

ED KRAMER LEGAL DEFENSE



From the Ed Kramer Legal Defense Administrator

Many people have asked me why I decided to put this website up detailing the particulars of Ed's case. Certainly we would like to get more donations to help defray the enormous legal expense, but the most important reason is that here we have a forum whereby we can present the facts of the case without having to reiterate the tremendous volume of information again and again. It is also my way of standing behind the Truth of Ed's innocence.

I have watched this debacle unfold from the beginning and though I do not know the intricacies of the Law, I know enough to know that justice is not being served and our Judicial and Law Enforcement system, though full of truly concerned and talented professionals, is not working when someone of the caliber, character and undisputed history of service to community and fellow man can have his life and his health destroyed on hearsay from an anonymous caller!

Thurgood Marshall, whom I admire tremendously, said that men are either social architects or social parasites. Ed Kramer is the finest architect for a saner and more effective society that I have met and I challenge anyone to investigate his background, know the man and draw any other conclusion!

Ed has long been a champion for youth at risk. He is still that champion though through this process, our system has effectively censured any future work this man might be able to do directly. Simply put, I believe the action against Ed is stupid, cruel, callous, a waste of tax dollars and a real crime against humanity.

In the past three years, Ed has received over 600 medical treatments – over ten times what one person would endure in a lifetime. To date, he has been incarcerated for over 1,250 days, without trial. A court date has been set and retracted by Gwinnett County on six separate occasions. His constitutional rights continue to be violated.

I invite your correspondence and promise to respond to each email or letter, as quickly as time permits. I would close by reminding everyone reading this editorial of the twenty-first Rule of Civility, "Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of anyone." That was George Washington, folks.

**– Rebecca Bidwell, Administrator
Ed Kramer Legal Defense**

The Situation

In August 2000, an *anonymous* call was placed to the Gwinnett County DFCS (Department of Family and Children Services) reporting that Ed Kramer had molested a teenager sometime between July 2 and 7th, 2000. The charges involved the 13 year-old son of a woman who had been a close friend of Kramer's for three years. For the past ten years, the woman's estranged ex-husband had unsuccessfully tried to gain child custody; the anonymous call followed his first visitation in nearly two years. For a greater part of the three-year relationship, Kramer gave financial and moral support to his friend and helped raise her three sons, even attending nearly all parent-teacher conferences at her request, and occasionally on her behalf.

Without the knowledge of the mother, the boy and his two brothers were questioned at school by a Gwinnett County Police detective. All of the children denied the allegations. The detective then visited the mother's place of employment and confronted her as well. A day later, at the detective's request, Kramer voluntarily drove to the Gwinnett County police station to meet with the detective under the auspices of signing the paperwork required to close the case. Upon his arrival he was arrested. The detective denied Kramer's request for a lie detector test to show his innocence. Kramer's home was then searched; his attorneys contend it was done so illegally. Police confiscated VHS and beta tapes, photographs and negatives, a revolver (a second gun remains missing and unaccounted for), all of the DV originals for the Internet feature *Terror at Tate Manor*, and a longsword.

The first bond hearing was set for Thursday, September 14th, 2000. News media ran stories about Kramer's arrest that day and the courtroom was jammed with radio / print reporters and TV cameras (interestingly, no media covered the preliminary hearing, several days following his arrest). Six witnesses testified on Ed's behalf. Despite six witnesses that testified on Ed's behalf, Judge Debra K. Turner declined bond following the detective's testimony that Kramer was considered a flight risk ("*he has a passport and knows people in foreign countries*") and a threat to society (Kramer's gun permit issued by the Gwinnett County Sheriffs Department had recently expired).

Death threats from inmates allowed to view the bond hearing on the TV news (despite direct orders to the unit Deputy from the Jail Administrator) required that Ed be held in solitary confinement ("administrative segregation") for his protection; those responsible for the threats were not penalized. Solitary confinement is generally reserved for inmates that violate jail rules, and consists of an 8' x 12' cell, cold stone floor, metal toilet and basin, a 12" x 16" slab of steel jutting out from the wall at seat and desk levels, and a steel bunk with a 1" pad. Three meals a day are slid through a slot in the door; inmates are confined to their cells for 23 hours a day.

Despite the fact that Kramer had no prior criminal record, his request to vote by absentee ballot in the 2000 Presidential Election was denied by Sheriff's Deputies; he was informed he "no longer had that right." Other requests refused included: medical care (on multiple occasions), a copy of a Siddur or Hebrew Bible (he was informed that Jewish prayer books would not be provided), kosher food, and Sabbath services — even if he arranged for the Rabbi himself (GCDC provides spiritual programs for Christian, Catholic, and Muslim faiths); Kramer was simply told he "picked the wrong jail to be a Jew in." Even written requests for visitation with the Prison Chaplin were ignored. During the preliminary hearing, the Gwinnett detective made sure to testify that Kramer was a member of the Jewish faith.

Manufactured Publicity

It has been revealed publicly that Atlanta "underground filmmaker" Joseph W. Linhart, Jr. (aka "Joe Christ") and his horror-writer wife, Nancy A. Collins-Linhart (aka "Nanzi Regalia"), both former "friends" and employees of Kramer's, took personal responsibility for the media blitz surrounding the bond hearing. Their "Press Release" about Kramer was peppered with malicious lies and innuendo. Both have been trolling Internet newsgroups, posting hundreds of messages, and circulating a "police evidence file" at science fiction conventions, asking people to call the police detective with any information that could incriminate Ed. At a recent Atlanta convention, they passed out flyers with Satanic, neo-Nazi, and anti-Semitic overtones. Feigning support for Kramer's case and with the intention to deceive the reader as to the author, the seditious flyers carried photographs of Kramer and the Legal Defense P.O. Box and web address. Most recently, they posted fictitious information about Kramer's trial date across numerous Internet newsgroups, urging parties to contact the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office (complete with phone number).

The police detective has denied to Kramer's attorney any connection to the duo, however an ASCII file called "Eliminated Newsgroups" was copied by Collins-Linhart from Kramer's place of employment (she was formerly his secretary); it was later used as evidence against him. The file was a list of inappropriate newsgroups he removed from the local server at his work. Collins-Linhart now admits she circulated a book proposal based on Kramer's arrest along with the newspaper clippings of the publicity generated; her own agent refused to represent it, then released her as a client.

News reports stating that the FBI had joined in the investigation made mention of Ed's collection of over 250 videotapes, *"some of which are foreign"* and *"hundreds of photos of boys in various stages of dress and undress, but none completely nude."* The portraits he had taken of adult female models, were neither confiscated by police or mentioned in reference to their search. A story in Atlanta's free weekly, *Creative Loafing*, erroneously reported that investigators found 250 pornographic videotapes. An article in the following week's edition clarified that *none* of the tapes were pornographic and all commercially available, but included no apology or formal retraction.

According to the article, the police detective "misstated" the nature of the videotapes. The tapes and photos were subpoenaed by Kramer's attorney for the bond hearing but were notably absent as police evidence; they said, *"...we forgot to bring them."* The photographs of youths, all commercially processed by Wolf Camera, were actors and want-to-be actor shots for a new movie Ed was working on, as author S.P. Somtow has publically clarified. *Little Savages* is a full-length feature film for which Gary Busey had been tapped to play a leading role. The family-oriented script, written by Somtow, is set on a starship in the distant future and has been described as *"Lord of the Flies in space."*

Medical Conditions

Kramer suffers from psoriatic arthritis, a painful, congenital, and degenerative disease, causing extreme swelling in the joints and internal and external lesions. Internal psoriatic lesions separate connecting tissues from bone. As a result of this condition, Kramer's C-1 through C-3 vertebrae were fused at age 15. Without proper treatment, the skin breaks down and lesions ulcerate and bleed. While in the Gwinnett County Detention Center (GCDC), his condition worsened, covering approximately ninety percent of his body, compounded by secondary infections.

On the way to the medical unit from solitary confinement within GCDC, Kramer slipped and fell, striking his head against wall and floor. The fall was due to a wet area on the floor resulting from stacks of meal trays in the interior transportation hall. The fall resulted in trauma to his head and neck. Kramer began experiencing intermittent numbness in both hands and arms, intense pain down his spine when he moved his neck. Physicians at the jail medical unit counseled Ed not to move his neck, and he would be fine. They took two x-rays of Kramer's neck with a portable radiology unit (the size and shape of a Brownie box camera); the doctor later indicated that the results were negative.

After numerous requests, Kramer was finally allowed to see one of his own physicians, a rheumatologist, on October 19th, 2000. Suspecting nerve damage had occurred due to injuries and inadequate support for his spine while sleeping, Kramer's physician had the jail order an MRI. Performed at Emory Eastside Medical Center, the test showed new damage to the spine had resulted in spinal cord compression, degradation of the C-6 and C-7 vertebrae, and loss of mobility.

After 72 days of incarceration, bond was granted on November 6th, 2000 following a reconsideration hearing on medical grounds. The Healthcare Administrator at the jail conceded that they were unable to provide even the minimum care required. Two days later, his case was indicted (a rubber-stamp procedure which neither he nor his attorneys were permitted to attend) and assigned to Chief Judge Dawson Jackson; three misdemeanor charges were added as well. He was released from jail on November 9th; confined under house arrest except when he was transported for medical treatment. By the time of his medical release, he had also contracted head lice and skin mites (for which he was denied treatment during his incarceration). On November 14, 2000, Judge Jackson reassigned Kramer's case back to Judge Turner.

Throughout Ed's incarceration, he had filed medical requests for assistance because of difficulty in breathing (he was hospitalized in 1999 following respiratory failure). During his initial 72 days at GCDC, his requests for respiratory care were refused; he was finally able to see his pulmonary physician during the seven days of his November release, and was scheduled for a follow-up appointment at Gwinnett Hospital the afternoon of his re-arrest. Since out on bond, Kramer completed an 8-hour inpatient study; a diagnosis of sleep apnea (cessation of breathing during sleep) was confirmed within the first two hours. He has also been diagnosed with a chronic form of asthma, MRSA, and diabetes.

Ed remains at home, under house arrest, leaving only to see his physicians or for other prescribed medical interventions (lab tests, physical therapy, x-rays, hospitalization, etc.). He receives daily chemotherapy and hydrotherapy for psoriatic arthritis, and PUVA light radiation treatments several times a week for his skin condition. He uses a nebulizer for respiratory therapy several times daily, and receives treatment with continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) during sleep.

Bond Revocation

While under house arrest, Kramer's friend Melissa Babb, a 34 year-old ex-marine, agreed to drive him to his physicians; he had already scheduled appointments from Monday, November 13th through Thursday, November 16th. On Sunday, November 12th, Jim, a long time friend and military reserve Army police officer, took Melissa to Kramer's home to pick up his 1991 Explorer. An *anonymous* phone call was made to Gwinnett County police indicating that the vehicle containing Melissa *instead* had brought over a "15-year-old boy." Kramer's next door neighbors later testified that they saw the youth from their window, and that the Gwinnett detective that had arrested Kramer spoke with them on several occasions.

Gwinnett police dispatched Officer Higgins to Kramer's home. He arrived moments after Jim and Melissa left. The officer was given a tour of Kramer's home and discussed the probability that the neighbor had mistaken Melissa for Jim's 15-year-old son (for the past several years, both maintained identical hairstyles and wore the same style of glasses). No attempt was made by the officer to contact Jim's son (who was asleep at home, with his mother, uncle and older brother) or Melissa (who had a cell phone in Kramer's car and could have immediately returned); he was satisfied that there was no one else in Kramer's home and a mistake in identity had been made.

The neighbor spoke to the detective on Monday and the assistant district attorney called for an immediate bond revocation hearing on Thursday November 16th; both Jim and his son were subpoenaed to appear. At the hearing, the neighbor testified that they recognized Jim's vehicle as one they had regularly seen at Kramer's house, identified Jim's son as the driver of the Explorer, and stated the distance from their vantage point inside their living room window was less than 30 feet away from the vehicle.

Discounting the sworn testimony of Jim and his son, Melissa, Jim's wife, and the responding Gwinnett police officer, and despite the facts that:

- The vehicle Jim drove had *never* been in Kramer's driveway before (Jim is car rental manager and brings a new car home weekly)
- The distance from the neighbors window to the vehicles was at least 75 feet away, and almost totally obscured by a tree
- Jim's son was not only at home, asleep, but his mother, older brother, and uncle were present at home as well
- Jim's son (identified by neighbors as the driver of Kramer's Explorer) had *never* driven a car before in his life, and had no driver's license or permit (he recently earned his learner's permit in February, 2002)
- Kramer's Explorer has near-reflective window tinting, which would have prevented reasonable identification of *anyone* beyond a few feet away

Judge Turner ruled Kramer had violated his bond, and immediately incarcerated him. All three television networks, three newspapers, and several radio stations covered his re-arrest. As before, "Joe Christ" Linhart and "Nanzi Regalia" Collins-Linhart littered on-line Internet communities with their derogatory view of the hearing (for which they were not in attendance).

Assault and Medical Review

On December 1st, 2000, a race riot occurred in the unit of the Gwinnett County Detention Center (GCDC) where Kramer was housed; he was not a participant in the riot. Those responsible were moved to solitary confinement by unit deputies. Ninety minutes *after* the resolution of the riot, GCDC's Rapid Response Team (better known within the facility as the "Goon Squad") held a "tactical operations drill" in the unit. During the drill and without any provocation on his part, Kramer was told to put his hands behind his neck; his head was then forcefully slammed into a reinforced wall.

The aggravated assault on Kramer by the Response Team deputy was witnessed another inmate standing a foot away; it left a golf-ball size extrusion with chronic hematoma on the right side of Kramer's forehead. He was sent to the medical unit and prescribed aspirin and motrin for pain and swelling, but was not examined by a physician. His subsequent written requests to see his rheumatologist were denied, despite continual numbness in his hands and arms and severe neck pain. Kramer filed three pre-grievance forms following his assault (GCDC official must grant "permission" to submit a *formal* grievance) and met once with the Response Team captain. The jail, however, has failed to resolve inquiries on this matter or even grant permission for Kramer to file a formal grievance.

Ed Kramer entered a plea of not-guilty at his arraignment on December 14th, 2000. Four days later the Judge Turner signed a court order giving Kramer control of his own medical treatment, as the jail medical unit failed to provide even adequate access to care ("adequate" is the term the *Inmate Handbook* uses to describe the quality of care to be expected). Even though he was permitted to schedule all of his medical appointments, he was still reliant on the jail for transportation, and the medical department for administration of medication and follow-up on prescribed interventions and treatments, which were not performed despite the court order.

A Medical Review hearing was called on January 24th, 2001 to assess Ed's condition with the court order in place. He had now spent 142 days in jail. Kramer's attorney provided documentation which showed that his medical condition was still "poorly controlled," there had been no neurological follow-up nearly two months after his MRI results were documented, ordered lab work was entirely absent from his medical records (in actuality, never performed), and the jail had failed to comply with even the simplest physician-ordered prescriptions. The new Medical Director stated in court that he couldn't see how these were significant problems (both doctors from Kramer's original incarceration had their relationship with the jail terminated).

Judge Turner reinstated Ed's bond, and allowed two friends, Melissa Babb (34) and Richard Dinsmore (26), to provide assistance to Kramer. All three television networks, two newspapers, and several radio stations reported on his bond reinstatement; one television network even erroneously reported his re-arrest on the same date (none of the media, however, were actually present at the hearing). Despite the severity of Kramer's condition and his aggravated assault by Sheriff's deputies, the local news simply stated that his release to home was so he could take daily oatmeal baths.

Recent Updates

On March 16, 2001, Gwinnett County Superior Court noted improprieties in the search of Kramer's home on August 25, 2000, ordering the immediate return of his longsword and reserving judgement on other items obtained; to date, the sword has yet to be returned. Kramer's attorneys are *still* waiting on access to other items confiscated that were subpoenaed, but failed to appear in court, on September 14, 2000.

On June 8, 2001, Kramer underwent surgery, allograft bone fusion of his C-6 and C-7 vertebrae, at Northside Hospital on June 8, 2001, to address neurological damage to his neck and spine as a result of injuries sustained as a result of aggravated assault by a Sheriff's deputy during his incarceration at the Gwinnett County Detention Center (GCDC). After months of physical therapy, the operation was required as a last resort to avert paralysis. Range of motion in Ed's cervical spine is very limited; permanent scarring of his spinal cord has left intermittent parasthesia and L'Hermitte's signs. He is prescribed daily PEMF therapy. Kramer's attorneys requested that his 80-year-old mother be permitted to visit him at the hospital following surgery. Due to stipulations of his house arrest, the visitation was not approved.

Beginning in August, 2001, Kramer's attorneys had petitioned the court that he be able to attend Jewish High Holiday services. Worship in a congregation during this time is an essential part of the Jewish faith. Kramer's Rabbi, a Chaplin for the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, offered to take full responsibility for his attendance and sign off at the end of each service, in a method consistent with over 200 medical appointments Kramer has had outside his home. On September, 18, 2001, he received word that his request was denied. A follow-up request by the Rabbi, himself, was also denied on September 25, 2001. A Request by the Rabbi for Kramer to attend Purim and Passover services was denied February 21, 2002, as well.

On January 14, 2002, Georgia Senior Superior Court Judge John S. Langford ruled that Gwinnett County's jury pool was invalid, and that Gwinnett's Superior Court judges and the court administrator were "improperly involved" in the jury pool selection — a process that should have been independent. All judges and juries have been dismissed and sent home until further notice — the entire county's court system was, in effect, shut down by the State of Georgia. It is now likely that all Grand Jury indictments will also be invalid and past convictions may be overturned based on Judge Langford's findings.

At a motions hearing scheduled by Gwinnett County on Wednesday, April 10, 2002, Assistant District Attorney Nancy Dupree conceded that none of the commercially available videos taken from Kramer's home were pornographic, but testified to the Superior Court that *Terror at Tate Manor* featured a "young boy running around naked," despite the fact that no such scene exists. Kramer's attorney, Walt Britt, corrected that the teenager in the film appeared in US Army issue exercise shorts, without a shirt. Judge Debra Turner ruled that the videos could not be used as evidence in the case. She also disclosed the alleged victims Juvenile Court record and present commitment to State Detention, while ruling that psychological evaluations (performed *after* the alleged incident) would be inadmissible in trial. In February, 2002, the alleged victims mother had also been arrested by Gwinnett County Police.

On April 16, 2002, Assistant District Attorney Nancy Dupree appealed Judge Turner's ruling in the case, escalating the motion to the Georgia State Court of Appeals, and indefinitely postponing Kramer's trial.

A Federal Civil Rights Action (<http://civilrights.edkramer.org>) was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on July 31, 2002, clearly documenting Kramer's subjection to unjustified assault by Gwinnett County Deputies and wanton and deliberate indifference by Detention Center Deputies and medical staff to his serious and obviously apparent medical needs. The Action was filed on behalf of Kramer by civil rights attorney, law professor, and sociologist, Dr. John J. Lieb.

In a separate, unrelated case, handled by Assistant District Attorney Nancy DuPree, a Gwinnett County resident accused of felony murder, cruelty to children in the first degree, aggravated child molestation and aggravated sexual battery, was released on bond to home confinement, leaving only for "consultation with attorneys, required court appearances, medical treatment and one religious service per week." (*The two-year ordeal resulted in acquittal on all charges.*)

On August 8 and 11, 2002, respectfully, Kramer's attorney requested permission for him to vote in the upcoming elections (his right to vote was illegally denied in 2000) and to attend religious services for the Jewish High Holidays (all previous requests for Jewish worship have been denied by Judge Turner). On August 12, 2002, Judge Turner documented to Kramer's attorney, "I will allow Mr. Kramer to go vote, but I will not allow him to go to synagogue."

On March 26, 2003 the Georgia State Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Turner's April 10, 2002 order suppressing the videos taken from Kramer's home. The Court noted that Kramer had a collection of over 400 primarily mainstream VHS and DVD movies including, *The Blues Brothers*, *Conspiracy Theory*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *Gladiator*. The Court held that the warrant served by Gwinnett County Police was constitutionally inadequate, open-ended, and a general warrant in violation of both the Georgia and US Constitutions.

In an attempt to comply with the Georgia State Court of Appeals ruling, Gwinnett County returned Kramer's sword, revolver (a second gun remains unaccounted for), and 151 "VHS videotapes exhibits... and titles: *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball*, *DARYL*, *Invaders from Mars*, *Your Studio and You*" on June 11, 2003. Master footage of *Terror at Tate Manor* was released a week later. However, all additional items confiscated during Gwinnett County's illegal search of Kramer's home were withheld.

On August 1, 2003, Kramer's attorney petitioned Gwinnett Superior Court that he be allowed to attend Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, which constitute the holiest holidays of the year in the Jewish religion. According to the petition: "Mr. Kramer is a practicing and observant Jew who has been, and continues to, rely heavily on his Jewish faith to strengthen and comfort him under the stress of this case, his pending civil case as well as longstanding medical problems. Because he is under house arrest, Mr. Kramer has been precluded from attending said services within the last few years. However, during that same time period, Mr. Kramer has shown meticulous compliance with the bond conditions set by this court." Despite documentation of over 500 out-of-home medical appointments by Kramer, Judge Debra Turner signed an Order denying his request to attend religious services in the Jewish faith. No reason for the denial was provided.

Ed Kramer has been incarcerated over 1,250 days, since his August 25, 2000 arrest. Although there has been no trial, it seems that Ed has already been convicted and sentenced. A court date has been set and retracted by Gwinnett County on six separate occasions. He awaits dismissal of his charges or exoneration by a jury.

A Letter About Ed

March 21, 2003

Ms. Bidwell,

Though we've probably met some time in the past, I'm not familiar with you. I do greatly appreciate you taking the time and effort to step in and help coordinate things on Ed's behalf. The following is a letter regarding my substantial relationship with Ed and my personal account of his tremendous influence on me.

I met Ed through a gaming circle a little before entering Berkmar High in the early 90's. My father and step-mother, both severe addicts, had just been arrested and incarcerated for a crime spree the likes of Bonnie and Clyde. I was forced to move in with my mother, with whom I'd had great difficulty in the past. She was certainly going through a tough time herself, being a single and struggling undiagnosed depressive and hypochondriac parent of a child who chose to live with his addict of a father over her. Our relationship was terribly tense to say the very least.

Ed immediately took interest in my plight, recognizing my abilities and the opportunities this world potentially held in store for me. He would come and pick me up when I was fighting with my mother and take me to see movies, so tired from his busy schedule that he often slept through them. We went on many trips, caving, to conventions and shows. He counseled me through my first experiences with drugs, purchasing my first car, my first run ins with the law, and even deciding on a college. My father wasn't around to do these things with me, and Ed did not hesitate to pick up the slack. He literally put shoes on my feet when I had none. He spent countless hours with me throughout highschool, encouraging me and helping me to recognize my talents. College, he assured me, was the path to take. And take it I did.

From a small trailer park and public school in Lilburn, I was accepted into Emory University in Decatur. Immediately liberated, I found myself surrounded in my first truly intellectual environment. After an excellent freshman year (working full-time, on a rigorous work-out regimen, pledging a fraternity, and still achieving a 3.4 GPA), Emory deemed it appropriate to fund the greater portion of my education there. In four years, I put myself through Emory, graduating with a B average and a BA in Psychology. Though I had not spoken with Ed my whole time at college, I called to invite him to my graduation and was proud to see his smiling face as I walked at the ceremony.

I am currently employed as the Research Manager of the College Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Despite an extremely tumultuous childhood, I stand today a healthy, independent young man with incredible ambition and drive. I owe a great deal of that to my longtime friend and mentor, Ed Kramer. Never, in my many years knowing Ed, has he behaved in an inappropriate manner towards me or any of my friends. Never, in all of the nights I spent at his place, his conventions, on trips – never was there even the hint of anything sexual. Never.

I know and pray that Ed will beat this accusation, and will help in any manner that I can to restore his standing as a very respected member of the community.

– *George Burgamy*

Background on Ed

Edward E. Kramer was born in Brooklyn, New York, 1961 and grew up in Miami, Florida. He attended Emory University in Atlanta, receiving his Bachelors of Science in Psychology in 1983. He then completed requirements for his Master of Public Health in Health Administration and Planning at Emory University School of Medicine in 1984.

Ed has devoted nearly a decade of his career to the Public Health field. Formerly a behavioral therapist and National Certified Addiction Counselor, he was Coordinator of the award-winning SUPER intervention program (Substance Use Prevention and Education Resource), implementing and administering ten programs and 120 counselors for students and parents serving nine Atlanta counties. For the past nine years, Ed has served as Technical Consultant for MRESA, a division of the Georgia Department of Education, that works with the eleven Atlanta school systems and three associate systems (despite inaccurate news accounts, his work never involved contact with students). Most recently, he directed the MRESA*net* Project (Multimedia Resource for Education and Student Achievement); a multi-million dollar satellite-based network to deliver multimedia educational content directly to classrooms, automated entirely via teacher interface.

Ed's volunteer community service has been extensive. While an undergraduate at Emory, he spent weekends at Truckstop Youth Lodge, a status offender and runaway shelter. He served six years on the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team for the DeKalb and Rockdale Chapters and as Multimedia Standard First Aid and CPR / Basic Life Support Instructor for the Atlanta Chapter. He was a member of the Mayor's Task Force On Domestic Violence, and served seven years as co-chairman of a foster care review panel for the Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Ed also volunteered as a group facilitator and coordinated caving trips for the DeKalb County Children's Shelter. He has been awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the highest honor bestowed by the Lions Club International Foundation, to acknowledge an individual's dedication to humanitarian service.

He is an active member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association and Horror Writers Association, and the award-winning editor of over two dozen books; his latest is *Strange Attraction: Turns of the Midnight Carnival Wheel*. He co-founded Atlanta's Dragon*Con in 1987; it has grown to be the largest annual Science Fiction Convention in North America (and Atlanta's 12th largest annual event), raising thousands of dollars annually for various Atlanta charities. An avid caver, he also helped organize Cavestock, a regional event held annually in North Georgia. Ed is an information technology and computer networking professional, and has provided training for the World Safety Organization on international computer security and counter-terrorism.