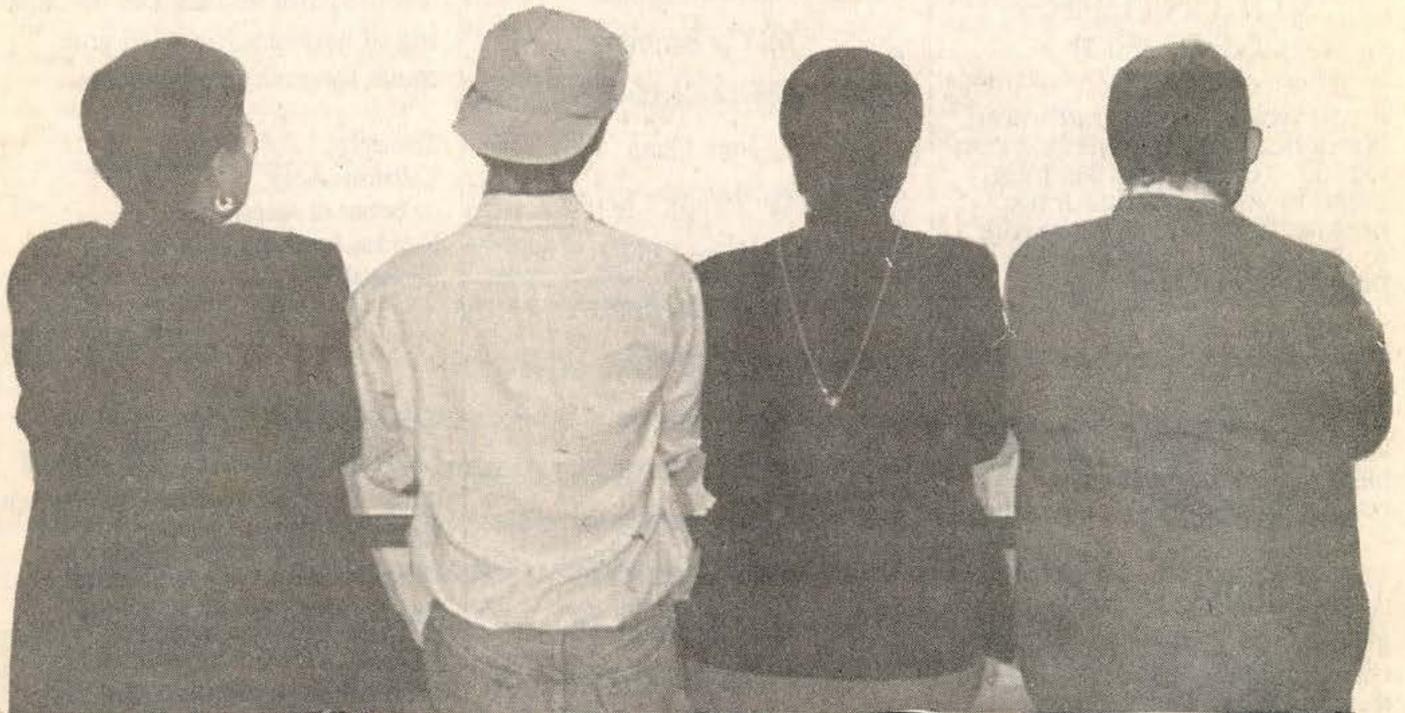


COLOR *Life!*

PREMIER ISSUE

THE LESBIAN, GAY, TWOSPirit, & BISEXUAL, PEOPLE OF COLOR MAGAZINE

JUNE 28, 1992



**NO MORE
BUSINESS
AS USUAL.**

COLORLife!

For People of Color
Who Are In The Life.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would like to learn more about our magazine please contact us. Any individuals interested in volunteering for the premier fall issue please write to us and fill out the coupon below. Check box

ADVERTISERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in advertising with us for the premier fall issue please contact us and fill out the coupon below. Check box

MAILING LIST

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list please fill out the coupon below.

Unfortunately, we are not able to process subscriptions at this time. Check box

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Code Telephone Number
Business Name (Organization)
Please mail coupon to:
COLORLife! Magazine/The
Cairos Project, P.O. Box 1518,
Ansonia Station, New York, NY
10023

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COLORLife
was produced
by the
Cairos Collective.

Eva Yaa [REDACTED]

Ruben [REDACTED]

Mi Ok [REDACTED]

Chezia [REDACTED]

June [REDACTED]

Tsuh Yang [REDACTED]

Lisette [REDACTED]

Vondora [REDACTED]

Ben [REDACTED]

Tony [REDACTED]

Curtis [REDACTED]

Bert [REDACTED]

Lidell [REDACTED]

Angela [REDACTED]

Sheila H. [REDACTED]

Bernadette [REDACTED]

Myrna [REDACTED]

LaRose [REDACTED]

Luvenia [REDACTED]

Angelo [REDACTED]

Doug [REDACTED]

Mariana [REDACTED]

Dana [REDACTED]

Sapphire

Cecilia [REDACTED]

Jack [REDACTED]

Lisa [REDACTED]

Congratulations on the creation of COLORLife! It's an exciting new initiative and a much needed community resource. We should all join in supporting this magazine in order that it enjoy longevity. It is a gift to the richness of our cultural history as lesbians and gay men of color and adds to the making of herstory. We wish you much longevity and success.

Sincerely,
Katherine [REDACTED]
on behalf of Astraea, the
National Lesbian Action
Foundation

Dear COLORLIFE:
CONGRATULATIONS! What a coup. A wonderful idea whose time has certainly arrived. A Magazine for Gay and Lesbian People of Color by Gay and Lesbian People of Color. You all are brilliant and wonderful and courageous and I can't wait to see the fruit of your collective love and creative labors. Oh and what a name - COLORLIFE - it's so evocative. It conjures a lifetime of sweet memory, color, poetry, jazz - Birdland, James Baldwin and Audrey Lorde. How rich the promise in such a name. I wish you all good things. You've made my week.

Yours,
Sandra J. Lowe, Esq. Director The
Governor's Office of Lesbian and Gay
Concerns for the State of New York

Editorial

For several years, many of us in the lesbian and gay People of Color community have talked about what is missing from the lesbian and gay press. We have noted the lack of respect for people of color and the inadequate attention to our news and issues. We have not been represented in positions of power and consequence in these institutions. We have done more than just talk: we have written for the lesbian and gay press, we have held paid jobs on their staff, and we have acted as consultants as well as bridges to our communities. In countless meetings, white editors, publishers, and public relations officers have told us, often in a patronizing way, that they intend to make their publications more inclusive. We have yet to see results and we still don't feel that those publications in any way belong to us.

The two dozen women and men of color who have worked to put out COLORLife know the critical importance of making connections between our community's past, what we do in the here and now, and what the future may bring. The opportunity to see connections and forge alliances where possible will be found in the pages of COLORLife.

Our lives are affected not only by homophobia but also racism, sexism, and classism. Therefore, we actively seek to eradicate all forms of oppression. The American Dream is a lie. There has never been a "melting pot." We have yet to see multiracial, multicultural democracy in this country. However, during the last twenty-five years, we have seen violent and nonviolent manifestations of the struggle for democracy. COLORLife will continue the centuries-old tradition, much of it handed down orally from generation to generation, of documenting the ongoing fight for freedom, justice, and dignity for People of Color—especially lesbians, gay men, Two Spirits, transsexuals, and bisexuals of color. COLORLife reaffirms our allegiance first to our ancestors, our tribes, and our cultures. We uphold values that are life-affirming, stressing cooperation over competition, respect and responsibility to our-

selves, to one another, our families, our communities and the earth before we pledge allegiance to any flag or government.

Many of us will never pledge allegiance to the United States flag because of the atrocities and genocide perpetrated against many People of Color by the U.S. government, because of the stolen land and destruction of the earth over the last five centuries that continues to this day. We have created COLORLife as an expression of invincible life in the face of life-threatening repression and in commitment to unity and solidarity. We dedicate COLORLife in recognition of 500 years of the survival and resistance of the first nations and to the continued, principled struggle of People of Color in a deeply racist society.

COLORLife's success will never look like mainstream success: Success for us means investing in ourselves, our people, our communities. It means sharing the fruits of that success with one another, sharing resources

We live in times of great urgency.

We want to have a magazine where we can hear our own community's perspective on such crucial issues and events such as the recent revolt in South Central Los Angeles. Like the residents of South Central L.A., we don't want to be pacified. And news coverage that fails to reflect our perspective is not acceptable. COLORLife will be the much needed voice in New York City's lesbian and gay press, and, as a community resource, committed to fight all forms of social injustice.

so we may survive, creating our own innovations, and working for social change. We have within our communities—and a community is, after all, a group of autonomous individuals working together for common goals—a potent combination of talents and skills, an incredible network of contacts on the local, national, and international level, and capital assets that can be readily tapped. Clearly, our success will depend upon harnessing this potential power; on good, solid management; on our ability to deliver a low-cost, high-quality product; adherence to honest business practices and editorial integrity. We will also strive to provide excellent service to all our investors, employees, volun-

teers, subscribers, readers, advertisers, distributors, and our suppliers—all equally important. Of course, as in any real democracy, we will not be able to achieve this success without your vigilance, participation, and cooperation. We hold ourselves accountable to you—our community—not to the bottom line or any elite body of individuals.

We hope COLORLife will remain long in your lives because you believe in it. So far, we have received a broad-based ground swell of positive support and constructive criticism. All that's missing is your input. In the fall of this year, we hope to start regular monthly production of COLORLife. The complimentary copy you're holding in your hands is a labor of our love. We worked and cooperated in an atmosphere of rare openness, trust and mutual respect to reach out, listen, and connect with you in the effort to create a more powerful community.

In the April 1992 issue of Body Positive, recently resigned editor Michael Slocum, a gay Black man who is HIV positive, wrote eloquently regarding building community. His words address COLORLife's mission as well: "These times warrant great change. And courage. And strength. We have to set our minds to the new solutions. We have to gather together and build something new, a coalition that includes all our voices, that empowers us to build an agenda from our loving hearts. We sell

ourselves very short when we live simply in response to what is put before us. None of us has to accept anything less than what we in our hearts desire. I desire this: That our experience with AIDS changes the world. That AIDS bursts open our absurd health care system and finally allows for universal care for everyone. That AIDS, the great equalizer, stabs away at racism, sexism, classism and homophobia until these injustices against our humanity are gone. That we will wake up and see that the world is not fine the way it is. That change is inevitable and necessary.

NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL."

Welcome to COLORLife!