

News In Brief

AIDS Activist Sued

SAN FRANCISCO – Stuart Caplan, a registered nurse and AIDS activist in Baltimore, MD, has been slapped with a multi-million dollar lawsuit after criticizing an AIDS testing clinic. The clinic, Aids Counseling and Testing (ACT) was distributing fliers promoting "peace of mind" by taking "affordable" \$50.00 test and offering a picture I.D. card to prove the cardholder HIV-negative.

Because the local health department was offering free HIV testing and I.D. cards are not an effective AIDS reduction tool, Caplan wrote letters to government officials demanding an investigation of ACT. I.D. cards are misleading and counter-productive since they are good only at the time blood is taken. It can take up to fourteen months after infection for HIV antibodies to show up on the test.

Because of his activism, Caplan is being sued by ACT for \$6.5 million. National Gay Rights Advocates will defend Caplan and has filed a Motion for Summary Judgement asking the court to dismiss the suit.

Metrolina, Hartford, Conn.

Durham Quietly Passes Ordinance

DURHAM, N.C. – On November 21, the Durham City Council expanded its equal employment policy to include sexual orientation and six other categories. The silent victory went almost unnoticed by the city's gay and lesbian community or by anybody else for that matter. The City Council's action was not covered by the area's print or broadcast media either. The amendment was passed along with a number of other items on the consent agenda, which means that it was negotiated and agreed upon in advance, thus no councilmembers are on record either supporting or opposing the change. While

the new policy will only affect the city's 1,000 employees, it represents an important gain for the gay and lesbian community. "It's important because it's helping set a precedent for official recognition that discrimination against lesbians and gays will not be tolerated," said Durham Human Relations Commissioner Betsy Barton. While Barton lauds the council's action, she cautions against overoptimism. She notes that the city has not officially informed its employees of the policy nor has it changed the city code to reflect the amendment. The new policy protects all city employees from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation but it does not protect employees of city contractors or private employers in the city.

TWN, Miami Fla.

Atlanta Mayoral Candidate Courts Lesbian/Gay Voters

ATLANTA, Ga. – Maynard Jackson, a candidate for mayor of Atlanta in the upcoming October 3 general election, welcomed supporters attending his 51st birthday celebration at the Georgia World Congress Center and acknowledged the support of many constituents, including gay men and lesbians. Before a crowd of nearly 4,000 supporters attending the fundraising event, the former mayor promised to be mayor "for all Atlantans, rich and poor, young and old, White and Black, gay, lesbian and straight." Jackson served two terms as mayor of Atlanta from 1974-1982. The candidate has acknowledged the importance of the gay and lesbian community, telling supporters at a recent reception, "Gays and lesbians are a vital and integral part of Atlanta and merit the same protection and representation as anyone else." During his first term in office, Jackson was the first mayor to proclaim a Gay and Lesbian Pride Day in Atlanta.

TWN, Miami Fla.

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The NC ANG Airmen's Club
5225 Morris Field Road
Charlotte, NC



Saturday
May 20, 1989
7:30 - 12:00 pm

MCSP CASINO NIGHT

On Saturday, May 20th, the Metrolina Community Service Project will host the first annual MCSP Casino Night.

The NCNG Airmen's Club will become Las Vegas-East ... complete with Black Jack ... Roulette ... Casino Craps ... Chuck-a-Luck ... dealers ... drinks ... music ... and MCSP Casino Cash.

And every evening needs a finale -- the Casino Night Auction will give you high-rollers the chance to spend your Casino Cash winnings by bidding on some wonderful prizes.

And for the little winners in the crowd ... you can bid on some not-so-wonderful -- but fun -- prizes.

Casino Night is a golden opportunity ... you can enjoy some alternative entertainment ... spend an evening with some of Charlotte's finest people ... and support the organization that supports your community ...

All proceeds go to MCSP -- the support organization that supports your community ...

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

Queen City Friends (QCF)

Speaker's Bureau

Tickets

Tickets are \$15.00 in advance, \$17.00 at the door and include ...

- o Admission
- o \$500 of Casino Cash
- o Three drinks -- Beer or Wine
- o Hors d'oeuvres

Tickets are available from any MCSP member. For additional information please call the switchboard at 525-6128.



Ticket Order --

Please send _____ MCSP Casino Night Tickets to _____

I have enclosed \$15.00 for each ticket and made my check payable to MCSP.

Please mail to:

Metrolina Community Services Project
Post Office Box 11144
Charlotte, NC 28220