cover	Lip Sync Contest; free buffet; \$3 cover	Happy Hours 3-9p.m.; no cover; close 11 p.m.	Happy hours 1-9p.m.	Talent Contest; \$3 cover at 8 p.m.
CATCH ONE						
Closed	Closed	Men's Night; Admission \$3	Exotic Dancers admission \$3	Dance-Yo-Ass-Off-Night Admission \$5	Dance-Yo Ass-Off-Again Night! Admission \$6	Video Disco
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

* One cover charge on these nights gives you access to upstairs and downstairs events.

Jan.....Fashion Show Fundraiser MAP
 Feb.....Big Valentine's Day Dance
 Mar.....Week-long Anniversary Celebration
 Apr.24.....Fundraiser Minority Aids Project
 May 15.....Jewel's Birthday Party
 June.....Boat Ride
 July.....Serious Summer Partying
 Oct.....Costume & Impersonators Ball
 Nov.....Happy Thanksgiving
 Dec.....Merry Xmas plus Hottest
 New Year Eve Party Ever!

4067 West Pico Blvd.
 Los Angeles, California 90019





Southern California Women for Understanding

9054 Santa Monica Blvd. / West Hollywood, CA 90069 / (213) 274-1086

June 29, 1988

Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum
P.O. Box 29812
Los Angeles, California 90027

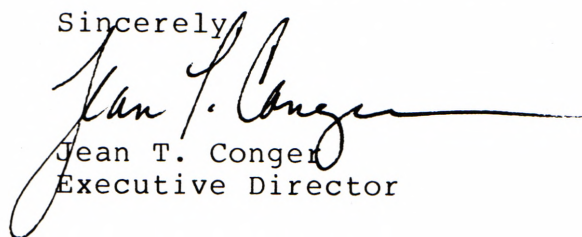
Attention: Phill Wilson, Chair

Dear Phill:

We are pleased to write in support of the Forum's work in the Los Angeles lesbian and gay community. We applaud the work that the Forum has done around AIDS issues, raising the consciousness of the community to issues of racism and lesbian and gay concerns, and in particular, your work with traditional black institutions: assisting them to do AIDS outreach in a gay context, and networking with gay and lesbian organizations to do outreach to black gays and lesbians.

We look forward to continued work together. Should you need further information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean T. Conger'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.
Jean T. Conger
Executive Director

Best Wishes

Winston
R E A L T Y

Carole Winston

Los Angeles, CA 90008
(213) 291-0929

FIRST IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST AIDS

GMHC

*We salute and support the work of
Black Lesbians and Gay Men
in the fight for our rights.*

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT

YOUR LIFE'S ALL IN YOUR DREAMS AND YOUR DREAMS ARE ALL YOUR LIFE

by Craig G. Harris

"If I didn't have access to print, I, too, would write on walls. I want my life's passage to be acknowledged for at least the length of time it takes paint to fade from brick."

--JOSEPH FAIRCHILD BEAM
FROM "NO CHEEK TO TURN"

To say that I am devastated by the deaths of three role models--Black gay writers and activists--would not be exaggeration. News of the deaths of James Baldwin and Richard Bruce Nugent in 1987 seemed to signal the death of an era--an era which produced works of monumental significance for Black lesbians and gay men: works such as Giovanni's Room, Just Above My Head, and "Smoke, Lillies, and Jade." As a fledgling Black gay writer, this was the well from which I drew succor. But receiving the news of Joseph Beam's death two days after Christmas was a piercing blow that spent me into a tearful and contemplative stupor from which I have not yet emerged.

Unlike Baldwin, Nugent and other Black gay writers such as Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen whose literary legacies nourished and encouraged me to pursue a vocation of political writing, Joe was a more immediate and accessible influence. He was a peer, in the fuller sense. And that has made all the difference.

I first met Joe via telephone in early 1985. I was spending my days as an administrative assistant at Lambda Legal Defense and nights copy editing children's books for Bantam. Joe was working at Giovanni's Room bookstore by day and moonlighting "dancing for dollars as a waiter at a trendy restaurant in a trendy neighborhood."¹

We talked about this work which we did to pay the bills, as well as the work which we did to keep us "moving from survival to potential, from merely getting by to a positive getting over..."²

Through that first conversation, we realized that we shared more than the common experiences of Black male frustration due to underemployment, systemic cultural bias and too few hours in a day. We also shared a dream, a dream that we could effectively use the written work to mobilize and politicize Black lesbians and gay men, a dream that a handful of writer/activists could bring about a literary movement--no revolution--which implode and impact upon society much like the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's.

One of the strange characteristics about the relationship which was developing between Joe and me was that it was ostensibly based on the submission of two of my short stories to *In The Life*. Strange because the friendship which ignited rather quickly was much closer than that typified by writer and editor. Our frequent telephone conversations always included some business, like arguments over the placement of a comma or notification of a newly found dangling participle, but inevitable lapsed into discussions about our daily realities and

the dreams we held to so dearly. "Dreams are what propel us through life, and allow us to focus above and beyond the hurdles that dot our passage."³ These conversations were also filled with the wry humor which was rarely exhibited in Joe's published work. I found Joe to be an extremely funny man and firmly believe that his incredible wit enabled him to move beyond some of the very stressful obligations and obstacles faced by public figures, and specifically by artists creating and showcasing their work.

When Joe was sending review copies of *In The Life* to members of the Black literary establishment to solicit cover blurbs, the response was extremely poor. He called me out of frustration during this period and in a deadpan tone asked my opinion on a possible title change which would make the book sound less radical less threatening. He mused, "In The Life: A Black Gay Anthology" that clearly doesn't work for them. What about "In The Life: A Black Anthology? No, they might not care for that close an association with us. Okay, "In The Life: An Anthology." Unless, of course they're having political objections to the word anthology. I have it, I'll call it "In The Life Colon..A Book!"

Joe's humor similarly protected him from what was, to my knowledge, the book's most unfavorable review, by Larry Duplechan, a gay Black writer. It began:

In The Life: A Black Gay Anthology is an anthology of pain: pain twisted to anger, pain turned inward as self hatred. The pain of growing up, living, loving and dying black and gay in this, our white heterosexual society (and in the black heterosexual sub-society), permeates the more than 40 pieces of work from 29 contributors...⁴

After reading the review I called Joe to offer support. Upon recognizing my voice, he affected a comedic babbling tone, and for more than a minute recited over and over, "Oh the pain, the pain, the pain, the pain, oh the pain..." until we both burst into hysterical laughter. Clearly, neither of us found such overwhelming pain in the pages of *In The Life*, nor did we find anything so twisted, but rather we found comfort, support, empowerment and a lot of love. We laughingly concluded that "Black men loving each other is too much for a lot of people to handle."⁵ In a subsequent interview, Joe described the anthology by saying, "It's not a diatribe against It's just the lives we have led with our lovers with our families; just the struggles we have gone through."⁶

*The title of this article is taken from Assotto Saint's "Rising the Love We Need," *In The Life*. ed. Beam. Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc., 1986, p. 248

¹ Beam, Joseph, "No Cheek to Turn," *Changing Men*, Volume 17 (Winter 1986), p.9.

² Beam, Joseph, Brother to Brother: Words from the Heart, *In The Life* ed. Beam Boston: Alyson Publications Inc., 1986, p. 239

³ Ibid. p. 237

⁴ Duplechan, Larry, "Voices of Black Pain, Rage Heard in New Gay Anthology," *Advocate*, Issue 460 (November 25, 1986), p.55

⁵ Jackson, Isaac, "Some thoughts on Black Gay Liberation," *Yemonja*, volume 1, Number 1 (Spring 1982), p. 4

⁶ Weston, Guy, "Giving Voice to Black Gay Men," *The Front Page*, Volume 8, Number 3 (February 17-March 2, 1987), p.1

As a writer, Joe was more profound than prolific. His articles and essays were poetic; containing turned phrases and puns, metaphors in meters that made his writing musical with penetrating meaning. He took great pride in this skill and devoted time to multiple re-writes, crafting his work to create the style which other writers of the Black gay genre dubbed 'Beamresque'. In a cover letter for a submission to Black lesbian/gay supplement which I edited for the New York Native, Joe wrote:

"Enclosed is 'Reading, Rapping, and Rhetoric,' the extended long-play version. I've enclosed the original version too for your perusal...Hope you can use this piece. It's only been played once before."⁷

Aside from the dozens of articles and essays Joe published in *Au Courant*, *Blackheart*, *Changing Men*, *GCN*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, the *Windy City Times* and several other publications; and his work as editor of *In The Life* and *Black/Out* magazine, I will always remember Joe for his contributions to the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG). On Thanksgiving Day, 1985 Joe and I were passengers in a van which travelled from the Lesbian/Gay Community Services Center in New York to the Louis Sheraton to attend the annual conference of the NCBLG. We were roommates for the three days of the conference which gave us a great deal of time to exchange stories. We found that our backgrounds were not dissimilar: born of working class parents, baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, educated at public elementary school, prep schools and predominantly white colleges. We grew up with the influences of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, and had taken leadership roles in Black Student Unions-- preparing ourselves for the roles we would later assume within progressive Black and lesbian/gay organizations. That Thanksgiving weekend, Joe joined the board of directors of the NCBLG. It was for him an exciting role within "the new movement of Black lesbian and gays." He took the idea of producing a publication for the NCBLG's membership and constituency and created *Black/Out*, a very polished and informative quarterly journal. In the second issue, Joe wrote:

"As Black Lesbians and Gays, we are part of a worldwide movement that will enliven and reshape the discussions of race, sex, gender, and class oppression. Our movement is one of liberation; our vision is one that is dignified and inclusive. We have as our foundation the Black civil rights movement, the women's movement, the men's liberation movement, and the anti-nuclear/peace movement. We can build on their successes without duplicating their failures. The progressive movement of Black Gays and Lesbians is one into which we have been born; ours is a birthright to struggle."⁸

I suppose the struggles in Joe's life inform and inspire my saddest memories of him. I remember his struggle to promote the visibility of Black lesbians and gay men within the Black community.

"Because of our homosexuality the Black community casts us as outsiders. We are the poor relations, the proverbial black sheep, without a history, a literature a religion, or a community... We are even more susceptible to the despair, alienation, and delusion that threatens to engulf the entire Black community."⁹

I remember his struggle to uncover a Black gay history.

"Together we are making history. As Black gay men we have always existed in the African-American community. We have been ministers, hairdressers, entertainers, sales clerks, civil rights activists, teachers, playwrights, trash collectors, dancers, government officials, choir masters, and dishwashers. You name it; we've done it--most often with scant recognition."¹⁰

I remember his struggle for recognition from other Black gay men..

"A half block away, walking towards me, is another Black gay man. We have seen each other in the clubs, side by side and at the precise moment that our eyes should meet, he studies the intricate detail of a building. I check my white sneakers for scuff marks. What is it that we see in each other that makes us avert our eyes so quickly?"¹¹

I remember his constant struggle to find meaningful employment...

"I applied for a job in a progressive organization in a department headed by a white lesbian feminist. While I was being interviewed, this feminist, leaning toward me as if we could share secrets, said, 'You know, Joe, I'd prefer working with another woman'-- a minor detail, which of course, had been omitted from the job description. As coincidence would have it, three of the four interviewees were people of color--a latina and two black men. As coincidence would have it, the person hired was also a white lesbian feminist who just happened to be a close girlfriend of the interviewer. This interviewer's preference for a woman co-worker is no different than a male interviewer's preference for a woman co-worker with large breasts, or a personnel office's preference for white people only. Slap!"¹²

Through these memories, which are, I believe, the gift of Joe's life, I struggle to find the lessons from which we should be benefiting as a result of Joe's death. It is extremely painful to realize that Joe never felt that he received adequate support from his lesbian/gay extended family. Lesson 1: We must not

⁷ Beam, Joseph, "personal correspondence," February 10, 1986

⁸ Beam, Joseph, "From the Editor," *Black/Out*, Volume 1, Number 2 (Fall 1966), p. 2

⁹ Beam, Joseph, "Introduction," *In the Life*, ed. Beam. Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc., 1986, p. 17

¹⁰ Ibid. p. 16

¹¹ Beam, Joseph, "Brother to Brother: Words from the Heart," *In the Life* ed. Beam. Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc., 1986, pp. 232, 233.

¹² Beam, Joseph, "No Cheek to Turn," *Changing Men*, Volume 27 (Winter 1986), p. 9

place super-human expectations upon our leaders while mounting them on unreachable pedestals, but rather attend to the very personal emotional and tangible needs of their private selves.

It is extremely painful to realize than an alarmingly large proportion of the Black lesbians and gay men for whom Joe wrote could not receive his message because they are functionally illiterate. Lesson 2: We must actively engage in the pursuit of teaching our less fortunate brothers and sisters basic life skills, including reading, utilizing innovative and culturally appropriate educational methods.

It is extremely painful to realize that Simon Nkoli, members of the Rand Gay Organization in Soweto, and the African Gay Organization in Cape Town are not able to benefit from Joe's words because they have great difficulty accessing *In The Life*, *Black/Out* and similar publications. Lesson 3: We must actively engage ourselves in the fights against censorship and South African apartheid..

It is extremely painful to realize that unlike Baldwin, Cullen, or Hughes who "did not directly challenge the pantheon of African -American writers and intellectuals to understand homosexuality and homophobia as significant political concerns, ¹³ Joe will not receive tributes nor homage from the

Black literati precisely because that challenge was his mission. This was so clearly demonstrated by joint action taken by Joe and close friend and associate Barbara Smith at the Second National Black Writers' Conference held at Medger Evers College in Brooklyn, New York last March 24-27. The two presented a "400-word statement, signed by Black lesbians and gay men who are authors and editors of books..(Copies of these) were distributed to participants and panelists throughout the conference. That statement, which included a 50-item bibliography, addressed the systematic exclusion by the Black literary establishment of Black lesbians and gay men 'who function with integrity, refuse to be closeted, and address Lesbian and Gay oppression as a political issue.'" ¹⁴ Lesson 5: We must continue to challenge self-appointed authorities, increase our visibility and demand acknowledgement of our contributions to society with the recognition of who and what we are..

I am deeply saddened that Joe lived just long enough to celebrate the realization of only a few of the many expansive dreams we shared. The most important lesson with which I am left is that "if I cannot vocalize a dream, which is the first step towards its realization then I have no dream. It remains a thought, a vision without form." ¹⁵



Joseph Beam

¹³ Smith, Barbara, "We Must Always Our Dead Twice," *Gay Community News*, Volume 15, Number 23 (December 20-26, 1987), p. 11.

¹⁴ Robinson, Colin, "Lesbian and Gay Writers Speak Out at Black Conference," *Gay Community News*, (Volume 15, Number 39 (April 17-23, 1988), p. 1.

¹⁵ Beam, Joseph, "Brother to Brother: Words from the Heart," *In the Life*, ed. Beam. Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc. 1986, p. 237.

You Made Us Feel Mighty Real

A Tribute To Sylvester



Chaka Kahn



Jeanie Tracy

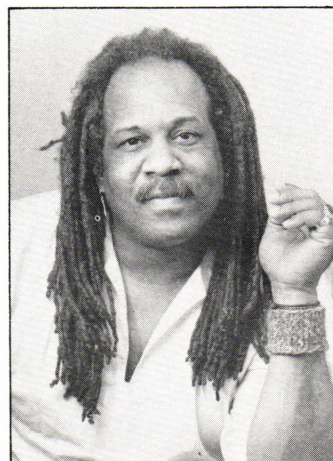


Kimberly J. Miller

M.A.P. Reception

Blackberri

Blackberri's performance is soothing to the ear, spiritually awakening, and down right unpretentious. There are not complicated musical arrangements: a simply man, his lyrics and his guitar. His blend of jazz, blues, folk, gospel and reggae is sure to appeal to everyone. He has toured internationally and has become an icon in Black gay culture..

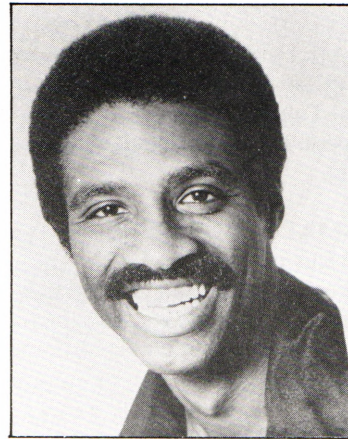


An Evening At The Cotton Club

A Musical Salute to Black Divas of the Blues



J'AI



Taurean Blacque

National Minority AIDS Council Benefit Luncheon



Natalie Cole



Whoopi Goldberg



Maxine Waters



Rev. Carl Bean

LOVING OURSELVES, HEALING OURSELVES, P

WORKSHOP SC

Saturday, February 18, 1989

OPENING PLENARY

The Being Alive, PWA Luncheon will be held in the Hospitality Suite, Rm. 216

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SESSION I 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

1. HOW TO BUY YOUR FIRST HOME

by Carol Winston, Harriet Tubman room

This workshop is designed to help participants by their first home and obtain financing.

2. STARTING A SMALL BUSINESS

by Bobby Smith, Bayard Rustin Room

Deciding on type of business, research and development, writing a business plan, and marketing your ideas. Also, how to get working capital. There will be decision on the different types of legal structures.

3. HOW TO SET UP A 501 (C) (3) organization

by Christine Tripp, Frederick Garnett Room

The objective of the workshop are to acquaint the participants with effective skills in establishing and maintaining a 501 (C) (3). Additionally, how a Board of Directors can make or break an organization. Latest tax registration, court decisions, and IRS rulings.

4. INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH SEX

by Midget, Bessie Smith Room

Guides participants on a journey of self love. Pre-requisite-females only.

5. DEPRESSION - UNDERSTANDING AND COPING

by Douglas Ware, Butterfly McQueen Room

This workshop will focus on the fundamentals of depression with emphasis on self-help techniques.

6. STARTING A BLACK GAY NEWSPAPER

by Allen Bell, Audre Lorde Room

This workshop is designed to assist participants in developing, writing and marketing an effective newspaper.

7. Evaluating programs

by Dr. Steven Thomas, University of Maryland,

Joe Beam Room

Did you do what you said you'd do, and did it make a difference. This workshop will have a intensive focus on all the necessary components to evaluate the effectiveness of your organization. This organization will be particularly helpful to organizations with funded programs.

SESSION II 2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

1. PRINTING, PUBLISHING, PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY. by Al Cunningham, National AIDS Network Audre Lorde Room.

(double session this workshop will end at 6:00 p.m.)

How to create an organizational newsletter quickly and easily using readily available hardware and software. The participants in this workshop will produce a newsletter that will be distributed on Sunday morning.

2. HOW TO OPERATE A SMALL BUSINESS

by Jewel Williams, Harriet Tubman Room

This workshop will focus on key elements to maintaining and operating a small business. How to avoid the pitfalls of failure.

3. CLINICAL TRIALS

by Jack Killen, Deputy Director AIDS Program,
National Institute of Health, Bayard Rustin Room

Detailed step by step procedures on how to get involved in AIDS developmental drug studies, what are the drugs, what to expect and who to see.

4. BLACK AND BEAUTIFUL LESBIANS

by Stowe Folayan, Bayard Rustin Room

Let's celebrate and reclaim our pride and self esteem in our round

and full bodies. The workshop will give us an opportunity to experience our power and recover from the wounds inflicted by a racist and fatophobic culture.

5. LOBBYING - THE DO'S AND DON'TS

by Charles Stewart, chief deputy of State Senator Diane Watson
Frederick Garnett Room

This workshop is designed to help the participant to understand and know the do's and don'ts of lobbying elected officials.

6. WAR ON PRIVACY RIGHTS by Tom Boot

Butterfly McQueen Room

This workshop will focus on a precedent setting civil liberties case whose outcome will impact associational privacy rights for radical activist and organizations.

7. HOT, HORNY AND HEALTHY, a close encounter of the safer kind.

by Phill Wilson, National Task Force on AIDS Prevention
Joe Beam Room

This Playshop will focus on eroticizing safer sex for Black Gay men. H,H & H! shows you that you have the power to take back the sexual enjoyment AIDS may have stolen from you.

SESSION III 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. • CAUCUSES

Sunday, February 19, 1989

SESSION IV 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Renee McCoy

Worship Service

1880 Founders Room

, PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

P SCHEDULE

SESSION V 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1. THE LAW AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP TBA Harriet Tubman Room

This workshop will focus on the issues of domestic partner, living wills, power of attorney and other issues relating to the judicial system and same sex coupling.

2. MEDIA SKILLS WORKSHOP FOR GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVIST by Urvashi Vaid, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Bayard Rustin Room

This workshop serves as a nuts and bolts discussion of working with all media outlets covering gay and lesbian issues.

3. FUNDRAISING by Rodney Carter Frederick Garnett Room

How do effective fund raising for gay/lesbian organizations and groups. How to get the big BUCKS! Participants will be lead step by step through how to organize and execute fundraising strategies.

4. THE SECRET OF THE POMEGRANATE PART 2 by Sylvia Rhue, Ph.D., Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, Bessie Smith Room

Black Lesbian sexuality/relationships. How to sustain long term relationships. The importance of communications, keeping the love alive and sexual issues for singles and married couples.

5. NCBLG: PURPOSE AND ATTRACTION

by Eugene Cornelius, Butterfly McQueen Room
This workshop is designed to present the purpose, orientation

and goals of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. To develop a Los Angeles Chapter.

6. COMMUNITY NETWORKING

by James Woods, George Washington Carver Room
Identifying needs and goals in communities, and establishing method for achieving those goals by application of cultural references.

7. LIVING WITH AIDS

Roger Pamplin, Joe Beam Room
Panel discussion by Black PWA.s on how to survive and /or thrive after an AIDS diagnosis.

8. INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA AND INTERNALIZED RACISM

by Pat Norman, Sylvester Room
This workshop will focus on how and why we often treat each other in maladaptive ways. It will explore the assumptions that we all have similar life experiences and how react to other Blacks, Gays/Lesbians and/or Black Gay/Lesbian people who have different life experiences.

9. FUNDAMENTALS OF FUNDRAISING

by Mathew Murgia, U.S. Conference of Mayors
Moms Mabley Room
How to identify, solicit and get funding from government entities and non-profit foundations, including information about the Centers for Disease's latest request for proposals. This workshop will also present step by step details of grant writing.

SESSION VI 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

1. THE LESBIAN FORUM

by Terry Hamilton, Harriet Tubman Room
A discussion focusing the controversial subject of interracial lesbian couples. Isolation from the Black community, internalized oppression and how to find and meet other Black lesbians. Pre-requisite females only.

2. COMPUTERIZED MAILING LIST

by Michael Otis, Bayard Rustin Room
How to develop, maintain and maximize the benefits of a computerized mailing list.

3. GAY RELATIONSHIPS

by Dr. Joseph Pruitt, Frederick Garnett Room
This workshop will focus on the male relationship-establishing, building and maintaining a positive relationship.

4. THE CLOSET AND CAREERS

by Rosalyn Taylor-O'Neale, Bessie Smith Room
This workshop will explore the complexities of being Black and Lesbian/Gay in White heterosexual work environment. To understand our own stuff in order to be better leaders of organizational change. To develop strategies to aid organizations in creating an environment where our "difference" are understood and valued. The advantages and disadvantages involved in expressing your sexuality in your business environment. When and where to come out, if at all will be listed.

5. BLACK AMERICAN ARTIST: THE NEW AGE

by Leonard Simon, Butterfly McQueen Room
An overview of outstanding Black American artist in the new age. An in depth appreciation for their achievements and the renaissance of Black American art.

6. STRESS REDUCTION AND YOU

by A. Hasani Perry, Joe Beam Room
Designed to assist participants to identify and understand and reduces stresses in five areas of their life. (i.e. physical, mental, social, spiritual, and environmental).

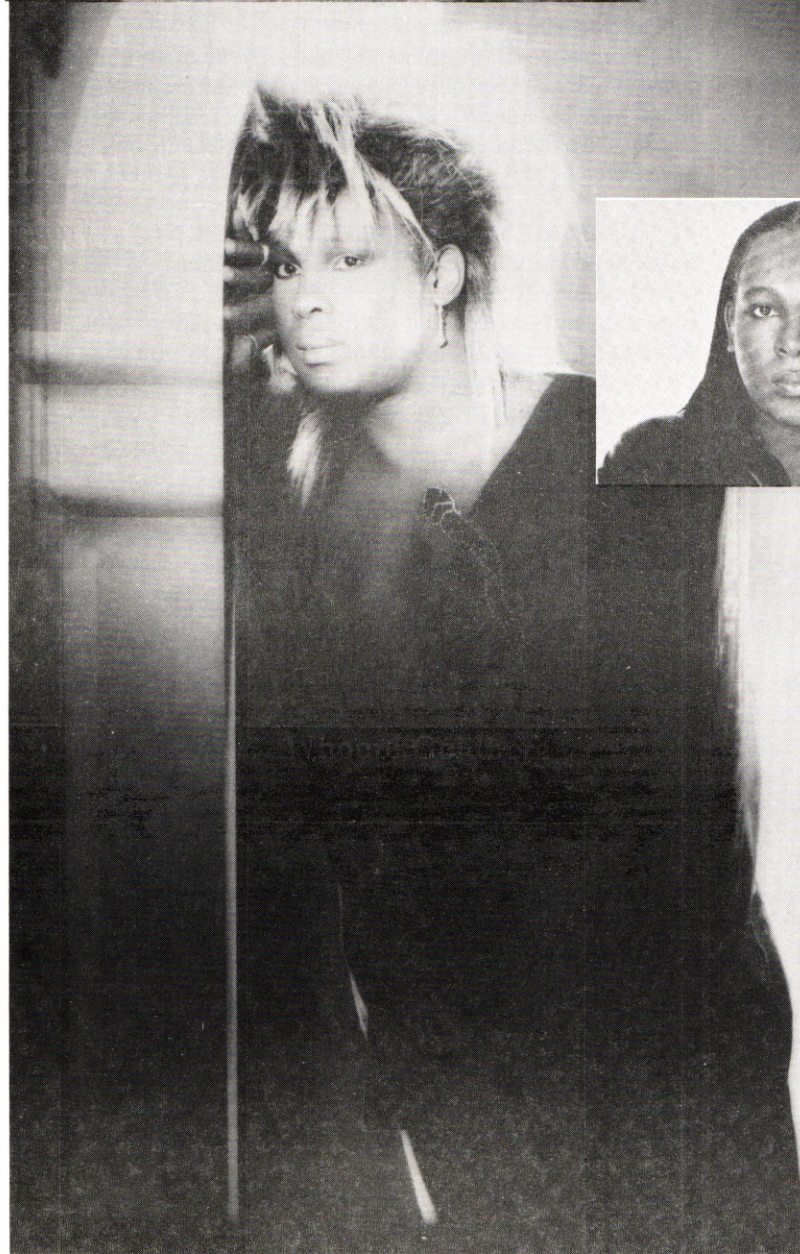
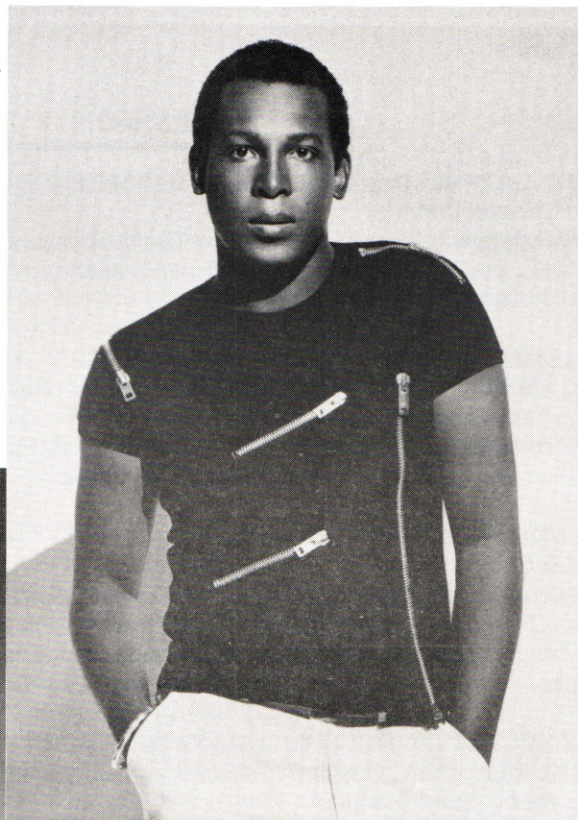
7. FOCUS GROUP FOR THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS. by Craig Harris, Sylvester Room

8. TEN STEPS ON THE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

by Victoria Lee, George Washington Carver Room
Incorporates steps toward methods of achieving one's life's goals., through high consciousness and all centers including health, wealth love and play. Pre-requisite - females only.

9. MOBILIZING PWA'S OF COLOR

by Tony Young, Moms Mabley Room
Discussion of distinct needs among PWA's of color. self-empowerment, organizational models, building networks; also addresses starting a PWA organization.



Tribute to Sylvester

Excerpts from MACT/NY Newsletter Vol. IX, No. 8, 1/17/89

One of the greatest disco queens of our time - and of all time - Sylvester - died last month on December 16th at the age of 41. He died after more than a years' battle with Aids, that left him too weak to walk and barely able to communicate. This vicious, disgusting disease has taken another beautiful life.

Sylvester was the 70's. He was the epitome of that whole decade - of fast, wanton, exciting life. Songs like "Do You Wanna Funk" made you get up and move no matter how chic and tony a Black queen you were. His music was the only music that would pull this writer out of myself - my pretensions toward heights of disco fashion and insouciance - and get me dancing into the depths of my African roots. His beats were primal - Mother Africa rhythms sped up to an incredible frenzy, and then smoothly filtered through an electronic pulse that only a crazed 70's disco queen could truly appreciate. An even though many an astute, on-top-of-it white queen recognized his worth, it was really us Black queens who lionized - and eventually canonized - Sylvester.

He was the essence of what it was like to be slick, sleek, Black and queen. And we loved him for it.

We seldom thought about how great he was, or ever considered that he might no longer be around. We just grabbed every new album as it appeared, and would play healthy serving of "You Make Me Feel" - my personal favorite, cause in the 70's, as I was finally realizing that it was long overdue time to comeout, Sylvester really did help make me feel okay to be real - to be me! And I can name so many people I know who used, and needed, Sylvester to do the same thing for them.

Sadly - angrily - some of those guys have gone the way of better men. And now, so has Sylvester. But as my friend Dave puts it, the Terence Trent D'Arbys and the Princes, who are doing so much for Black queens nowadays, owe a tremendous debt to Sylvester, because Miss Clique gave them the same sense of self-worth to make their music, as she gave us to come out.

And as far as I'm concerned, the most important legacy that Black queens like Sylvester have left, is the creation of a strong, self-empowered, positive, vital Black Lesbian and Gay male community - growing in number, openly declarative, and ever indebted.

Yes, Sylvester - you've made us all feel. . . Mighty Real!

Moments with Sylvester

by Mark Grossfeld

In November, shortly before Thanksgiving, Sylvester granted to PWA Voice what was to be his last interview before his death, a month later. PWA Voice staffmember Mark Grossfeld met with Sylvester in his home and conducted the interview, which is excerpted below, along with Grossfeld's introduction. It was clear during that conversation that the superstar was extremely ill. His speech was halting and sometimes confused. The answers to questions sometimes eluded him; from time to time his concentration failed. Nevertheless, Sylvester wanted to give this interview and very generously wanted to offer his support for this newsletter. He was determined to be as outspoken about being a Person With AIDS as he was about being the quintessential "Queen of Disco". Editor

The first time I met Sylvester was early in 1988. I had decided to take an AIDS MASTERY workshop. As each of us registered, put on our name tags, and wandered into the cafeteria where participants were gathering, it was immediately clear the the room had a focus. Hushed whispers around the room questioned "Is that Sylvester? Could that be Sylvester? Why is Sylvester taking AIDS MASTERY?"

Not having lived in San Francisco until 1982, and not being a discophile, the details I knew about Sylvester were sketchy. I had seen him on Joan River's New Year's Eve show and thought his performance had managed to salvage what could have been a very boring New Year's Eve program.

Looking at him now, I saw a different person. Wearing a basic turtleneck and jeans, he looked concerned, intense, and very serious. People sat down at his table, more and more chairs crowding around the popular singer, until there was no room left near him.

I was fascinated by this celebrity in the room and I was intrigued by the charisma that he seemed to possess. Sylvester piqued my curiosity in the most unusual way. It was during that weekend that I decided I wanted to interview Sylvester for PWA Voice. He presented a special challenge. Both the impact of AIDS on his life and his popularity would appeal to the readers, but I wondered if I could get Sylvester to reveal himself.

I visited with Sylvester twice in the next few months. It was clear he was getting sicker as the days went by. His home was a modern two bedroom apartment in Eureka Valley and of course one bedroom was devoted entirely to drag. There were various reminders of different stages of Sylvester's career throughout the apartment. His image appeared everywhere in pictures, gold albums and numerous awards. The apartment was not lavish and hinted at the fact that the star may have been living in times a bit more austere than when he was at the height of his disco popularity.

Every person I told about this interview had a Sylvester story. Whether it was recounting his performances with the Cockettes, remembering his music pulsing through their disco days, or just seeing him flying down Castro Street, Sylvester was the gay icon of an era.

Sylvester, diagnosed with AIDS over a year ago, was bedridden due to his peripheral neuropathy when I visited. Still sassy and spirited, he called me "honey" and "queen" and I was constantly aware that he will always be the quintessential diva.

PWAV: Sylvester, how were you diagnosed?

S: I went in for one of my general checkups and the next thing I knew I was in the hospital with a fever and that was it.

PWAV: Earlier this year I remember you were already having health problems.

S: Well, yes I was. But it was nothing major where I might sit down and think that I had AIDS, or that it was something really serious. I can't say that I did that.

PWAV: Were you eventually diagnosed with PCP?

S: What's that?

PWAV: Pneumocystis Carinii pneumonia.

S: That was it. First they didn't know what it was. And then they gave me a test, a lung test.

PWAV: A bronchoscopy?

S: Yeah, and my doctor said he wanted to keep me in the hospital and I said that it was fine.

PWAV: What went through your mind?

S: Nothing.

PWAV: Were you frightened?

S: No.

PWAV: How would you describe your reaction to your diagnosis?

S: I was in the hospital asleep most of the time. See my doctor is a really good doctor. He kept me on drugs until I was all right. He'd tell me what was going on and that was it. My doctor's just wonderful. He's an old queen and really a good time, just a good time. He comes to my house.

PWAV: Sylvester, did your lover Rick's diagnosis of AIDS and eventual death help prepare you for your own diagnosis?

S: Rick and I never talked about AIDS.

PWAV: No?

S: We actually did have one conversation. He was having some physical difficulties; his stomach had swollen up and there were some other things going on with him and I said, "Rick, aren't you afraid you have AIDS?" He said, "That's what is wrong with you". After that I didn't mention it.

PWAV: Do you miss having romance in your life?

S: Well, of course. I had a lover for six years and a lover for six years before that. Then all of a sudden there's no one. I'm used to being married.

PWAV: What made you decide to appear in the Gay Day Parade?

S: I was in the contingent of people with AIDS. It was sort of my way of making a statement that I am definitely alive. Rumors had been running rampant for months that I was dead and nobody knew where I was. So I was really tired of all that. I just went there and said, "Here I am, I'm not dead, and I'm still supporting the

community like I always did!"

PWAV: Were you trying to make a political statement?

S: I was very upset when I realized all those AIDS services from Washington D.C. weren't going to blacks. White, gay boys would not give the services to the black queens. All the services were going to the white community. I felt very bad that I wasn't able to do more.

PWAV: You did a lot.

S: Yes, because I was screaming. I was screaming, "You fucking white queens have all the money, all the resources, and you're treating black men like slaves. You give us what's left over." I didn't like that at all. I'm not a slave.

PWAV: Do you think it is that way here in San Francisco?

S: Oh yes.

PWAV: What are your days like now?

S: I'm stuck in bed. I watch TV. I talk on the phone. People come over. I get lots of massages for my feet. They hurt so bad, you know. Several times a day people come over to comfort and visit. I feel bad because a friend came over the other day and brought all these fashion magazines, because that's what we look at together. I fell asleep in the middle of it and that's the second time I've done this. He was so sweet to come all the way over here and I just fell asleep. That bothers me.

PWAV: What thoughts do you have about your past?

S: I had a great time. I've done a lot, and I praise God and thank God every day that I have gone as far as I have. Physically I'm tired. So naturally I'm tired of the days of airplanes, funky hotels, superficial dates and long trips. They were all fun and there were lots of really cute boys around. Any queen in her right mind would just flip out over it. People used to have trouble figuring it out. I'd hear them say, "How does she rate? How does she get a trick like that? I'm a good looking guy and I'm here alone. He's up there in a goddamned dress and the guys are all over him!" Now I would just like to have someone to watch TV with. I'd give anything just to fall asleep in somebody's arms.

PWAV: The last appearance I saw you make was a New Year's Eve show with Joan Rivers.

S: Joan's taken an interest in me. After that show a lot of things happened. Everybody loved that show, loved that a gay man was getting so much attention. They loved that I was being so successful and doing so well. What they didn't know was that when that show was through taping, it was nine o'clock in the evening and I was on a flight home to San Francisco, sick as a dog.

PWAV: You looked great.

S: Well, that has nothin' to do with it, I can always look great. I can get up in the morning and look great. Feeling sick, feeling terrible I can look good. I know how to put on make-up. You know, it's those times when you're feeling like shit that you need friends. You need people in your life. I don't have that.

PWAV: You wish you had more support from your friends?

S: I'm not a martyr, but they don't have time. Sometimes I feel like I was always there for others, but now when I need them, they're not there, so...I do what I have

to do.

PWAV: You feel they haven't been there for you?

S: There are those people who have been there since the beginning. Those are my friends. Those are the people I keep close to me.

PWAV: What do you see in your future?

S: I used to set a goal and go for it. But now, that's changed. Especially with Tim being sick.

PWAV: Tim, your manager?

S: Yes, he's really, really sick. I don't know if he's going to come out of this. Of course it leaves me with everything to do. For 15 years he's taken care of all my business affairs and all the legal arrangements. Now he's not going to be here.

PWAV: Well, it sounds like you've gone through...

S: The worst. I've been happy, glorious, excited, you know, but this is the worst. I'm spending Thanksgiving with my family. They're all coming here.

PWAV: Has your mother been a source of strength for you?

S: Yes. Absolutely.

PWAV: What about your music?

S: No.

PWAV: No? I remember you once told me that you really got excited by Aretha Franklin.

S: I still do. I love Aretha and still get excited when I hear from her. But things are hard now.

PWAV: What's giving you the support to go on?

S: I don't have any support. Every time that I want it or need it, it's not there. Ok? It's not there.

PWAV: Doesn't your faith provide you strength?

S: It's all of my strength.,

PWAV: Do you consider yourself a religious person?

S: What else could I consider myself? All things are possible for those who believe. Everything is possible. Everything.

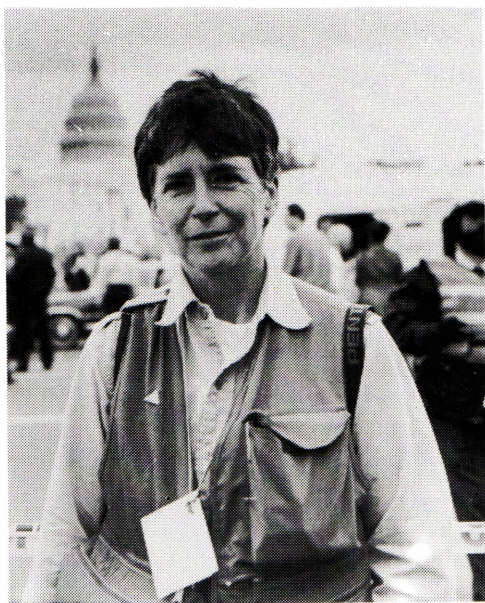
PWAV: Is there anything you want that you don't have?

S: Right now?

PWAV: Yes.

S: To walk.

RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM



Oct. 11, 1987, Washington, D.C.

"If gay and lesbian newspapers don't tackle the important issues within the community, no one else will. While they may be controversial and the news not always pleasant, we owe it to our readers to confront the issues rather than avoiding them or suppressing the facts. We are a diverse and intelligent people and when presented with the facts, we can then make the best possible decisions regarding those issues that affect our lives and the lives of future generations. Our readers have come to expect, and deserve, this kind of in-depth reporting from The News and our community is the better for it."

Sandy Dwyer
Publisher
The News

The News

P.O. Box 931898, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1898
213/466-1363



Best Gay "Rag"

The News. Prose style . . . it's a bit of an oxymoron when it comes to reading the bland gay newspapers that make *Time* and *Newsweek* seem lefty. But the feisty *News*, run by lesbians, does what none of the dozen gay papers will do: side with the "people" — as opposed to the institutions that pull L.A.'s gay purse strings. Sandy Dwyer, ace reporter (and editor/publisher), slabs the front page with *New York Times*-style clarity and alternative late-breaking muckracking, slamming APLA's aristocracy (where administrators earn \$100,000 and PWA services get cut), heralding ACT UP/LA (when other publications applaud "checkbox" activism), embracing writers (enough advocacy, already) who don't balk at lambasting excesses in the "community." With columns by outlandish PWA Chris Brownlie and contributions by Richard Labonte and Harold Fairbanks, Dwyer has managed to run a first-rate newspaper without being slavishly dog-chained to 976- porn twinkies. (DGS)

L.A. WEEKLY September 23-29, 1988



N • A • B • W • M • T

The National Association of Black and White Men Together •

**Extends its Heartfelt Congratulations
and Gratitude to the
Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum
for its Successful Efforts
and Valuable Contributions
in Presenting the
2nd Annual
National Black Gay and Lesbian
Leadership Conference**

The National Association of Black and White Men Together is a gay interracial organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends, we engage in educational, political, cultural and social activities as means of dealing with the racism, sexism, homophobia and other inequities in our communities and in our lives.

NABWMT; 584 Castro Street Suite 140; San Francisco, CA 94114



s there are organizations

for when it's time to be religious, or when it's time to be political, or when it's time to be philanthropic, Black Jack exists for when it's time to be social. ♥ Organized in 1986, Black Jack is an alternative for health-conscious black gay men. Members choose from a palette of activities that includes social events, cultural outings, safe sex meetings, trips out of town and old-fashioned house parties. One popular activity is getting together just to eat, watch TV and rap. ♦ The club has visited two colored museums—the one in Exposition Park and the play by George Wolfe. Next month we see Alvin Ailey. ♠ As a group, members have also seen not-yet-released movies and tapings of television shows. Next stop: *The Arsenio Hall Show*. ♣ The group has organized weekend trips—to Santa Barbara, Las Vegas, San Diego and Tijuana. In January, we went to La Jolla. Next month we visit Palm Desert. ♥ Black Jack has contributed to the Minority AIDS Project and is a Sponsor of the 1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. ♦ As the complete social club, Black Jack even provides a means for shy men to get involved without leaving their homes: our monthly newsletter includes free personal ads. ♠ There is a Black Jack chapter in Chicago and other cities are on the way. ♣ To find out more, call 213-338-1516 anytime, 24 hours a day. Or write Black Jack, Box 83515-L, Los Angeles, California 90083. ♥ Black Jack. On time for the ninties.

BLACK JACK



**WHITMAN-
WALKER
CLINIC INC.**

October 9, 1988

1407 S STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC
20009
202/797-3500

Mr. Phil Wilson, Chairman
Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum
P. O. Box 29812
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Dear Mr. Wilson:

FRED MILLER
President

JIM GRAHAM
Administrator

PETER HAWLEY, MD
Medical Director

JIM HARVEY
Deputy Administrator/
Administration

DAN BROSS
Deputy Administrator/
Finance and Development

The staff of the Whitman-Walker Clinic's Sunnye Sherman AIDS Education Project and the People of Color Committee commend and support your organizing efforts to convene a second National Black Gay & Lesbian Conference in February, 1989.

We have found that conferences offer excellent opportunities for community-based activists, service providers, educators, and researchers to network and develop innovative strategies needed to address social and health problems of our era. Many of us at Whitman-Walker Clinic participated in the first National Black Gay & Lesbian Conference held in Los Angeles and found the substance of the workshops, panels, and speakers to be of highest quality with refreshing approaches to working with sub-cultures within the Black community.

Of special interest to the staff and volunteers of the Whitman-Walker Clinic were the workshops addressing HIV infection among Black Lesbians and Gays. We urge the organizers to continue to address this issue in terms of Black Lesbian and Gay youth, substance abusers, prostitutes, and incarcerated. We also urge you to aggressively reach out to Black transpersons and bisexuals.

The Whitman-Walker Clinic stands ready to support your organizing efforts within the limitation of our resources. We will certainly help promote the conference within the metropolitan Washington, D. C. area. Please advise us of other ways we may be of support to the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum.

Sincerely,

A. Billy S. Jones
Health Educator

cc: George A. Swales, Director
Sunnye Sherman AIDS Education Project

Brenda Staton and R. Thomas Rodriguez
People of Color Committee

Jim Harvey, Deputy Administrator

Connections Between Blacks and Gays in '88

by W.J. Brandy Moore

Recent salvos fired between the black and gay communities have bolstered the concern that what has appeared to be a long-standing network of political support based upon civil and human rights issues may have been irreparably torn. The battle lines are drawn around the upcoming November election and support for two supervisors' seats.

At issue is whether coalition building in San Francisco is worth the effort or if the coalitions of the past decade between black activists and gays have created a new agenda whereby one community can make decisions without some reference to the needs of the other. The black communities of San Francisco feel challenged by the actions of the lesbian and gay communities and vice versa.

Both groups ask the same questions. On the one hand the question arises, "What do those people want ... now?," while on the other we hear, "Haven't we supported their issues in the past? Why won't they join us on this important matter for a change?" Each group suffers from a poor perception of the needs of the needs of the other. Both are at fault for not insisting on continued discussion over what goals are in the best interests of all concerned and what path should be taken to clear away those issues about which there can be little or no agreement. The growing animosity between them threatens the allegiances with other liberal coalitions around town.

The adage, "An injustice done to one, especially in a society that aspires to be free ... is an injustice to all," carries little weight in the current debate over black support for lesbian and gay candidates or issues. If there is a political "family" operating to protect and ensure the rights of the "people," then the current skirmishes over the election of a

black incumbent supervisor or support for the electoral hopes of lesbian and gay candidates should have a clear solution. The appropriate question about electing an incumbent is how to encourage support for that candidate while augmenting public knowledge that his/her position on various issues is being strengthened through dialogue. Why jeopardize the agenda of allied groups throughout the city? That hasn't happened from any quarter.

The adage fails under scrutiny because both sides have publicly used its concept to justify their struggles against racism and discrimination in the past. But they've failed to include its meaning in their practical politics. From the view of a progressive politics, the black community and the lesbian and gay community stand to lose their progressive clout and will diminish the success of either group to work for political well-being over the long run. Neither side should forget the support lesbian and gays have given to black issues or what blacks have done in support of gays. There needs to be some fast dialogue and some realistic commitments to the goals of the abovementioned adage.

One real problem faced by each group is in coming to grips with the politics of assimilation and the fear that there may not be enough political pie left over for either community to have its say in the mix of San Francisco politics. However, other political interests masquerading as a push for change may have outwitted both blacks and gays by dividing them from the problem of maintaining political strength in a city where such strength is based upon activism motivated by dialogue and connection with groups of similar political identity.

For example, the endorsements of political clubs and organization surrounding both

groups might oppose proposition 96 and 102. The measures offer a great opportunity to educate about civil rights and the risks of discriminatory practices against persons with HIV positivity.

Historically, there were more blacks living in San Francisco in the '60s and '70s when an emerging lesbian/gay community put its feet down and established a home base here. Today the black communities comprise only nine percent of the city's total population.

A sense of encroachment and being forced out prevails throughout much of the discussion over political potency for black people. Anger over gentrification and gays' ability to utilize disposable income to purchase Western Addition Victorian housing soon developed from the most affected community, blacks and other people of color living there. The excesses of the gay community in sporting its new-found liberty served to increase the animosity. The rationale for the anger and the ill will towards gay is founded in any group's self-interest and the desire to maintain a place as high above the bottom as possible on the ladder of success in our society.

It was the type of issues pushed by activist lesbian and gays which assured that the political agenda of the gay community remained in synch with the progressive agenda of other groups in this city. History demands that, for continued success, blacks along with gays not forget the real problems and stay focused upon actual targets. Activists and leaders must remain in contact or they lose the momentum of their cause.

During this same time, gays developed a rainbow of hues to march in protest against discrimination and injustice on several issues and enjoyed the support of black elected officials in

forming political connections and pointing out the danger of a veiled approach to human rights. These officials often found themselves alongside the more liberal view despite admonishments from their constituents. They called for full human rights for all and staunchly challenged any rationale that spoke otherwise. The torch of civil liberties remained firmly in the grip of blacks.

Within the black community, organized religion has existed as the major force for political change and mobilization against the racism and oppression of black people. It is not farfetched to see the role of the black church as a part of the current problem inasmuch as the San Francisco lesbian and gay community has had little success in outreach to the black church and its leaders. The burden of outreach lies in employing the best people in the lesbian and gay community, those who might know most about the role and politics of the church. It should have become clear that one connection would have been those black elected officials as well as black lesbian and gays who could have maximized the agenda of both groups and kept us moving forward.

To date the church as a social institution has played a significant role in assuring that the lesbian and gay community has received little play towards acceptance within the confines of the nuclear family and in society at large. If there's a problem in getting social acceptance in the majority community, then it is little wonder that appropriate perceptions are not made when it comes to black and gay relations.

It's apparent in some quarters that the role of lesbians and gay people has been to assume the torch for civil rights and human dignity. On issues like anti-discrimination in access to health, housing and employment,

there is obvious similarity of benefits for the black community and for gays. The increase in statistics of HIV-related illnesses suggests that now is the time for dialogue and struggle to maximize services for all. There has been precious little activity to negate the development of a schism between these two communities. There is plenty to be done that would take care of these division between blacks and gays ... once and for all.

The activists and leaders in charge on both sides seem to react from their denial of each community's existence. Black lesbians and gays are ignored until a time of expediency. Their existence is denied or decried by both the black community and the larger gay population. Meanwhile, there is no safe place for black lesbians and gays except in close connection with other gays of color. On Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day, there is an appearance of support and camaraderie; two days later the affirmative of a shared destiny is gone.

The political agenda of our community should operate from diversity not conformity. But there is still racism which clouds the vision and tests the integrity of our political efforts such as when we are forced to lobby for funds to fight the transmission of AIDS and end up providing those services to gay white males only and denying access to those services for people of color who are killed by the same disease.

We are divided by straw enemies time and again. Our weak links to the real and positive work to be done prevent any lasting success other than being divided and isolated from a universal battle against discrimination, racism and ill will. We know so little of ourselves as lesbian and gay people, and we deny our existence by blocking out connections with

those who can assist in our liberation.

Nationally, the members of the congressional black caucus have supported and signed on to proposed legislation against discrimination based upon sexual orientation and affectional preference. In California, the leadership of black elected officials brought about legislation to outlaw criminal penalties for private sexual acts between consenting adults back in 1979.

The black community in San Francisco still fights to change the racists myths and finally acquire the dignity of equal partnership and citizenship in this city. The battles which brought about the 1964 Civil Rights Acts and other civil liberties legislation are as relevant today as ever before. Some of the activity to maintain a grip on the liberty torch will be to demand credit for our contributions to the world and to celebrate the contributions of others. Nobody wins their rights alone or without support from others.

One task that can serve the needs and wishes of lesbian and gay people is to review how far we have come and with whose help. We can ask whether we all got to the goal together or if we were sidelined from liberty by targets that jumped up along the way. Our history as blacks and as lesbian and gay people may force us to redefine the leadership and roles we support in the quest for freedom and a progressive ideal. Through it all one thing is sure, talking and sharing information about how our lives are similar can help us to see how futile it is to triumph only in our difference.

W.J. Brandy Moore is a member of the executive committee of the Black Leadership Forum and the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

THE WAR CONFERENCE

A DISSENT FROM THE LESBIANS AND GAYS OF COLOR CAUCUS REPORT

by Charles Stewart

(Only 5 Blacks [4 from the West coast] 4 Hispanics and 2 Asians were present at the 200 member national conference due to absence or tardiness of invitations. [Some invited minorities also boycotted the conference as a protest against a nationwide pattern of indifference to minority concerns]. In response, the lesbians and Gays of Color Caucus:

1. Declared it's disappointment that the war conference reflected the all too familiar pattern
2. Facilitated two inclusion of people of color sessions, and
3. voted to request the war conference to adopt a resolution calling for all future (co-Sexual) Gay/Lesbian conferences, organizations and actions to commit to gender parity and inclusion of a minimum of 25% people of color in the planning and attendance of such events)

"Last night the lesbians and Gays of Color Caucus unanimously adopted a resolution for adoption by this conference as a sense of the body motion. "This morning I awoke and realized that it was too late. Any vote you take on such a resolution will be redundant, moot-a sham. For you have already voted, repeatedly, when the call to this conference was sounded; During it's organization and planning; during the weeks when it became apparent-or should have that significant communities of lesbians and gay men would not be represented here. And you voted. Finally, most clearly, when only eighteen out of the two hundred of you here responded to **our** call to conference by attending yesterday's sessions on inclusion of lesbians and gays of color..

"This is realization, not accusation. There are many reasons so few of

you were there yesterday: There were a number of worthwhile sessions competing for your attention;

some of you have lost hope that solutions can be found; perhaps too many of you feel are already there, not in need of consciousness-raising on people of color concerns; and some of you delegated to others the responsibility of "Representing" your agency or organization.."Still, there were too many executive Directors not there, too many co-chairs not there, too many board members not there, too many of you not there.

"As important-no, as critical as are the threats facing American Lesbians and Gays today, there is also the need to respond to a clear and present danger when it arises. Yet, when the handful of people of color here sent up a growl of anger, a cry of pain, a sigh of despair about the messages of exclusion and /or indifference we continue to receive from you, most of you responded with silence. "Not unanimously, some of you have responded: By meeting with us to address the problem, by approaching us to indicate your support or to offer help, by inquiring how to deal with these issues in your own organizations and communities, and some of, by silent eye contact or a tight squeeze of the shoulder. I know that those of you who have sent these kinds of signals do not believe that they are enough. Nonetheless, I thank you, encourage you and am heartened by you..

"But I repeat-you have already voted: Inclusion of people of color in your agendas shall not be a priority. So I have learned at this "war conference" : That we are indeed in a war, but we do not fight together as brethren or as compa-

triot. We fight against homophobia as uneasy allies in a fragile detente.

"We fight on different battle fronts, in different arenas, with different weapons and resources. We do not share consensus on who the enemy is or who our friends are. We are, in fact, two different armies, without a common strategy..

"I am sad that this is so. But I am pleased that I now have clarity about where I stand and where you stand. We need to know and acknowledge and, for the moment, accept our own harsh reality: Inclusion of lesbians and gays of color is not a priority for the Anglo movement. And people of color cannot, given that fact, commit ourselves wholeheartedly to an agenda which peripheralizes us. This, in my judgement, is where we are at. I have felt torn between allegiance to the people of my heritage and the people of my heart. I am no longer torn.

"I remain Gay. Your agenda and mine overlap, for now, because some of your enemies are mine. I will continue to work with you on our joint issues. But I will not delude myself any longer that I am one of you.. "In the words of Loren Laureano, "We are being called home... We are going home". My allegiance will be to people of color. know that. Understand that, and when, finally you realize that you need us-both to strengthen your community and to protect your political flank -know that we may not be there. And insofar as we do choose to be there, it will be on the same terms you have offered us; to the extent that your cause furthers ours. and only to that extent."

NATIONAL AIDS NETWORK

Paul Akio Kawata,
Executive Director

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January 4, 1988

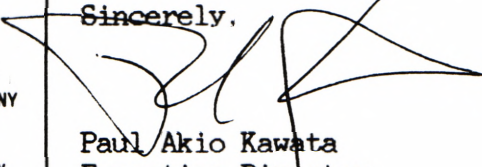
Mr. Phil Wilson
The Black Gay
and Lesbian Leadership Forum
P.O. Box 29812
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Dear Phil:

The National AIDS Network is more than pleased to be added to the list of organizations endorsing the Second Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and AIDS Institute.

Within the limitations of our budget and workplan for 1989, we will continue to extend our support for this most important effort to expand the community-based response to AIDS.

Sincerely,



Paul Akio Kawata
Executive Director

PK/dp

26 Going On

I'm 26 going on life
I crawled, kicked, cried, screamed
turned every way but loose
and finally came through:
still afraid once I tell my truth
people will disappear
but I have to take risks,
have to trust,
and have to love
I'd gotten too lonely in my envelope
and once again I'm getting honest,
going out there
opening up
The choice is to head for the deep
or stay close to shore
I'm stroking and breathing deep
with a lot of things
I'm mad about, sad about,
not very glad about
People I love do things everyday
that draw me through anger
The nerves are shot through the ragged edges
the body is terribly tired and worn
sometimes wishing the flesh were stone
Every person I connect with
comes from the same place:
being wrong, human, and all she's got
everyone's been hurt and wants to be loved.
I think about friendship and caring,
about love and boundaries
I was raised by a man
in a house with another man
all strong silent types:
I'm a solitary person who needs
her daily bread, blood and bone
My temptation is to spoon out the rough stuff
when anyone gets close enough
for me to care and the fear:
I'm not good enough
It was finally understanding that feelings
are real, and so am I
that kept me from killing myself
and other people
The best healing has been
just being able to say that it hurts
and point to the places
Sometimes I'm a slow learner
sometimes I need pain - my best teacher
as a reminder that the old ways
won't get me across the waters
sometimes I have to make mistakes
in order to learn
when I don't want to listen, see, think, or hear
I'm a woman who's made her choices
When people mistake me for a boy
and recognize the woman also stands assured,

they know
In pushing out to open spaces
if I sail off the earth
I'm not going to lie
about how I feel ever again
...(well, possibly sometimes)
but the girl's aiming to be honest
all the way home -
if trees can grow green in the city,
I can heal here too
There are better ways
and they'll uncover themselves -
be patient and let the answers unfold
the only difference between winners and losers
is who gave up -
sometimes it was for the wrong reasons
with the wrong people
The killer instinct is to fold in
and hold tight
but if you lean over the edge and open wide
you'll be safe
I don't know what to hold on to
so the only choice is to let go
of it all
to relax and let the voices speak
the rhythm comes in and clicks
into its speed
The looseness of being free
brings on a strange kind of madness
it's rare enough to feel unnatural
Learn to live through everything
and above all
let nothing destroy you
There are no boundaries
only the fears that keep us inscribed
I don't want to come to the end
and say that there were things I wanted to do in life
and didn't
If I knew where I belonged
I would go there
There is definitely a path leading home
the directions won't all come today
but they're there
I see them growing in other people
Sometimes the only thing
that holds me safe and sane
is knowing that others before me
have made it all the way
I see their glow
There's no magic in lovers, in drugs or oblivion
the work is thinking and awareness
to learn who I am,
and then find the courage to be
so happy birthday Allegra
I'm 26 going on life.

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by

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HIV/HTLV III?
- confused about
sexual options?
- tension and
anxiety in your
relationships?

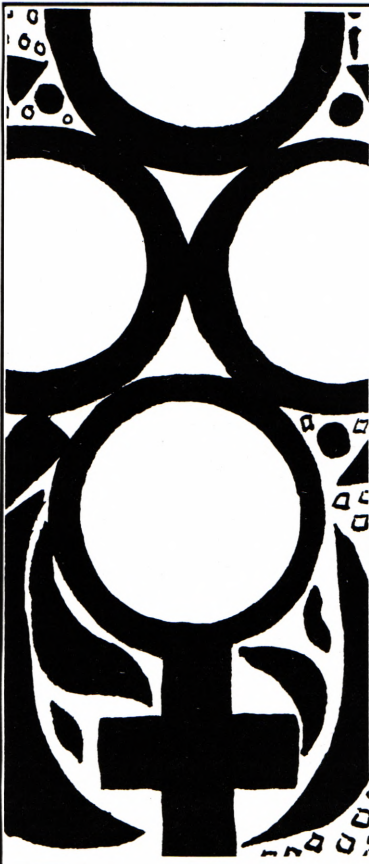
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**APLA
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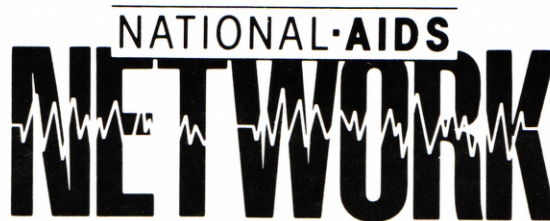
For more information or if you would like to volunteer, Contact Clarissa Chandler at (213) 381-7805.

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THE NATIONAL AIDS NETWORK

Supporting the Community-Based Response to AIDS

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and the
**Second Annual Black Gay & Lesbian
Leadership Conference**



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Rodney Allen Scott, Health Educator

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The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together



Operating through local BWMT/MACT chapters throughout the U.S. and relying on the volunteer efforts of chapter members and friends, the NA/BWMT Task Force on AIDS Prevention is implementing AIDS risk-reduction targeted specifically at Black gay and bisexual men • Our project is partially funded by a grant from the United States Centers For Disease Control • For more information or to offer assistance to our project, please contact our National Office at the address and phone number listed below

Administrative Office
1334 Montague Street NW
Washington, DC 20011
202/829-2433

National Office
Urban Life Center
1101 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
415/673-8133

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SALUTES
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NATIONAL
BLACK
GAY & LESBIAN
CONFERENCE



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MECLA salutes the National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference

The municipal elections committee of los angeles (MECLA) is the nation's oldest and largest local gay and lesbian political action committee (PAC)

We support candidates and elected officials who, in turn, support the gay and lesbian community. Through MECLA foundation we sponser civic events which feature key political leaders and other interesting speakers. On May 13th, we will hold our twelfth annual dinner here in Los Angeles. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to become aware of our activities and events, please call (213) 938-8266.

MECLA seeks to invlove the diversity of our community. We need your help.

We salute the outstanding work which has brought together the second national Black gay and lesbian leadership conference.



Willard Murray

Newly-elected assemblyman willard murray of compton met with MECAL's political committee in december to discuss aids and civil rights issues. MECLA has contributed to assemblyman murray and appreciates his support.



Curtis Tucker, Jr.

MECLA met with assembly condidate cutis tucker, jr. (right) who was elected to succeed his late father, curtis tucker, sr., as the representative of the 50th assembly district. MECLA endorsed and contributed to tucker, who pledged to continues his father,s work in fighting repressive aids legislation. MECLA co-chair bevan duffy is at left.



Julian Dixon

Congressman julian dixon was our honored guest at MECLA's reception kicking off our ticket sales for our may 13th dinbner. Dixon has been a staunch supporter of gay and lesbian civil rights



Kimberly J. Miller

Kinberly j. miller came on board in february as MECLA's administrator. Kim, who previously worked with the SEIU labor union and also a talented singer and preformer, is now our chief employee working to help MECLA achieve our goals for the community.

FRONTLINE

Congratulations to the Second Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. Carry it on!

Frontline Newspaper
P.O. Box 2809
Oakland, CA 94609
(415) 843-7495



Congratulations B.G.L.L.F.
In solidarity with your brilliant work...

Torie Osborn, Executive Director, &
the Staff and Board of



CAP/PAC (California Capital Political Action Committee) - a bi-partisan PAC serving the lesbian and gay community in our State's Capital send best wishes to the Second Annual Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference.

CAP/PAC
1008 10th. Street Suite 255
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 736-2722

Gay & Lesbian Literature

A DIFFERENT LIGHT

4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029 (213) 668-0629

Congratulations
on a job well done.
Keep up the outstanding work.

Sincerely
Cynthia C. Davis
King - Drew Medical Center



A Humane Alternative...
A Caring Alternative...
The Compassionate Alternative.

The AIDS Hospice Foundation

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P.O. Box 29812

Los Angeles, CA 90027

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Wilson

Educators / Consultants / Lecturers • AIDS Prevention & Treatment • Emphasizing the Unique Concerns of People of Color

BUILDING A STRONGER POLITICAL VOICE NOW AND INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND IS YOUR POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE AND LOBBYING GROUP IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

- ☐ **FIGHTING FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL LESBIANS AND GAYS**
- ☐ **BEATING BACK THE BIGOT ATTACK OF HOMOPHOBES LIKE
JESSE HELMS AND WILLIAM DANNEMEYER**
- ☐ **LOBBYING FOR EFFECTIVE, RESPONSIBLE, EXPEDIENT
AIDS POLICY**

*HRCF IS GRATEFUL TO THE BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM
FOR ITS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING OUR COMMUNITY.
WE ALSO SALUTE THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOR SUPPORTING
GAY AND LESBIAN ISSUES ON CAPITOL HILL.*



THE VOICE BEHIND YOUR VOTE

1012 14th Street, NW 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 628-4160

**National
Minority
AIDS
Council**

**LEADERSHIP
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714 G Street, S.E. ▪ Washington, D.C. 20003 ▪ (202) 544-1076

————— **A COALITION OF OVER 160 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS** —————

————— *BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO CREATE COMMUNITIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY* —————

Congratulates The:

***SECOND
NATIONAL BLACK
GAY AND LESBIAN
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE***

THANKS FOR YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT

AIDS INSTITUTE WORKSHOPS

SESSION ONE 9:45 - 10:55

- **Creating Relationships with Foundations (double session):**

Panel discussion between foundations and community based organizations. Covering issues such as how to get foundation funds, which foundations are funding Black and or gay projects, etc.

Room 201. Midge Taylor, Tim Offutt, Michelle Prichard

- **Developing and Managing Volunteer Program:**

To Be Rescheduled

This workshop will answer questions that concern developing and recruiting volunteers in Black communities; also cover issues such as: how to manage, train and support, and place volunteers

Room 205. Bobby Smith

- **Developing Support Groups:**

A detailed "how to" presentation on the fundamentals of developing a support group for Black PWA's; Covering the clinical as well as the practical aspects of maintaining a group including: fees, locating space, and membership issues.

Room 207. Cleante M. Stain and Don Hutson

- **AIDS Services for Addicted PWA's:**

A presentation given by a physician on the importance of services for addicted PWA's; also how to reach, engage and serve addicted PWA's.

Room 210. Dr. German Maisonet

- **Managing Hospices and Residential facilities:**

Brief overview of a model hospice program including management, staffing, and funding. A look at the appropriateness of hospice care for PWA's.

Room 214. Chi Hughes

SESSION TWO 11:05 - 12:20

- **Starting an AIDS Project:**

Practical information on how to start a program that will cover specifics on: how to get funding and community support for an emerging program, and handle day to day matters such as staffing, office space, fiscal responsibilities, etc.

Room 205. Reggie Williams, Steve Feedback

- **Case management for Black PWA's:**

A panel discussion on the differences of case management for Black clients versus clients of other backgrounds; Practical pointers on developing linkages with community organizations for the purposes of referring your clients.

Room 207. Teri Moore, Kathryn C. Mudia, Rose Marie Watkins & Richard Scott

- **Grantwriting 101:**

Beginners' workshop on the fundamentals of how to write a fundraising grant.

Room 210. Mathew Murgia, Al Cunningham

- **Developing Educational Strategies for Black Gay Men:**

A panel discussion of experts in the field of AIDS prevention for Black gay men; The sharing of innovative ideas of methods and strategies that work!

Room 212. George Bellinger Jr., Craig G. Harris

- **Developing Educational Strategies for Minority Teens**

What is happening to Black teens in this epidemic. Who are the teens that are getting HIV. How to reach and engage Black teens in prevention efforts.

Room 214. Cynthia Callahan-Davis

SESSION THREE

1:45 - 3:00

- **General Administration of an AIDS Program:**

A detailed step-by-step workshop that will cover day-to-day administrative issues ie, how to apply for a 501C3 tax status, fiscal, and personnel management.

Room 201. Tim Offutt

- **Working with/in the Church:**

Practical pointers on how to create mutually supportive relationships with Black clergy of various denominations. How to get the church involved in AIDS service.

Room 205. Rev. Carl Bean, Rev Renee McCoy

- **Program Evaluation**

Step-by-step instruction on how to develop and implement a realistic program evaluation; also how to use the result of your evaluation to plan goals and objectives of your program as well as to measure the success of your activities.

Room 207. Dr. Stephen B. Thomas

- **Educational Strategies for Black Women**

Panel discussion on the historical approaches to AIDS prevention for women; Realistic strategies to reach Black women; The use of support and self help groups to aid in behavior change.

Room 210. Gail Harris.

- **Negotiating and Working with Federal Funders**

Panel dialogue between a Centers for Disease Control representative and a representative of a national organization that has successfully managed and maintained positive relations with federal funders; Pointers on effective management of a federal grant. Question and Answer period

Room 212. Gil Gerald, Bob Kohmescher

Working w/ Health Depts.

3

- **Black AIDS Prevention, a British perspective:**

AIDS prevention for Blacks in the United Kingdom for Blacks; What is the British government doing? What are the community efforts to prevent HIV.
Room 214. Vernal Scott

SESSION FOUR

3:15 - 4:30

- **AIDS Programs in the Prisons:**

Practical strategies on how to reach incarcerated Blacks and how to deal with Correction department policies.
Room 205. Colivia Carter

- **Knowledge Attitude and Behavior Studies 101**

What is knowledge, attitude and behavior; Fundamentals of the "how to" conduct a study; the practical use of a KAB study in Black communities.
Room 207. Amanda Hamilton-Houston

- **The Media: Effective Methods of AIDS Education in Black Communities:**

How to reach Black Gay communities through audio, visual, and other media; What methods work best in these communities; how can we access these avenues.

Room 210. Al Cunningham, Craig G. Harris

- **Principals of Fundraising:**

Expert advice on how to raise funds for your community effort from grantwriting to relations with funders.

Room 212. Mathew Murgia, Midge Taylor

- **Developing a PWA Coalition:**

The specifics on how to start a PWA coalition in a Black community; What are the differences in a PWA coalition for Blacks versus a coalition that serves other ethnic groups; Raising funds and other support for a PWA coalition.

Room 214 Larry Ellis, David Holmes,

Session 4
Apr 201

5149 W. Jefferson
Min. AIDS Proj.
6 PM Reception

CELEBRATION 90 FESTIVAL CHORUS
IN THE MAKING

Excitement is in the air in Denver, Colorado, where a team of dedicated people are busily laying plans for the formation of an international chorus to sing for Celebration 90: Gay Games III and Cultural Festival in Vancouver in August of 1990.

In the vision of the founders, this Celebration 90 Festival Chorus will be a mixed choir of 1,000 voices, consisting of Lesbians, Gays, and their parents and friends from many nations. The Chorus will be open to all those who believe in the inclusive policies of Celebration 90. For the week of August 4-11, the music of this Chorus will transcend all barriers that have existed within the community of those whose lives have been touched by homosexuality, and serve as a living, tangible, musical symbol of one world.

The Festival Chorus is scheduled to perform at Opening Ceremonies, Closing Ceremonies, and a concert towards the end of the week, which would likely include the Vancouver Men's Chorus, the Berlin Gay Men's Chorus, and a large women's chorus.

The organizers are looking for individual singers from around the world. Membership will be limited to a total of 1,000 (500 men and 500 women), and there will also be a limitation on the number of people in each section to assure a balanced choral sound. The first people to register in each section will be accepted. Some previous choral experience is desirable, but a member need not be currently singing with a group. No audition is necessary.

There will be a registration fee of \$35.00 prior to September 1, 1989, and \$45.00 after September 1, 1989, which will cover the cost of your own music, performance shirt, and rehearsal tape. Discounts are available if your entire chorus would like to participate. The postmark on the letter sending in your fee will be considered the date of your registration. Other expenses, such as travel, lodging, and food, will be the responsibility of the individual singers. Housing of all types will be available, and will be coordinated through Vancouver.

The Festival Chorus has received support and endorsements from the Colorado Athletic Exchange (CAE), the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA

Choruses), the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado (GLCCC), the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (Parents FLAG), and the Metropolitan Vancouver Athletics and Arts Association (MVAAA).

The founder and conductor of the Celebration 90 Festival Chorus is Carol White of Denver, Colorado. Carol is the founder and conductor of the 1984 Parents FLAG Festival Chorus and the founder and former conductor of the acclaimed Denver Women's Chorus. She has a Master of Sacred Music degree and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Please spread the word to all singers that you know to register early, so that they can be assured a place in this historic group. As the great majority of the chorus will be composed of INDIVIDUAL SINGERS, we need your help in spreading the word.

_____ Yes, I would love to sing in the Celebration 90 Festival Chorus.

_____ Yes, I would love to help coordinate participation in my region.

_____ Yes, I believe in this idea and would love to contribute \$_____ to help ensure its success.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Nation: _____ Zip Code: _____

Complete Phone No. _____

CIRCLE ONE: Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

T-SHIRT SIZE: Women's S M L XL Men's S M L XL

I am enclosing a check or money order to cover my registration fee and assure me a place in the Chorus. (\$35.00 US before Sept. 1, 1989; \$45.00 after Sept. 1)

Make checks payable to Celebration 90 Festival Chorus/GLCCC. Mail to:

Celebration 90 Festival Chorus
P.O. Box 61388
Denver, Colorado 80206
303-331-2306

My name as I would like to have it appear in the concert program: _____

I would prefer that my name not be in the program: _____

SENATOR DIANE WATSON
CHAIRPERSON
ASSEMBLYMAN CURTIS TUCKER
TREASURER
SPEAKER WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.
SENATOR BILL GREENE
ASSEMBLYMAN ELIHU HARRIS
ASSEMBLYWOMAN TERESA HUGHES
ASSEMBLYWOMAN GWEN MOORE
ASSEMBLYWOMAN MAXINE WATERS

California Legislative Black Caucus

SENATOR DIANE E. WATSON
Chairperson

STATE CAPITOL 4040
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 445-5215

TO LOBBY OR NOT TO LOBBY? THAT IS A DUMB-ASSED QUESTION!

WORKSHOP BY

BRANDY MOORE, ASSISTANT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

CHARLES STEWART, CHIEF DEPUTY FOR STATE SENATOR DIANE WATSON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 3:00 PM CHECK POSTINGS FOR ROOM #

COULD YOUR ORGANIZATION USE GOVERNMENT FUNDING?

WILL EXERCISING POLITICAL CLOUT HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR AGENDA?

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE BECOME LAW?

SHOULD YOUR CITY, COUNTY, OR STATE GOVERNMENT DO MORE ABOUT AIDS?

HAVE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS BEEN UNRESPONSIVE?

THEN YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW TO LOBBY POLITICIANS!!!

IN THIS WORKSHOP YOU WILL LEARN:

- O WHICH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT HANDLES WHICH ISSUES!
- O HOW TO USE YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TO GET GRANTS!
- O WHAT YOU CAN DEMAND THAT YOUR LEGISLATORS DO FOR YOU!
- O WHAT POLITICIANS WILL WANT AND EXPECT FROM YOU!
- O HOW TO GET A LEGISLATOR TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT YOUR CAUSE!
- O WHAT YOU ALWAYS AND NEVER SAY TO POLITICIANS!
- O HOW TO GET POLITICAL AIDES TO DO YOUR GRUNT WORK!

THIS WORKSHOP, ONE OF LAST YEAR'S MOST POPULAR, HAS BEEN REVISED USING BGLLC CONFERENCE EVALUATION SHEETS TO INCLUDE MORE OF THE ISSUES YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT. METHODS USED WILL INCLUDE LECTURE, QUESTIONS & ANSWERS, ILLUSTRATION, ROLE-PLAYING AND INFO SHEETS.

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum Presents

"You Made Us Feel Mighty Real"

A Tribute to Sylvester

to Benefit the NBGLLF AIDS Fund

Starring: Chaka Kahn, Jeannie Tracey & Kimberly J. Miller

Friday, February 17th; 9:00 P.M.

\$10.00

Catch One Disco; 4067 Pico Blvd. Los Angeles

\$10.00

482

The Westside AIDS Case Management Home/Community Based Care Program is dedicated to helping people of color and others with AIDS or ARC.

WE 'RE CONFIDENTIAL & WE CARE

If you or someone you love has AIDS or ARC, you might need help getting the services you need.

WCAP can help you with problems of:

CARE

- Money Management
- Drug Addiction
- Housing
- Food
- Home Attendant Care
- Counseling (Individual and Family)
- Entitlements (GA, SSI, Medi-cal)
- Transportation
- Education and Prevention
- Spiritual Counseling
- Funeral and Will Preparation

ABOUT

We are located in the Western Addition of San Francisco under the auspices of The Westside Community Mental Health Center at 1153 Oak Street between Broderick and Divisadero. Call 431-9000 between 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM, or leave a message after hours.

PEOPLE



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