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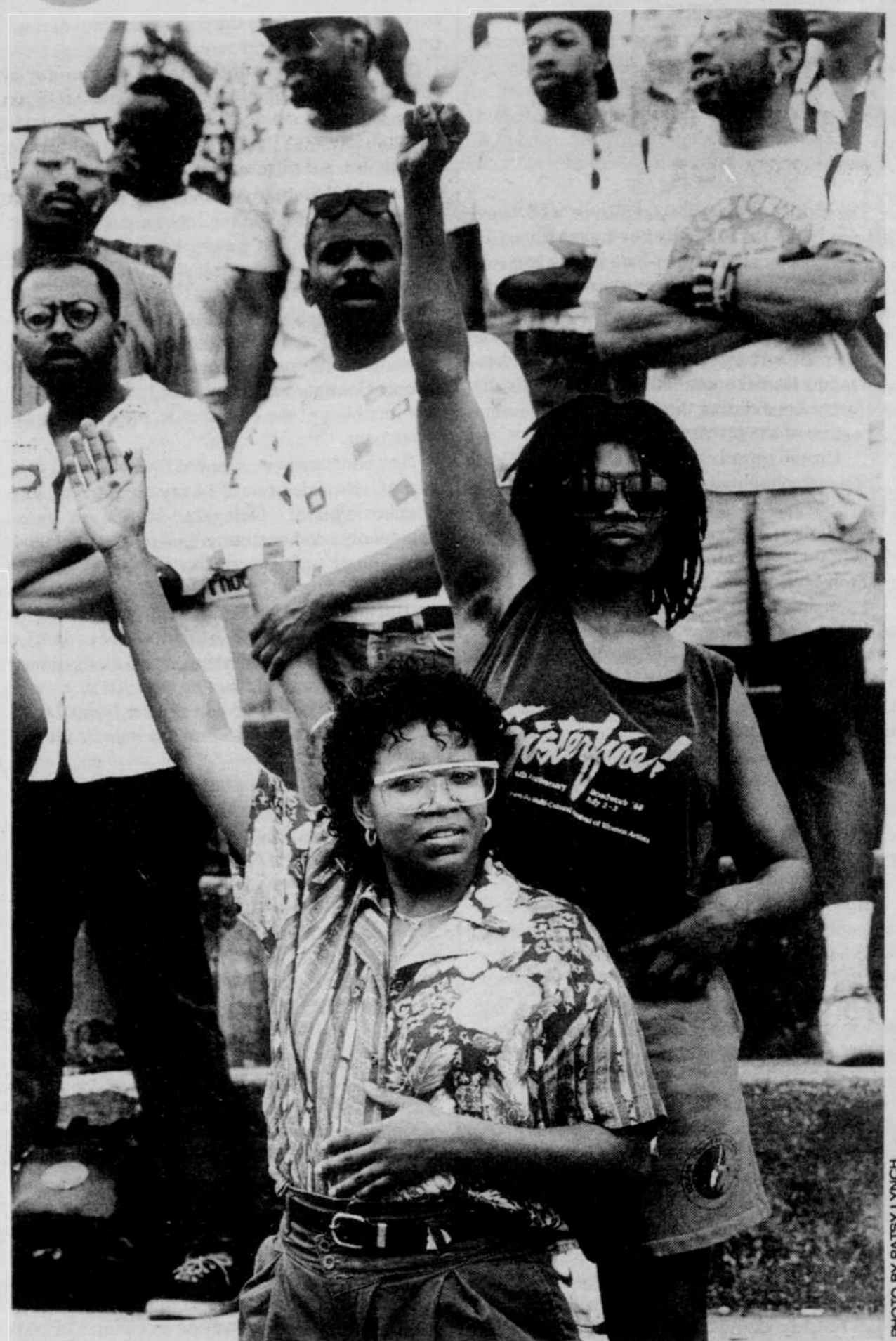
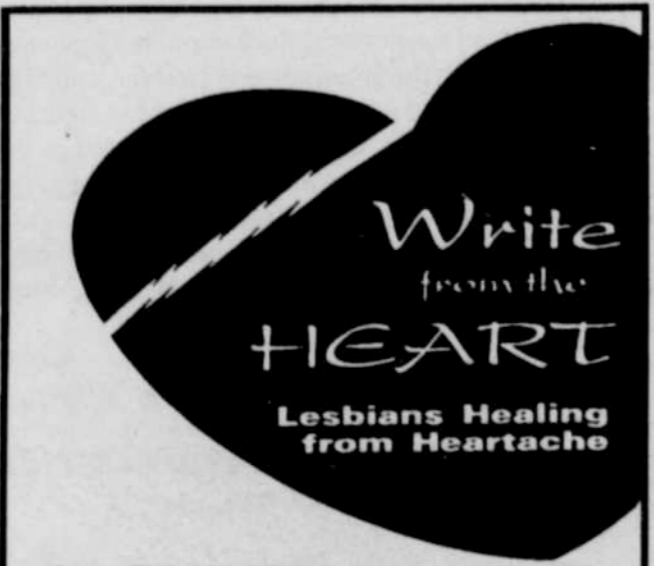


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**Black Lesbian and Gay Pride
a success despite rain**

The second annual Washington, D.C. Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration in late May was a major success despite rain during the culminating main festival on Sunday. Participants from all over the Northeast attended the weekend-long series of events, raising more than \$10,000 for local AIDS organizations serving the black community.

Beginning with kick off parties on Thursday evening, other events included a sold-out Moonlight Cruise with live entertainment on Friday evening, and on Saturday, a Marlon Riggs film festival was featured along with Renaissance III, a cultural event featuring singers, dancers, and poets. Sunday's schedule began with a prayer breakfast before the main outdoor festival, most of whose 2,000 attendants remained for over an hour before acquiescing to the continuous rain. Said one of the organizers, Chauncey Lyles, "The festival definitely had a [positive] impact on the local black gay community, regardless of the rain."

New NEA head outed

The outing campaign against Anne Imelda Radice, the conservative new head of the increasingly anti-gay National Endowment for the Arts, is gaining steam. Queer Nation, D.C. Chapter, started it May 15, saying that Radice's lesbianism "is widespread knowledge." *The Advocate* referred to Radice as "George Bush's new doormat homosexual," and former Human Rights Campaign Fund Chair Vivian Shapiro called her, "lesbian from hell."

The New York Post, reporting on Radice's outing, speculated that President Bush may have appointed the conservative Radice because of her lesbianism. "It's like having a black man gut the

civil-rights agency," *The Post* quoted Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Executive Director William Waybourn saying.

Former NEA Chair John Frohnmayer resigned this year after ultra-right columnist Pat Buchanan attacked President Bush over NEA funding of "obscene" gay art. Radice promised Congress in May that she will not fund "difficult subject matter [where] the sexual nature is...the first thing you see or the overwhelming thing you experience," and added that she would have mixed funding for the display of Robert Mapplethorpe photographs that launched the whole NEA and gay funding controversy.

Jim Hunger