

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

□ JULY 2-8, 1989 □

Salsa hits Boston

BOSTON — LESLA (Lesbianas Latinas) organized Boston's first Salsa Meets Soul Gay Pride dance on June 25 at the 1270, a local club. More than 200 gay men and lesbians of diverse nationalities turned out for the first-time event. "Tonight was a way to bring our music to segments of the gay and lesbian community that has had very little exposure to Latin music," said LESLA member Virge Palermo.

LESLA is a Latina lesbian organization whose purpose is "...to share our experience and our lives as lesbians." Palermo and Vivian Carlos, another member of LESLA, said that the music historically played at most gay and lesbian events alienates gay and lesbian Latinos. "One thing that has kept us separated is the music," said Carlos. "Our music is our identity, our expressive source...before tonight there was no way for gay and lesbian Latinos to come together...we usually have rotating house parties where we can play our music."

Carlos said that she was pleased by the cooperation LESLA received from both the 1270 and one of its DJs, who spun sets mixed by LESLA, and added, "...people who have clubs should recognize that we, as Latinos, are important...we want to be included in the gay and lesbian community."

For more information about LESLA, write to P.O. Box 387, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123-0387.

□ Wickie Stamps