



Got rights? Jesse Ventura wrestles with minority causes.

son. "That's not limited to racial and ethnic minorities. It includes gays, lesbians, seniors and nonmainstream media."

■ Amnesty International released a report Sept. 21 concluding that police brutality against racial minorities, gays, transgender people and other groups remains commonplace in the United States. The report cites instances of harassment and excessive force by police in several cities.

FLORIDA ACTIVIST TO PROTEST WHITE, FALWELL MEETING

Veteran activist Bob Kunst of Miami Beach, Fla., says he will protest a meeting scheduled for Oct. 23 between the Rev. Jerry Falwell and

the Rev. Mel White, Falwell's former ghostwriter and now a gay activist and religious leader. White requested the meeting with Falwell in July to "negotiate a solution that will allow you the freedom to continue preaching that homosexuality is a sin without making...untrue claims against homosexuals." According to a report in the online publication *Gay Today*, Kunst, who led the fight against Anita Bryant's 1977 anti-gay campaign in Miami, says White's proposed meeting is "pure opportunism" to promote his own Soulforce organization. Kunst added White is being used as a tool by Falwell to get media attention after Falwell's disastrous "outing" of children's TV character Tinky Winky earlier this year. Noting White's early career in Falwell's service, Kunst told *Gay Today* Editor Jack Nichols, "We will not allow revisionism to take place so that White can whitewash his earlier role attacking and exploiting gays with Falwell, and we will not allow Falwell off the hook for being the worst of the preacher prostitutes...."



■ A gay equality bill was introduced in Colombia's Senate, Sept. 9, by Sen. Margarita Londono. The bill bans anti-gay hate crimes, creates a "valid social patrimony" partnership scheme for gay couples, extends healthcare benefits and Social Security to legally recognized gay families, covers sex-change operations under the national health plan, grants gays "liberty of association and

Conferences offer insight on gay, transgender youth

Atlanta is playing host to a number of significant conferences this fall - an HIV Prevention meeting concluded early last month, and the PROGRESS/COLLEAGUES gathering of gay workplace groups takes place Oct. 15 - 17 at the Sheraton Colony Square. Two other recent meetings, diverse in their offerings, share a focus on youth.

Amid a wide variety of seminars ranging from the professional ("Employment Issues") to the personal ("Hair Removal") to the political ("Transgender Revolutionaries"), participants in the annual Southern Comfort Conference for transgender people - as well as health and psychological professionals who work with them - got an intensive look at counseling transgender youth.

Described as "a workshop on gender identity issues for counseling professionals," the session featured five psychotherapy experts discussing evaluation and treatment, medical concerns, relationships, resources and other

(TRANSGENDER on page 22.)



Trans-activist and author Dallas Denny.