

SOUTHERN VOICE

Atlanta's Own
Coming Out
Stories
Pages 6 & 7

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Taking Pride in Our Culture

October 13, 1988

Iowa High School Gives Thumbs Down To AIDS Play

Atlanta Playwright Ranson's *Warren* Found "Too Controversial"

Shenandoah, IA—On September 23, Shenandoah, Iowa High School administrators cancelled the fall drama class production of *Warren—A True Story*, a play about the death of a person with AIDS (PWA), written by Atlanta playwright Rebecca Ranson.

The decision was made at an informal meeting between School Superintendent Joseph Kirchoff, Principal Ronald Lottridge and Drama Instructor Fred Wilson.



Warren Johnston, the inspiration for Rebecca Ranson's play *Warren—A True Story*, a few months before his death in April, 1984.

"We just don't want the Shenandoah High School name on it. That suggests it has our approval and it does not," Kirchoff said.

Kirchoff said the play is not acceptable because it condones homosexuality and is inappropriate for high school audiences.

An outcry from the community led the school board to examine the script, said Kirchoff. The board is obligated to uphold the school's policy of presenting both sides of controversial issues addressed in school functions, he said.

"The only negative aspect of homosexual relations presented throughout the whole play

is that one man died of AIDS. That's pretty subtle out of 40 pages," Kirchoff said.

"If the play had dealt with the AIDS issue and not gotten into the homosexuality, it would have been fine. That's what we were led to believe," he said. "The offense was taken in the play's dealing with homosexual relations. This play deals with two men being married, which is illegal in most states of the Union."

Drama instructor Fred Wilson, who was to direct the play, said he personally received no negative reaction or opposition to the play. "I think the opposition was small, powerful and closeted," Wilson said.

Nine drama students had been rehearsing the play since April and came to school Sept. 1 with all of their lines learned, said Wilson. The administration was aware of his choice to do *Warren* since April, Wilson said, and he feels there has been a "miscarriage". "It's like there's been a death for all of us," Wilson said.

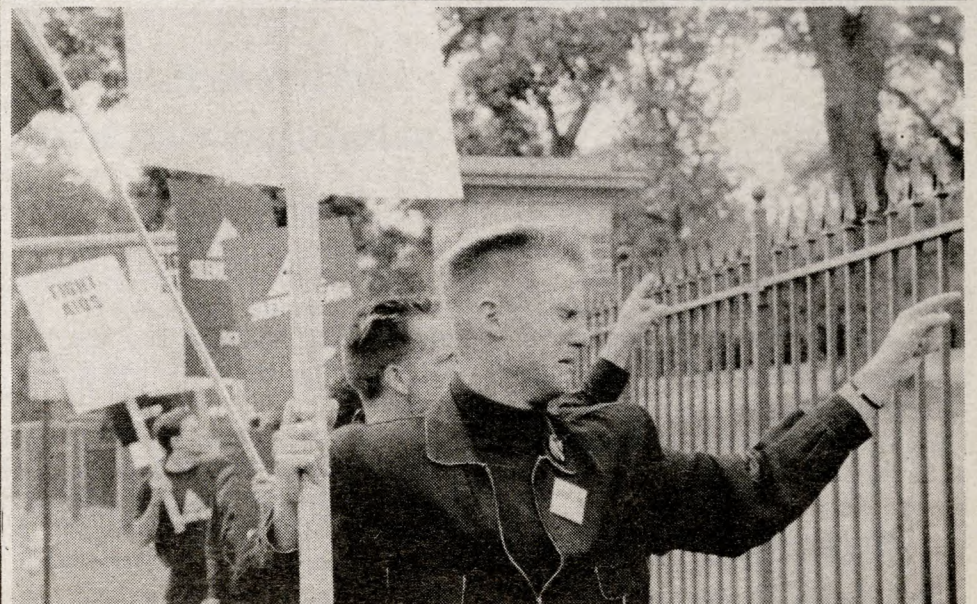
"The students were committed. We had gone way beyond the script. It was an important issue. I think it's important to put a name on something that's been only a statistic—bring it down to people's emotions."

The student director of the play, Steve Teget, said the students initially sought to go on with the play at another location. The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group offered the use of their facility for \$25 a night and said they would also provide a director for the production, according to Teget. The students have not yet met to decide whether or not to go ahead with the production, but Teget said he does not think the play will go on.

"We just don't feel we can get back into the mood of the play. A lot of students are really mad," he said.

"It was an act of censorship and a very bad

Cont'd Page 3



JO GIRAUDDO

Protesters chanted the epitaph "Shame! Shame!" as they left the Governor's Mansion after a mock funeral and die-in to protest the loss of AZT funding.

ACT-UP Visits The Governor As Congress Okays AZT Funding

Atlanta—Governor Joe Frank Harris felt the heat of AIDS activism at his doorstep, as the direct-action group ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) took a mock funeral and die-in to the Governor's Mansion to protest the State's inaction in funding the AIDS drug AZT.

ACT-UP/Atlanta surprised the Governor, along with rush hour Buckhead drivers, on September 29, the day before the scheduled end of a federal program to help low-income AIDS patients pay for AZT.

AZT, which costs more than \$8,000 per year, is the only drug approved for treatment of the disease. It helps prolong the lives of many people with AIDS (PWA).

Protesters wearing black t-shirts with the familiar pink triangle and the inscription "Silence=Death" drove a funeral-style procession on West Paces Ferry Road to the governor's home. They left their cars carrying a coffin and marched slowly to the front of the Mansion. There they chanted "Fight AIDS, not people," before falling to the ground to symbolize the fate of those who will die without the drug. Behind them, hanging on the Governor's Mansion fence, a banner read "\$153 million surplus and no money for AZT," a reference to Georgia's Budget Surplus.

Only moments after the protest in Atlanta, Senator Lowell Weicker (R-CT) in Washington introduced a last minute bill to extend the federal program for another six months.

The original AZT funding plan was enacted last year in an effort to give states time to make the necessary adjustments to help needy PWAs. As the final weeks of the program approached Georgia had taken no action to help the 130 people here receiving AZT under the federal program.

Gov. Harris' office told *Southern Voice* it is not state policy to take over federal programs.

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The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Returns to D.C.



CHRIS DUNCAN

The NAMES Project Quilt returned to Washington, D.C. this past weekend—one year after its inaugural unfolding at the National March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights. It has grown four-fold since the March, and now contains over 8000 grave-size panels. People affected by the AIDS epidemic poured into D.C. to visit the Quilt in Reagan's front yard, and held a massive candlelight march to the Lincoln Memorial. See Page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kowalski to be Retested for Competency

Milaca, MN-Sharon Kowalski, a disabled Minnesota lesbian who has been kept apart from her lover for three years by her father, completed a five-day competency test last month. Results of the court-ordered test are to be submitted in mid-October.

Kowalski, who was disabled after a November 1983 automobile accident, was declared incompetent and kept from her lover, Karen Thompson, after Kowalski's parents learned the nature of the women's relationship. Kowalski and Thompson had been lovers for four years at the time of the accident.

Thompson has been fighting a legal battle with Donald Kowalski, Sharon's father, in an attempt to have Sharon's decision-making powers returned to her. Thompson says that Sharon will choose to be returned to her care if given the chance to make her own decision.

A judge ruled that Sharon was to be retested for competency beginning September 12th. The court also ruled that if doctors deemed it necessary, Sharon's parents could not prevent Thompson from being present for the test. However, the doctors did not call Thompson in for the test.

Discharged Gay Sgt. Back in Federal Court

San Francisco-The U.S. Court of Appeals began hearing arguments October 12th in the case of dismissed Army SSgt. Perry Watkins, the leading case challenging the Army's exclusion of gays and lesbians.

American Civil Liberties Union lawyers are representing Watkins, who was drafted into the Army in 1967, served for 14 years compiling an outstanding service record and re-enlisted three times without objection from the Army. Watkins was discharged in 1981 when new Army regulations required that gays and lesbians be denied reenlistment.

Another federal court decision in the case is expected in 1989 and the case will then most likely go to the U.S. Supreme Court. A San Francisco federal court ruled last year that gays and lesbians were a "suspect class" and that the Army's reasons for excluding gays and lesbians were invalid.

Congress Votes For Discrimination in Religious Schools

Washington-In the mad rush to approve a budget, the U.S. Congress dredged up a long-resolved controversy and urged the District of Columbia to permit religious schools to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

Georgetown University, a Roman Catholic school, had reached an agreement with its gay and lesbian group following a bitter court battle. School officials had said they could not afford the group any support because of their religious beliefs. But a District of Columbia Superior Court and the city's human rights commission ruled Georgetown was illegally discriminating against gays.

An agreement was reached in March whereby the group was allowed to meet and given access to student government funds, and allowing the school not to endorse the

lifestyle of its members. Now the Congress, which by law has to approve the budget of the District of Columbia, attached the so-called Armstrong amendment, named after its author, a Republican Senator from Colorado.

The amendment required D.C. to allow Georgetown to go back on its agreement and discriminate against gays and lesbians. The bill also included a measure offered by Rep. Robert Doman, (R-Calif.) which severely restricts abortion rights.

District of Columbia officials angrily accused the Congress of intruding in local affairs and threatened to disobey the order. If D.C. disobeys, the bill calls for a freeze in funding which could paralyze Washington, D.C.

- F. G.

thirtysomething to have gay character

Los Angeles-ABC's Emmy-winning *thirtysomething* will be introducing prime time television's third openly gay character this fall. The character, a male, will be brought onto the show as someone Melissa (Melanie Mayron) meets in her photography business.

"We have strong interest in people of all different circumstances," said Marshall Herskovitz, the show's executive producer. "He'll have relationships. It would be ridiculous to introduce a character and be afraid to explore any aspect of his life."

The other gay characters represented on prime time television are also on ABC shows: a gay male on *Hooperman* and a lesbian on *HeartBeat*.

Bush Seeks Texas Homophobic Vote

Chicago-Vice-President George Bush said in a brochure sent to 300,000 rural and small-town Texans that Michael Dukakis would "give gays and lesbians special privileges under the Civil Rights Act," the *Chicago Tribune* reported September 14th.

The brochure, which was intended to continue the "pledge of allegiance" controversy, appeared to be an attempt by Bush to appeal to homophobic voters in the politically important state of Texas. The brochure seemed to continue the homophobic appeal begun by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) early last month when he called the Democrats, "the party of homosexuals."



FAMOUS FACES

Louganis To Splash on Screen

Greg Louganis—more than a famous face—is now ready to turn his attention to acting. After his spectacular double-gold performance in the Seoul Olympics, Louganis says he wants to focus his energy and talents towards TV, movies, and perhaps a little musical theatre. Louganis, who has worked for, among other causes, AIDS education, says he doesn't want any "tough-guy" roles if he makes it on the screen. Instead, he would prefer roles like those his hero, Alan Alda, has played.

Biondi Heads for the Mountains

If you want a close look at Olympic swimmer Matt Biondi, you'll have to search for a backpacker wandering through the national parks. The 22-year-old Californian says he won't follow in the footsteps of Mark Spitz, the medalist who in the 1970s could be found posing for posters in a bathing suit. Biondi says he's not comfortable "on somebody's wall", and wants to take some time for hiking, water polo, and then a career as an environmental spokesman.

Many More Made Waves...and the Yows

Out of the pool no one made more waves than Carl Lewis, except perhaps, Ben Johnson. Most people agreed, Lewis is great, but observers complained, he acts like he knows it. Lewis received two gold and one silver in Seoul. The second gold came after muscleman Ben Johnson was disqualified for testing positive for steroids. With all the medals awarded, the jury's still out on who made the deepest impression among the American women in Seoul. A heavy favorite is Michelle Mitchell, winner of a silver medal in Platform diving. On the track, it's a dead heat, with the scorching performances of Evelyn Ashford, Florence Griffith Joyner and Jackie Joyner-Kersey. When it came to team sports, however, the call is easier.

The gold medal went to the U.S. women's basketball team with special marks for Coach Kay Yow and her assistants, particularly the coach's sister Susan Yow. (Yow!)

- F. G.

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U. S. House Passes \$1.2 Billion AIDS Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 367-13 September 23rd to pass the \$1.2 billion AIDS Federal Policy Act of 1988.

The bill provides money, over three years, for voluntary AIDS testing and counseling, and establishes a federal commission to study and make policy recommendations regarding AIDS. The bill does not, however, extend anti-discrimination laws to apply to people with AIDS and people who test HIV-positive.

The house voted to reject amendments to the bill offered by Representatives William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) and Bill McCollum (R-Fla.) which included mandatory reporting of names and addresses of people testing HIV-positive to state health officials; mandatory testing of marriage license applicants in any state where one per cent or more of the population has AIDS; and mandatory routine testing of hospital patients between the ages of 15-49.

A Dannemeyer amendment asking for mandatory testing of all prisoners was changed to provide mandatory testing of prisoners convicted of sex or drug-related crimes.

"We applaud the courage of the U.S. Congress for passing this historic legislation and for rejecting amendments that would have undermined its effectiveness in fighting AIDS," said Vic Basile, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). "Members of the House have sent a clear signal to Dannemeyer and others who support irrational, punitive, and homophobic AIDS actions that the time has come for responsible AIDS policy."

Perry Jude Radeccic, a lobbyist for National Gay and Lesbian Task Force adds, "Legislators just would not budge on eliminating mandatory testing across the board. Despite these problems with the bill, there are lots of good things in it. Overall, it is the best legislation we have had yet."

The House bill now heads for a joint House-Senate conference committee which will attempt to combine it with the Senate's AIDS Research, Care and Information Act, co-sponsored by Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). The bill from this committee will then go back to the House and the Senate. If approved in both houses, it will then go to the President for signature.

"The House and Senate bills are very different so there's a lot of work to be done in conference," said Carlton Lee, HRCF lobbyist. "We have a real opportunity to get the best of both bills. In particular, we will lobby to improve on language about 'promoting or encouraging homosexual lifestyle,' which is included in both bills."

Some of the components of the House bill are:

- provides \$5 million for Community Research Initiatives (CRIs), which conduct clinical trials of promising AIDS treatment in conjunction with PWAs and their physicians. AIDS activists have advocated CRIs as one of the best ways to make treatment available to PWAs and to conduct AIDS research at the same time;

- requires that 780 new employees be added to the staffs of federal agencies working on AIDS programs;

- orders the Department of Health and Human Services to "expedite" grants for AIDS research by awarding grants within nine months of soliciting grant applications;

- requires the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to assist drug manufacturers in using FDA regulations that provide for early access to experimental treatments.

Iowa High School

Cont'd From Page 1

thing to do — a bad judgment call by both the board and the administration," Teget continued.

According to Teget, the five-member school board could not take official action for or against the play because it was not on their published agenda.

"The objectors did not follow the proper channels and therefore their objections should not have been registered," he said.

Powerful members of the board, including Nancy Lightfoot, wife of U.S. Rep. Jim Lightfoot (R-Iowa, 5th District) influenced the decision, Teget claims. Shenandoah, a city of 6,000, is currently undergoing economic redevelopment via a project called "Vision 21". Some people felt that publicity surrounding the play would negatively impact the city's attempt to attract new business, he said. The Shenandoah *Evening Sentinel* has endorsed the school's decision not to produce the play and has printed letters to the editor expressing both points of view.

But Teget said that the students were not consulted on the issue and were not represented when Kirchoff, Lottridge and Wilson met to make the decision.

"The appeals procedure through the school board was closed to us because Mr. Wilson, in an effort to keep the community in one body, withdrew the play," Teget said.

In protest, the students presented a petition to the school board on Oct. 10 that was signed by 200 people.

The playwright, Rebecca Ranson, said she didn't know there was a problem until she saw the controversy aired on Cable News Network (CNN), and she said she would do anything she could to help the students present the play.

"I was pretty impressed that the students would fight for their right to do *Warren* and I will support their efforts," Ranson said.

Ranson said she wrote the play to appeal to "mass audiences." "It's a story about a man, his family and friends and the way they deal with his diagnosis and death from AIDS. It's not just about homosexuality," she said.

Warren is based on the life of Warren Johnston, a friend of Ranson's who died in 1984. The play was written as a gift to him, she said. It has been produced 25-30 times around the country, though never by a high school group.

"There is almost no education about AIDS for that age group anywhere in the country, yet that is a time of intense sexual activity," said Ranson.

According to Teget's father, the play was an important, powerful experience for his son and it provided a sensitive way for him to explore issues surrounding death.

-Wendy Morse

ACT-UP Protest

Cont'd From Page 1

A few states have provided the funding but, in Georgia, people must still meet Medicaid eligibility requirements, including a monthly income of less than \$360.

ACT-UP members expressed great satisfaction with the action that brought close to 40 demonstrators and the greatest amount of publicity so far for the group. "We drew a lot of attention," noted ACT-UP's Tad Gardocki, adding "We want to educate people so no one has to die."

ACT-UP organized its protest simultaneously with a letter writing campaign. The group collected signatures and mailed 1,500 letters to Members of Congress, urging them to extend funding. Gardocki said the letters allow members of the community who are not able to be as involved as some ACT-UP members to participate in this effort.

Not long after protesters marched back to their cars, with fingers pointed at Gov. Harris' home, shouting "Shame! Shame! Shame!" the Senate approved the six month extension introduced by Sen. Weicker.

The following day, Friday, September 30, the House of Representatives, urged by, among others, Rep. Roy Rowland of Georgia,

gave its O.K. to the legislation and, on Saturday, President Reagan signed it into law.

The \$15 million bill continues funding for the 6,000 low-income people receiving AZT, giving the states another six months to take action.

In Atlanta, several groups are working to convince the state to help. Gil Robison of the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition said of the extension, it is "quite possible" that funding can be secured with another six months to work with the state.

ACT-UP representatives said they would contact the Coalition in an effort to work



Tom Sterling and Tad Gardocki of ACT-UP carry a mock casket to the Governor's mansion protesting Joe Frank Harris' inaction on AZT funding.

together on the matter. The two groups have disagreed over tactics although they share the same goals.

ACT-UP/Atlanta received a congratulatory call from a representative of the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington, who noted, "You could not have timed this better."

- F. G.

JO GIRAUDDO

LOW BACK PAIN



If back pains are a way of life for you, the reasons can be varied and complex. Some may be pathological, but very often the cause is muscles which are either over or under-exercised which are producing spinal distortion. Vertebrae slip into abnormal positions, resulting in "pinched" and irritated nerves, which cause pain and even loss of function of the affected body part. Poor posture, or even emotional tension, can be the root cause.

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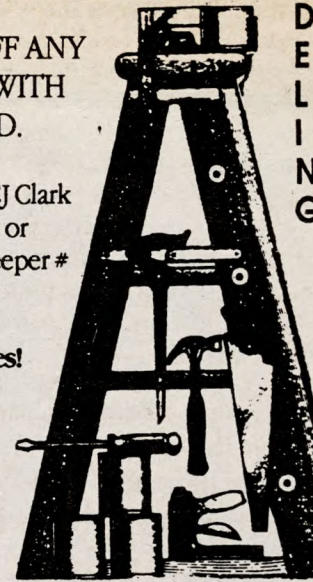
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Our New Holiday Rings Hollow

The idea for National Coming Out Day was first discussed at last February's "War Conference" as a way of commemorating the first anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and to plant the spirit and energy from the March into local communities. With "visibility" as their catch-phrase, Jean O'Leary of National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) and Rob Eichberg of Experience Weekend fame, launched their dream of a new lesbian/gay holiday with the support of every major gay and/or lesbian group in the country.

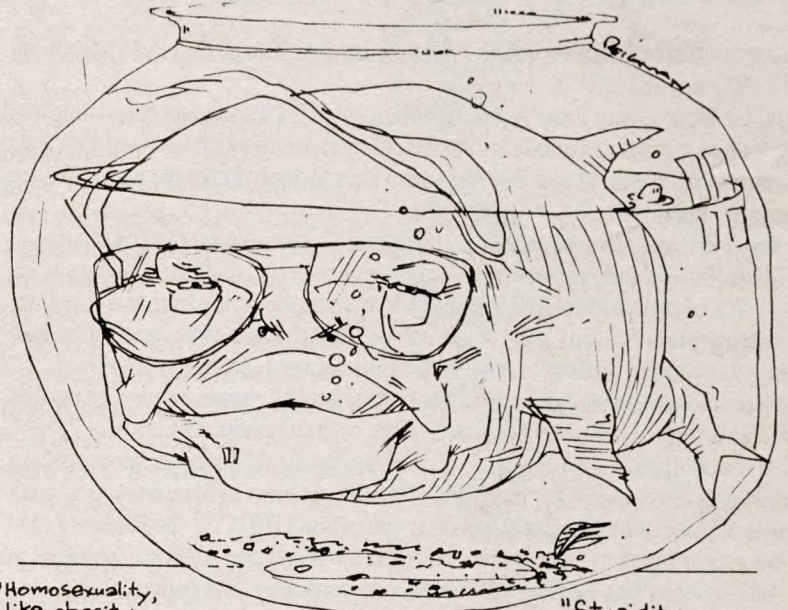
Why then was so little done to ensure the success of the day in local communities?

Both O'Leary and Eichberg, in separate interviews, stated that the most serious impediment to a grander and more celebrated day was a lack of time. They only had seven months to plan and launch a "very expensive national campaign". With the time factor in mind, they opted for a very slick direct mail approach which urged local groups and individuals to plan their own events for the day. In the mailing, O'Leary and Eichberg also solicited donations to offset administrative costs as well as selling NCOD pins, buttons, t-shirts, bumper stickers, key chains, and mugs. Somehow, that feels much too similar to the sale of junk offered to tourists. It conjures up images of Elvis Presley coffee cups and "I Did It On The Beach in Daytona" bumper stickers.

National Coming Out Day was given a very hollow ring by the lack of implementation at the local level and the slick sales push. We feel that the organizers offered us little more than the opportunity to buy their goods.

Another problem with NCOD was that there was no event accompanying it. There was nothing to rally around, no concrete something to hold on to. The way that NCOD was set up made you feel as if you were told to do something, that you were expected to do something and you're out there on your own doing it. As veterans of the gay/lesbian civil rights struggle, O'Leary and Eichberg should have known that it just doesn't happen that way in our community.

As far as we know, the only "event" scheduled for National Coming Out Day in Atlanta is an advertisement scheduled to appear in the *Atlanta Journal* on October 11th. We wholeheartedly support that, and keep in mind that it was a local activist, Cathy Woolard to be exact, who came up with the idea. But that is not enough for a national day of action. We question why the organizers did not see the importance of follow through and assistance at the local level. O'Leary and Eichberg's decision to go ahead with their plans knowing that they could not be effective given their time restrictions, seems a bit irresponsible. Unfortunately, their decision made the first National Coming Out Day, an attempt at establishing a new lesbian/gay holiday, a disappointment. We hope that next year more time and effort will be taken to ensure that October 11 will be celebrated in local communities throughout the country, and truly become a national holiday we will remember and be proud of.



"Homosexuality, like obesity, is something the individual can do something about."
— ALFRED A. MESSER, M.D.

6699

"Stupidity, like homophobia, is something the individual can do something about."
— SOUTHERN VOICE

"They Threw Graphic Pictures of Bloody Fetuses at Her."

On Tuesday, Oct. 4th, I volunteered as an escort at Midtown Hospital. I had intended to volunteer during the summer when "Operation Rescue" first brought their circus to town during the Democratic National Convention, but I let other commitments keep me away. As their efforts heated over the past few months, I could no longer find adequate excuses to keep me away.

While I drove to Midtown Hospital I reassured myself that "everything would be okay," both for the women who would try to keep their appointments today and for myself. I had been in the center of protests and civil disobedience before - albeit on the other side of the police line. I would keep a cool head, I could focus on our purpose - to get the women safely inside - and I was positive that I wouldn't let verbal harassment from the "Rescue" people get to me. After all that's what they wanted, and I wasn't about to give them any bit of satisfaction.

Wrong. I could not have prepared myself in any way for what I saw and heard that day. Picture this, hear this. A young black woman, maybe she's 17 or 18, clutches her purse to her stomach as she walks toward the 400+ crowd at the Atlanta SurgiCenter on Spring Street. She is alone, perhaps she's taken MARTA or been dropped off by a friend. The vast majority of the people crowded around the center are Operation Rescue people. There are very few of "us", way too few to be seen as any kind of welcoming committee for her. We're busy, forming a line hand-in-hand to keep the O.R. people from crawling under police lines, and trying to stretch our numbers so we can be at three clinics at once.

As the young woman approaches us she is spotted by an hysterical O.R. woman. The O.R. woman is crying, blubbering, and for a moment her apparent sincerity gets to me. But as she opens her too red mouth to speak, my sympathy crumbles and turns to rage. "Don't kill your baby! You have a perfectly formed baby inside of you, it can suck its thumb and it can hear. It knows you're going to kill it! Listen to me, look at these pictures. Don't let them talk you into killing your baby!"

The young woman's eyes are wild, darting from the O.R. woman to us and back again. We rush to her, forming a circle and lead her away from the screaming woman. But we can't get her inside the clinic, the entrances are

blocked by O.R. people. We take her as far away from the screaming as we can - about 20 feet, until we can get her inside, some 30 minutes later. As the young woman stands encircled by us, I can smell her fear. She shakes, she shakes so hard I'm afraid she will faint. And while she shakes and cries, the O.R. woman continues her harassment from behind the yellow police line.

I wasn't prepared for this. I wanted to silence the red-mouthed woman - whatever it took to do that, and for a few minutes, I was willing to do it. I wondered if the other escorts felt the same. I wondered how long the verbal harassment could continue before physical violence started.

That was on Tuesday. On Wednesday and Thursday the O.R. people did get physical. They tripped a woman, they pulled her hair, they threw graphic pictures of bloody fetuses at her.

I didn't go back after Tuesday. I was afraid my anger would get the best of me, and the women who are going into the clinics don't need that. They need someone calm and cool who can focus only on them. They don't need more disruption, more violence.

The O.R. people are gone now but they will be back in stronger numbers, with more experience - and with more anger. Make no mistake - they will be back.

The anti-abortion strategy is multifaceted. It goes like this: rewrite federal and state constitutions to include the fetus as a human being entitled to a full range of rights and privileges; terrorize abortion clinics, health care workers and clients; whittle away at abortion access through federal and state legislatures; and appoint or elect anti-abortion candidates to influential public offices. The "New Right" has a long agenda, folks. It not only has the end of reproductive freedom as its goal, but the promotion of policies which would deny the reproductive and parenting rights of all those who are not members of traditional middle-class nuclear families. I don't know about you but I don't want Randall Terry, Jerry Falwell or Dan Quayle deciding whether or not I can be a parent. If I want to be I will - and like the young woman from Tuesday, if I don't want to be - I won't. The choice is mine and only mine.

-Christina Cash

SOUTHERN VOICE

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Reflections on October 11th: Bringing It Back Home

Life was exciting. Trips to Mexico, California and the Caribbean were just a telephone call to the travel agent away. Friends were doctors, accountants, real estate developers and young professionals. The descriptive cliché was "GUPPIE" (Gay Urban Professionals). No one in my circle of friends had AIDS or personally knew anyone who was stricken with the disease.

Then, in the spring of 1986, a friend called with urgent news. He would not tell me the news over the telephone. He was on his way over. No other explanation was offered. The conversation that ensued, after he arrived, changed the course of my life. At the time, I didn't foresee that the anger and resentment which his news generated would eventually be channeled into gay activism at the grassroots level. Jonathan told me a mutual friend (and former boyfriend of mine) was in the hospital. The diagnosis was AIDS. This was the first phase of my personal call to activism. Young gay professionals with good jobs and good lives didn't get AIDS. Only promiscuous gay men who lived in the bars and thrived on the bar scene were afflicted with this

disease. In my circle of friends the label of, "He is a 'bar fly,'" carried the same stigma as girls in high school who were known "...to do it...". We crudely and jokingly referred to them as the "AIDS poster boys".

From diagnosis to death for my friend was nine months, not the fourteen months which the CDC promised with unemotional ease. He died in the winter of 1986.

I first read about the National March on Washington in the spring of 1987. I told myself I was going to Washington for my friend. In reality, I was going for both of us. Not until the march did I realize what Gay America really was. The camaraderie of the men and women and the energy and the power of the largest non-violent demonstration in the history of the United States was incredibly intoxicating. Marching through the streets of Washington, holding my lover's hand in public and kissing him felt good and natural.

Four days in Washington amidst 650,000 gay men and lesbians helped me come to

terms with my gay identity. It was the best therapy possible. I was able to draw on the crowd's energy and find new strength, a strength that had been dormant for thirty-five years. I decided I was going back to Atlanta and make a difference. It took me from October to February to decide how to channel this personal call to activism. AIDS was now a reality in my life and in the lives of my friends. I joined LEGAL and got involved with voter registration. Ultimately, I would like to see the Atlanta gay and lesbian community become the political force it could be if we all went to the polls and voted—hopefully with a common voice, a voice that says "pay attention to my community" to the political leaders of

Georgia.

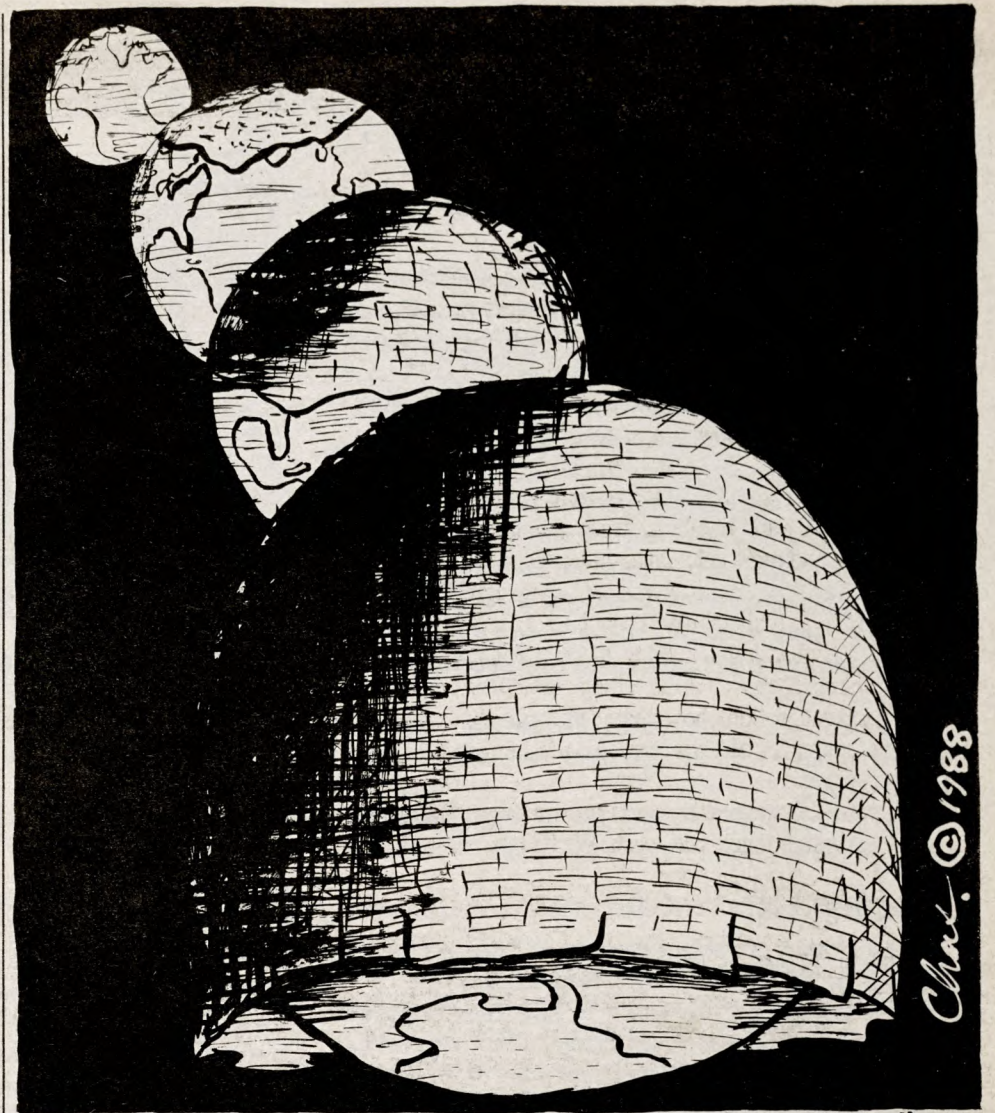
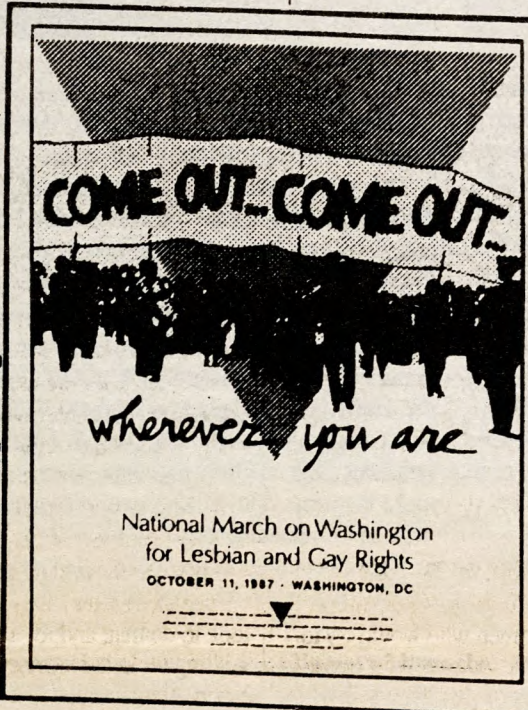
Then, I looked for ways to have direct input into city and county government. Of the elected officials I spoke with, I found only one willing to talk with me about my concerns about AIDS, taxes and the multi-dimensional issues facing gay and lesbian people. This was Fulton County Commission Chairman Michael L. Lomax. His concern and level of caring was unsurpassed. I became a volunteer

aide to him. In Mr. Lomax I found a willing listener to the needs of gay people where others had turned a deaf ear. It is here that I direct a great deal of my energy.

Find a way you can make a difference. You don't have to march in the streets to make a difference. (But it doesn't hurt you to do so!) All you have to do is educate yourself and arm yourself with the knowledge of which candidates support your community before you enter the voting booth. Then enter the voting booth and support them with your vote. I encourage each of you to register to vote and then exercise your gay and lesbian political muscle.

Gary S. Cox

Gary S. Cox burst onto the Atlanta political scene in February, 1988—politicized by the March on Washington. He is active in voter registration efforts through LEGAL and MACGLO and is also involved in gay/lesbian civil rights issues.



"WHEN WILL THE QUILT BE FINISHED?"

Bush and Dukakis On Our Issues

The following is a comparison of Vice President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis on lesbian and gay civil rights and AIDS issues offered by The Human Rights Campaign Fund.

GAY AND LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS

George Bush

POSITION: Opposes gay and lesbian civil rights as awarding "special privileges" to one group.
RECORD: Reagan-Bush administration supported Supreme Court Hardwick decision denying Constitutional protections to gays.

Michael Dukakis

POSITION: Supports civil rights bill and immigration reform bill. Supports non-discrimination with regard to security clearances. Opposes executive order protecting government employees.
RECORD: As Massachusetts legislator, introduced state gay rights bill in 1974. As governor, he has lobbied for bill.

AIDS DISCRIMINATION

George Bush

POSITION: Supports federal legislation outlawing discrimination based on HIV status.
RECORD: The Reagan-Bush administration opposes efforts to enact legislation to prohibit discrimination based on HIV status.

Michael Dukakis

POSITION: Supports federal legislation outlawing discrimination based on HIV status.
RECORD: Endorsed Massachusetts bill to protect people with AIDS, HIV or perceived to have AIDS against discrimination.

AIDS TESTING

George Bush

POSITION: Advocates confidentiality of HIV test results; supports mandatory or routine testing for military, immigrants, marriage licenses, those seeking assistance for sexually transmitted diseases and drug dependence, and prisoners.
RECORD: The Reagan-Bush administration has left issues of confidentiality and availability to the states. It requires testing of military personnel, immigrants, Peace Corps and Job Corps workers, foreign service employees, and federal prisoners.

Michael Dukakis

POSITION: Supports increased voluntary, confidential counseling and testing; advocates mandatory testing of military personnel and immigrants.
RECORD: Dukakis issued regulations banning testing for health and group life or disability insurance. Allows life insurers to require test for individual policies over \$100,000.

AIDS PREVENTION

George Bush

POSITION: Believes people should be educated about AIDS, but prevention efforts should stress traditional moral values and strengthen the concept of "family".
RECORD: Under the Reagan-Bush administration, a nation-wide mailing, originally conceived in the mid-1980's, was not sent until June, 1988 due to political infights over contents. The administration refuses to provide explicit information on sex and drug use.

Michael Dukakis

POSITION: Believes that AIDS education, including explicit information on sex and drug use should begin in primary school with information based on age and ability to absorb material.
RECORD: Massachusetts was the first state to do a house-to-house AIDS prevention mailing.

Viewpoints is part of a continuing effort to provide a forum for our community. We invite your ideas, comments and feelings and your responses to ideas expressed in this space.

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Southern Voice. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than four pages. Mail to:

Southern Voice/Viewpoints
PO Box 54719
Atlanta, Georgia

In Celebration of National Coming Out Day, October 11, 1988

Read these stories. Read them carefully. They are stories about that ambiguous, ambivalent process that we have all experienced in one way or another. And one that we continue to experience: coming out.

Read these stories. Notice that none is exactly like the others. And that none is exactly like your coming out story.

The bad news is that announcing that we are, in some way, different to a world that values and rewards conformity isn't easy. It's an act that takes work and courage and support. And finally trust. Trust that there is room in this world for you.

That's the good news. Almost anyone who is "out" will tell you that life on the sunny side of the closet door, even with all its risks, is a damn sight easier and a lot more fun than lurking around in the shadows.

Read these stories. See the courage. Feel the love. Find the proof that, no matter what our differences, there is room in the world for all of us.

Thanks to Susan McKay for modeling the series of photos for us. Photography by Pamela J. Cole, Photo Editor.

Queering Off

My first memory of coming out was more to the tune of "found out," busted by the Hormone SWAT Team Captain more commonly known as my stepmother. In 1969, I was sixteen and as of early April had logged eleven months of experience with heavy petting, fondling, and other exciting arts with my first girlfriend. However, in the fall of 1968, she had to move away. We vowed to span the hardships of time and space and never would our UNDYING love die. And it flourished and grew, as did the prosperity of the U.S. Postal Service through the wonderful world of LUV letters. I guess after a few of them soaked the Sears bill once too often, ol stepmo started collecting them. Then, she calmly walked in the living room and dropped about fifty at my feet. She read me my rights, flashed me her badge and told me and my daddy of her plans to mail these to girlfriend's parents. In shock, I dashed from the house to my friend Susan's. She came outside, took one look at my face and asked who died. I started pacing back and forth in about a four step pattern and kept saying, "Susan, something awful has happened. I need to tell someone, but I just can't. I just can't. You'll hate me." So she kept saying to tell her, tell her, it was ok. Finally I stopped and blurted out, "Me and 'you now who' have been, well, QUEERING OFF!" Yeah, that's how I put it—queering off. I told her the rest of the story. She put her arm around me and said, "It's ok, Jane. That ain't so bad. You didn't do anything wrong."

But cessation of my "alternate" lifestyle, thought and deed, was the result for five years. I did think I was wrong. I didn't fight back. I had no sense of tribe. There were no other people who felt like me. I saw no choice but to hide and forget this energy and love.

Coming out, step two, kicked off in Memphis when I became frustrated and curious with my desire to wink (or something) at half the Twana's, Dawn's, and Sherry's who crossed my path.



Miraculously, a person appeared in my path that identified herself as a "gay person." She warned me that to associate with her might mean that I, too, might be assumed queer and dangerous. Something told me I was on the right track. She is the one who led me to this fair city of Atlanta, and on my first weekend visit, I arranged to move here the next. I saw drag queens and had seminars with my friend and her inner circle on the do's and don'ts of leisure and formal butch and femme attire for the "go be cool at the bar" routine. I learned and relaxed quickly, but my learning time with my first lesbian tribe did not last too long. Their basic

"I became frustrated and curious with my desire to wink (or something) at half the Twana's, Dawn's and Sherry's who crossed my path."

focus was upper middle class material success, and their skill in closetedness was believed to be the only way that dream could happen. They had no desire to be involved with any gay political matters, nor did they associate with any female persons who did not shave their legs. Needless to say, they did not like the new ALFA dykes I met roaming around Little Five Points.

Quickly moving through the Sweet Gum Head School of Etiquette, my consciousness raising continued. The experience of people joining forces for women's rights and gay rights was a step in the right direction. I was constantly feeling myself opening up and claiming my life for a change. Honesty started being a real important thing because I never felt I had been in my life. Separatism was an accepted form of belief around my new politically correct friends. I went for that for a while, too. Yeah, those men

did this to us. They don't need to be here. Well, I understand a brief cycle of this early in a lesbian's development, but as a way of life, it's not for me.

This leads us to coming out, stage three, which is where I am going. As far as the "world in which I live" goes, I believe I've got it sewed up pretty comfortable. All the important people I have in my life know I'm gay. These people include doctors, dentist, landlord, neighbors, and most of my customers (I freelance). My lawyer is gay, so she knows. And on the subject of legalities, if you will. When I die, I have prearranged so no strangers, mainly blood kin, won't drag my dead ass back to south Alabama, throw me in a polyester dress and bury me. Just 'cause they're blood don't make them kin. I love the slogan, "Love makes a family, nothing less, nothing else."

Back to coming out, my policy has rarely been "Oh, hello, I'm gay, and by the way, my name is Jane." It is not "politically correct," in my book, to share intimate details of your life with people you don't trust with the information. On the flip side, it is not emotionally correct to spend great amounts of time around people that you can't trust with some realities about who you love and call family. That wears us down in such a subtle, nagging way.

I am very blessed with acceptance from most people who drop into my life. My ability to expand to share myself with people on different levels is increasing. I don't hoard my privacy like I used to. These days sharing instead of avoiding gives me that sigh of relief unplugging the phone used to provide. I enjoy finding avenues to give of my time and love to bond with others who devote the same to launching thoughts of trust and peace. The people who organized *Southern Voice* I am very proud to include in my family. Telling those people who moved me to stretch a little farther is important, and don't it feel good to hear?

—Jane Black

A Brilliant Flaw in the Universe

There are thousands of "normal" stories about coming out—those relatively devoid of conflict, sometimes full of anxiety, but balanced by love and support. Here follows nothing funny or dramatic—like my friend in Chicago who came out on her wedding night.

My experiences weren't so much a series of events as a long, slow process of "myself" stirring beneath almost three decades of denial, like a sleeping giant. I was trying to be a farmerette in Minnesota when I decided to write letters to my brother and sister delineating my sexual preference in as positive a manner as I could muster. I thought I'd hold off until later for the big "M". (Dad was dead.) This may have been the chicken's way out, but in a Catholic family it certainly saved the cost of renting a big hall.

I waited for those responses—pensively milking goats and weeding the garden—and they arrived one by one. And each was thoughtful, loving and kind in their own way, and I cried with relief. They were nice people—I was nice people.

I saved those letters from my brother and sister and sisters-in-law, like saving reviews on a good play I'd written—the play of My Life. Three years passed before I told Mom, tete a tete, and she murmured platitudes, as I thought she would, filing me away as her "special child" a brilliant flaw in her universe. Sometimes it's enough just to present the IDEA of the future to the past.

Ironically, at this time I was not out at work, being the only female engineer in a research and development firm. I thought at the time it would save me grief, but I realized later that it was imagined grief, and that my strength of character would always save me from ridicule by those who truly love me. That was four years ago. And that's the path I've taken since then.

—Michelle Martin

Son, You're Not Military Material

I never had to tell my mother. She just seemed to know. My father was a different matter. I remember when I was fourteen or so he looked at me one day and said, "Son, you are not military material." The words were spoken in the matter-of-fact, authoritarian manner of this man who had spent thirty years in the Army.

My mother died when I was sixteen. My father died when I was eighteen. During the two years between those deaths, my father and I became very close. We only talked about sexuality once that I can recall.

We were fishing. I rarely went with him, but occasionally I could be persuaded to go along for an afternoon or early morning. He would go any time—day or night. Most of the time we spent fishing was silent. One of us would occasionally speak and the other would respond or not depending on the moment and mood. "John, I wanna ask you a question." He spoke first.

"OK." I answered. Then, there was a long pause like he was searching for a way to ask a hard question.

"Do girls 'do anything for you?'" He didn't explain, he just waited looking at the water.

It was my turn to search for the way to say difficult words.

"No sir, they don't."

"That's what I figured." I felt flushed and afraid, waiting for the next words.

"Do other boys do something for you?'"

I took my time answering because I wasn't sure. I was a virgin at seventeen but I knew there was something about other boys that I really liked. "Yes sir, I guess so."

"That's what I figured." There was more silence. And I wondered if he would ever say another word to me.

"Is that OK?" I finally asked, looking for some reassurance.

"Well, you're my son and I love you," he said. I believed him.

—Johnny Walsh



No Pendleton Jacket Required

My first coming out act was in 1959. I was 17; my mother was hysterical. I didn't have a date for my Senior Prom, and worse, it didn't even bother me. Among her more creative ideas was for my father to rent a tux and take me.

Then there was my first lover. We had a wonderful three months until she found out the awful truth—I had never heard the word 'LESBIAN'. She was gone the next day.

Someone mentioned bars. Off I went, a legal 21 who on a good day looked almost 15. It was dark, smoky, noisy and filled with women whose favorite entertainment was throwing their friends against the wall. A very large woman smelling of well-oiled leather escorted me to the street saying "They'll just eat you up in there, honey."

I looked around and spotted some very attractive women. I studied them closely and found out their secret. They all wore Pendleton jackets. That mystery solved I headed for the store only



to find that Pendleton definitely did not design their jackets for my traditionally female container.

Almost 30 years later, in accordance with the precepts of a cosmic sense of humor, my lesbian door flew open while handling some other of life's issues.

It was now 1987 and I came out into a shining new world. There were gay people everywhere. Organizations of every description, entertainment, newspapers, radio shows, TV network.

My first visit to MCC-Knoxville overwhelmed me with a totally new feeling. It took me a couple of days to identify it; for the first time in my life I felt safe. For several months after that experience, whenever I was anywhere I felt safe I started to cry—grieving for all those years of never belonging, of never feeling safe.

Coming out for me has been a time of tremendous growth. It has brought into my life a sense of real family. Coming out to my straight friends has been continuous affirmation and acceptance.

—Elena Rutter

Living Life As One Wishes

I have been asked, as a man of 70, to mention my experiences in coming out. I believe that this act, an amazing combination of confession, defiance, daring and trust, is these days almost necessary for young gays and lesbians. Depending on the degree of sophistication in one's social milieu, the act can result in new feelings of freedom, ease, and mental and emotional health.

A revealing letter to my aunt resulted from my own experience of the same weekend. She had raised me from the age of eight, after my mother died. We had lived in a social climate where most people never expressed intimate emotions. But I admired and loved her dearly, so along with information about my love and sex life, I wrote all the tender feelings I had for her. She responded very positively, saying she was very happy to know that she "didn't make too many mistakes" in bringing me up. She also said something that both puzzled and bemused me: "I'm glad that I don't have to guess about your men friends any more." Puzzled because I didn't know which friends she referred to (after all, I had some close non-sexual friends).

I also came out in a letter to a young, very heterosexual friend, an architect. He responded that he regretted not having me mention, when we were living in the same place, what he'd already surmised. He said he felt that I didn't want to talk about homosexuality during that time, and this restricted the conversation!

Old age means that one has lived much of one's life in a climate of caution and concealment, and the Closet is likely to be second nature to you. But also, sex has likely diminished in importance, and the platonic ideal becomes ascendant. Living a gay life has lost its gleam, if it ever had one. One's lifestyle may become very original; many values are no longer cogent. One lives as one wishes. If people want to draw conclusions, let them; it no longer matters. Perhaps these considerations, and others, now make additional acts of coming out seem somehow unimportant to me.

—W.S.

Coming Out In Twos

In comedy, timing is everything. So it is with coming out. Usually the moment has to seem "right" before one of us is willing to take the risk of coming out to anyone. We know the repercussions of coming out to someone go far beyond the individual we come out to. Now imagine someone else coming out for you. Frightening, isn't it?!

This is one of the issues couples face in the coming out process. It is infrequent for two people to reach that magic "right" moment so they can take the next step together. Our lives don't work that tandemly. But make no mistake, couples do come out together! It is virtually impossible not to. If you have a committed relationship, it will be evident over time to anyone you choose to share your lives with. People will eventually figure it out anyway. The only real question is, will you acknowledge it? If you don't, you send a signal that you do not value your relationship as much as they value theirs. If you are consistent in this, you can't help but internalize these feelings in the relationship and the relationship itself will be threatened.

As a couple you are forced to come out in a million small ways. If you own property together, there are issues of insurance beneficiaries, wills, joint bills, etc., that you deal with every day. After time, nothing is mine or his; it is all ours. This even slips into the conversation when you are out buying furniture. Do you like this color? Will we be happy with this style? It is so natural for us to discuss things this way that I am sure we do it openly with most sales people.

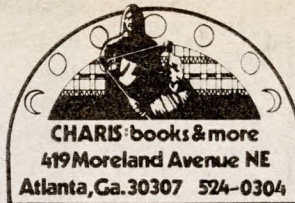
We've been together fifteen years and over that time have pretty much come out to everyone close to us. My family was told by an anonymous phone call when Bob and I first got together. I was still living at home at the time and my parents' first reaction was to kick me out of the house and to blame Bob totally. My mother even tried to run him over with her car! Bob forced me to go back home and deal with the situation. It took a long time but slowly my family has learned to accept both me and us as a couple. Bob's family was a little different. The very first time we visited his mother, she put us in the same bed even though there was an extra one right next to it! When we left and got home, we found a note wishing us a happy new year.

The only place we are not really out is in our jobs. We both have good jobs that we like and haven't felt the need to take our relationship into the work environment with us. We do, however, call each other almost daily, and neither of us takes the "date" to company functions any more. Bob has been in his job for fourteen years and over time I have met most of his co-workers and I'm sure several of them know but it has never been confirmed. I am in a fairly new job and don't know all the people very well yet. My company includes sexual orientation in the EEO statement but I haven't tested it... yet!

With the exception of our jobs, coming out is not something we even think about any more. We are a couple, period. We live our lives that way and expect to be treated as such. Our experience has been that if you just live the way you want, most other people will eventually accept it. I think it is also one of the secrets of staying a couple. When you continually reinforce the relationship, it can't help but get stronger.

By the way, my mother freely admits to trying to run Bob over with her car, but this year to try to make it up to him she invited him to spend Thanksgiving with my family as her guest. Her progress has been slow, but steady.

Rich and Bob



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INDEPENDENCE



Dear Susan:

Mom got out of the asylum today. One of my sisters is pregnant after her first date. The other is making pomographic sculptures and seeing a Hell's Angel insect photographer. And, they think I'm crazy because I'm gay. God, I love these visits.

Love,

INDEPENDENCE
Some women gotta have it!
Thru November 12th
8 PM, Tues.-Sat.; 3 PM, Sun.
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Theatre in the Square

THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

INDEPENDENCE-Oct. 13-Nov. 12. "Yes, Mother, I am still a homosexual." So begins the first conversation between Kess Briggs and her mother in four years, in Theatre in the Square's new production, *Independence*. This contemporary drama by Tony nominee Lee Blessing has developed cult followings in its few productions across the country. Kess is one of the most positive lesbian role models in contemporary theatre. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave. Tues.-Sat. at 8 PM and Sundays at 3 PM. \$10-\$15. 422-8369.

UNHOLY ALLIANCES-Oct. 13th. Louise Rafkin, editor of this anthology of short fiction by women, will appear at Charis Books & More. Rafkin also edited *Different Daughters: A Book by Mothers of Lesbians*. She will discuss these two works plus an upcoming volume by children of lesbians. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM. Free. 524-0304.

THE DONKEYS & THE ASSES-Oct. 17th & 18th. America's Political Parties (that's the real name of the program) are examined in this two-part series on public television beginning with the Democrats and their factors contributing to the Democrats' downfall in presidential politics and what they're doing to turn things around. Looks at the programs and policies initiated by Kennedy and Johnson and contrasts McGovern's vision with the more traditional liberalism of JFK & LBJ. Assesses Dukakis' campaign in the context of recent Democratic history. The following evening sit back for an exciting evening as you watch *The Republicans: Before and After Reagan*. Will Reagan leave a permanent legacy or was the "Reagan Revolution" a fluke? Examines how the GOP has become the predominant party in presidential politics since WW II. This segment also examines the Electoral College as well as the wealthy and highly effective National Republican Committee. Channel 8 (WGTV), 9:00 PM both evenings.

Photo at right from *Cane Toads: An Unnatural History*, a bizarre and funny portrait of the ecologically disastrous cane toad, a creature that, in its obsessive pursuit of sexual gratification, is overrunning Australia.



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>13</p> <p>• <i>Unholy Alliances</i>-Louise Rafkin at Charis Books & More. 7:30 PM. 524-0304.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Upstage Cafe-Louise Udayke in a one-woman show. 315 W. Ponce de Leon. 377-7379 for more info. Photo at right.</p> <p>• <i>Moral Hazard</i>-Little 5 Points Pub. 9:30 PM. \$4.</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>• Indigo Girls-The Point. 577-6468. Angela Motter opens.</p> <p>• The Ormewood Park Street Festival-10 AM-8 PM. Woodland Ave., between Berne & Ormewood. Food, entertainment, arts & crafts, flea market. 622-2127.</p> <p>• <i>Independence</i>-Through Nov. 12. Theatre in the Square, Marietta. Tues.-Sat. at 8 PM, Sun. at 3 PM. \$10-\$15.</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Tim Miller in Final performance show! Seven S \$10. 584-2104</p> <p>Circle of Healing-First Ext. See Registry, page 10.</p> <p>Harlem Suite-Final performance featuring music of Armstrong and Waller. Starring Step \$12.75 - \$22.75. 873-430</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Reckless-Through Oct. 30th. 8 PM on Thursdays and Fridays. Dorsey Studio. \$8-\$10. 634-3602. Photo below.</p> <p>Angela Motter Band-Nexus Theatre. 8 PM. \$5. 584-2104.</p> <p>Evenings at Charis-Chris Cash, <i>Southern Voice</i> editor, leads an open discussion on the newspaper's progress and its role in the lesbian/gay community. Charis Books & More. 7:30 PM. 524-0304.</p> 	<p>21</p> <p><i>Cane Toads: An Unnatural History</i>-This hilarious film about the sex life of toads is part of the High Museum's "Next Generation" Series. 8 PM. Rich Auditorium. 881-0452.</p> <p>Big Hair & Other Teases-Ongoing Upstairs at Gene & Gabe's. This Sat. at 9 PM. Late show on Sat. at 11 PM. \$14.50. 892-2261.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Patrick Ball-Celtic "New Age" Harpist & Storyteller. Emory University's Cannon Chapel. 8:15 PM. \$10-\$12. 874-2232.</p> <p>Atlanta Symphony Orchestra-Aaron Copeland's "Music for the Theatre" and Symphony No. 3. Yoel Levi conducts. Symphony Hall. 8 PM. 898-1182.</p> 	<p>23</p> <p><i>Secrets</i>-Final performance. Theatre. 8 PM. 6</p> <p>Whoopi & Other March-A photographic r Barry Waguespack. Little October. 524-0805. Photo</p>

SOUTHERN VOICE

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Next Week's Highlights

RECKLESS-Oct. 20th - 30th. The Actor's Express presents this black comedy by Craig Lucas which follows Rachel as her mind crumbles under the weight of her seemingly perfect yet always bizarre world. Rachel runs away from home and the hit-man her husband hires to kill her, and hooks up with Hoyd & Pooty. They win big money on a TV game show and go from state to state on a reckless roller coaster ride. Dorsey Studio, 3593 Clairmont Rd. Thurs. & Fri. at 8 PM. Saturdays at 7 PM & 10 PM. Sundays at 3 PM. \$8-\$10. 634-3602.

PATRICK BALL-Oct. 22nd. Celtic "New Age" Harpist & Irish storyteller. Ball travels throughout the U. S. and Britain combining the delicacy of the Celtic harp with traditional folktales, painting colorful pictures of the characters and folk beliefs of the Irish, Scottish and Appalachian peoples. Cannon Chapel at Emory University. 8:15 PM. 874-2232.

IGGY POP-Oct. 24th. The name conjures up many images: Rock 'N' Roll Legend; Punk Prototype, Hero and Villain. Supposedly, Iggy has "grown" and decided other people are "necessary." Hmmm. Should make for an interesting evening. Center Stage Theater. 8 PM. \$15.50. 874-1511.

GEORGE WINSTON-Oct. 25th-26th. The highly acclaimed Windstorm personality brings his winter show south. Winston asks that concertgoers join him in support of the Atlanta Food Bank by bringing a can of food, collected at the entrance. Atlanta Symphony Hall. 8 PM. \$17.50 in advance at SEATS locations. For more information, call 892-2414.

MONDAY

17 The Democrats: A Quarter Century of Change.-Ch. 8 (WGTV). 10 PM. An examination of the turbulent history of the Democratic party since 1960.

Lesbian Post-Polio Group-7 PM. 378-7455 or 872-1920 for more info.

LEGAL-7 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. 875-7500. See Registry, page 10.

TUESDAY

18 The Republicans: Before and After Reagan-Ch. 8 (WGTV). 10 PM. Looks at Republican presidential campaigns through a historical perspective and considers what the future holds for the Republican party.

ACT UP Meeting-7:30 PM. 355 6th St. 377-4803.

WEDNESDAY

19

ACLU Lesbian & Gay Chapter-7:30 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. 231-5991. See Registry, page 10.

24 Iggy Pop-The Original Bad Boy. Center Stage Theatre. 8 PM. \$15.50. 874-1511. Photo at right.

Autobiography: In Her Own Image-Through Nov. 12. Works by 17 women artists of color who explore their self-images in a variety of media. Nexus Gallery, 608 Ralph McGill Blvd. 688-1970.

Campaign: The Choice-9:00 PM Ch. 8 (WGTV). Explore Dukakis' and Bush's political and personal histories. A must see!



25 George Winston-Tonight and tomorrow night only. Symphony Hall. 8 PM. \$16.50 at SEATS locations. 892-2414.

Big Hair & Other Teases-Ongoing. Upstairs at Gene & Gabe's. Tues.-Sun. at 9 PM. Late Show at 11 PM. \$14.50. 892-2261.

26 ELGO-Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization-Meets Sat. 7 PM. 363E Dobbs University Center. 377-7421.

Monet in London-Ongoing at The High Museum. Open until 9 PM on Wednesdays.



S.A.M.E.

Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc.

Bittersweet
By Charles Haver
Now Appearing
on Page 14!



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ORGANIZATIONS

AALGA- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance. 1st Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. Quaker House. A political and social organization for black lesbians and gay men. 525-3376.

ACLULG-ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter. 3rd Wednesday of each month. Peachtree Branch Library. 7:30 PM. Working for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the metropolitan Atlanta area. 231-5991.

ACT- Atlanta Couples Together. A non-political, non-religious, social organization whose purpose is to support the positive aspects of gay and lesbian relationships. Events and meetings vary. Info: A.C.T. Voice Mailbox, 365-2455, or write PO Box 723291, Atlanta, Ga., 30339.

ACT UP/Atlanta- AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power. Direct action group with the purpose of fighting homophobia, AIDS, sexism and racism. Meetings held every Monday. Call 377-4803 or 289-6358 for more info.

AFC- Atlanta Faerie Circle. 1st Sunday of each month. Location and time varies. Gay men who gather to support one another and explore their connections with the earth and white light. 622-4112.

AGC- Atlanta Gay Center. 876-5372. Operated primarily by volunteers, AGC offers services for lesbians and gays men as well as educational out-reach to society as a whole. AGC Help Line-892-0661.

AGMC- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. A semiprofessional community-oriented chorus of male voices. Membership open to all interested singers and non-singers alike. 296-6581.

ALFA- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance. 2nd Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. A lesbian feminist organization which welcomes lesbians of all races, religions, political orientation, economic status, occupation and degree of openness. Write PO Box 5502, Atlanta, Ga. 30307 for more information and to request newsletter.

ALGPC- Atlanta Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. Needs volunteers to coordinate next year's lesbian and gay pride March to insure its success.

AMC- Atlanta March Committee- More Than a Phase. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. 7:30 PM. North Highland Branch Library. A community based activist organization that works toward promoting lesbian and gay rights through educational, social, cultural, and political events. 377-8312.

AVS- Atlanta Venture Sports. Activities and meetings vary. An association in which the membership enjoys recreational, social, educational, and sports activities. 242-4899.

AID Atlanta- A community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to all people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. 1132 W. Peachtree St. (Entrance 13th Street). 872-0600.

AIDS Information Line- 876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). Answers to questions about AIDS, referrals, etc., by trained volunteers staffing phone lines from 9:00 AM-9:00 PM daily. A public service of AID Atlanta and the Ga. DHR.

Atlanta Alternatives-Buyers Club- A group plan for obtaining bulk orders at reduced cost of certain alternative products of interest to PWAs. AL-721, German enzymes and others. Participants are welcome. Meetings will be announced soon. 233-0083 for info.

Atlanta Business & Professional Guild- A non-profit service organization comprised of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. 2nd Tuesday of each month. Place varies. Membership and further information: 872-1922.

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus- A community-oriented choral group of women's voices. Membership is open to all women interested in singing. Chorus practice held each Sunday, 6:00-8:30 PM at the First Existentialist Church at 470 Candler Park Dr. 355-8894 or 435-4498.

Atlanta Lambda Chorale- A community-oriented choral group for both men and women. Membership open to all singers and non-singers alike. Rehearsals every Tuesday at MCC-Blessed Redeemer, 800 N. Highland Ave. 7:30 PM. 874-1622.

BWMT- Black and White Men Together. 1st Saturday of each month. 8:00 PM. Location varies. A gay inter-racial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. 794-BWMT.

Circle of Healing- 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. First Existentialist Church. The Circle is open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual.

Congregation Bet Haverim- Services 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 PM. Shabbat Seder, 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 PM. Quaker House, 1384 Fairview Dr. Proudly serving the lesbian and gay community. Synagogue information line: 642-3467.

Couples, Inc.- The National Organization for Family Diversity is seeking full legal and social recognition of same-sex relationships. Meetings will vary as membership grows. Interested persons may call Mark du Pont at (404) 634-3061 or write: P. O. Box 77266, Atlanta, Ga. 30357-7266.

ELGO- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization. Meetings every Wed. at 7PM. Room 363E Dobbs University Center. Box 23515, Atlanta, Ga. 30322. 377-7421.

Fourth Tuesday- A networking organization for lesbian professionals and entrepreneurs, operating through monthly dinner meetings and a variety of special social, sports and educational events. P. O. Box 7817, Atlanta, GA 30309 (404) 662-4353.

First MCC Atlanta- Metropolitan Community Church.

Sunday Services at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM evangelistic service. Mid-week services on Wednesday at 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. Office hours Noon-6:00 PM. Tuesday-Friday. A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment for individuals and couples. Same sex Holy Unions performed. 872-2246.

Friends Atlanta- Activities and meetings vary. A social, recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. Volleyball, bowling, dinners, theater nights, and dances are among the activities. 634-2500.

GALA- Gay Atheists of America. Meetings social in nature and at members' discretion. To assure freedom of speech; freedom from religion; to defend the separation of church and state; to assist in obtaining civil rights for gays and lesbians, and to offer non-believers an alternate social scene. 875-8877.

GALA- Georgia Tech Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Every Thursday at 7:30 PM. 676-1339 or 352-9213.

GALA, Programs Area, GA.Tech, Atlanta, GA 30332.

GANG- Greater Atlanta Naturist Group. For gay men who enjoy nude outdoor and social activities. Not a sex club. Nude camping, swimming, parties, etc. several times per month. For info send SASE to: GANG, PO Box 7546, Atlanta, GA 30357.

GAPAC- Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition. Meetings vary. The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene. 885-0510.

GLPCI- Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. A support group for lesbian and gay parents. 296-8369.

The Group- Thursday nights. Call the Gay Help Line at 892-0661 or write PO Box 15191, Atlanta, Ga. 30333. A support group for gay and bisexual men who are or who have been involved in marital-type situations with women.

Hotlanta Volleyball- Serious and amateur players are welcome to join. Members compete in tournaments and regulation league play. Clinics held during the year to learn and practice new techniques. Call 875-0700 for info.

Integrity- Gay Caucus of the Episcopal Church. 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. 7:30 PM. All Saints Episcopal Church-3rd floor of Ellis Hall. 875-2720.

LIFE- Lesbians in Fun Endeavors. Meeting times and locations vary. Bringing professional gay women together for the fun of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events. 493-3966.

LEGAL- Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians. 3rd Monday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. The voice of lesbian and gay Georgians in the Democratic party. 875-7500.

Lutherans Concerned/South Carolina- A society of gay, lesbian and non-gay Christians. All denominations welcome. We work to foster a climate of understanding, justice and reconciliation among all people. 3rd Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. 728 Pickens St., Columbia, SC. Contact: PO Box 90537, Columbia, SC, 29290.

MACGLO- Metro Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. A representative council of lesbian and gay organizations to facilitate the exchange of information. 242-2342.

MCC of Stone Mountain- Metropolitan Community Church. Outreach program includes and actively supports those involved in various "12-step" programs. Services are at 10:30 AM on Sundays, and followed, on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, by Christian education. 879-1872.

NAPWA- Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS. 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. 1132 W. Peachtree St. A political, social, and educational organization confronting the AIDS crisis. Membership is open to all individuals with AIDS, ARC or who are HIV positive. 874-7926.

P-FLAG- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Committed to help parents learn what we have learned. To help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding, so all gay people can live with dignity and respect. 961-6085 or 296-0830.

PLGC- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns/More Light. 3rd Sunday of each month. Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage. 373-5830.

Project Open Hand- Prepares and serves meals to PWAs, PWARCs unable to do so themselves. Volunteers needed for organizing, kitchen and delivery. 248-1788.

SAME- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc. Utilizes the arts and media as tools for exploration, education, and change in human rights, especially those pertaining to the lesbian and gay community. 584-2104.

The Names Project/Atlanta- A National AIDS Memorial. Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church. Address correspondence to: 375 Georgia Ave., Atlanta, Ga. 30312.

UULGC- Unitarian-Universalist Lesbian and Gay Community. 2nd Thursday of each month. 8:00 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. A spiritual and social support group for religious liberals. Call for a copy of our newsletter. 634-5134.

WOW- Women of Wisdom. 3rd Monday of each month. 7:45 PM. North Highland Branch Library. Aims to facilitate women meeting together with other women in a pleasant atmosphere. Offers timely programs of interest to the community, reaches out to older women and women with special needs.

New Home Health Care for Local PWAs

Alliance Against AIDS, a comprehensive home health care agency dedicated to cost-effectively maintaining persons with AIDS in their home environment, has recently begun serving the Atlanta area.

The agency provides services only to PWA's, which distinguishes them from other home health care services. The staff is made up of highly trained professionals and paraprofessionals experienced in the care of AIDS patients.

A team approach to patient care is employed by Alliance, coordinated by a case manager who is a registered nurse. Following a patient referral, which can come from a physician, community organization or any other source, an initial assessment is completed and a care plan is formulated.

With this done, the "healing team," which includes the person with AIDS, his or her doctor, nurses, social service workers, health care professionals and community organizations, put the individualized health care plan into operation.

Janet Reid, Director of Alliance Against AIDS, views the services her agency provides as a valuable and vital addition to the health care community.

"Once the AIDS patient is able to be released from the hospital, his or her care is far from over," Reid stresses. "We are trained to provide the best possible care available to our clients."

Reid also feels that hospitals tend to be detrimental to the emotional well-being of the AIDS patient. There is also the probability of acquiring opportunistic infections while hospitalized, which can be life threatening to someone with AIDS. For those reasons, home health care is the logical alternative.

Rande Gravette, who also works with Alliance Against AIDS, feels one of the things that makes the agency unique is its employees. "We give a lot of love and support to the client and the family. Everyone who works here is here because we want to be."

Costs for the services provided by the Alliance Against AIDS are comparable with those provided by similar agencies. Insurance plans are accepted and payments are coordinated accordingly.

"Most people just don't understand the impact of this disease," Janet Reid says with a hint of urgency in her voice. "They don't understand that it will eventually touch everyone's life."

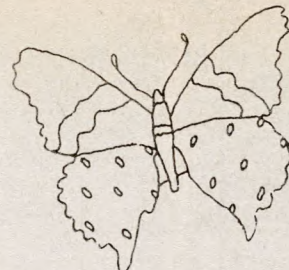
When asked what she feels is the most frustrating part of her job, Reid took a deep breath and sighed before she answered. "It's hard not being able to serve everyone. That plus dealing with the death of so many young people."

Employees of the Alliance Against AIDS receive ongoing training in the latest methods and developments associated with AIDS and the prevailing attitude among those working with the program is optimistic and positive.

Janet Reid summed it up best: "We try to encourage the person with AIDS to maximize each day, to live each day to the fullest and to prepare for life."

For more information about Alliance Against AIDS, call their offices, located at 6 Piedmont Center, Suite 411, at 404-261-6210.

- Chip Coffey



Welcome to
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- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00 AM | Oct. 16th "Signed, Sealed and Delivered" |
| | Oct. 23rd "Our Vision, Near or Far-Sighted" |
| | The Sanctuary Choir sings at this service. |
| | Rev. Charles W. Larsen, M.Div., preaching. |
| 7:00 PM | Healing Service (This is separate from the evening service.) |
| 7:30 PM | Oct. 16th "Misunderstood and Condemned" |
| | Oct. 23rd "Winning Against Religious Bigots" |
| | Dr. Buddy Truluck, S.T.D., preaching. |

"We're Here For Good"

Ranson Brings Muse's *Secrets* to Stage

Rebecca Ranson's had three of the nicest people visit here head and she cajoled them into performing their *Secrets* at the Nexus Theater.

All but a lucky few of you missed the premiere of this SAME production of Ranson's 'dream play' October 6—opening nights only happen once—so slap yourself now, then go buy tickets.

Secrets is not as ethereal as the promos suggest, nor is it a timely twist on *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. *Secrets* is an episodic story about three unconventional characters who find 39 years of harmony in their loving, respecting and understanding of each other.

Though you may have missed the opening, don't be foolish and miss the first encounter between Rosetta and Phoebe. This first scene alone is worth the ticket price, as Ranson (with the help of her three muses) has created a near flawless gem.

Meet Rosetta, played by Deborah Duke. In 1930 she is 17 and pregnant, living alone far from home and working at the Mill in Carrboro, NC. As a young black woman in a small Southern town she is aware of, but untroubled by the conventions of her time and place. Her happiness and goodness run deep within; she's not seeking any truth or spirituality outside of her own body. Rosetta takes life at her pace in order to 'feel every feeling around it'. Her most memorable quality is her timelessness; she could be 17 or 107, making quilts and loving the simple things in life.

Phoebe, brought to life by Melanie Hammett, is the other side of the coin. Also a young woman in 1930, when they meet, Phoebe is living with her brother and midwifing for the women whose condition can't wait for Thursdays or Saturdays. She wears a general disdain for most folks on the sleeve of her flannel shirt and cuff of her trousers—a real woman's woman with rough hands and hard logic. Yet, there is tenderness in Phoebe, but it's for Rosetta's soft skin only. It is Phoebe's passion for self-fulfillment and justice that carries the characters and the play through the second act. Yes, Phoebe is the kind of woman with whom many in the audience identify—the kind of woman whose face belongs on a coin.

Terry Wells does a remarkable job with Leland, whose love and support for his sister is unconditional, his respect monumental. He is a bachelor asking for little more than his stamps and his sister's rantings as entertainment. Certainly he wishes for a lover but like his lemonade, he is too sweet, and, like Rosetta, his life is too complete for him to strive for his greatest potential. Leland carries the weight of time in the play; he's the source of information, anecdotes and forebodings. But finally, Leland is the brother of every lesbian's dreams; he says of

the women, "Both are sisters, one by blood, the other by heart."

The two-act play is comprised of ten scenes spanning the years 1930 to 1969. As what came naturally—meditatively—to Writer/Director Ranson, the scenes are dated and titled. Scenes 1,2 and 3 of Act I are entitled "Rosetta's baby is born", "Phoebe and Rosetta acknowledge love", and "Rosetta moves out". All take place in the simple, boarding house room where the dialogue is as comical as informational, with the two women playing tug-of-war with their independent selves. Leland acts as straight man for much of the schtick, but it is his role as a reflective character that adds the high gloss to these first three highly polished scenes. Icing on the cake comes in the second scene with Rosetta as instigator, opening the secret door to Phoebe's tenderness. Here, Duke and Hammett display thorough understanding of their characters and give the audience some meat to sink their teeth in.

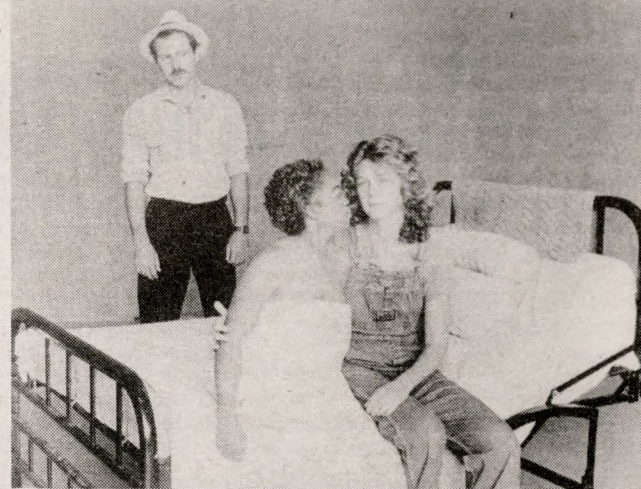
Phoebe's gift in the third scene leaves all three of them wide open for attack. All I can say is "Goddamnit" and watch out!

Thirteen years have passed. Now it's 1969 and "Leland retires from the fight", but not before he brings us up to date. The fight is for civil rights and Leland, now 64, bristles with pride won by surpassing even the wildest of his expectations. Then on to Scene 7, "1969, Rosetta dies". Thanks for the warning! Of all ten, this final scene is the least precious. Its failing, due perhaps in part to my own expectations, rests in the character of Phoebe. She says she is mad, but where is the anger. Where is the desperation when she asks, "You aren't going to die on me are you?" This is an aged amazon warrior and I anticipated that distillation of character that age brings. Despite this minor inconsistency, the end is effective—all ends tied neatly.

The strong performances by all three actors make it public knowledge that Ranson's visitors are as generous with their selves as with their story.

—Jessi McVay

Secrets runs through Oct. 23 at Nexus Theatre, 608 Ralph McGill Blvd, Thursday—Sunday at 8PM. Tickets are \$10 and are available in advance at Charis Books and More. Reservations can be made by calling 688-2500. NOTE: There will be no performance on Oct. 20.



Leland (Terry Wells), Rosetta (Deborah Duke) and Phoebe (Melanie Hammett) in Ranson's *Secrets*.

PAMELA J. COLE

Dianne Davidson

Olivia's "Second Wave" Artist Breaks All The Rules

Dianne Davidson's new album, *Breaking All the Rules* (Second Wave Records, a division of Olivia Records), doesn't really break all the rules, but the ones it does break may signal a welcome change in the direction of traditional "women's" music. Most noticeable is the departure from the folk vein regularly associated with "women's" music (June Millington and Tret Fure notwithstanding).

According to a press release, Dianne "doesn't care if (her music) is called blues, rock, country, folk or 'field and stream,'" and there's quite a mix on this record.

Side one starts off with a rockin' Karla Bonoff/Kenneth Edwards tune called "Trouble Again," followed by a reggae number written by Dianne, "What'm I Gonna Do." There's the more folk-oriented songs, like "Tonight I'll Dream That You Care" (Dianne's) and "Song of Bernadette" (Jennifer Wames, Leonard Cohen, W. Elliot), and a killer blues, Willie Dixon's "Built For Comfort." Dianne's vocals shine on all the cuts—kind of like Tracy Nelson meets Tracy Chapman and then some (Tracy Nelson even provides some back up on "Keep My Love Light Burnin'"). Dianne handles all these differing types of music with ease, at times (like on "Built For Comfort" and the gospel "Heaven Bound") becoming downright thrilling.

So what else is breaking some rules on this album? How about this switch: the almost expected tribute to Mom is replaced by the powerful "Song For My Father" (*But now when I think about him there's laughter in my eyes/It's the last gift from my father*). And then there's that gospel tune, a genre that's largely ignored by "women's" music, excepting of course Sweet Honey in the Rock. This is a rouser, featuring some good chorus work by the Dennis Family, although inexplicably producer Dianne chose to fade out the ending instead of treating us to a stirring gospel ending.

Another difference is the new record label—Second Wave. Olivia calls this their "mainstream" label. Sad but true, radio stations and other promotional folks tend to totally ignore Olivia and other "women's" labels, so this marks an attempt to break away from the old perceptions and try for more widespread recognition for artists.

The musicianship here is commendable, featuring Linda Geiger on drums, Leigh Maples on bass, and Nina Gerber, Dianne and Larry Chaney on guitars. Good, tight arrangements abound, although occasionally (as on "Built For Comfort") the guitar breaks are a bit of letdown from the sheer excitement of Dianne's voice.

All in all, *Breaking All the Rules* is a well done album. A couple of songs ("So Lucky" and "Keep My Love Light Burning") are not quite up to par with the rest of the songs, but Dianne's rich, strong vocal carries even those. And there's the almost *de rigueur* AIDS song ("Killer Without A Heart"), this time with deep, very deep, emotion (*Young lives lose the fight overnight/To a killer without a heart/It's without a heart*). It's heart-rending. Simply heart-rending.

This is actually Dianne's fourth album, her first with Second Wave (*Baby, Backwoods Woman*, and *Mountain Mama* were all recorded on Janus Records. She'll be in Atlanta performing at Olivia's 15th Anniversary Concert in November.

—KC Wildmoon



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Living With AIDS: "I Hope You're Being Careful."

I just talked to my girlfriend. She was upset about telling people what I do for a living. She said she couldn't lie, she wasn't good at that. And anyway, I'm so up front about it, that she couldn't deny me.

I said don't answer at all. Say it's too personal.

But she always answered questions put to her. She didn't want to do that. The problem was the asking person's response.

"I hope you're being careful."

She doesn't like to be questioned like this. She doesn't say that to friends when they take on a new lover.

She doesn't like to be questioned about safe sex.

'Cause we don't practice safe sex.

A lot of lesbians don't.

Most of us read the break down of the victim statistics, and sigh with relief that lesbians don't seem to get AIDS.

My girlfriend and I discussed our risk and made decisions before our first sexual encounter.

I insisted on us wearing gloves.

She didn't like them. She couldn't tell how I was built inside, how I felt, where I was wet.

We talked again. We had sex again, without the gloves. It was better without them.

Tonight she said the response about being careful brought up her fears, and she wasn't used to being in fear. She had forgotten her fears.

Her fears about me getting AIDS or other sexually-transmitted disease. About her catching the diseases. Of me dying. Of her dying.

She said "the response" made her question our decision to not practice safe sex.

I asked if she had changed her mind.

No. And she didn't want to deal with it, she said.

It would be great if we could wish it all away. Instead of talking, or arguing, about it. I wish none of us had to worry about catching disease while making love.

I want to be spontaneous, and not use latex, because it tastes bad, and ruins the touch sensation.

But dykes hardly ever get AIDS. Maybe we can't pass it.

But some dykes are at higher risk because of their lifestyles—needles, transfusions, sex with men.

Some dykes have sex with men. For money, only.

I have sex with men for money, and I am a dyke, and at greater risk to contract a sexually transmitted disease. This is true.

We make our choices facing these facts.

My girlfriend had forgotten her fears until someone asked her what her new girlfriend did for a living.

I suggested that she prepare pat answers to answer with.

Maybe turnabout is fair play. "Well, I hope you and your lover are being careful, too."

Or, perhaps a mini lecture would do. "Nancy is very active in the safe sex movement. She lectures and demonstrates for groups. She knew about AIDS before most people. She's used



Nancy Oswald (Photo by Lynn Levy)

condoms and gloves with her clients for more than five years. We all should do what we can to educate people about this horrible health crisis."

Remember, their questions probably aren't meant to be bossy or nosy. They're probably concerned for your well being, and need to be reassured that you are aware of the risks. It all depends on who these people are that you tell.

Or avoid "the response" by not telling what I do. Tell them I'm an entrepreneur, that I run a cottage industry, that I free-lance. You won't be hurting me not to tell. I don't expect you to become an advocate for prostitutes' rights.

Tell them I am a student. If they push, and want to know what I do for money, say I'm a writer.

Or change the topic and tell them I sing like an angel.

I'm sorry you went through this. What you're feeling is normal. The word prostitute always affects people.

It's not easy defending a social pariah.

And anyway, you don't have to defend our choices.

We are the ones who live, or die, with our decisions.

- Nancy Oswald

Updates

Kitty Dukakis Supports Federal AIDS Policy

Kitty Dukakis, wife of Democratic presidential nominee Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis, told a dozen San Francisco AIDS-service organization leaders last month that she would like to see more federal involvement in the fight to conquer AIDS.

"Until the federal government begins to focus on this epidemic, we will have large numbers dying of AIDS," she said. "The President must proclaim that those deaths are unacceptable and morally wrong."

Calling AIDS "the worst health crisis the United States has ever faced," Dukakis added that a federal policy should include accelerated drug trials, legislation prohibiting discrimination against people with AIDS and more educational programs.

"Federal education efforts are long overdue," she said. "It is intolerable that anyone should become infected through ignorance."

After her meeting with the organization

leaders, Dukakis promised to "go back and share with my husband what I have learned."

While in San Francisco, Dukakis also delivered a meal and a hug to a 29-year-old AIDS patient. The patient is one of 450 in the San Francisco area who receives meals from Open Hand, a non-profit group that prepares 900 meals per day at the Trinity Episcopal Church kitchen.

Quayle Interrupted by ACT-UP Protest

Sen. Dan Quayle (R-Ind.) was interrupted with chants of "Forty thousand dead of AIDS, where was Dan?" while speaking at the Statue of Liberty last month.

Forty-five AIDS activists received an angry Republican response during the September 5th protest which was staged by the New York-based AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) and received an angry Republican response.

"A couple of our people got their glasses broken and there were a few punches thrown," said Bill Bahlman, an ACT-UP

representative.

Quayle was forced to stop speaking while the protesters changed for one-and-one-half minutes.

"The whole crowd of about 300 people was brought out to the island by the Republicans," said Bahlman. "They were furnished with signs and flags to wave. Everything looked really patriotic until our "AIDSGATE" signs went up about seven feet from the podium."

As ACT-UP's signs went up, members of Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), a right-wing group, attempted to block the ACT-UP signs with GOP signs. YAF's attempt was futile since the ACT-UP signs were bigger.

Quayle continued his speech by acknowledging that the GOP has a poor image on civil rights issues, but added that he plans to improve that image.

After the speech, ACT-UP members were escorted by Park Service police to a specially commissioned tour boat.

"Members of our group infiltrated their group and word came back that members of the Young Americans For Freedom were planning to beat the shit out of us on the ferry during the trip back," Bahlman said. "The Parks people decided to avoid a confrontation and provided us with alternative transportation."

PWAs Score Victory in Health Care

New York—People with AIDS (PWAs) have won an important victory for their rights. New York City's Human Rights Commission ordered a dental clinic to pay \$47,000 to two men it refused to serve. One of the men has AIDS, the other has tested positive for the HIV antibody.

The clinic was also ordered to post a sign saying it does not discriminate against disabled people, including PWAs or those who test HIV positive.

During testimony heard by the Commission, it became clear that the clinic had the capability of treating the two longtime clients by using infection control techniques already in place, and that refusal to do so represented little more than prejudice based on irrational fear.

The clinic, Northern Dispensary of Manhattan, will now have to pay George Whitmore and David Whittacre \$26,647 and \$20,120, respectively.

Commission chairman John E. Brandon said the ruling is the first of its kind in the nation, and added, "This case is an important step forward in preserving the rights and dignity of all people."

- F. G.

Gay Center Loses at City Council; Vows to Keep Trying

Atlanta—The Atlanta City Council voted October 3 to deny a special use permit requested by the Atlanta Gay Center (AGC) for its proposed new site at 525 Parkway Drive. AGC board member Bill Gripp said afterward that his group would search out other ways to make use of the property.

The City Council voted 13-1 against the special use permit as part of a larger package of negative recommendations from the council's Zoning Committee. Approval of the request would have allowed the AGC to relocate its operations, which include a sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic, to the Bedford Pine neighborhood. Among the functions of the STD clinic is anonymous testing for HIV.

AGC board member Bill Gripp has repeatedly charged that the neighborhood reacted out of homophobia and AIDS-phobia in opposing the special use permit, and said that his group was "not finished" with the property in question. AGC officials have also blamed city Councilmember Bill Campbell for stirring up much of the rancor surrounding the issue.

Valena Henderson, president of the neighborhood planning unit that includes Bedford Pine, re-asserted after the council vote that her group's only reason for opposition to the proposed zoning variance was a desire to maintain the residential quality of the neighborhood. "I am not against people with AIDS," she said. "AIDS is a disease, just like any other."

Although Gripp declined to discuss his group's plans in detail, he did hint that the AGC was considering the possibility of maintaining the clinic at a location separate from other gay center activities. Such a change might better their chances of getting to use the Bedford Pine property.

Campbell called the meeting due to "30 to 40 calls" he said he received about the move.

Campbell claims that the issue is strictly a zoning matter, and dismissed charges that his opposition was politically motivated. Campbell has voted for pro-gay/lesbian ordinances in the past, and has traditionally been seen as an ally by the Atlanta gay/lesbian community.

Other politicians who have publicly stated their opposition to the special use request include state Senator Nan Orrock and Councilmember Rob Pitts, both of whom also have pro-gay/lesbian records.

The owners of 525 Parkway Drive, Lonnie and Mercedes King, have testified that they offered the AGC the rental of the house after their own personal experiences with AIDS and homophobia led them to recognize the importance of services offered by the Center. Mercedes King has lost one son to AIDS, and another son is currently diagnosed with the disease.

Campbell has denied that his opposition to the AGC move is based on hostilities left over from a 1981 council race between himself and Mercedes King, but political observers point out that King filed charges against Campbell based on alleged election fraud in their race. The charges were dismissed on a technicality.

While most people who testified against the zoning variance denied that their opposition was based on homophobia and AIDS-phobia, they all invariably mentioned the combined presence of the STD clinic and young children in the area as reasons for opposing the request.

Speaking after the council vote, Henderson added "we did not have enough evidence that (the AGC) would not be 'strewing' their needles and waste in the community."

—Chris Duncan

Metro AIDS Ministry Announces Offerings for Fall 1988

The Unitarian Universalist Metro Ministry of Atlanta, now in its third year of operation, has expanded its offering of services to people with AIDS and ARC and their friends and families.

This fall the Metro Ministry will include monthly healing services, a closed growth group for PWAs/PWARCs, and a seminar on personal belief called "Building Your Own Theology".

Healing services will be held November 13 and December 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way, N.E. Rev. Chancey states that the idea of religious healing of physical ailments is foreign within the Unitarian Universalist tradition. "We don't claim or even attempt to heal anyone of a disease, but we do wish to try to provide a place where people can begin to heal their emotions and their beliefs. And if that does not prolong life, it does give it a higher quality."

Spaces are still open in the theology seminar and closed growth group. "Building Your Own Theology" is a seminar style class combining lecture, readings and discussion. Its purpose is to help participants understand, develop and articulate their own values and to provide a process for writing one's own "credo" or "I Believe" statement based on a religious model.

Rev. Chancey said, "As important as individual counseling and support is we also see how people with AIDS as well as those affected by the crisis need more opportunities to build community and we saw some unique ways where we could help. Except for Metropolitan Community Church and the Congregationalists we Unitarian Universalists are the only ones who view gayness as a valid lifestyle."

For more information call Joe Chancey at (404) 688-6163 between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Candidates Vague on Gay/Lesbian Issues

Close to 100 people attended a candidates' forum on October 4th, hosted by the Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition (GAPAC). This is the third year GAPAC has sponsored the event where local political hopefuls field questions from the lesbian and gay community. Eleven of the 12 candidates who attended are running for the Georgia General Assembly.

Although all candidates voiced support of such issues as repeal of the sodomy law and increased funding for AIDS, there were some uneducated statements made, particularly by Ken Hoose, a Republican running against Manuel Maloof for chief executive officer of DeKalb County. In response to a question concerning the rights of lesbians and gays to retain custody of their natural children or to become adoptive parents, Hoose stated, "If you have the child you can raise it, and continue to if the child does not show tendencies to the gay/lesbian lifestyle in its formative years."

One angry member of the audience shouted, "My straight parents had no influence on me being gay."

Hoose expressed his stand on the sodomy law by saying, "I think the sodomy law is stupid. It's your business. I think if you do it in public on the Chattahoochee River - that's different. That goes for AC/DC, too."

It is not uncommon for candidates to take a positive stand on lesbian and gay issues in recent years. What is uncommon is for them to take any action on those issues once



Ken Hoose

elected, especially newly elected officials. GAPAC Chair Marie J. Murray explained, "There is no way a freshman can be a leader. If you charge out on a controversial issue, you are going to negate your effectiveness."

Murray continued, "The only one who was really honest was Jackie Saylor (D-House District 25)." Saylor said, "There is no way I could be a leader in repealing the sodomy law. But I could help."

Murray labeled the forum a success despite the tendency of the candidates to speak in "vague general terms."

"At least they are interested in a dialogue," Murray stated. "By coming to the forum, it says there is a real potential in the gay community for political clout."

Georgia General Assembly candidates present at the forum were Incumbent Jim Martin (D-House 26), Melody Harrison (R-House 26), Incumbent John E. Thompson (R-House District 39), Ralph Abernathy III (D-House 39), Joseph Baltes (R-House 40), Tim Riley (D-Senate District 40), Doug Teper (D-House 46), Ken Quarterman (R-House 46), Thurbert Baker (D-House District 51), and Jackie Saylor (D-House District 25) and DeKalb Chief Executive Officer candidate Ken Hoose.

—G. Weston

Phoebe and Rosetta...

Their love story lasts 39 years



SECRETS

Rebecca Ranson's new play.

Nexus Theater.

October 6 - October 23

Advance tickets available at Charis Books and More
Call 688-2500 for reservations or 584-2104 for groups and information.



**Southeastern
Arts, Media and
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KEEP REFRIGERATED

Lynn Lavner

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With Special Guest Doug Lothes

Friday November 4, 7:30 pm & 10:00pm, Seven Stages/Collective Theater
 \$10 paid in advance, \$12 paid at the door
 Charis Books and More, 430 Moreland Avenue
 Or Reserve Seats by Calling SAME, 584-2104

Star Gays

by Martia Proba
 October 11-24

The Sun transits the sign of Libra—a cardinal air sign. The symbol for Libra is the scales and most Libras struggle with the need to balance their lives.



LIBRA On the 14th, you should have fortunate financial times. Try romance with an Aquarius on the 18th. If you have a project you want to start, do it on the 11th.



SCORPIO You normally extra-energetic people are being slowed down by Mercury's retrograde motion. However, after the 20th, go all out with another Scorpio, especially on the 22nd.



SAGITTARIUS Watch for a beautiful Virgo on the 14th. Get all your flings and one-night stands completed before the 22nd. Like it or not, it's time for introspection.



CAPRICORN The Moon in your sign on the 17th indicates a blue Monday. All is not glum—the Full Moon of the 24th could provide a hot romantic experience.



AQUARIUS If you take a trip on the 19th, go alone. Your lover can do no wrong for most of this period, as Venus transits your 7th house of partnership.



PISCES For a good time, do it with a Libra on the 17th. The Sun in your 8th house until the 22nd suggests you look into your taxes.



ARIES The Sun in your 7th house highlights close personal relationships. If you don't have one, check out an Aquarius on the 20th.



TAURUS You stubborn ones will continue to have to deal with health issues until the Sun leaves your 6th house on the 22nd. Venus, your ruler, favors an alliance with a Scorpio on the 14th.



GEMINI Until the 22nd, you can indulge in life's little pleasures (like Pisces) but when the Sun moves into your 6th house, it's time to get into shape. Exercise with a Leo on the 23rd.



CANCER Your behind-the-scenes career maneuvering could pay off on the 14th. If you feel sick, let a Capricorn take care of you on the 22nd.

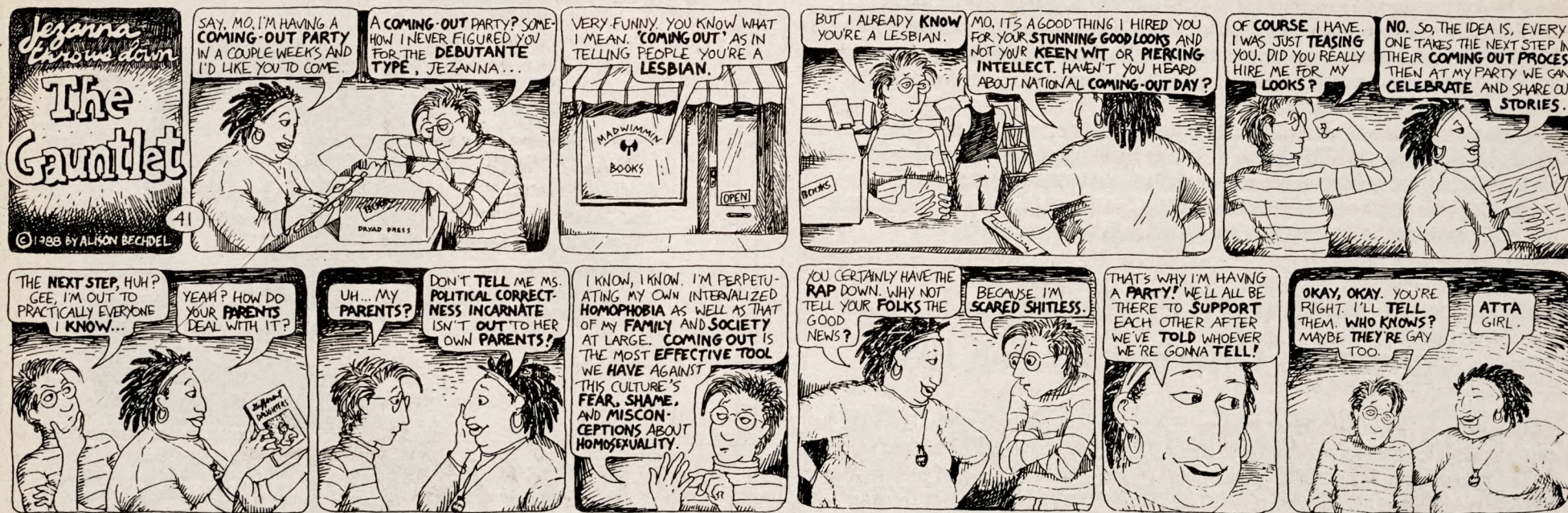


LEO With the Sun in your 3rd house, you may be tempted to take short trips. Avoid this on the 18th. Find a Sagittarius on the 14th and fireworks explode.



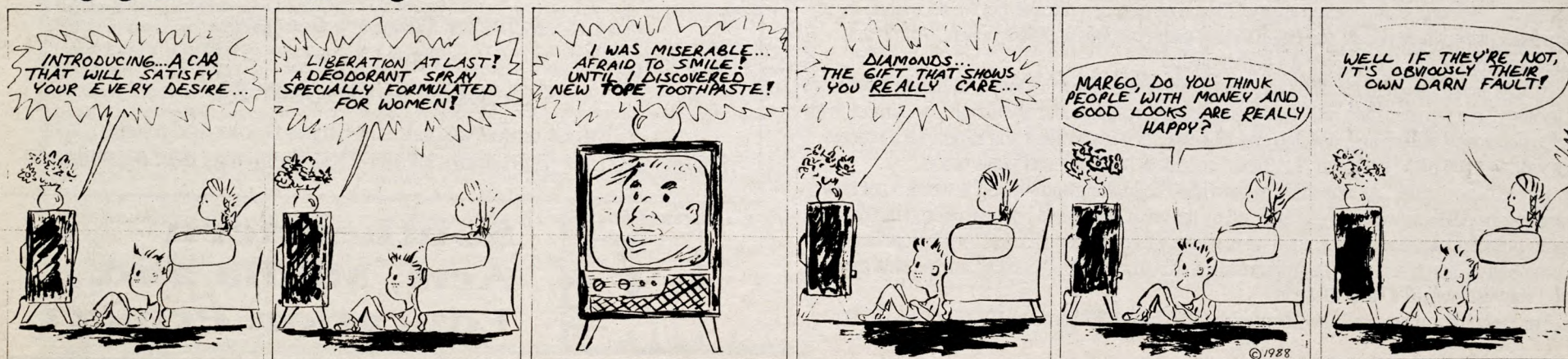
VIRGO Job pressures ease on the 11th as the Sun conjuncts Mercury in your 2nd house. You are in the spotlight on the 19th. Look for an Aquarius to be generous on the 20th.

Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Magee- Realtor. With this ad, my share of any commission realized with you will be donated to AID Atlanta. 688-1222/876-5313.(V1#17)

Auditions for AN ANSWER OF LOVE, an original play that is destined to become a hit. Needed: female, 25-30, able to do sarcastic comedy well; female, 25-30, lawyer, pragmatic type; female, 45+, earth mother type; male, 25-30, sensitive, lead; male, 20-25, younger brother type; male, 30-ish, handsome; male, 30-ish, district attorney, arrogant SOB type; male 50-ish, typical hard drinking Irish father type. Rehearsals begin in November for end-of-the-year run. For audition/more info call Chip at 404-451-1502.(V1#17)

Help a PWA and the environment with one phone call! Will pick up and recycle your aluminum cans if you call me at 252-4325.(V1#19)

HALLOWEEN PARTY! Romanovsky & Phillips in concert. Oct. 31 at 8:00 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. Tickets available at Charis Books and The Boy Next Door. Special guest: Carolyn Mobley. Sign language interpretation. Sister Sister Productions. 377-8312. (V1#18)

Come on out for the Ben Jones Phone Bank. Let's show Ben that we live in his district too, and support the defeat of Pat Swindall. Lesbians and gay men will staff the phone bank on October 18th from 5:30PM - 9:30PM. We need 35 volunteers to get the job done. Call 377-8312 to let us know you will be there. (V1#17)

EMPLOYMENT

Dancer's Bicycle Shop in Little 5 Points is looking for experienced part times sales help. Will train right person. Potential for full-time employment in Spring. Call or come by for an interview. 522-9156. (V1 #17)

Part-time bookkeeper needed for small data processing consulting firm. Would like to hire a PWA or PWARC. Call J. Tyler at 355-0376. (V1#17)

Tired of politics as usual. ACORN, national grassroots organization, has positions available for socially conscious men and women. Must have commitment to people's politics. Open and

EMPLOYMENT

supportive atmosphere. Call 875-6903, 9AM - Noon, Mon.-Thurs. (V1#17).

FUN! EXCITEMENT! MONEY! Advertising Reps needed for *Southern Voice*. You make the hours, you make the commission, **how much is up to you!** Experience is not important, drive and goals are what it takes to succeed, and this may be the job to get you out of that rut. Full time/ part time. Most ad leads provided. Call Chris Cash for an appointment. 827-9678.

FOR SALE

QUARRENDEN Granny Smith Apples. Ready picked @ 48¢/lb, plus 2¢/lb tax. Or pick your own in orchard while supplies last for 24¢/lb plus 1¢ tax. Located on Eppinger Bridge Road (College St.) Concord/Molena. Open Noon to 6 PM Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat. Sun. 495-5488. (V1#17)

HEALTH

Diane Dickson, M.A., M.Ed. Counseling and psychotherapy. Individuals, couples, career. Affordable fee scale. Most insurance accepted. 662-4066. (V1#20)

Brenda L. Hawkins, Ed. D. Licensed Psychologist, counseling, psychotherapy and hypnotherapy. (404) 872-9016. (V1#17)

SHARON J. SANDERS PSYCHOTHERAPY 1549 Clairmont Rd. S #108 Decatur Ga. (404) 373-0278. (V1#15)

PERSONALS

Black Lesbian, 29, educated, honest, sincere, sense of humor. Looking to meet other lesbians any age for quiet moments. Hoping to eventually meet that one special lady. S.V. Box 2224 (V1#19)

GWF, 32, BRIGHT, PROFESSIONAL, ATTRACTIVE, humorous, positive, new to Atlanta. If you enjoy museums, symphonies, movies and good conversation then I'd like to hear from you. Photo nice, not necessary. S.V. Box 2222 (V1#17)

Handsome, GWM, 28, 5'11", 165, lonely in north Georgia. Wants intelligent, good-looking, hairy, safe buddies, chubs esp., for fun in good ole boy small town or Atlanta. Photo/phone. All answered. S.V. Box 2220 (V1#17)

PERSONALS

Bi/GWF sought by BiWM to understand each other when others can't. We both have good. looks, careers, supportive, interest in children and being life-long friends. P. O. Box 13694, Atlanta 30324. (V1#17)

GWF, 28, attractive, talented, intelligent, seeks fun date. For exceptional women only. No drinkers or druggies. Send photo and note. SV Box 2228. (V1#19)

Professional GWM, 38, 5'10", 155 lbs., moustache, honest, sincere, relationship oriented, HIV negative, not into bar scene, wants to meet similar for friendship, possible relationship. P.O. BOX 95249, Atlanta, GA 30347-0249. (V1#20)

Want to have a baby? GWJM sought by GWJF for purposes of co-parenting. Let's meet and discuss details. All serious inquiries answered. SV Box 2222. (V1 #17)

LAV-Happy Birthday my love. Oct. 22nd is your day. What Miss All wants-Miss All gets! CC

ROOMMATES

Roommate Needed - Lesbian, non-smoker to share Grant Park home with another Lesbian. Private bath, bedroom, air conditioning, off street parking, share kitchen, living room. \$300.00/month, including utilities. 627-5619. (V1#17)

Starr, S.C. near Anderson, S.C. Share double-wide. \$35/week. Country setting. 5 min. from Hartwell, Ga. Race, ex-prisoners, handicapped, M/F, OK. Rt. 2, Box 273, Starr, S.C. 29684. (V1#17)

SERVICES

Personal problems and relationship issues. Men's group forming. The Center for Counseling Services. 1831 Independence Square, Dunwoody, Ga. (404) 394-5447. (V1 #17)

TRANSPERSONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY Meditation Instruction • Massage. Patrick de Sercey. 237-4658. Evenings and Weekends. (V1#17)

We care, And we will give you a fair price on the highest quality eyewear available. Optical Stores Inc., 2441 Cheshire Bridge Rd. (404) 636-9811. (V1#17)

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2. Specify what heading, how many issues the ad is to run, and style information.

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STILL only \$3.00 for 30 words for 3 issues!

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(For phone verification)

Remembering Their Names: The Quilt Returns to D.C.

Marjorie Eicher stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial staring out at the sea of candles competing with the glow of the Washington Monument in the dark reflecting pool, and cried. She was the rule rather than the exception as thousands gathered for the Candlelight March Against AIDS the first evening of the NAMES Project Quilt's return to Washington, D.C.

She, her husband, and their 39 year old gay-activist son had traveled from Sarasota, Fla to see the gigantic quilt that contained a panel made for her son's buddy, who had died earlier this year. Eicher was first introduced to the AIDS memorial when her son loaned her a copy of *The Quilt*, the official recording of the Quilt's first trip to D.C.

"I read the book, and I just found myself weeping constantly throughout it," she said. "It was the same feeling I had when I first saw the Vietnam Memorial—all the names, all the lives, all the waste—and it really moves me to tears."

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt contains 8,228 grave-size panels, plus some 100 last minute additions that were brought to the display by friends and lovers.

Remember their names is the quiet command of the Quilt. It echoes through you when you step on the white canvass walkways. Remember their names, call their names—paste their names on the stark numbers you hear everyday.

Cleve Jones, Quilt creator and NAMES Project executive director, sadly pointed out, however, that each panel represents some four other people who have no display in the



CHRIS DUNCAN

Thousands gathered at the Lincoln Memorial after a candlelight march that began at the site of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Park police estimated the 20-block crowd at 8,600 people.

mobile AIDS memorial.

The Quilt returned to Washington October 8th & 9th, one year after its inaugural unfolding during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The Quilt contained less than 2,000 panels at that time.

The purpose of the Quilt, according to Jones, is to put the humanity back into the horrendous AIDS-mortality figures. In an age that commonly discusses matters involving numbers in the billions and trillions, a number like 42,142 sounds insignificant. Until, that is, you put the names beside every statistic.

As the first touch of daylight began to wake up the city Saturday morning, Jones began the litany of names that would end 11 hours later. He stood with the White House behind him, and began the roll call of the dead which has never been fully acknowledged by the man on whose front

lawn he was standing.

The Quilt is both awe-inspiring and overwhelming with the brutal force of the energy it exudes. Once out among the panels, most people don't last for very long before taking a breather on the side. There is a high-pitched wail that underlies the nine acres of fabric that is oddly comforting—it speaks of grief enacted and the pain of loss soothed by love.

Almost pagan in its inclusion of items offered for the comfort of the dead, the Quilt contains stuffed animals, clothing from leather to sequins, cremation ashes, rhinestones, photographs, flags, merit badges, a Buddhist saffron robe and mardi gras masks.

Quilt panels range from the stark to the intricate, some using only initials or first names, others proudly spelling out the loved ones name and affiliations. One message left on the quilt said:

Take care of
my beloved Jack,
He's so gentle—Don't
let him be frightened.
Tell him to wait for
me—I will love him
always.

I doubt that anyone beside Jack and his lover will ever know their identity, but their presence will always be felt whenever the Quilt is unfolded.

Remember their names is the quiet command of the Quilt. It echoes through you when you step on the white canvass walkways. Remember their names, call their names—paste their names on the stark numbers you hear everyday.

By keeping the names of people who have died due to AIDS alive, Cleve Jones has protected AIDS-affected communities' right to grieve their unnatural loss. The Quilt has become the national memorial to people who have died due to AIDS, and it is also their national cemetery. By reciting the human toll of the epidemic, the Quilt allows us to grieve our personal and communal losses. We are made whole by the Quilt at the same time it breaks us with its heavy burden of lost life and lost love.

Throughout the two days of its display, the NAMES Project estimated that 200,000 people stepped onto the Quilt, and 150,000 participated in the Candlelight March. The National Park Service, on the other hand, estimated the crowd at the Quilt at 15,000, and the number of marchers at 8,600. We urge those of you who were present for the weekend to call the Park Service at (202) 343-1100, and tell them you want to be added to their list. Be kind, it gets mighty confusing when you're working with fingers and toes.

—Chris Duncan

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