

Black gay pride is a catharsis

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day—the second such African-American gay pride celebration—is scheduled for Sunday, May 24, in Washington, D.C.

When African-American gay men and lesbians come together in celebration of our identity and struggle, it is a catharsis. We are free to relish in our celebration and emancipation.

Our celebration is not exclusive, but inclusive. It is open to all who would like to join in jubilation of the African-American gay experience.

On St. Patrick's Day, I, too, celebrated with my Irish gay friends. If Latino, Asian or Native American gay men and lesbians commemorate their labor in the struggle for gay human rights, we should embrace them.

Diversity does not have to weaken us, it can strengthen us. Our collective sense of community must take precedence over our differences; we must show deference to race, religion, ethnicity, and political ideologies in order to forge together a strong gay community. We must come together to fight our common oppression, homophobia, as well as the other ills which plague our society; racism, sexism, and ageism, to name just a few.

Ray Mobley

Gabor eyed Garbo

Zsa Zsa Gabor is not a lesbian but if she were, she'd have set her sights on Greta Garbo.

"I first met Greta Garbo at a party in California," Gabor related in her new book, *One Life is Not Enough*. "When she breezed into the room, I almost fainted. My husband, George Sanders,

made things worse by informing Greta, 'My wife has a crush on you.' I blushed scarlet. Greta eyed me up and down and responded, 'She's a very beautiful girl, your wife.'

"The next time I met Garbo, I was alone at a party in New York," Gabor goes on. "When the party was over, Greta asked if she could drive me home. I said yes, and when we got to my hotel, for a moment I felt like inviting Greta in. Then she said, 'Darling, would you like to come to my apartment?' I was paralyzed. Then she kissed me straight on the mouth. I couldn't help kissing her back, because she was so beautiful.

"I've never had lesbian tendencies," Gabor insists, "but if I had, the woman of my life would definitely have been Greta Garbo."

Gay bar manager attacked

A vicious attack on a prominent member of San Francisco's gay community has triggered a get-tough response from the city's mayor, its police chief, and its district attorney.

According to police, Cameron "Tina" Tanner, 45, emerged from a theater when two men dressed in black began stalking him. One of them then struck Tanner in the head with a baseball bat and left him bleeding on the sidewalk as witnesses called for medical and police assistance.

Tanner, manager of Lily's, a gay bar, was a well-known member of the gay community who frequently performed community service. He underwent several hours of surgery after his assault and has not regained consciousness.

Officials have promised to devote full resources to the investigation into Tanner's assault. Police said they were uncertain whether the beating was gay related or was an attempted robbery.

There is a \$20,000 reward posted for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this brutal attack. Please call the Mission Police Station in San Francisco, (415) 553-9128. All witness information will be kept confidential.

ACT UP on ballot

Steve Michael, a member of the ACT UP/Presidential Project and a resident of Seattle, plans to run in the Washington State Presidential Preference Primary on May 19, 1992.

Michael is filing as a Republican to force the issue of AIDS and gay and lesbian rights into the Presidential campaign.

Upon qualifying for the ballot, Michael will be entitled to publish a statement in the Voters Pamphlet that will be distributed to all registered voters in the state.

"The idea is to get the word out to every voter in Washington," said Michael. "Our issues can no longer be ignored. We will expose the genocidal record of George Bush on AIDS.

Any Democrat in Washington State can vote on the Republican Primary Ballot this year, because the state's Democratic party is abiding by the results of the caucuses held March 3.

"We can turn it against them by getting Democrats to cross over and vote for a 'Republican' candidate who's a queer, pro-choice, AIDS activist," Michael noted.

If Michael can swing 15 percent in a protest vote, he will be allotted delegates to the Republican National Convention to be held in Houston in August.

"The Republicans will have no choice but to let us into the convention if we have delegates," promises Michael.

Oscar ceremony focuses on lesbian, gay issues

Although gay and lesbian activists were unable to disrupt the 64th annual Academy Awards Show as promised, their widely publicized protests against Hollywood's negative portrayals of gays and lesbians helped make the event more political than expected.

In a first for the Academy Award ceremony, Debra Chasnoff, an open lesbian filmmaker who won an Oscar for Best Documentary Short Subject, stepped to the microphone and thanked, among others, her lover of 12 years, Kim Klausner. Chasnoff's film, "Deadly Deception," was an exposé about people killed or maimed by radioactivity leaking from a General Electric nuclear power plant near Hanover, Washington.

Another first was when Bill Lauch accepted an Oscar on behalf of his lover, the late Howard Ashman, who died last year at age 40 from AIDS. Ashman, a lyricist, and Alan Menken won an Oscar for Best Original Song for "Beauty and the Beast."

"Howard and I shared a home and a life together," Lauch told the audience. "This is the first Academy Award given to someone we've lost to AIDS."

Another important message was when actor Richard Gere delayed his announcement of an Oscar to urge viewers to pressure their elected officials to redirect funds from defense budgets into AIDS research. More than three dozen celebrities crossing the stage, including host Billy Crystal, wore red ribbons to show support for the struggle against AIDS.



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