

Andrews, David L., University of Maryland, United States; **Friedman, Michael T.**, University of Maryland, United States

Last Dance in Southeast: Capital and the Production and Destruction of a Sexualized, Queer Space in Washington, DC

As LGBT groups have challenged their marginalization since the 1960s, they have fought for their rights to be visible within and occupy public space (Bell, 2001). In many cities, these efforts seemingly have been successful with urban leaders actively promoting the presence of vibrant LGBT communities within broader tourism and gentrification strategies (Binnie, 1994). However, as Rushbrook (2002) suggests, this pursuit of the "pink pound" has contradictory consequences. While the LGBT community has become an important market segment within urban redevelopment, this acceptance is partial, since urban renewal strategies routinely and effectively marginalize non-normative sexual practices and spaces. To examine the urban geography of hetero- and homonormativity, this paper explores the production of a sexualized, queer space within Southeast Washington, DC between 1970 and 2006, and its subsequent destruction as the area was seized through eminent domain, in favor of a major league baseball stadium that would anchor the area's commercial redevelopment.