

Mainstream
Christian denominations
may be slow in accepting
lesbians and gay men, but
individual congregations
offer hope.



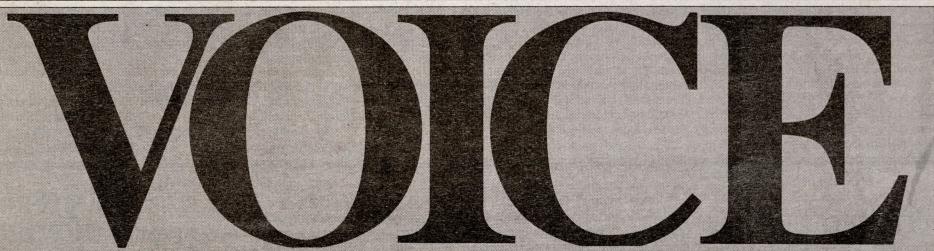
A Number
of up and coming
performers like Leigh
McClelland are featured
in Charlie Brown's
Cabaret



Our Holiday
Gift Guide shows you where to finish your gift gathering in style and without hassle.

Section B

SOUTHERN



Vol. 3, No. 22

"Taking Pride in Our Culture"

December 20, 1990

How do Lesbians and Gay Men Feel About U.S. Military Involvement in the Middle East?

- In your opinion, is the U.S. involvement in Kuwait [Saudi Arabia] appropriate or not? No 42.7% Yes 57.3%
- Should the U.S. use military force in order to protect its oil interests in the Middle East?
 No 60.1%
 Yes 39.9%
- Are you in favor of a U.S. offensive military attack on Iraq and Saddam Hussein, or not? No 71.7%
 Yes 28.3%

Source: Overlooked Opinions' poll of 1000 lesbians and gay men. The questions were fielded during the first two weeks in October.

HIV+ DENTAL STUDENT'S PATIENTS TESTED IN AUGUSTA

GAC says healthcare worker testing likely to top legislative action list

Augusta—A dental student at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) has been removed from taking any further part in clinical care of patients because he has tested positive for HIV antibodies.

The student, whose name has not been released, had an HIV test as part of diagnostic procedures for unspecified medical problems according to Ingrid Heggoy of the MCG. He reported his condition in accordance with MCG policy requiring students to report any communicable diseases from which they may be suffering. Heggoy said that the student, though not seeing patients, is still enrolled in MCG and that school's administration is looking for an alternative method for the student to

continue his curriculum and ultimately receive a degree.

The MCG has sent letters to all of the 163 patients who the student worked on; the letters notify the patients of the the student's HIV status and offer free antibody testing and counseling. As of last Thursday, about 60 patients had responded to the testing offer.

When asked if the incident might result in the the school requiring HIV antibody testing for all incoming and present students, Heggoy replied that "the Dean [David R. Myers] has said that he will look at these and other options." She was not able to elaborate on the options.

Mandatory HIV antibody testing for healthcare providers has been a topic of considerable discussion since this past summer when the CDC reported that an HIV-infected Florida dentist may have passed the virus on to one of his patients.

Patrick McCrary of the Georgia AIDS Coalition(GAC)—the group which lobbies the legislature on AIDS issues—says that he expects defeating legislation which would mandate HIV testing of healthcare workers to be one of the most difficult tasks that his group will face in the upcoming General Assembly session.

According to McCrary, GAC, which previously had announced that it might not have sufficient funds to hire a lobbyist, has now received sufficient pledges to continue with the selection process. As this issue went to press, GAC's Cathalene Tehan reported that the group was in the process of offering a contract to a potential lobbyist. "We should be able to announce the appointment early next week," she said.

Also likely to be introduced this session, according to McCrary and Tehan, is legislation which "mandates the release of AIDS Confidential Information to to sheriff's deputies, police officers and others transporting HIV-positive individuals from one 'institutional care facility' to another." And they expect that health care workers will try to amend current "commitment" legislation to include HIV positive individuals who decline to cease or limit high risk activity, as defined by the committing authorities.

While Georgia seems on the brink of eroding HIV confidentiality rights, the Pennsylvania legislature has unanimously enacted an HIV Confidentiality Law. The law states that one must have written permission from an individual before performing any HIV-related test on them, with the sole exception of involuntary testing of "source patients." No person working with

Continued on page 4

TEXAS JUDGE TRASHES SODOMY STATUTE

Austin—State District Judge Paul Davis has ruled the Texas 1879 sodomy law—which targets only gays and lesbians—unconstitutional. Davis ruled on a civil lawsuit, Morales et. al. v. Texas, which challenged section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. The plaintiff, Morales, was sponsored by the Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF). Austin attorney Patrick Wiseman represented the plaintiffs.

The Texas sodomy law, a misdemeanor, is punishable by a \$200 fine.

THRF filed the suit on the grounds that the law was an invasion of privacy; a denial of due process and equal protection; and violated the Equal Rights Amendment to the Texas Constitution.

Because none of the plaintiffs had actually been criminally charged under the law, the suit was brought in civil court. Attorneys for the state argued that Texas' bifurcated court system, with its distinct separation between civil and criminal courts, made the case invalid, but Davis disagreed. He issued a summary ruling on Dec. 10 after hearing short verbal arguments. A written ruling, which will actually strike down the law, is expected early in January.

According to the *Dallas Voice*, the only evidence the state offered in defense of the law was testimony by psychologist Dr. Paul Cameron who was expelled from the American Psychological Association in 1976 over concerns he was deliberately misrepresenting research about homosexuality.

Observers reported that the state did not seem particularly concerned with trying to defend the law under which arrests are seldom made. The sodomy law has, however, been used to to paint lesbians and gay men as *de jure* criminals and thus support discrimination in employment, adoption and child custody cases. The Dallas Police Department recently used the law as justification not to hire openly lesbian Mica England. England is suing the DPD, and Davis' ruling is expected to help her case.

There is some question about whether Davis' ruling is valid only in Travis County where he sits, or whether—because Travis County is home to the state capitol,

Austin—the action affects the entire state.

Texas Attorney General-elect Dan Morales is expected to appeal the ruling as part of his job to uphold and protect the laws of the state. But Morales is generally considered good on gay and lesbian issues and, in fact, won community support in his recent election by saying he was opposed to the sodomy statute.



EVETT BENNET

Frohnmayer: "The treatment which I personally have received from members of the gay and lesbian community (whether they are associated with NGLTF, I do not know) has been demeaning, inaccurate, and unwarranted—often exhibiting the very characteristics which those members would not have directed toward themselves." he wrote. "Understanding of differences is fundamental both to the acceptance of art and to all of our ability to live together in this nation."

FROHNMAYER FIRES BLISTERING MISSIVE TO TASK FORCE

by Cliff O'Neill

Washington-National Endowment for the Arts Chairman John E. Frohnmayer has finally responded to request for a meeting with gay and lesbian activists with a scathing letter in which he charges that he has been terribly mistreated by gay and arts activists.

Writing to Peri Jude Radecic, lobbyist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task

Force, Frohnmayer (who referred to the lobbyist as Ms. Rednick) insisted that the "charge that anti-lesbian/gay discrimination exists at the [NEA] is without foundation," arguing that the basis for giving grants "is now and always has been artistic excellence and artistic merit based on the broad guidelines in our enabling legislation."

In his letter, Frohnmayer openly offered to meet with gay activists, a development Radecic welcomed. As of press time, a meeting between the two was "in negotiations," according to Radecic, but would probably not happen until at least January.

Frohnmayer, who was out of the country until mid-December, was unavailable for comment.

Frohnmayer repudiated suggestions that he has refused to meet with gay activists, pointing to a "broadly representative group" he met with last year in conjunction with the national "Day Without Art" effort. He further pointed out that his staff members have on occasion spoken to Radecic.

Radecic initially requested a meeting with Frohnmayer last April in a letter seeking to discuss his then-recent revocation of NEA grants from one feminist and three gay and lesbian oriented performance artists. Although Radecic and another lesbian activist met with a high ranked NEA staffer shortly afterwards, repeated requests for a meeting with Frohnmayer went unanswered.

The chairman's November 23 letter marks the first official communication from the Endowment chairman to the gay and lesbian lobbying group since Radecic's spring request for a meeting.

"I think the fact that he responded finally is significant," said Radecic afterwards. "I think what Mr. Frohnmayer is saying is, 'Let's put some things behind us and let's negotiate the future.' ... I think that on a very basic level, we're on the same side. And we need to establish that and figure out where we need to go and that we're both saying the same thing."

Gay and arts activists have, over his nearly 18-month tenure, had a tenuous relationship with Frohnmayer, who while personally standing up for the Endowment's granting of funds for a gay and lesbian film festival and a series of lesbian-oriented poems, also cancelled (and later restored) funding to an AIDS-oriented project in New York and was pivotal in the spring decision to cancel the grants to the four performance artists.

BUSH SIGNS IMMIGRATION BILL

Act voids gay ban immediately, orders Sullivan to revise disease list

by Cliff O'Neill

Washington—President Bush has signed into law a broad-based immigration reform bill which includes a provision striking the U.S.'s longstanding ban on gay immigrants and visitors and effectively ordering removal of the three-year-old prohibition against entry by foreigners with AIDS and HIV infection.

The bill was signed at a White House ceremony in which the President also gave his formal approval to a stack of other measures approved in the final moments of the 101st Congress.

Unlike two other signing ceremonies this year for bills of interest to the gay and AIDS communities, representatives from gay groups were not invited to attend.

"This bill is good for families, good for business, good for crime fighting and good for America," Bush said of the measure.

The act dramatically changes the quotas of immigrants which will be allowed in from a variety of nations, and more than doubles the numbers of immigrants allowed into the country for specific purposes of employment.

But most notable to gays and lesbians worldwide is that the measure at last strikes this nation's ban on immigration by gays and lesbians.

"I am...pleased to note that this act facilitates immigration not only in numerical terms, but also in terms of basic rights of those beyond our borders," said Bush. "[This bill] revises the politically related 'exclusion grounds' for the first time since their enactment in 1952. These revised grounds lift unnecessary restrictions on those who may enter the United States. At the same time, they retain important administrative checks in the interest of national security as well as the health and welfare of U.S. citizens."

The bill also effectively lifts the federal ban on immigration by people with AIDS and HIV infection by ordering Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan to throw out the existing list of "dangerous contagious diseases" for which one may be denied entry and replace it with a list of diseases of "public health significance" crafted by public health experts.

NEWS

ACTIVISTS CALL FOR '92 MARCH ON D.C.

A group of lesbian and gay activists, including many openly gay elected officials, have called for "A Weekend of Protest and Celebration" in Washington D.C. in the spring of 1992. The call leaves open the issue of whether the proposed march and associated demonstrations would be primarily lesbian/gay/AIDS related or whether its focus would be a broader coalition focusing on America's broadening healthcare crisis. A multi-day series of events including lobbying, social gatherings, a march and massive civil disobedience are called for. The focus of the event would be mobilization of voters in the '92 elections. Those wishing to endorse or respond to the call may write to Council Member Brian Cole, Room 307 City Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Or call Cole at (612) 673-2206.

D.C. Insurance Company Recognizes Domestic Partnerships: Fireman's Insurance Company of Washington, D.C. has announced that it now recognizes domestic partnerships as valid on their policies, just like legal marriages. It is the first insurance company in the nation to recognize domestic partnerships according top the Washington Blade.

Essence Magazine Refuses Ad for Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference: In October the BGLLF contracted to place a half-page, \$6,514 ad for its February conference in



the magazine's Jan. 1991 issue. Then, on Nov. 6 Essence CEO, Ed Lewis, refused to run the ad as scheduled. An Essence spokesperson said that the company was concerned that conservative advertisers would object. Phil Wilson, co-chair of BGLLF, called the action shocking because the magazine occasionally runs articles by or about black lesbians and gay men, adding "we were just featured in the September issue of Ebony another popular black magazine. On Nov. 27, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced it was filing a complaint against *Essence* on behalf of BGLLF. Three hours later, the magazine's Carol Lynn Patterson, announced that the ad would run in the Feb. issue, arguably too late to promote the conference adequately. Lambda's Sandra Lowe, however, told the Washington Blade that "nothing's settled," adding "we feel that we've been damaged, and the (Feb.) ad will not just remedy that." Lambda is negotiating with Essence for reparations and to assure that the magazine will not discriminate against lesbians and gay men again.

NOW Boycotts Violent Novel: The Los Angeles chapter of the National Organization of Women is boycotting Brett Easton Ellis' newest novel *American Psycho*. The novel depicts a serial killer as he gruesomely tortures and dismembers women, children and animals. Simon & Schuster had originally intended to publish the book, but sold it to Vintage, an imprint of Random House. Tammy Bruce, President of L.A. NOW says the group hopes to demonstrate that "violence against women in any form is no longer acceptable behavior".

New Studies Lay Old Sexual Myths to Rest: At the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex's 33rd annual meeting in Minneapolis this year, Stephanie Sanders of the Kinsey Institute presented evidence that a significant percentage of self-labeled lesbians report heterosexual fantasies and behavior revealing a higher prevalence of bisexuality among women than previously recognized. In another study presented at the conference, Brian Gladue of North Dakota State University demonstrated that gay men and straight men had equivalent levels of testosterone and "aggressive" behavior. Lesbians and straight women also were found to have the same amounts of testosterone, but lesbians demonstrated less "aggressive" behavior than straight women according to Gladue.

New Anti-porn Laws Cover Home Videos: New federal anti-porn laws passed in the final days of the 101st Congress make it illegal to possess three or more sexually explicit (not simply naked) images of a person under 18 according to Boston's *Guide* magazine. Producers of porn must keep detailed records of all participant's identities. As well, the tapes must bear labels attesting to the validity of these "identity" records. Those who fail to keep such records face up to two years in jail. Included in the regulations are those who film a friend or lover having sex and then share the tape with a third party.

Reporter Sues UPI for \$12.75 Million: Acting on behalf of former reporter Julie Brienza, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and Bernabei & Katz of D.C. have together filed a \$12.75 million law suit against United Press International. Brienza was fired by UPI after a right-wing Christian broadcaster, Vic Eliason, launched an attack on UPI demanding Brienza's ouster because she is a lesbian. Brienza was researching as article for the Washington Blade when she learned of Eliason's efforts to defeat extension of Wisconsin's civil rights laws to lesbians and gay men. When Eliason learned that Brienza worked for UPI, he began a campaign to have her terminated. UPI eventually fired Brienza for allegedly violating its freelancing rules. Brienza is presently seeking reinstatement to her position at UPI, back pay, compensatory damages, and punitive damages against Eliason.

Postcards to the Stars: ACT UP/Portland has sent 500 postcards to Hollywood celebrities which encouraged them to come out of the closet. The post cards read, "How can we gain civil rights if we pretend we don't exist. Come out of the closet!"

Koop Blasts Novello on AIDS: Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop has denounced his successor Dr. Antonia Novello for not making a strong enough effort to educate the general public about AIDS, according to the *New York Times*. Koop feels that the public should know that the epidemic is not slowing down and everyone is still at risk. A spokesperson asserts that Dr. Novello is taking a different approach—attacking the problem at the grassroots level with an "open-door" policy for advocacy groups like ACT UP and the Gay Men's Health Crisis. But a representative from GMHC said that Dr. Novello has not given AIDS the same high priority that Koop did.

Atlanta Begins Curbside Recycling Pilot: The City of Atlanta has initiated a one-year pilot program for curbside collection of recyclable newspaper, aluminum, and plastic for 5,000 households. The project was initiated by Councilwoman Mary Davis. City Sanitation Director Cedric Maddox does not expect curbside collection citywide until mid-1993. The City and Georgia Waste Systems will split the proceeds from the sale of the recyclables.

Bias Incidents Report: The Lesbian and Gay Police Advisory Committee reports two bias-related incidents since our last issue: The bias line has received series of harassing calls from a single individual; the calls are under investigation by the police. The line has also received its third report of harassment by Atlanta Police Officer W.T. Weems who works the day shift in the Grant Park area. Weems reportedly makes aggressive sexual overtures to single men and then either arrests or harasses them whether they respond to his overtures or not. Individuals who experience bias problems are urged to call 286-BIAS to report those incidents. Please see the editorial on page 7 for more information.







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Friends,

Sticks and stones may break our bones, but words can hurt like hell too!!

A project of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter/ACLU of Georgia

Whether it's a physical attack against you, or words hurled like a stone from a passing car, report Hate Crimes by calling 286-BIAS. The information you give counts because you count. Let's make it stick.

Sincerely,



Patients

Cont'd from page 2

HIV testing may release a person's HIV status without that person's informed consent.

The law permits a healthcare workers with "sufficient reason" to request the HIV status of a patient, but the patient can protest this request in court, and if the verdict is confidentiality, then the healthcare worker will be responsible for both party's legal fees. The bill says nothing about the patient requesting a healthcare worker's HIV status.

Another exception in the Pennsylvania law is that funeral directors may be informed of the HIV status of dead bodies. Finally the bill prohibits "blinded testing" for surveys, unless approved by the Institutional Review Board of the State Health Department.

2 2 5

Whether or not Johns Hopkins Hospital feels a healthcare worker's HIV status should be confidential or not, isn't clear. But its administration is obviously concerned about the patients of a recently deceased, HIV positive surgeon who worked at the Baltimore hospital.

Dr. Rudolph Almarez, died several weeks ago, and since then the hospital has sent out approximately 1,800 letters offering his patients free HIV antibody tests.

Even before she got the result of that test, former patient Perry Mahoney Rossi filed a suit against the Almarez estate and Johns Hopkins for compensatory and punitive damages up to \$32 million. She claims that Almarez had the obligation to inform her about his condition so that she

could have "walked out the door."

The surgeon apparently never informed Johns Hopkins or two other hospitals where he practiced of his HIV status. Dr. Almaraz told his lawyer that he contracted the disease while performing surgery in 1984. A representative of Johns Hopkins says that 37 health care workers in this country are believed to have contracted AIDS at work.

In response to the furor over HIV infected doctors, the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR) has announced a "Medical Expertise Retention Program" designed to keep HIV positive doctors working. The program, which will be directed by AIDS civil rights attorney Benjamin Schwartz, has two primary goals: "advocacy of sound, non-fanatical policy and the provision of counseling, retraining, and placement services to physicians who are unable to continue working in their fields of expertise."

Program co-chair Alvin Novick, M.D. says he understands the medical profession must be mindful of the need to protect patients from unreasonable medical risks. But he counters that need with the "large body of evidence [which] demonstrates that the risk to patients from HIV infected physicians is remote."

Novick adds that it would be hypocritical to force restrictions upon HIV positive doctors while allowing doctors with other conditions—such as Hepatitis, drug or alcohol use, sleep deprivation, or stress—to continue working without restriction.

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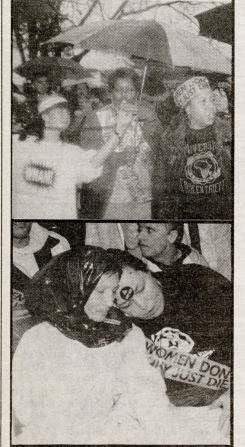
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COPS ARREST 89 AT CDC

Forty-seven Stage Surprise Takeover of Office

by Carrie Wofford

Atlanta—Members of ACT UP broke into and took over the offices of the Deputy Director of AIDS for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on December 3 demanding that the infections of women with HIV/AIDS be recognized and treated. The surprise break-in at the Executive Park office was staged as part of a larger demonstration



by roughly 600 AIDS activists at the CDC's headquarters on the Emory campus. The break-in resulted in 47 arrests, but only after ACT UP had controlled the offices for two hours.

The group of ACT UP/NY and ACT UP/Atlanta members who occupied the offices attempted to reach the press by phone from Gary Noble's (Deputy Director for AIDS) office. "We left him...our demands and left a copy of (ACT UP's book) Women, AIDS, & Activism on his desk," Maxine Wolfe of ACT UP/NY said. In Noble's absence, Jacob Gayle (Director of Minorities and AIDS) "said he agreed with our position, but walked away" when he was asked for a commitment, according to Wolfe.

Meanwhile, activists from ACT UP chapters nationwide joined other groups (AIDS Brigade, Health Force, Women's Health Action and Mobilization) to march on CDC headquarters near Emory. Some demonstrators staged a legal picket while 42 committed acts of civil disobedience, making the total number arrested for criminal trespass 89.

Prior to the picket at the CDC, approximately forty women with AIDS and women members of ACT UP interrupted classes at Emory to distribute fact sheets on women and AIDS.

Organized by the national network of ACT UP chapters, the demonstration—the third major action in 11 months—marked activists' second year of pressuring the CDC to study and count the illnesses of women with HIV infection.

The CDC, in their role of tracking diseases, decides which infections affecting HIV+ people qualify patients as having an AIDS diagnosis. This list is used to determine eligibility for Social Security disability and Medicaid benefits, in addition to being used to determine the nationwide AIDS statistics and consequent health policies.



SKYE MASO

The list, last updated in 1987, includes none of the infections specific to women with HIV infection. According to a July report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, a full 65% of all women who die from AIDS do not meet the CDC's definition of AIDS—approximately 20% die from unknown AIDS-related conditions while 48% of the known opportunistic infections are not counted by the CDC. Additionally, the CDC has yet to conduct a single study on women with HIV, although women are the fastest growing population with AIDS in the U.S.

The protest followed a meeting two weeks before between HIV infected women, ACT UP members and CDC officials in which the CDC refused to upgrade their 1987 Surveillance Definition of AIDS. Maxine Wolfe who attended that meeting reported, "They clearly understand what they're not doing. They're going on with conscious determination and that's why they're criminals."

"I have been hospitalized with [Pelvic

Inflammatory Disease], and have two cases of thrush [vaginal and oral], but they still won't give me Social Security," said Keri Duran of Worcester, MA, during the speakout of women with HIV infection who are excluded from health services by the CDC definition of AIDS. Any man with two concurrent infections of thrush (e.g., esophogial and oral) would qualify, but the CDC refuses to recognize vaginal thrush (candidiasis). Similarly, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease does not qualify with the CDC, although similar infections in immuno-suppressed men (such as herpes zoster) do.

A related national class action suit has been filed against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary Louis Sullivan for their discrimination against women with AIDS, based on HHS' use of the CDC determinations of AIDS, in the distribution of disability benefits. Any HIV infected woman denied disability (SSI/SSD) is asked to contact Terry McGovern at ACT UP/NY, (212)477-6733.

This Holiday Season do more than wish for a cure...

Please support your AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta

There are two ways you can help:

- Make a direct contribution to help continue the HIV database, clinical drug trials and physician education.
- Make a contribution in someone's name, and they or their family will receive an acknowledgement card of your generous gift and thoughtfulness.

We wish you a peaceful and loving Holiday,

Amy Morris
Executive Director

Melanie Thompson, M.D. President

Loretta Redd, PhD Chair of the Board

The ARCA Staff

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BUYING OUT IS TELLING THE TRUTH

Here are two reasons why that's important

Just what does this BUY OUT ad that you've been seeing in Southern Voice mean? We had hoped it would be obvious, but some responses tell us we made too big of an assumption. Let us explain please, because it's particularly important during this holiday buying season.

The purpose of the BUY OUT ads is to encourage you to use Southern Voice advertisers whenever you can and to let those advertisers know you are a Southern Voice reader. We've talked about economic activism before. We remind you often how critical it is to the strength of this newspaper for you to tell advertisers that you are in

their store or using their service because you "saw it in *Southern Voice*." The BUY OUT ad is an attempt to remind you of this again, and again and again.

Pardon our redundancy but we're talking bottom line here, and this is it. If advertisers in Southern Voice think they are getting no response from their ad they will stop advertising with us. The result would be easy to see. Less money for the paper means fewer stories, fewer copies, less quality. We are a free paper and all of our revenue comes from advertising dollars. If that dries up, we dry up. It's a simple formula.

There is another critical component to

"buying out" and it has nothing to do with money or how Southern Voice exists. It has to do with why we exist. One of our goals is to dispel myths about lesbian and gay people. Myths about us, by the way, are what cause all the fear and hatred we have for ourselves and that others have for us. It's why we lose our kids in custody battles, lose our biological families, become addicts of all sorts, and generally feel like an outsider looking in. To do away with those myths you have to tell the truth, there's no other way to do it. Telling the truth about who we are is the most powerful thing we can do for ourselves. It carries the most punch, it's above board, it's beyond reproach.

We try to tell what we think is the truth about lesbian and gay people. That we come in all different colors, sizes, shapes, philosophies and values. That we are geniuses, capitalists, artists, truck drivers, leftist radicals and bone heads. What is not true about us is all those myths. We are not all pedophiles, we do not all have sex in the park, we are

not bad role models for the children in our lives, and we do not have as our agenda to tear down family values, whatever those may be.

Buying out is telling the truth. We're not suggesting you make a point to tell everyone in the store. A simple acknowledgement of where you saw their ad will suffice. That small statement can carry a lot of weight. It's the kind of activism that, pardon our idealism, will change the world. Funny thing is it can change you too if you are not used to doing such things.

And rest assured. An advertiser wants to know who you are. They appreciate feedback. They want to know if they are spending their money wisely. And they would not be in the paper if they did not expect and desire gay and lesbian business.

So this holiday season, and as often as you can, BUY OUT. We'll keep reminding

CARBON COPY

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Center for Nonviolent Social Change
449 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

Dear Mrs. King:

I cannot understand why, with all the idealistic and outstanding and deserving people there are in the world, you had to select General Colin Powell to be the honorary grand marshal at the upcoming King Day Parade.

Do you not realize that the United States military which he heads discriminates against gays and lesbians 365 days a year?

Do you not realize that he is willing to spend the lives of innocent young American women and men to restore a corrupt king with 70 wives to his totalitarian throne in Kuwait and defend countries where women have no rights and can't even drive cars?

Are you not aware that the wasteful military adventures that he promotes are stealing money away from AIDS research, medical care for poor children, and housing for the increasing number of homeless people suffering on our streets?

Why are you insulting us by honoring this man who symbolizes militarism and discrimination on the one day of the year when we should be focusing on nonviolence, equality, and peace?

I cannot understand why.

Yours truly, Dick Richards

Steve Klein, Research Associate at the King Center, replies:"Reasonable people can disagree about the appropriateness of honoring Gen. Powell, who is after all a symbol of achievement and empowerment to millions of African-Americans. Regardless of Gen. Powell's participation in the march and parade, the King Center will remain unalterably opposed to militarism and homophobia and we proudly support gay and lesbian people in their struggle against discrimination, just as we welcome the full participation of the gay and lesbian community in the events of Martin Luther King Jr, week." Mr. Klein gave us this statement before Gen. Powell announced that he would not be able to attend the paradelmarch. -Ed.

TWO MEN AND A BABY?

Editor:

Al Cotton's interview with Franklin Abbott was fascinating and helpful in so many respects. Abbott is one of our community's challenging and visionary thinkers.

I was, however, perplexed by his repeated assumption that because gay male couples do not procreate, they are unoccupied with child rearing. In fact, many gay men are actively engaged in caring for children. While these are most often biological children from former heterosexual relationships, gay men increasingly are choosing childcare through adoption, foster care and other means.

In a national survey of 1,266 gay and lesbian couples conducted by Partners Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples, nine percent of male couples cared for children and 16 percent were considering or planning children (or more children). Lesbians had embraced children even more enthusiastically—and a significant number had borne children through alternative insemination. (A summary of survey results is appearing presently in Southern Voice, copies may be obtained by sending a SASE to Partners, Box 9685, Seattle, Washington 98109.)

As a former Georgian, I know that Southern gay men may have restricted access to childcaring, but in several parts of the country gay couples have begun to jointly adopt children, and many now serve jointly as foster parents.

It's true that gay men are free to choose other options for their lives, and many do. However, it is tragic when those who want to raise children mistakenly conclude that their homosexuality rules out the option.

Best wishes, Stevie Bryant, Co-Publisher/Co-Editor Partners Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples

LEFT OF SENSE

Editor:

I wanted to share some thoughts with you over the "Mapplethorpe" controversies.

It seems to me that the radical left has once more outshouted common sense and coopted the integrity of much of the LIBERAL press. What this does is leave the rest of the field of discussion open to the irrational ravings of Jesse Helms and his cigarette smoking cowhores.

I take particular exception to the use of the word censorship by artist folk who know less about semantics but a great deal about rhetoric. Consider for a moment the following scenario.

Helms et al have enough of a Congressional majority to seriously cut back the Federal funding of abortion. They have chosen instead to put the money into educating—in clinical settings—women about pregnancy, its prevention, and the *evils* of abortion. Now

Lowell P. Weicker-or some such -sees fit to put up a fuss. The Senator claims that because a significant minority in the Federal tax base believe that abortion is not an evil the Helms funding proposal should be defeated. Hearing this, the Helms camp screams censorship.

But is it really? I don't think so. Neither do I believe the word applies in the Mapplethorpe affair. No one has passed any legislation stating flatly that nudity-homoerotic or geriatric-cannot appear in art or that such art may not appear in public. It's true, Jesse Helms has muddied everything up with his lopsided talk of morality-remember every cigarette you smoke is a vote for Jesse Helms.

I'm persuaded that the Mapplethorpe exhibition could appear in any gallery in Chicago, New York, Atlanta, New Orleans, or Fort Lauderdale. Or, any place in California with a wall so long as it wasn't Orange County. If I am right in this persuasion, then the term censorship does not apply. One cannot tar someone with the brush of un-charity simply because they don't want to contribute to the Salvation Army. Jesse Helms thinks that way, if indeed one can call it thinking. The method does not acquire legitimacy because of the cause in which you use it. The ends do not justify the means.

Semantic problems also occur with the word LIBERAL which I used to associate with tolerance and objectivity. I don't see tolerance or objectivity from those who call themselves liberal these days.

Thomas R. Thompson



Ask Eldrin

A meeting with Atlanta's top cop shows his apparent willingness to confront the issues that affect lesbians and gay men, but its evident that our community must show the way.

Last week the Mayor's advisors to/from the lesbian and gay community and members of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU held a long-awaited meeting with new Atlanta Police Chief Eldrin Bell. Since this was the first meeting with Bell, the agenda items were few: the future structure of the ACLU's relationship with Bell and his department; the fulfillment of an old APD promise to recruit and hire openly lesbian/gay officers; some discussion of recent complaints regarding overaggressive policing in several city parks—Piedmont, Grant and Shady Valley; and some recent examples of good police work.

Our meeting with Bell was a varied experience. While referring to his appointment-day statement about making "violence against gays" a priority, he was unable to describe a consistent story about our inability to schedule a meeting with him without the Mayor's intervention. He also sports a particularly revisionist view of his past relationship

with the ACLU's Police Advisory Board and expressed his anger over our community's lack of support for his appointment. We were also unable to secure a commitment for regular, quarterly meetings with Bell and the Zone Commanders because of the Chief's desire not to be overly burdened with unnecessary meetings. But Bell emphasized that this flexibility would allow him to meet with us as often as needed as the issues arise.

Following that discussion, the atmosphere of the meeting became decidedly more pleasant.

Regarding the issue of recruitment, Bell expressed surprise that his officers might be less than comfortable being openly lesbian or gay or that anyone might find it difficult to be hired upon revelation of their sexual orientation to APD personnel officers. Our sincere apologies to the apparently lesbian officer that Bell said he would question the next day on her relative comfort within the department. After she picked herself up off the floor, I'm certain she was utterly candid to her highest ranking officer regarding her employment experience with APD. We have promised to develop policy proposals for implementation of the hiring of openly gay/lesbian personnel after the first of the year.

We believe that Chief Bell has embarked upon a program of getting maximum results from all of his officers. He is absolutely intent on reducing the skyrocketing crime in this city. He will demand a lot and, in so doing, runs the risk of abusing the rights of innocent citizens. This comes as no surprise. Certainly the record number of complaints we have received about police harassment in the parks and around the bars since Bell's appointment is testimony to this.

Our response, as a community, will be to monitor these complaints through out biasincident hotline (286-BIAS) and to aggressively insure Bell's responsiveness to our concerns.

But our concerns about access to the Chief and his commitment to protect lesbians and gay men from violence and harassment are far from vanished. Our work is clearly cut out for us. However, we applaud Chief Bell's attempt to make the city safer for all and we will encourage him to keep his appointment-day promises to Atlanta's lesbian and gay community in exemplary fashion.

There are a number of ways that individuals can help us monitor and respond to violence and harassment.

First, if you or a friend are the victim of anti-gay/lesbian violence or police abuse (verbal or physical), call the Bias-incident hotline (286-BIAS) and report it. Members of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter will return your call and make a detailed record of the incident. Please remember that the line's purpose is the documentation of bias incidents.

Medical, emotional, and (in most cases) legal support are not within our purview.

If the incident is improper police conduct, we will encourage you to do several things. Depending on the circumstance, we might ask that you file a report with APD's Internal Affairs Division for investigation and documentation in the officer's personnel file. This is particularly helpful if the officer is or becomes as "repeat offender".

On other occasions, we might ask you to write a letter to Chief Bell with copies to the Mayor, your City Council member and the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU. This is another way of assuring that we have covered our bases in terms of notifying the proper authorities about community problems.

We are also interested in hearing from people who have had an extraordinarily good experience with police officers so that we might commend them for excellence. Creating permanent change within large institutions demands participation and persistence on the part of the whole community. Help us with this documentation project by being our eyes and ears around the city.

-Cathy Woolard

Ms. Woolard is President of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia.

ADVOCATE OR ADVERSARY?

That the Atlanta Gay Center's Michael Wilson is continuing his "investigation" of AID Atlanta is yet another example of the highly politicized and too-often contentious methodology seemingly endemic to some of the Center's activities. (Wilson has now taken DHR to court because they were unwilling makes copies of documents relating to AID Atlanta after they had allowed Wilson to read those documents.)

We said it a few issues ago and we'll say it again: If Wilson has evidence of misue of funds or other evils at AID Atlanta, he needs to turn that evidence over to some other publication where ego needs and hidden agendas are not at work.

The Atlanta Gay Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt, social service organization that provides many needed services to the community. The investigation of other service

organizations has no place among those ser-

We wonder how Mr. Wilson would feel if a representative of AID Atlanta's publication demanded a full financial acounting from the Gay Center and its funders.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

For years it has been my habit, during Thanksgiving week, to express my appreciation to those for whom I am, well...especially thankful. Some years that's one person; other times its two or three.

This year the list was much longer and I had thought to acknowledge that fact in the issue that came out right before Thanksgiving. But I got distracted and a bunch of ads came in at the last minute giving us less space to fill and that was that.

My list of "I am especially thankful to

you's" grew this year because of the amazing group of people who regularly give of their time, creativity and love to see that *Southern Voice* appears every two weeks. Most of these people do so for little or no money.

Some of their names can be seen in the staff box on this. Listing the rest would take more space than I have here, and were I to do that, several would doubtless be omitted. Suffice to say that if you are one of the hundred or so individuals who have given freely of your time, knowledge or advice in order to see that this paper is as good and comprehensive and accurate as it can be, I would like to offer a belated but heartfelt "thank you."

—Gary Kaupman

MISCELLANY

That Dave Hayward's byline appeared on the article "A Quartet of Holiday Performances" in our last issue is only a partial truth. Dave was in fact responsible for the parts of the story about the Gay Holidaze Cabaret and Tom Key's readings of the two Truman Capote plays. The other two parts of the story were the collective efforts of KC Wildmoon, Christina Cash and the editor.

Beverly Gaucher's story "Environmentalists Take City to Court" in Issue 20 was the victim of some sloppy editing. Our apologies to Patrick Kessing of the Georgia Environmental Project who was identified only as "Kessing" and later, incorrectly, as "Kessler" in the article.

Several people have asked, so here's the answer. Dish is written by a number of different individuals—reader submissions following the general style of the column are encouraged.

Speaking of reader submissions. We would like to run some love poems for Valentine's Day. Preference will be give to short pieces and those where it is possible to publish a photograph of the author and the person to whom the poem was written. Please send your submissions, along with a daytime phone number to Southern Voice/Love, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316 and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your poetry returned.



Viewpoints is intended to provide a continuing forum for the lesbian and gay community. We encourage you to share your ideas, comments and feelings on these pages.

Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than two pages. We are happy to offer anonymity when letters are printed, but all submissions must be signed. Please also give us your phone number in case we have questions. We reserve the right to edit for space. Mail your letters to:

Southern Voice/Viewpoints P.O. Box 18215 Atlanta, Georgia 30316

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Christians Against

In recent years, a rising consciousness has begun to shift the tide of mainstream religious perception. Many churches and entire denominations are once again reestablishing the rights of their gay and lesbian members, officers and clergy. Locally, congregations such as All Saints and First M.C.C.'s and All Saints Episcopal have led the struggle to permit Christian lesbians and gay men begin to emerge with The Tide a spiritual voice. And where once many felt shunned, they are returning to find parishes that are accepting, even anxious to welcome them. even anxious to welcome them.

"Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth... Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all..."

—from the Paragraph 71, Section F of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church

For centuries Christianity and homosexuality have been viewed by much of society as mutually exclusive. The conflict does not stem, as one might suppose, from any scriptural admonition. The Bible says very little about homosexuality: Jesus never spoke of it; the Ten Commandments do not prescribe bounds for sexual orientation; there is no Hebrew word for homosexual; and the only references—Genesis: 19, Judges: 19, Leviticus: 18:19-23 and Romans: 1:26-28—are ambiguous at best. In fact, most Biblical scholars agree that the Bible yields no theological basis for a condemnation of same-sex love.

Regardless, the "Church," the practicing body of Christians, has long been—and in some cases, continues to be-a bastion for anti-gay and lesbian sentiment. Thus the Church, rather than having any innate or scriptural basis for opposition to homosexuality, has been more or less a reflection of society's mores and prejudices. Historical accounts seem to uphold this view. Church records of the first five centuries A.D. show that homosexuals were not persecuted; same-sex unions were concecrated. It was only as homosexuality became taboo, as homosexuals became scapegoats, that the church altered its view to see homosexuality as unnatural.

In an attempt to witness firsthand the changing attitude of Atlanta area churches, I went and talked to three leaders of mainline congregations. In all three cases I was received warmly and answered candidly. The ministers did not shy away from the questions. They were unequivocal in their responses—a person's spiritual worth is not dependent upon their sexuality.

These interviews take on added significance during this holiday season, when relations with church and family, two very sensitive areas for lesbains and gay men, become so accented. We need to be aware of places of worship where sexual orientation is farr less an issue than it has been and to know that there are indeed doors opening and with them, the Dark Ages are slowly ebbing.

(It should be noted that the relationship between the African-American lesbian and gay commuity and their mainline churches is a very different story from the one seen here. More on that soon.)



Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Wednesday night and I arrive a little late, a fact lost in the bustle which infuses the church hallways. Associate Pastor Darryl Kiehl finds me wandering and hails me across the parking lot. He smiles and takes my hand. Firm, like the austere gray walls of the church which dissolve into the overcast evening.

The Lutheran Church is rooted in the American heartland, sending roots down the curved backs of stoic German farmers. When the Catholic church "strayed" from the path, it was Martin Luther who nailed the 95 theses to the church door and began the Protestant revolution. Though not fundamentalist, the Church has often been resistant to change. Yet, here in Atlanta, Redeemer has been an active force in promoting an awareness of AIDS as well as setting up support groups for hospitalized patients. When the Names Project Quilt came to Atlanta, Redeemer was among the leading sponsors.

In its congregation there are many openly gay members some of whom hold positions as church officers. I began by asking Pastor Kiehl if the attitudes at Redeemer

were indicative of the Lutheran Church as a

He was slightly amused at the suggestion of a "Lutheran Church as a whole." Rather than a single body, he countered, the Church was an amalgamation of many congregations, each unique, and each interpreting their role within the community differently. Officially, though, there were guidelines that each church was expected to fol-

"In the early 70s a series of Luthern Conferences were held to discuss issues of sex, marriage and family, explained Kiehl. "The resulting document concluded that gay and lesbian people were to be accepted as congregational members, and gay rights were to be affirmed by the church in the community. However, no conclusion was reached as to the origins of homosexual orientation, and homosexual acts were deemed not in accord with God's plan in creation. Abstinance was encouraged for those members of the Luthern Church who were homosexual and expected of gay and lesbian clergy.

"The discussion has continued in recent years with recognition of the scientific

community that sexual orientation is not a choice and the church has urged further consideration of the issue of homosexual behavior. But many pastors and congregations continue to oppose homosexuality on the basis of scriptural interpretations. A line is clearly drawn between orientation and practice and the church has yet to cross it.

"Because of a current conflict in the church over the ordination of candidates for ministry who are openly gay or lesbian, the issue of homosexulaity in the church has become the focus of a heated debate. This debate is to find some resoloution in 1995, but it is not clear whether that resolution will result in a change of theological position and church policy."

Lutheran congregations across the country have joined a movement to be "Reconciled in Christ" that is to affirm homosexuality as an appropriate expression of love within a committed relationship, but Redeemer has taken no official position on

"In the meantine," says Khiel, "Redeemer will continue to be a place where homosexuals are welcome to worship. Worshiping, not in defiance of the Lutheran Church, but as members of a congregation that is following the church's call to affirm its people who struggle during a difficult time of transition.

"You have to understand that Redeemer is not a 'gay church.' It is a Lutheran Church that has gay members. Homosexuality is but one issue within Redeemer and certainly not the central issue at stake in our ministry. Still we are very much aware of it and we want the homosexuals in our congregation to feel comfortable worshiping as gays and lesbians. But more than that we want their sexual orientation not to be an issue in their struggle to be Christians.'

I asked Pastor Kiehl if he felt the gay and lesbian members felt at ease enough to come to him with their problems, both spir-

"They must. They have always come." And indeed each Sunday at Redeemer affirms this.

We retreat down the same hallways which are quiet now. At the door I thank him again for his time and candor. We shake hands. Firm, like the austere walls of the church now occluded in the night.

The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer is located at 731 Peachtree St. N.E. Services are held at 8:30 a.m. and again at 11:00 a.m.

Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

It is no coincidence that the word Catholic, as well as denoting a subset of Christianity also implies "comprehensive" or "universal." The Catholic Church with Pope John Paul as its conservative figurehead, has never shied from giving sweeping opinions on issues not necessarily central to Church doctrine. Behind these opinions is considerable political muscle; muscle that has swayed many elections, most recently in Poland. The Catholic church has never seen much need to distinguish between church and state.

Recently, the National Council of

FEATURE

Bishops, after condemning homosexuality, announced that ending legal abortion must be the Church's first priority in the '90s. That the latter is protected by the Constitution of the U.S.—and the former is legal in half the states in the union—seems to have had little impact on these decrees.

Couple this with the Catholic Church's continued ban on the use of contraception and one begins to understand how the Inquisition might have come about.

Not all Catholics, of course, agree with Vatican. In a recent interview with the *New York Times*, Bishop Kenneth E. Untener summed up the opposition when he responded that the Church's position on these issues "has us on the brink of irrelevancy in sexual matters and seriously damages our credibility."

In the noisy basement of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Father Alan Dillmann lowers himself into a chair, adds some sugar to his coffee, and laughs. To be Catholic is to realize that you will be asked to defend statements that appear daily in the media. Statements with which you may not agree. But rather than dwell on the negative, Father Dillmann turns the conversation to some of the positive elements within today's Catholic church.

Not long ago, he points out, a gathering of bishops met and affirmed that homosexuality is not a choice. This is a major theological step forward. It implies that, far from being seen as abnormal, homosexuality is part of God's plan. Still, the bishops drew a line.

In Dillmann's words, "It's o.k. to be gay, but you have to be celibate, that's the crux of the issue." Like the Lutheran Church, Catholicism still distinguishes between orientation and practice. But Dillmann adds, "I think at least the bishops are acting... well, some if not all."

He continued, "I do not think the Bible, personally, says anything directly against sexual orientation and Biblical scholarship seems to back this up. The crimes of Sodom were inhospitality, even Jesus saw this. And when Paul talks of the crimes of going against 'one's nature' he still says be true to the nature of who you are. And the basic philosophy is still, God loves us where we are, as we are, and who we are. We are, after all, all created in God's image."

And as such, Father Dillmann continued, we are a community of faith which includes all peoples. To ignore any part of that larger community is to miss the larger context of the message of the New Testament.

"The church should have a ministry to the whole community and if 10% of the population is gay, then you must assume that at least 10% of your congregation falls into that category. So there's no question we should have an outreach. I think what we are trying to do is to make people feel a part, and to integrate everybody whether gay or straight, black or white and make them feel welcome and part of the community. We do have a strong gay presence and I believe everyone here is aware of this and comfortable with it."

As an inner-city church, the Shrine has also been intensely aware of the growing horror of AIDS. The Shrine's Tuesday night PWA dinners are an established institution. There is no prostheletizing, no offering baskets passed. It is not a Catholic gathering. It is a gathering within a Catholic church of the community. "But what it has done is to signal the community that we, as a Catholic church do care and the volunteers, who come from the parish, care."

On whether congregations such as the Shrine will be able to change the way the Vatican views the community, Father Dillmann is unsure. "There's always hope. There are a lot of voices and a lot of witnesses calling for change. And there are entrenched powers who want to keep the

existing climate."

Regardless, the Shrine has worked hard to create an open and caring community, one that goes beyond theological arguments and continues to make a great deal of difference in many people's lives.

The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is located at 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Mass is held at 8:30 a.m. and again at 11:30 a.m. There is a daily Eucharist at 12:10.

Grant Park-Aldersgate United Methodist

The story of Reverend Sally Daniel is the story of the church. And the story of Grant Park-Aldersgate is the story of Sally Daniel.

"In the fall of 1985, an event occurred which changed the course of my ministry. I had been asked to take part in a memorial service at a large Episcopal church for persons who had died of AIDS. I read the assigned scripture and gave the benediction.



Rev. Sally Daniel: "... in '84 the words that, 'self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be ordained' were added. Well of course that's outrageous because we have a number of gay clergy. And unfortunately, that legislation pushed them even deeper into the closet. We even had one Bishop die of AIDS; several have comitted suicide and many others have surrendered their credentials."

The next Sunday two young men came to church. After the service I greeted them in the narthex. They explained that they had been to the memorial service the week before. Then one of them asked me a question which has haunted me ever since: 'Would it be all right if we came to church here?'"

Since that Sunday, Sally Daniel began to take the steps which would lead Grant Park-Aldersgate to become a Reconciling Congregation—one that welcomes gay men and lesbians as full participating members of the church, and is officially opposed to the current United Methodist Policy which states that "self-avowed practiciting" homosexuals are not to be ordained. There are currently 46 Reconciling Congregations and four Reconciling Conferences (no Conference has fewer than 250 churches) across the US. Grant Park-Aldersgate which became a Reconciling Congregation in Jan., 1987 was the 19th of these 46.

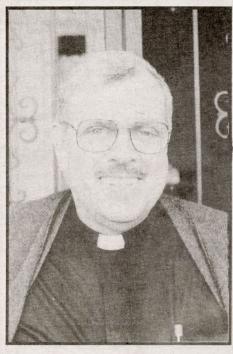
To this day Grant Park-Aldersgate remains one of only two Reconciling Congregations in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

I asked Ms. Daniel about The *Book of Discipline*, the document which spurred her action. The *Discipline* is the official rule

book of United Methodism; it is regulary revised at the quadrennial General Conference of the United Methodist Church. As a document it purports to speak for all Methodists. When one quotes the Discipline, one quotes Methodist law.

"In 1984 some rather restrictive legislation was put in. Up to that time, ordination had been governed by local Annual Conferences but in '84 the words that, 'self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be ordained' were added. Well of course that's outrageous because we have a number of gay clergy. And unfortunately, that legislation pushed them even deeper into the closet. We even had one Bishop die of AIDS; several have comitted suicide and many others have surrendered their credentials."

But there's "good stuff" in the section on human sexuality in Discipline too: "God's grace is available to all, and "We commit ourselves to be in minisistry for and with all persons." Within this context," said a smil-



Fr. Alan Dillmann: "The church should have a ministry to the whole community and if 10% of the population is gay, then you must assume that at least 10% of your congregation falls into that category.... We do have a strong gay presence and I believe everyone here is aware of this and comfortable with it."

ing Ms. Daniel, "I recently performed a Covenant Service for two lesbian members of the congregation."

It's promoting the "good stuff" and working to change the "bad stuff" which keeps Ms. Daniel and Grant Park-Aldersgate busy. They are preparing for General Conference in 1992 where they are hoping for changes in the *Discipline* which would make The United Methdist Church truly inclusive. Until that time, Grant Park-Aldersgate remains a sanctuary for gay and lesbian Methodists; a place where they will be warmly welcomed by church members, may worship in a loving atmosphere and hold office.

Grant Park -Aldersgate United Methodist Church is located at 575 Boulevard S.E. Services are held at 11:00 a.m.

—Tim Kennedy

A Mormon Miracle

Hell froze over today. Just when I thought there was no hope for the Mormons, a small congregation on Ponce de Leon convinced me otherwise.

Our children within take us back to the strangest of places...my child lead me, once again, into the all too familiar walls of the Mormon Church. I grew up a Mormon –faithful, all the way up to my excommunication five years ago. I recall the pain and confusion I experienced when my church betrayed me.I asked a simple question, "Am I Gay?" The church (rather the bishop who represented the church) replied with a church court, deciding my standing in the church in light of my so called confession. I declined my invitation to appear in that mock trial and thus, my excommunication followed.

Today, I sat among a small group of Mormons almost eager to feel a part of their spirit, yet hesitant to be caught up in false acceptance. The bishop's wife gave me a talk-without a paid clergy the congregation speaks-on the "fall" of Adam. I listened with casual interest, thinking I knew all that she had to say according to Mormon theology. Then, it happened. I sat up in the pew and leaned forward. The bishop's wife had said the words "equal" and "woman" in the same sentence! She went on to basically say that Eve was not of a weaker state of mind but on equal terms with Adam in all ways. The rest of the talks are merely a blur in my mind.

Since I was the only female in pants, it was not unusual for the bishop to approach me after the service and inquire who I was. He proceeded to explain that lesbians and gay men (my Goddess! I can't believe this is happening) have never had a place in the Church and that the Church was slow in keeping up with the times. I was then welcomed openly by this man. Me, an out lesbian!

The Mormon Church can by no means can be considered liberal, but all its decisions begin within a joint collective such as the group I witnessed today. Sometimes all it takes is a single *out* lesbian or gay man to make a big difference in our world.

—Teri Kai

Minneapolis Lesbian/Gay Catholics Win a Big One

The Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis has been ordered to pay \$34,000 in fines and damages after being found guilty of discriminating against the local chapter of Dignity, the lesbian and gay Catholic organization.

Following a three year struggle, the Minneappolis Comission on Civil Rights ruled that the Archdiocese had engaged in discriminatory behavior based when it refused to renew Dignity's lease on its meeting space at the church's Newman Center in May, 1987. Dignity's troubles began in January of '87 when the group refused to sign a statement saying that it supported the Church's teaching on homosexuality—one which contends that lesbians and gay men have an "objective disorder."

A statement from the Archdiocese indicated that an appeal of the decision was "all but imminent" according to *Equal Time*. A Dignity representative said that he welcomed the idea of the appeal, which, if upheld, would establish significant legal precedent for lesbians and gay men in all of Minnesota.

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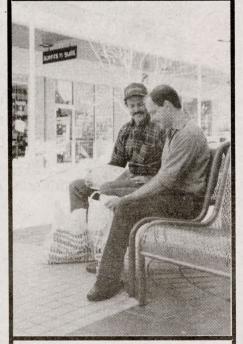
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Don't be a closeted customer. Our advertisers need to know you "saw it in Southern Voice."



Queries

Gifts That Will Not Be Returned

Dear Shoppa T. Drop:

It's that time of year again where, all too often—especially with my (nuclear) family, I match a person with a corresponding dollar amount and buy accordingly. I present the gift. The paper is torn away. They admire it. There follows a quick hug. Then they ask if I have a receipt so they can return it. I'm tired of this shit. Suggestions?

Burned Out

Dear Hot One:

Easy. For those who have tired of traditional gift giving, there are numerous local organizations who serve people affected by AIDS that have extensive and specific

At the top of most of the lists is money and time—your money, your time. And it does not take much of either to make a significant difference in someone's life. Other ideas may not spring as readily to mind: when you buy the new VCR or television, don't throw the old one away, give it to one of these organizations and include a few blank tapes or kids videos. Ditto microwave ovens. Or did you ever think of donating art supplies, so the time on someone's hands, can become time spent using those hands.

These are just a few ideas. More follow. Please read them. Please give. The thanks will be sincere. The hugs will be real. And you can throw away your receipts, your gift will not be returned.

Holiday hugs, Shoppa

AID Atlanta

 individual donations before January 1, 1991, because every \$2 donated in what's left of 1990 will be matched by an extra dollar-a 50% bonus-from an anonymous challenge grant. •lots of support for the Armorettes Homecoming Emergency Assistance drive for PWAs, and for Charlie Brown's annual Signature of Love shows. ·more Buddies and more Practical Support and other AID Atlanta volunteers. •wheelchairs for PWAs whose disabilities would otherwise immobilize them or make them unnecessarily dependent on others for mobility. •cribs and other baby furniture, and beds of several sizes, plus chests and other

Project Open Hand/Atlanta

·microwave ovens-new or used, small-sized to heat one meal in the client's home. •single-serving juices and soups—these are used for clients who need liquid diets so please avoid acidic juices and spicy soups. ·cans of ENSURE brand nutritional supplement

furnishings and amenities for adult clients. Call (404) 872-0600 for particulars.

copy paper—any color

postage stamps

·large shopping bags for delivery •fluorescent light bulbs—the lease of Bass High School where the Project is located requires that they replace their own ·washer/dryer—to wash kitchen linens ·laser printer

Call (404) 525-4620

one of their greatest wishes is for understanding and acceptance for these children as persons.

·a video cassette recorder to show movies to the children who live in the foster home ·children's movies

 cassette tapes of children's music or stories •cabbage patch dolls •children's furniture

•diapers and diaper wipes in mass

•typewriters to produce professionallooking grants for financial support ·loving volunteers who would like to visit and care for children Call (404) 346-0819.

The Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People With AIDS interested and willing volunteers

 carpentry service/carpet-laying FAX machine and supplies dictation machine

·bulletin boards

 Macintosh computer/PC ·answering machine

•hi-speed/volume copying machine camcorder—video recording equipment to tape the monthly forums on AIDS issues so that sick people can view it television

Call (404) 874-7926.

Atlanta AIDS Interfaith Network

donations daytime volunteers to assist

with day program

•passenger van stereo with CD player for music therapy and other activities

 some porch furniture art supplies

•camera

•video camera Call (404) 874-8686.

The Shrine of the

Immaculate Conception •van to pick up people for the dinners serving carts

•funds to refurbish the kitchen ·entertainment for every dinner Call Father Alan Dillmann at (404) 521-1866.

Jerusalem House

 personal care items such as bath soap, shampoo, etc.

·household items such as paper towels, napkins, light bulbs, detergent •non-perishable food—ENSURE, canned soups, cookies, saltine crackers, spices office supplies such as copy paper, printer

supplies, computer supplies, paper clips, Any person living with AIDS who might be

interested in residency at Jerusalem House, is invited to call Dennis Davis at (404) 527-7627.

The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta, Inc.

•VCR

•camcorder

electric typewriter

•filing cabinets

•metal storage cabinets bookshelves

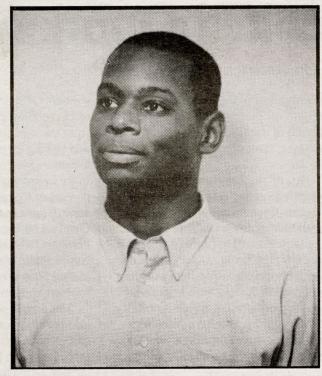
phones

•white (letter size) paper

Call Janet Cleveland at (404) 876-2317.

OUT LINES

Occupation: Oncology Statistician Relationship Status: "Married for 9 months" His name? Toney **Education:** Health Information Management degree from Medical College of Georgia Last book read: Sweet Summer by BeBe Moore Campbell Favorite TV show: "In Living Color', when I get to see it" Favorite actor: Lou Gossett, Jr. **Funniest comment** heard lately: "Vengeance is mine saith the Queen!"



PATRICK BELL: Breaking Silence

During our interview, Patrick Bell read me the following from *Sweet Summer* by BeBe Moore Campbell, "...I thank God for strong, black men who are good fathers regardless of what else they are not, and whose love for their children is their faith in a brighter tomorrow."

When he finished reading he looked up as if he had given me a gift and was waiting to see my reaction. It is appropriate that Patrick would cherish a line about "strong black men and their faith", because they are his two favorite topics.

Raised as a Southern Baptist, Patrick says that he is now "free of that. Because of my lifestyle, I had to do away with structured religion. I am aware of a higher spirit and try to live a positive life but I don't put labels on myself or others and I try to go about my life in an attempt to not destroy things but to build something positive."

Despite the quote and the fact that Patrick is very knowledgeable about what it means to be a black man, the person that Bell holds in highest esteem is his mother who raised two sons as a single black woman in South Georgia.

Even though his family lives in Vidalia, Patrick has found a home in Atlanta. "When I graduated from college, I was looking for a life. I was so tired of academia, I had been obsessed with grades and then I realized that I was coming home to nothing." That's when he moved to Atlanta and found "an open community living responsibly."

"I had been comfortable with my gayness since I was a teenager but just not comfortable letting other people know. But now I'm not that concerned about the 'larger society' becoming my bosom buddy, I'm more concerned about my brothers and sisters who don't feel good about themselves."

Since moving to Atlanta, Patrick has been working in a hospital where he is in charge of keeping statistics and data research on cancer patients. He also travels doing public risk education demonstrations, explaining how to do self-examinations of breasts and testicles. He wants to continue his career in cancer research because, "I have lost several people to cancer and my people as a whole have lost a lot of their own to cancer."

Patrick believes that looking at some

of the causes of cancer should make us think about what we are doing to our earth and our bodies. He noted that eventually 80 percent of all cancer will be caused by the environment. "That's a very scary number."

And Patrick should know about what we can and can't do to our bodies. He calls himself a "health freak" now, but a couple of years ago, he weighed in at 250. He has since shed 70 of those pounds through an exercise program consisting of several hours of tennis, low-impact aerobics, body shaping and running each week.

One key to staying emotionally healthy is to be active in the gay/lesbian community according to Patrick. He feels that black gays and lesbians need to be more visible and nurturing to each other. "The 'larger gay and lesbian society' has gotten themselves together and we need to follow that lead."

"To be a black and gay, I feel like I'm constantly at war. Sometimes, I feel like it's coming from both sides. When you feel like that you need to see other people like yourself. Unfortunately, I do not believe that the 'larger gay society' can really relate to this feeling."

He believes that there is more risk to being an openly gay black person because there is more chance of rejection, and coming out is harder. "A white person has more options. Gay people are still very racist. They talk about rights from the point of view of a white gay person. In the minority community, we think of ourselves as African-Americans before we consider ourselves gay or lesbian."

Bell says there is also an incredible fear of AIDS in the black community, and a scarcity of information. But that is getting better. "Here it is 1990 and we are only now having an AIDS 101 seminar at the King Center, it's been eleven years since AIDS started killing us. The black community has a hard time talking about sex. Homosexuality is a deviance to everything that our strict religious background has taught us." Then thoughtfully, "there are so many silences to be broken; between men and men; men and women; between the races; and straights and gays."

Matt Montgomery



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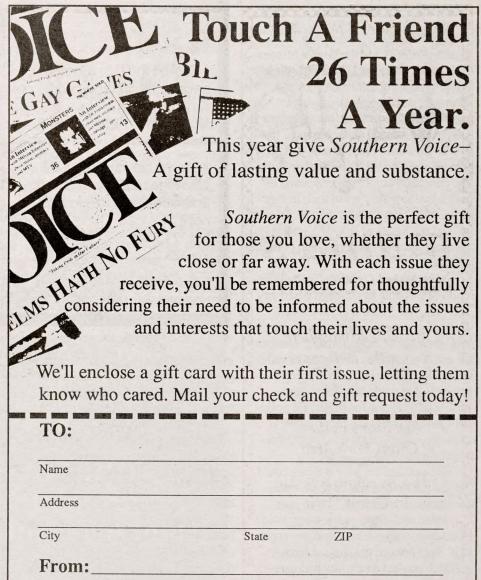
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Gathering Overlooked Opinions

Is this what it will take to sell corporate America on gay America?

by Jim Marks

In the coming weeks, as American troops continue to mass on the Saudi Arabian sands, poll after poll assessing the American public's attitude toward war in the Middle East will appear. These polls will be broken down demographically, so that it will be soon apparent if men support using force and women don't. And we'll know if there is widespread opposition to military action among African-American and other minority communities most likely to be directly affected when shooting starts.

But the gay community's opinions on a middle east war won't appear in a Gallup poll. Or the Washington Post/ ABC poll. Or the Roper poll. Or any other poll likely to show up in any of the nation's daily newspapers.

Does that mean that no one knows what the gay man and lesbian on the street thinks on the issue of war in the Middle East? Until recently, the answer was "yes." No one was systematically attempting to survey the opinions of the gay and lesbian community. But that is no longer true. A marketing and opinion research business, Chicago based Overlooked Opinions, is asking gay people across the country what they think about the prospects of war. And lots of other things.

The questions about the use of force in Kuwait which appear with this article were part of the organization's second survey. That poll also looked at community attitudes toward outing, at its health concerns and the degree of community involvement. Overlooked's first survey sought opinions on adoption, abortion, and the advertising of cigarettes and condoms, but its primary purpose was to get a demographic profile of the initial 1,000 person panel. Thus it stressed which consumer items the panel had purchased or wanted to purchase, how they spent their leisure time, what brand names they responded to, and the basics of sex, age, education, income, place of residence, and political affiliation.

Overlooked Opinions is the brainchild of a couple of Chicago based gay activists, Jeff Vitale and Rick Dean. Dean says the enterprise, now a year old, grew out of brainstorming sessions he and Vitale had as they batted around ideas for a business. They wanted a business that could help increase the profile of "gay not-for-profit and political" groups. Yet every proposal they came up with resulted in a list of unanswered questions.

"We realized the only way we could get the answers would be if we asked the questions ourselves," Dean says.

Dean and Vitale saw a "huge void" in catering to the lesbian and gay economy. Very little of the basic market research on the community had been done. According to Dean, The Advocate made the first foray into the field in the early '70s with its Avanti division, but that effort was not followed up. More recently, New York

based Rivendell Communications, which places advertising in eight gay newspapers around the county, used a questionnaire inserted in the newspapers to get a basic demographic profile of the papers' readers.

Both the Advocate and Rivendell market surveys have been criticized as too narrowly concentrated on white, middle and upper-middle class gay men. Publishers, of course, proudly trumpeted the survey results. Former Human Rights Campaign Fund head Vic Basile, who consulted the Rivendell survey when he was exploring starting a new national gay publication, says the reader profile "showed gays having a

tiny fragment of the overall puzzle. Most of the pieces are still missing. The success in tracking these two markets, however, gives clues to filling in the

First of all, they demonstrate that it is possible to gather the information. The 20 years since Stonewall have seen the creation of a lesbian and gay infrastructure large enough to begin to yield statistically significant results. In a process which almost eerily parallels what has happened in Eastern Europe since the founding of Poland's Solidarity movement, gays have created a "civil society" of private organizations-businesses, social and athletic clubs, charities,

women, Overlooked made a special outreach, sending out a mailing with one from the women-oriented Naiad Press and signing up panelists at the Michigan Women's Music Festival. Women now make up somewhere between 40 and 50 percent of the panel. Dean says there are still gaps in minority participation. Overlooked Vice-President Marc Loveless, who is also treasurer of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, is helping devise strategies for increasing minority representation.

The panel's potential for diversity also benefits from the sheer numbers that Overlooked can contact. It made an agreement with Lambda Rising to include a card for potential panelists to return in Lambda's late summer mailing to the over 40,000 people on its listwhich Maccubbin boasts is among the country's largest non-urban gay and lesbian lists—and now nearly 50,000. Another 100,000 cards went out in a mailing by the New York based Straub/Dawson organization. All in all, Dean says, cards asking lesbians and gay men to join Overlooked Opinions' polling panel have gone to 200,000 mailboxes.

The panel is at the heart of Overlooked Opinions operations. Dean says that Overlooked Opinions has a dual loyalty: of course it has an obligation to provide its clients with reliable information. But Dean also stresses its obligations to its panelists. The organization currently has 10,000 panel members—a year ahead of schedule, Dean says—with hopes to enlist 100,000 members. Panelists receive regular questionnaires—eventually, according to Dean, a new survey set every six weeks. In return panelists receive a copy of In Full View, the Overlooked Opinions publication that summarizes survey results. (Actually there are two versions of In Full View: the general summary that Overlooked sends panelists, and the much more detailed account that it sells clients.)

The demographic information holds few surprises. Panelists were bunched in the 30-44 (58.4 percent) and 18-29 (22.5 percent) age groups. They were well educated (97 percent graduated from high school; 59 percent have college degrees). Almost 97 percent dine out regularly; 82 percent list reading as a hobby (but only 14 percent read primarily gay and lesbian material). Dean says that he wasn't surprised that 75 percent of the women were in relationships, but that he didn't expect that 60 percent of the men would be. Ninetyseven percent of the women are registered voters; ninety-five percent of the men. Democrats can claim 60 percent of the women, and 64 of the men; the next largest group (21 percent women. 11 percent men) say they are independent. Dean believes a larger panel would uncover more gay Republicans. That would make sense: median annual gay household income among the panelists is \$42,000.

But once all the information has been gathered, the question remains: do

How do Lesbians and Gay Men Feel About U.S. Invlovement in the Middle East

In your opinion, was the U.S. involvement in the VietNam War appropriate?

No 88.1% Yes 11.9%

 In your opinion, is the U.S. involvement in Kuwait (Saudi Arabia) appropriate nor not? No 42.7% Yes 57.3%

 Should the U.S. use military force in order to protect its oil interests in the Middle East, or not?

No 60.1% Yes 39.9%

 Should the U.S. use military force to protect the people of Kuwait, or not?

No 38.8%

Yes 61.2%

Are you in favor of a U.S. offensive military attack on Iraq and Saddam Hussein, or not?

No 71.7% Yes 28.3%

Should the U.S. restrict its efforts against Iraq to economic sanctions, or not? No 42.7% Yes 57.3%

 Should the U.S. actively prevent food imports from reaching Iraq, or not? No 47.8% Yes 52.2%

 Should the U.S. consider a nuclear attack on Iraq, if there is no other way to protect U.S. interests in the Middle East, or not?

No 91.2% Yes 8.7%

In your opinion, does the U.S. have a responsibility to protect other friendly nations from hostile military attack, or not?

No 31.3% Yes 68.7%

Source: Overlooked Opinions, Inc. National Opinion Panel based on 1,000 responses during the first two weeks in October.

great deal of buying power: we traveled clinics, community centers—that mirmore, bought more new cars, and more rors the civil society of the country at more. It was a marketers delight."

Of course, some areas of the gay market have received close scrutiny. Dean points out that the existence of lesbian gay bars makes it possible for beer and alcohol distributors to "gauge how they are doing in the gay market. They put ads in gay publications, billboards in gay neighborhoods, and then track how well their product sells." The thriving gay book industry, which has recently seen authors receive advances of as much as \$175,000, is another example of a well defined gay market niche.

But alcohol and books are only a

expensive cars, drank more, smoked | large. In practical terms, this civil society has given gays a safe way of becoming visible and market researchers a way of finding them.

Deacon Maccubbin, owner of Washington, D.C. based Lambda Rising bookstore, says that one of the significant things about Overlooked Opinions survey panel is that it appears that it isn't narrowly focused on gay white urban males. "They've signed up people at gay pride days, for instance," Maccubbin says, "where people come who otherwise never have contact with the gay community."

When the initial 1,000 panel members turned out to have only 28 percent

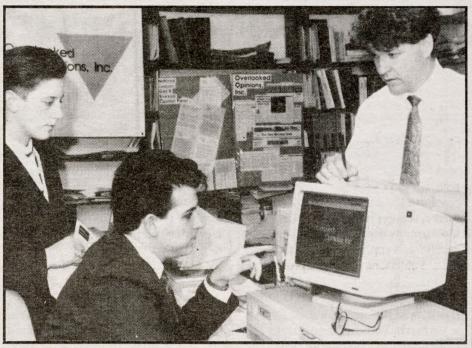
FEATURE

the pieces fit together to form a single picture? Overlooked Opinions faces the business version of the perennial question, is there a "gay culture". Do gay people constitute a distinct market niche? Despite the success in the alcohol market, corporate America is reluctant to admit that there is a distinct gay market. "It's been a convenient out for marketers," Dean says, "to say that gay men, for instance, are basically the same as single straight men, except for what they do in bed."

Overlooked is betting its money that isn't the case. In an interview with the *Detroit Free Press*, Dean made the case that gays are pace setters who first latch onto "the coming trends of society at large." So far, the evidence that gays are distinct from other segments of society is fragmentary. For instance, 23.6 percent of the men in the first survey listed aerobics as a favorite sport; 10.2 percent went in for football. A whopping 65.3 percent of the women like to go camping. Dean doesn't think the figures for straight men and women would be similar.

Dean also offers anecdotal evidence of gay buying patterns. "I invited 30 friends to a weekend in upper Wisconsin over Labor Day weekend," he says. "We looked around at everyone's tennis shoes. Everybody but one was wearing Reeboks."

Dean uses those tennis shoes as an example of the way that Overlooked could work for corporate America. "Suppose we could find that Reebok has a significant edge in the gay market. We could give them advice on how to build



Kelley Zimmerman, Jeff Vitale and Rick Dean ponder the numbers.

or maintain on that—suggest how to put together an ad campaign, buy advertising time on shows that have a significant gay audience, such as 'Doctor, Doctor.' I think people would take notice."

Major television ad campaigns are probably some distance ahead in Overlooked's future. So far, it has done smaller projects, such as name recognition studies for politicians in gay-heavy Chicago precincts. It has conducted a needs assessment for a Chicago health care agency, and hospitals, clinics and other agencies are subscribing to its syndicated health newsletter, Wellness Matters.

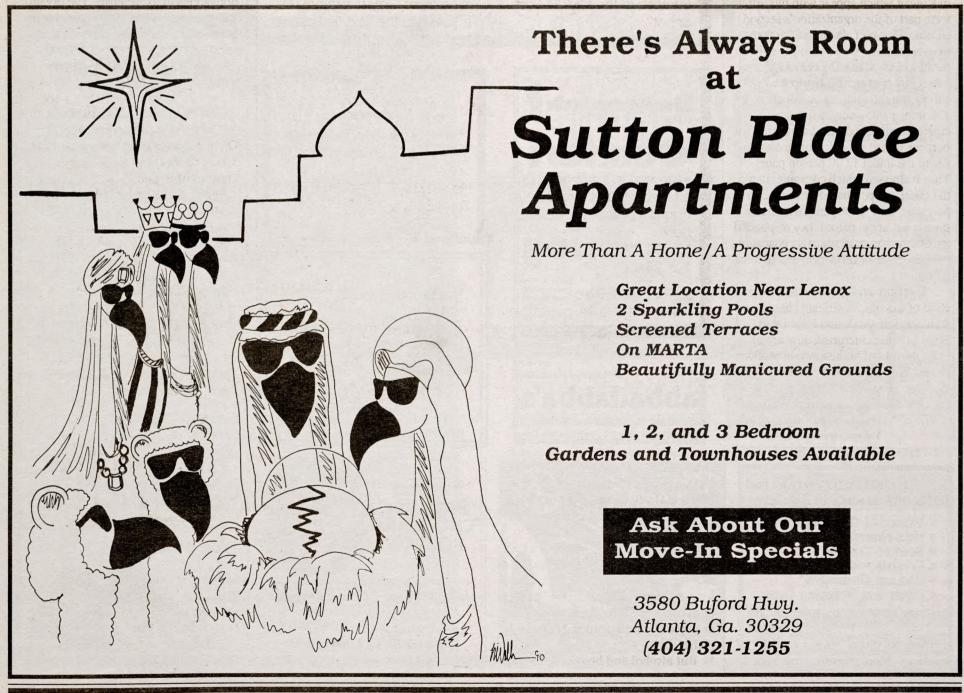
Dean is excited primarily by the

community response to Overlooked. He says that Overlooked has panelists in every state but North Dakota, and in 85 percent of the nation's three digit zip codes. Overlooked has placed its first advertising in the marketing trade press, and is getting inquiries from representatives of the alcohol, healthcare and fragrance industries, in addition to other market researchers acting for business clients. "Corporate America is definitely intrigued," Dean says.

However corporate America eventually responds, lesbian and gay America is likely to find Overlooked Opinions fascinating and important. For instance, Steve Endean, the head of HRCF's Speak Out program, wants to survey his membership to see if gays and lesbian are really pro choice. "The [HRCF] board thinks they are, but I'm not so sure." Obviously, Endean would want to know the responses to Overlooked's questions about abortion, both for the information amassed, and, should he conduct his own survey, to compare with the responses of Speak Out participants. Do the positions of gay political organizations like HRCF and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force really represent the gay community at large? No one really knows. Until now, there's been no way to find out.

It's Overlooked Opinions' potential, rather than any particular information gathered in its short history, that really interests outside observers. "I'm not sure why they asked those questions about the Middle East," Lambda Rising's Maccubbin says, "but I was pleased to see it. This is really uncharted territory. But when the surveys are returned and plugged into the computer, we're going to have a good picture of the gay and Lesbian community at that point in time. In a couple of years we're going to have a much clearer picture of how gay people are making decisions, and why they are making them. We're going to know a lot more, not about individuals, but about who we are as a

Readers who would like to join the Overlooked Opinions panel are asked to send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Southern Voice, Opinions, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316. We will forward an application form to you.



How we establish our families, or partnerships, and the challenges we face in the process may well be the hot topic for lesbians and gay men in the '90s. That we have few models for the process of defining and understanding those relationships also makes it a difficult topic.

In the fall of 1988, Partners, a newsletter for lesbian and gay couples, undertook a major survey to develop an accurate portrait of lesbian and gay couples in America. The information seemed vitally important, given the major forces shaping the gay and lesbian community.

Southern Voice is pleased to be able to reprint the results of that survey in this and subsequent issues.

Quality of sex with partner

	women	men
Excellent	54%	34%
Good	24	33
Satisfactory	16	25
Unsatisfactory	7	9

Higher ratings were observed among couples who were more committed and who rated relationship quality more highly.

In contrast, respondents who were older and those caring for children rated sexual interaction lower.

On average, these ratings also declined somewhat over time. For example, 42% of couples together 10 or more years said their

Partners

More on Sex and Discrimination

sexual interaction was less than good.

Frequency of outside sex per month

	women	men
None	98%	78%
1 time	1	10
2 times	<1	5
3 times	<1	3
4 times	<1	2
5-10 times	<1	2
11 or more times	<1	1
Average times	0.06	0.63
Cay outside the relat	ionahin waa m	noh

Sex outside the relationship was much more common for men than women. Only two percent of women reported any outside sex. On the other hand, 22% of the men said they had some outside sex, though only 12% had outside sex more often than monthly.

Interestingly, male respondents reporting outside sex also had more frequent sex with their partners. Also, the longer male couples had been together the more likely they were to report outside sex. These phenomena were not observed with lesbian respon-

That's a

good Point?

Rampant discrimination confirmed

Many right-wing legislators, church leaders, and media personalities openly boast about the limitations they place (or hope to place) on the freedom of gay men and lesbians. So it's no surprise that survey respondents reported an extraordinary degree and range of discrimination. Overall, 71% of couples had encountered relationship discrimination of some type, and 39% had experienced three or more

Reports of discrimination were significantly higher among couples who were more open about their relationship, more strongly committed, more politically liberal, and together more than one year. These couples presumably are more inclined to have asked for or expected equal treatment.

Types of discrimination

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3 lights South on Moreland at Euclid Ave. and McClendon. See you there!

encountered as a couple	women	men
Employment benefits	58%	40%
Taxes	47	37
Insurance	46	34
Membership	20	11

women men 15% 10% Credit/banking Employment 13 11 11 Housing 6 6 Hotels Hospital visitation 2 Adoption 2 Foster care 4 Other None/none indicated

Women reported significantly more discrimination than men. Fully 75% of women reported relationship discrimination of some type, as compared to 65% of men. This may be partly attributable to the added discrimination lesbians experience as women. The difference also reflects the more liberal political orientation reported by women.

Housing discrimination was experienced among 15% of renters and by 9% of couples who own their home. Nearly half of those couples caring for children through adoption or foster parenting programs faced discrimination in the process.

Survey results © Partners, 1990. Partners Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples, Box 9685, Seattle, Washington 98109. Subscriptions are \$21 per year.

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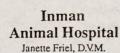
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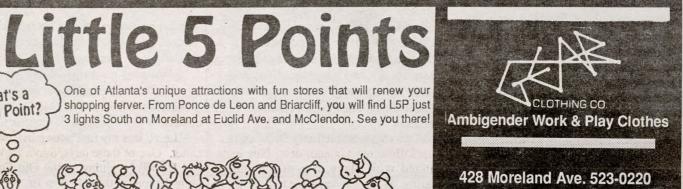
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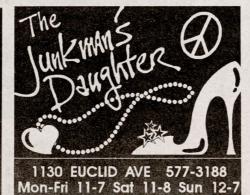
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Life as a Cabaret

by Charlene Ball

Years ago, at the now defunct Sweet Gum Head on Cheshire Bridge Road, Charlie Brown would dance on tables, grind his crotch into people's faces, dunk his cigarette in their drinks or grab the drinks themselves and toss them down, all the while doing extended numbers noted for a certain the-hell-with-you raunchiness. In those days, s/he was "the Wild, Wicked, and SEDUCTIVE Charlie Brown."

Now, "Mr. Charlie Brown"—a bold claiming of a dual identity—moves onstage slowly, ample and imposing: a ceremonial presence in massive wig, earrings like door knockers, fingernails like metal rivets, gown that sweeps and glitters. A slow, commanding, distinctly enunciated Southern voice.

Charlie still delights in raunchiness, though his act is considerably less athletic than formerly. But now, Charlie Brown has another focus: the nurturing and grooming of young performers.

"I've always dreamed about having a cabaret. I've worked with young female impersonators through the years and helped groom them, and I said if I ever had my own show, I would have a place where young people could learn and grow and groom themselves: live entertainers, gay men and women, and straight too."

The cabaret first started at Toolulah's, a women's bar in Buckhead. But Toolulah's fell on hard times. So since midsummer 1990, "Charlie Brown's Cabaret" has flourished in the rooftop space of Midtown's Backstreet.

We reach the cabaret by a metal staircase from a parking lot off Juniper. On an early December evening, it's damp and chill outside. Daryll at the cash register greets us with a smile. The room is small with little wrought-iron tables; the stage is slightly elevated with a curtain backdrop. A sound booth stands to one side where Fred, Charlie Brown's lover of 16 years, works as announcer and DJ.

The audience trickles in. Gilda Golden, drag-queen waitron, is setting up tables. With her blonde bob, look of an eternal go-go girl, and acid wit, Gilda plays Charlie Brown's nemesis: "I'm here to make Charlie's life hell," she murmurs in a gravelly voice. They're really good friends; "We can say absolutely anything to each other, because we know we love each other."

"There's never been a gay cabaret in Atlanta like ours," points out Charlie.

Mr. Charlie Brown is a shining example of the fact that being oneself—no matter how enigmatic or outrageous we might appear to some others—can free one's energies in ways invaluable to the community at large. And Mr. Brown has a new mission: the nurturing and grooming of young performers.





PHOTOS: AL CLAYTON

"One that features female impersonation as well as live entertainment. Our show is different in that we do not do massive productions. We specialize in individual artists."

The performers tonight include veteran drag queen Satyn DeVille, a name in Atlanta for years. Satyn (pronounced "Satan"), mistress of the come-hither look and the flashing fingernails, presents an offstage image of a Tennessee Williams heroine: intensely Southern in a black flowered kimono, deep blue eyes ringed with black, a gentle manner. Taisha Wallis (on vacation tonight) is a self-assured blonde, fashionable and aggressive. Black Rose, a popular young Black queen from Savannah, sways and grinds to Bessie Smith vocals, vamping the college boys who vie with each other in stuffing her low neckline with bills.

And the live entertainers: J.G. Greenway, a sort of New Age leather man in chains and black vest and chaps, gold ringlets surrounding his guru-like bald head. J.G. is a singer and songwriter who performs many of his own songs.

Donnie Grissett, formerly with the PTL Club, has a shy smile, neat dark hair, stylish conservative clothes set off by a turquoise bolo.

Leigh McClelland, the only woman in the show, looks like the quintessential Southern debutante tough-gal: creamy skin and square jaw; blue eyes and short silvery-blonde hair; a smoky drawl and a devilish glint in her eye. When she sings, it's power and soul; clear and high and sweet one minute, low and rich the

Charlie speaks with pride of his young protégés, and they speak of him with gratitude. Leigh has polished her stage moves and presence from working with Charlie and company, as well as picking up makeup tips from the drag queens.

"Leigh was my first young live entertainer. One of these days, Satyn DeVille and I, we'll be sitting in the Old Folks' Drag Home, and we'll turn on Johnny Carson and there'll be Leigh McClelland. And we'll get out our scrapbooks and remember.

"We're like a family here," says Charlie. Satyn DeVille puts in, "Yeah, the Swish Family Robinson."

Charlie Brown is perhaps best known for his Christmas benefits for PWA's, the "Signature of Love." During the final number of each show, the audience is asked to contribute. "A friend of mine was dying of AIDS. His dream was to go home for Christmas. He told me, 'You ought to do something for the PWA's for Christmas, because a lot of them are sick and can't work. Maybe a check you give them might be the last bit of money they need to get home.' He died before Christmas. So the next year, I started Christmas for PWA's."

This year, Charlie Brown, drag come-

There's only one way

to come out ahead of the pack.

dian, has begun to go international. He has just returned from Amsterdam and is going back in April, and then on to a gig in London. There was a bit of a language barrier in Holland at first. But after a few informal lessons in improper English—"What do y'all call this? Well, this is what we call it"—the audience "loved my filthy mouth!

"The thing I enjoy most right now is working with these young live entertainers. Some who started out here are now getting booked throughout the city. I'm fulfilling their fantasies like my fantasies were fulfilled. To me, it's my greatest achievement."

What about "Mr." Charlie Brown? "I really don't try to split the two. I'm Charlie Brown all the time."

The world of the drag show is one of illusion and fantasy. But Charlie Brown deals in making dreams into reality. A doer as well as a dreamer, he has raised money for PWA's and given young performers a chance to learn their crafts in a nurturing atmosphere. Charlie is no paradox to himself; he's all of a piece. And what he's accomplishing is unique. Charlie Brown is an example of how being oneself—no matter how enigmatic or outrageous that self might appear to some others—can free one's energies so that one's influence can extend beyond oneself, enable one to be valuable to the community at large.

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Art

DESIGNER JEWELRY INVITATIONAL. Thru Dec 24. Works from designers around the country including the ambigender jewelry of Barney Golf, the queen of America's lapidaries. Illumina Gallery, 1529 D Piedmont at Monroe. 875-7617

CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI ARTISTS. Thru Dec. 29. The artistic subconscious of an ancient people is reflected in these works by artists from the Israel of today. At BurnNoff Gallery, Clear Creek Center, 875-3475.

ANDY WARHOL'S CELEBRITIES. Thru Jan. 6. 45 lithograph portraits of everyone from James Dean to Einstein. An exclusive show to be seen only in Atlanta. Where else would you find Mickey Mouse, Mick Jagger and Santa Claus on the same bill? At the High Museum; 892-3600 for info.

THE WIZARD OF WHIRLIGIGS. Thru Jan. 6. Fine and fanciful works by the mystro of yard art, R. A. Miller. Jolly and jauntly, the man's moving sculptures are sure to make you smile and appreciate Americana in a whole new way. An art exhibit the kids will especially enjoy. At the Arts Connection, in Oxford Too Bookstore, 2395 Peachtree. Call 237-0005 for details.

REVERED EARTH. Thru Jan. 11. Art for Earth's sake is reflected in this collection of 20 artists whose focus goes beyond the canvas into the very fabric of life. At the Atlanta College of Art Gallery and Nexus Gallery; call 898-1157 and 688-2500 for details.

POSTER ART OF THE SOVIET UNION. Thru Feb 8. 80 contemporary post-glasnost posters reflect the changing Soviet scene as propaganda is packaged for public consumption. At the High Museum at Georgia Pacific Center and Schatten Gallery of Emory University. 577-6940 and 727-6861.

THE JOHN L. JACOBS JAPANESE POR-CELAIN COLLECTION. Thru Feb. 24. Ceramics dating back to the 1600's provide a remarkable look at the originals that became the yardstick of porcelain perfection. In the High Museum. For more info, call 892-HIGH.

Events .

SONGS AND SUPPER AT CHRYSALIS. Dec. 19, 7:30pm. A potluck dinner followed by caroling and friendly sharing offers seasonal joy for women in a chem-free space. Sing away those Christmas blues and enjoy the benefits of a little well-placed mistletoe. 881-6300 for more info.

CELEBRATE THE SOLISTICE WITH YOUR INNER GODDESS. Thurs. Dec. 20, 7:30pm. Pam Shook, an Alchemical Hypnotherapist, guides an expedition to discover one's inner Goddess and create one's future self. The Motherpeace Deck will be featured in this evening of storytelling and visualization at the turning point of the year. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland, 524-0304 for info.

MODERN DAUGHTERS AND THE OUT-LAW WEST. Thurs. Dec. 27, 7:30pm. Melissa Kwasny spins a tale of a wild ole west that never was where lesbians are as common as buffalo and dykes outnumber gunslingers. In this mythical Montana town one is more likely to get laid than hung. Yee-ha. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland, 524-0304 for info.

THE MAYOR'S MASKED BALL. Sat. Dec. 29.7th annual dinner/dance to benefit the United Negro College Fund. Black tie and masks and sequined gowns make for a gala evening. \$150 per person. Call 881-6171 for info.

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY IN 1991. Sun. Dec. 30. Celebrate the first day of Kwanzaa with a pot luck and visual artists, poets and dancers who offer a bridge to a greater understanding of Afrocentric values and customs. At First MCC, 800 N. Highland. Call 755-7531 for time and particulars.

GEORGIA PRIVACY COALITION. Weds. Jan 2, 7pm, at the ACLU of Georgia 233 Mitchell St. Help plan grassroots and legislative action to lick the sodomy law. Call 286-2358.

Music .

TUBA CHRISTMAS. Fri. Dec. 21, at noon. 150 tubas play Christmas favorites. That Ted Turner is always full of surprises, no wonder Jane keeps coming back for more. You don't get stuff like this in Hollywood. At CNN Center, Marietta and Techwood.

LESSONS AND CAROLS. Mon. Dec. 24, 7:30 and 10:30pm. The All Saints Choir and Orchestra under Raymond Chenault bring the sounds of Christmas alive. Thank goodness for something besides muzak. At All Saints Episcopal Church, 634 W. Peachtree, 881-0835.

DEDE VOGT. Sun. Dec 30 at 8:30pm. Just Dede and her guitar amidst the ambiance of Atlanta's most unusual bookstore/cafe. At the Oxford Acoustic Cafe, 360 Pharr Rd., 262-3333 for info.

Radio

On WRFG-FM, 89.3:

STILL AIN'T SATISFIED. Thurs., 5:05-7PM. Music and public affairs from a Heretic Woman's view. A good program to listen to when you're wondering if there's anyone else out there.

THE SEEKER. Sat., 5-8PM. Music and information which preserves, promotes and advances the true history and culture of African-American people.

THE GOOD EARTH. Tues., 1PM-1AM. New Wave and Alternative Music with Eric Price.

GAY GRAFFITI. Sun., 8-9PM. Good music and good talk by and about Atlanta's lesbian and gay community.

LES CHANTEUSES AFRICANES. Mon. 1-6AM. A unique radio exclusive! Featuring musical and literary voices of black women. Strong ethnic/lesbian flavor. Produced and hosted by Alicia Banks.

Spirituality =

WINTER SOLSTICE CELETRATION AT CHRYSALIS. Wed., Dec 22, 7:30 pm. Discussion, meditation and ritual led by Dr. Lynn Magner as the year turns towards the light. \$5 covers everything including refreshments. A chem-free event for women only. Call 881-6300 for more info.

SERVICE WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS. Sun. Dec. 23, 7pm. Make a joyful noise for Jesus's birthday. I am sure Mary did after a night of hard labour. At All Saints MCC, 575 Boulevard, 622-1154.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. Mon. Dec. 24, 11pm. Peace, good will to all people on this evening of joyous remberance. First MCC, 800 N. Highland, 872-2246.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. Mon. Dec. 24, 11pm. The light of Christmas will shine a little brighter if you are there to light your candle and share friendship and songs with the congregation. At All Saints MCC, 575 Boulevard, 622-1154.



Catherine Comet Conducts The ASO. One of the few women conductors in the world will lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in its premier performance of Machault Mon Chou; Franck's beloved and renowned Symphony in D Minor concludes the performance, Jan 3-5.

JANUARY 2

FIRST DAY OF KWANZAA. Weds. Dec. 26, 7:30pm. Originating from Kiswahili, meaning "first," this special week of events will begin with a pot luck and the offerings of visual artists, poets and dancers to celebrate Afrocentric values and customs. At First MCC, 800 N. Highland, 755-7531 for info.

MUSIC & MEDITATION WITH THAKAR SINGH. Sat.-Sun. Dec 29-30, 2pm and 7pm. Learn how to relax and reduce stress with a practical aproach to moral and ethical living. At Hill Auditorium, High Museum 1280 Peachtree, 266-8635 for info.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCH SERVICE. Mon. Dec. 31, 11pm. Bring in the new year with friends as the last of 1990 passes away and we move forward into a time that has not been seen before. First MCC, 800 N. Highland, 872-2246. HOMOSEXUALITY & SPIRITUALITY. Tues. Jan. I. Leshian and gay African Americans will be the subject of a special panel discussion. Audience participation is encouraged. At the First E. Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive. Call 755-7531 for time and particulars.

CIRCLE OF HEALING BIRTHDAY WITH BETH YORK. Sun Jan. 6, 7:30pm. Beth York returns from Miami for a very special celebration of the circle's 4th anniversary. A pot luck will follow. At the First E. Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. Call 378-5570 for particulars.

Sports |

AVS BOWLING. Every Monday, (except Christmas and New Year's eves) 8:30pm. The teams are already formed but substitutes are always needed and welcome. So are spectators. Come down and enjoy the most fun you can have with your fingers in public. Express Lanes, Monroe Drive. Call Steve at 361-1286 for info.

FRONT RUNNERS. Weds. Dec. 19 and 26 at 6:30pm in Piedmont Park. Also every Saturday 9am at the Chattahoochee River off Powers Ferry Rd. Call Shelton Haynie (622-0739) or Lynn Patterson (438-1421) for info.

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION. Sun. Dec. 23 & 30, 7pm. Come play or watch a game in which the word love has a major role. Play is now indoors at Eastlake Tennis Center. And the newly formed women's division plays at the same time as well as new Friday night matches. Call 892-8335 or 622-GAME.

Television |

FROM HERE TO ETERNITY. Sun. Dec 23, 2pm on Ch. 8, GPTV. A loving look at army life in Hawaii just before Pearl Harbor. The sandy love scene is a classic.

CHRISTMAS EVE ON SESAME STREET. Sun. Dec 24, 8pm, Dec 25, 8am, on Ch. 8, GPTV. It's a world of magic and make believe, but it's still hard to figure out what to buy for someone who has everything. Lessons on the meaning of Christmas from Bert and Ernie and Big Bird. A repeat performance from Jim's legacy

SKIN CARE & SKIN CANCER. Fri. Dec 28, 7:30pm, Dec 25, 8am, on Ch. 8, GPTV. George Hamilton has obviously never seen this special on the dangers of tanning. Learn more about your skin and how to care for it.

POSTCARDS FROM RIO. Sat. Dec 29, 9pm, Dec 25, 8am, on Ch. 8, GPTV. Clive James ventures into the unknown world of voodoo hidden in the shanty towns but seldom featured in the travel logs. Viewer discretion advised.

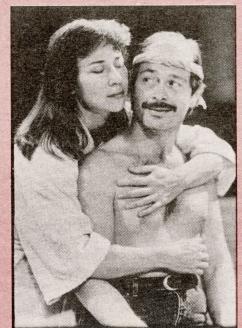
Theatre :

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS. Thru, Dec 22. Mountain music and tales highlight this evening reminder that there's more to Christmas than the lighting of the Rich's tree. At the Theatrical Outfit, 872-0665.

A CHRISTMAS MEMORY. Thru Dec 23. Tom Key's exquisite reading of Truman Capote's most touching work is a holiday must-see for anyone who grew up feeling different. Also on the bill, The Thanksgiving Visitor demonstrates that it's sometimes most effective to kill your enemies with kindness. At the Alliance Studio Theatre, 892-2414.

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI. Thru Dec. 30. A musical adaptation of O. Henry's classic story. Sometimes it pays to tell other people what you plan to give them for Christmas. At Actors Express, 221-0831 for reservations.

FRANKIE AND JOHNNIE IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE! Thru Dec. 30. A little Debussy, cold meat loaf and moonlight are the ingredients for this charming modern day romance. A funny and touching look at love, commitment, sex and intimacy in the 90's. At Horizon Theater, call 584-7450 for info.



Nita Hardy and David Milford star in Horizon Theatre's reprise performance of Frankie and Johnnie in the Clair de Lune! Good stuff! Photo: Kathryn Kolb

AMERICAN JUKEBOX. Thru Dec. 31. An extremely talented cast offers a toe-tappng good time for those who want to forget the trials and travails of today by rembering the tunes of yesterday. At the Buckhead Roxy, Tickets at TicketMaster locations or call 249-6400.

THE 1940's RADIO HOUR. Thru Jan. 5. Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear when radio was live and so were the audiences. 40's dance tunes, comedy skits and dancing make up a down right enjoyable evening. Theatre in the Square, Marietta; call 422-8369 for particulars.

Upcoming '

CATHERINE COMET CONDUCTS THE ASO. Thurs. Jan 3-5., 8pm. One of the few women conductors in the world leads the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in their first performance of Machault Mon Chou. Franck's beloved and renowned Symphony in D Minor concludes the performance. At Symphony Hall. Call 892-2414 for info and tickets.

COPING WITH GRIEF & BEREVEMENT. Sat. Jan. 5, 8:30am. Rev. Christine Oscar will facilitate a day-long workshop on ways to keep loss from paralyzing us. At All Saints MCC, 575 Boulevard. Call 622-1154 for registration and information.

62D BIRTHDAY OF OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. & 6TH NATIONAL HOLIDAY. Mon. Jan. 21, 1991. Celebrate the legacy of the man who fought racism with a dream and a prayer. Let freedom ring. Call 524-

ANTI RACISM WORKSHOP WITH MAB SEGREST. Jan 26-27. A weekend of hard work and humour with the nationally known feminist from North Carolina. Call 373-0000.

YOUNG FEMINIST CONFERENCE. Feb 1-3, 1991. A gathering for those who followed in the wake of the baby boom and Ms. magazine. Yours is the next revolution. Call 523-1227 and leave your name and phone number for info.

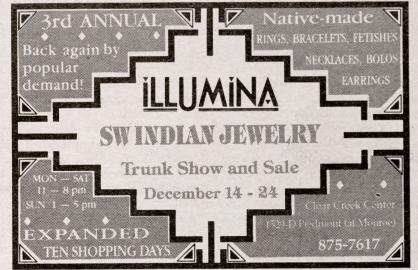
MASQUERADE BALL. Sat. Feb 2. Project Open Hand's Annual Fund Raiser is a Marti Gras extravaganza. Dress up for a good cause and have fun while ensuring that there will be money enough to help feed people with HIV infection in Atlanta. The \$40 admission includes open bar privileges. At the Lowe Gallery in TULA. Call 525-4620 for info.

NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN CONFERENCE. Feb. 9-18 in Los Angeles. The fourth annual conference will also feature this year a black gay and lesbian cultural arts festival which will be held concurrently. Call (213) 666-5495 for particulars.

YOUNG LESBIAN SEPARATIST CON-FERENCE, Mar. 23-24. Women in their teens and twenties create an ongoing network between a new generation of dykes making radical choices. Write to Waxing Crescent, 2825, N. Laramie, Apt 2N, Chicago, IL. 60641-5028.

NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE. Apr. 24-28, 1991. 5000 lesbians from all over right here in Atlanta. The conference needs dollars now, so early registrations are welcome. Write NLC, PO Box 1999, Decatur, GA. 30031, or call (404) 373-0000 for info.

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BOOK REVIEW

Theme for Diverse Instruments is Expansive in Subject and Style

Rule continues to demolish stereotypes and offer historical perspective without letting anybody off the hook

by Amanda Gable

Jane Rule's collection of short stories Theme for Diverse Instruments opens with a story full of ironies that epitomizes Rule's writing at its best. The strong voice here is that of a young woman in college who is a live-in baby sitter. The unnamed woman endures sexual attention from the husband while she secretly loves the wife. The frame of the story is that she doesn't want to go to any more women's lib meetings that the husband has encouraged her to attend. As she explains, his motives have more to do with feeling better about having sex with her than anything else. "Wanting me to go to women's lib is the same as wanting me to sleep around. It's like he's got this idea in his head about freedom. He's not comfortable with it unless I'm free,

But in going to women's liberation meetings the narrator gets a whole other notion of freedom and begins to develop her own analysis. On the first page of the story she says of the meetings: "Everybody says, 'Now let's really talk about sex,' and pretty soon we're all talking about money or freedom or baby sitters." As the narrator grapples with the content of these meetings, her feelings of exclusion, and her sexuality, the ironies and her insights accumulate. She protests toward the end of the story that if she "just didn't have to go to all those meetings, maybe [she'd] stop being so scared." The fear in this story, often the fear associated with freedom, is real. The narrator struggles to liberate herself at the

to be liberated. In the "Basement of the House" is a complicated story about sexual politics, power, and one young woman trying to find herself.

As the New York Times review of September 2, 1990 pointed out, many of the stories in this collection have houses as their literal and metaphoric setting. In "My Father's House," a brother and sister playing in a house their father is building meet a boy who takes them to play in his father's house. His father is a minister and the house is a church. The little girl of this story decides if she is to be in these different "house" scenes she will have to draw herself in. There is a delightful story, "House," of Harry and Anna giving up their boat and apartment-living for a house in the suburbs. It is Harry's idea and after it is accomplished he's not sure it's the right thing. The story ends with Anna gleefully knocking out walls in their new house and Harry joining in.

Another humorous story, "The Housekeeper" revolves around a woman, Ruth, who seems to only be able to hire incompetent housekeepers. Her current housekeeper, Anna, said she needed the job to save her life, but, once hired, she does little housekeeping and a lot of threatening to quit. The story gently twists our expectations of what each woman needs. The subtle eroticism here works well.

In "Middle Children" we see a love relationship between two lesbians develop and mature in terms of the places-dorm rooms, apartment and finally large

same time she is telling us she doesn't want house—they choose to live in. Their choices and desires are fueled in part by their similar experience of being middle children in large families.

"In the Attic of the House," the last story of the collection, appeared previously in Rule's 1981 collection, Outlander (which also includes essays). In this incredible story, which has one of the best first lines I know, "Alice hadn't joined women's liberation; she had only rented it the main floor of her house," we are privy to Alice's thoughts and memories. As she reviews the events of her life, which many might describe as tragic, the situation in the present escalates. What I like about this story is that it is many stories going on at the same time, only you don't notice because you want to find out what will happen to Alice. What strikes me when I finish reading it is how much Rule has demolished stereotypes and offered a kind of historical perspective without letting anybody off the

Overall this collection is expansive in its subject matter and style. The title story, for instance, employs a more mythic, experimental style of writing, like an involved meditation on an idea. At the center of this meditation is a particular mother, but the story grows to focus on the idea of mother and history itself. But this is very dense writing and on one level I'm not at all sure what it's about. Individual lines and scenes are often very playful and poetic, for example a description of the mother, "A picture of her, postcard to the world, standing in the vaulted hollow of a redwood tree, arms

outstretched commanding attention. Halt! I am the measure of creation! by which we shall know the tree and blade of grass. That's a pretty big tree".

Jane Rule, these days, is probably familiar to most for her novel Desert of the Heart (1964), which was made into the movie Desert Hearts. She has written six other novels, three collections of stories, a collection of essays, A Hot-Eyed Moderate (1985), and a book of literary histories of lesbian writers, Lesbian Images (1975). I think I may enjoy her essays and stories the most. She has a clear straight-forward style that brings up difficult issues without pretension but with a good deal of honesty. For example in "Lesbian and Writer," from A Hot-Eyed Moderate, Rule grapples with issues of art, politics, and sexuality. She begins the essay, "I am a politically involved lesbian, and I am a writer. I do not see the two as mutually exclusive; neither do I see them as inextricably bound togeth-

This is Theme for Diverse Instuments' first appearance in the United States. It was previously published in 1975 by Talon, a Vancouver press, and has been out of print for some time. Several stories in this collection first appeared in The Ladder, a pioneering lesbian periodical which was started by the Daughters of Bilitis in San Francisco, and was published from 1956 -

Theme for Diverse Instruments by Jane Rule, published by Naiad Press, is available at Charis Books and More for \$8.95.







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by Patrick Moore

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Scissorhands Need Fleshing Out

by Terry Francis

Edward Scissorhands (***) is the glittering tale of a young man who has scissors hanging from his arms where hands might have been expected. He is the dreamed-into-being invention of a reclusive scientist (Vincent Price), who fell dead at his creation's feet mere seconds before he could affix hands to Edward's body.

Ever since, Edward (Johnny Depp) has lived isolated in the hilltop mansion where he was created, a forbidding castle towering above a tract of colorful suburban housing spread below. Here Edward spends most of his time on the uppermost floor where he stands in the shadows and gazes at the sky through a tear in the roof.

A glimmer of hope arrives in the form of the Avon lady (Dianne Wiest, as Peg Boggs), whose delicate comprehension of Edward's predicament leads her to take him home to live with her family.

Fortunately, the Boggs are a pliable lot: dad, son and daughter Kim (Winona Ryder) let slip only a few flashes of startlement at Edward's Scissorhands, his ghostly face, the disorganized black bolts of hair springing from his head.

At first, the townspeople respond in key. Almost by accident Edward's artistry is recognized. Using his scissorhands, he shapes lunging figures of dinosaurs and penguins from banks of shrubbery and hedge. And with the precision of a master engraver, he flashes his scissorhands above the heads of his growing coterie of women admirers, whipping their hair into styles resembling pieces of kinetic sculpture.



Women admirers of Edward Scissorhands and his hair styling skill.

After one of these women, Joyce (Kathy Baker), the owner of the local hair salon, appears to reach orgasm during her cut, she invites Edward to join her salon as a stylist, with the added intention of seducing him.

Things go badly, though, and Edward rejects her as much out of fear as he does out of his growing fondness for the Boggs' daughter Kim. His popularity among the townspeople sours after Joyce spreads the lie that he tried to force himself on her sexually.

Suddenly Edward is regarded with suspicion by nearly everyone, except the Boggs'. Kim's boyfriend (played by an almost unrecognizable Anthony Michael

Hall) turns viciously against him when he detects Edward's growing rapport with Kim.

At this point, *Scissorhands* darkens considerably, and the more I think about the film, the more problems I have with it. There's obvious truth in its portrayal of the intolerance of white, middle-class suburbia: they often react badly to difference turning up in their midst.

But even for a fantasy film, Edward Scissorhands deals largely in cliches and stereotypes. It would be nice to move somewhere beyond the cliche of a gaggle of busybody matrons (including the false claim by a woman of attempted rape) forming the evil undoing of Edward's hap-

piness, which the film links sentimentally to his innocence.

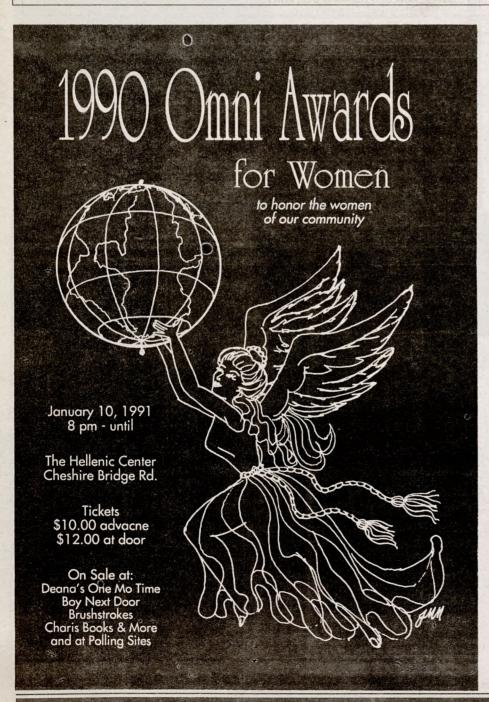
Beyond that, there is a feeling of incompleteness about this film. Fantasy films needn't (and shouldn't) necessarily be told in literal terms, but *Scissorhands* needs more fleshing out. Every few scenes we question some piece of logic to do with the film's plot and characters, not because we wish to suspend disbelief, but because the director Tim Burton and his scenarist, Caroline Thompson, simply have not adequately filled in the details.

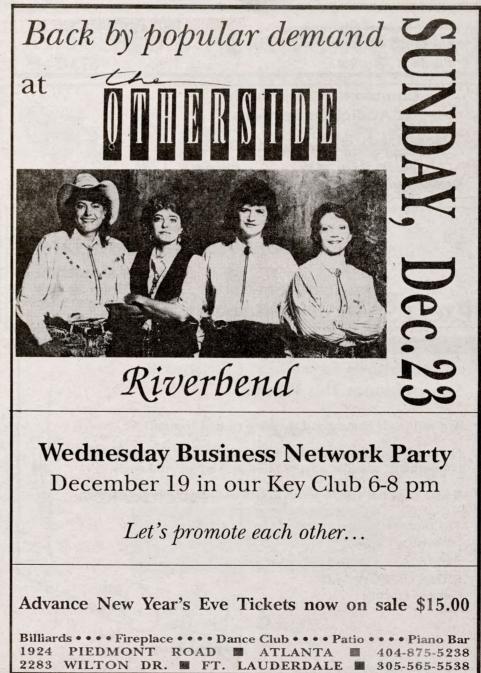
Yet, for all its flaws, Edward Scissorhands is the work of a discerning filmmaker who stands out as an individual among today's litter of under-forty, technique-as-substance hacks.

Trash like Home Alone, Total Recall, and the new airheaded Dances with Wolves preordain completely our responses to them. But even in Scissorhands, Burton's weakest film to date (he directed Pee Wee's Big Adventure, Beetlejuice and Batman), we're allowed to calibrate for ourselves our sense of the film's visual wonders, its expressive use of color and patterning, its sense of spree.

As the Avon lady Peg Boggs, Dianne Wiest extends yet again the range of characters perfectly within her imaginative grasp; she's like one of Edward's magical sculptures brought to life.

And Johnny Depp underplays intelligently a figure of pure fantasy, allowing the audience to project its own sense of wonder about Edward freely within the framework established by Depp for his character. We can believe that, at night, looking down on the lights sparkling from the town below, Edward Scissorhands must have felt very much alone in the world.





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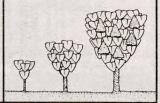
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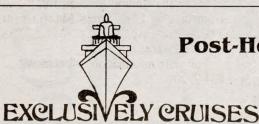
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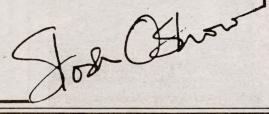
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Questions About Compound

Is it a Myth or a Miracle?

by Julie Hamilton and Bert McDowell
Atlanta NAPWA Treatment
Committee

What is Compound Q? Where did it come from?

Compound Q—Trichosanthin—is derived from the Chinese cucumber plant Trichosanthin kirilowii, and has been used in China for over 1600 years to induce abortion. In late 1986 Chinese researchers introduced Trichosanthin to American researchers as a possible treatment for HIV disease.

How does it work?

Dr. Michael McGrath began studying the effects of Trichosanthin, in vitro, using the blood from AIDS patients. Initial results showed the drug to selectively kill HIV infected T-cells and macrophages thus interfering with viral replication. That Compound Q could target these cells and do little harm to healthy cells was an important discovery. And researchers have determined that HIV infects macrophanges and monocytes as well as T-cells. And, unlike infected T-cells which die relatively quickly, macrophages and monocytes live much longer and continue to reproduce HIV. Thus Q's ability to target the infected macrophages appears encourag-

What is the research nationally?

Once promising news of the in vitro studies hit the AIDS network, studies of the drug started at different sites around the country. First the American version of Trichosanthin, GLQ223, was developed by Genlabs and studied at San Francisco General Hospital. Concurrently an underground network in Florida began importing and administering the Chinese version of the drug. Compound Q then caught the attention of San Francisco's Project Inform which wrote the now famous research protocol (which continues to serve as a model for physicians and researchers around the country) for the drug and began its implemen-

Results of Project Inform's Phase I study are very promising, showing a steady increase averaging .9 T-cells per day as well as a decrease in P-24 antigen. However, not everyone involved in the study experienced this dramatic increase. Variations are believed to be tied to where an individual is in the course of his or her disease at the onset of medication.

What does it mean to take Q?

Compound Q is a clear liquid which is infused intravenously over two to three hours. People generally infuse once per month. Although a very small amount of drug is used, mild to severe toxic effects may be associated with the treatment. Symptoms can include mild flu-like fever, chills, headache, back pain, nausea and vomiting. Additional toxic effects reported include changes in mental status

permission to move to Phase II studies. These studies may coalesce on a national basis as soon as February.

Amy Morris, Executive Director of the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA), indicated that ARCA is seriously considering a Phase II study of Compound Q. Such consideration first requires the review of the protocol by ARCA's Scientific Advisory Committee. But Ms. Morris stated that the ultimate

Results of Project Inform's Phase I study are very promising, showing a steady increase averaging .9 T-cells per day as well as a decrease in P-24 antigen. However, not everyone involved in the study experienced this dramatic increase.

ranging from confusion to coma. Some people may experience allergic reactions such as a mild rash or anaphylactic reactions like a drop in blood pressure possibly resulting in shock or death. An estimated 12%-16% of patients develop an allergic reaction after multiple doses of the drug. To prevent such side effects many patients pretreat before infusing Compound Q, by infusing the steroid Decadron. It may be necessary to repeat the infusion of Decadron should any mental confusion or allergic reactions be experienced by the patient.

This is not a home remedy to be taken without medical supervision. Unless the drug is properly administered with adequate medical attention for up to 72 hours after infusion, one could very possibly meet an early death. Professional care by a physician or nurse with emergency room or intensive care experience is required. This point cannot be made too strongly. The possible benefits of Compound Q do not outweigh the risk of an ugly crisis or even death due to unpreparedness.

What is the local interest in Q?

In September, Atlanta NAPWA sponsored an open forum on Compound Q at which Project Inform's Martin Delaney and Atlanta Physician Toni Rossi presented and discussed the treatment and research results. (Tapes of the forum are available through NAPWA.) The forum provided the Atlanta community a basic course on Compound Q and initiated a great deal of interest in the drug in Atlanta

Because of the significant findings of the Phase I study, the FDA has granted decision lies with the approval of the protocol by its general physician membership. In the interim, ARCA has asked the Scientific Advisory Committee to review the available information on Q and make recommendations to member physicians who may be caring for patients using Compound Q outside the traditional clinical setting.

What about getting Q now?

Compound Q is available through buyers clubs around the country but drug availability unfortunately does not equate to treatment availability. To date we are aware of one Atlanta physician administering Q to his patients. We are also aware of one person who changed physicians on a promise from a new physician to administer Q. The new physician later changed his mind citing possible legal ramifications of administering the drug. Several other people have reported that their Atlanta physicians have refused to assist them in accessing and administering the treatment.

We are aware of two so-called guerrilla clinics administering Q in the U.S. —one in Fort Lauderdale and the other in San Francisco. The Florida clinic will administer to out-of-towners and several Atlanta people are making the monthly trip for infusions.

Final Thoughts

We live in a community largely populated by extremely conservative physicians. Few are willing to risk the possible legal problems or the scrutiny of their peers to administer an unapproved drug. The member physicians of ARCA will be the people to decide if Atlanta has a Phase II trial of Q. In order to make an

informed decision they need input from those of us who are health care consumers.

In the span of a year, Project Inform has overcome many obstacles and has done an unprecedented job of bringing this drug to Phase II trials. If it continues to show promise as an effective treatment, widespread availability will soon follow. The decision to take Q now, wait for Q trials or never take Q is one each individual must contemplate. As with all AIDS therapies-approved, experimental, alternative or otherwise-there is no easy yes or no answer with Compound Q. Anyone interested would be well advised to study the available information, learn all you can about the treatment, talk to your physician and make an educated decision rather than an emotional one.

NAPWA Announces Alternative Treatment Forums

The Atlanta chapter of the national Association of People With AIDS has announced a series of four public forums on Alternative Treatment for HIV Disease and AIDS.

The first forum, "Nutrition—The Starting Point" will be held from 7-9pm, Thursday, Jan. 10, at Colony Square Hotel.

The forum will consist of a panel of professional nutritionists discussing the use of food and supplements as therapy for people who have been diagnosed with HIV disease or AIDS. Anyone who is HIV positive and interested friends are encouraged to attend. Admission is free.

Additional forums planned are: March—The Natural Healers, Herbs and Homeopathy; May, Stress Management Therapies; July, Energy Works, The Healing Power.

For more information call NAPWA at 874-7926.





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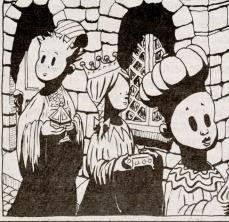






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DISH

there's a fine line between telling the truth and talking trash

Get Smart, Charlie: The August issue of Movieline magazine contains a quote from brat pack actor Charlie Sheen referring to the folks who run tabloids like the Star and the Enquirer as "losers, man. I have no time for their bullshit, they are maggots and fucking queens." When a Movieline reader wrote to protest, the magazine said they did "not condone" the language. Sheen's publicist offered that Martin's younger son was "unavailable for response," that Sheen was not referring to gay people and that he was sorry that the complaining writer had "misinterpreted" the precious young star's remarks. Bullshit! Dish has three suggestions: Sheen, fresh from an addiction recovery program, should try going through a similar program again at the Pride Institute where he might learn something about tolerance. The publicist should call his local GLAAD Chapter to learn something about defamatory language. And gays and lesbians should boycott all of Sheen's movies and videos until he apologizes publicly.

A Female Lyndon B?: That's what Dish's favorite hetero Cobbite Betty Harrison says a Republican acquaintance called Texas Gov-elect Ann Richards. Unconfirmed rumor has the loquacious Ms. Richards possibly addressing a group of Atlanta gays and lesbians in the spring of '91. Dish would pay double if she'd bring commentator Molly Ivins with her.

Dumb Dumb Dish: The information about the problems UK gays and lesbians are having with anti-kissing laws which appeared in Dish last issue was incorrectly attributed to the Windy City Times. Oh, faux pas! In fact, those facts came from a Chicago Outlines international news summary written by Rex Wockner. Dish apologizes and has gone is search of large quantities of sack cloth and ashes.



No, No, Lalique: Dish sometimes thinks we would be better off staying at home. Witness the fact that when Elizabeth Taylor presented the mermaid mask in this picture to Malcolm Forbes Jr. at the American Foundation for AIDS Research's Masquerade fundraiser at The Waldorf Astoria, we blurted out, "Look she's giving him a piece of Christine Sibley's sculpture!" "Wrong," hissed the tres offended Gothamite seated next to us, "it's a copy of an original Lalique!" That's the bad news. The good news is that Masquerade raised a whopping \$1.3 million for AmFAR's continued AIDS research and education efforts. Ryan White's mom accepted a special award on behalf of Sens. Kennedy and Hatch for their work on the AIDS CARE bill named for her son. (Pictured with Liz and Malcolm Jr. is Richard Torrance, president of Coleman Special Events

which staged the Nov. 30 extravaganza.)

Cabbage Patch Question: Last week's exhaustive feature piece in Creative Loafing on the trials and tribulations of Cabbage Patch dolls and their creator Xavier Roberts set Dish to wondering: Are openly gay and lesbian prospective parents allowed to adopt the precious fruits of Mr. Robert's prolific imagination? We certainly hope so! And, Dish wonders, is it possible to request a lesbian or gay Cabbage Patch kid? Such important questions, alas, were not asked or answered in the article and Babyland General was already closed for the night when Dish's devious mind became bedeviled by these queries.

Camp Out: Many thanks to SV reader Maureen (who used to clean our office and recently relocated to Maine) for sending us a copy of the Nov.-Dec. Camping Magazine's article entitled Putting Everyone in the Picture: Countering homophobia in the camp setting. We're impressed that the editors of the American Camping Associations official mag would have the good sense to realize that how young lesbians and gay men are treated at summer camps and the like is an issue of utmost importance.

Muscle Up: Another faithful reader, Maria, was kind enough to send Dish a clipping about openly gay, married professional musclemen Bob Paris and Rod Jackson from the Tampa Tribune. It seems the two were in the (Tampa-St. Pete) Bay Area to address a meeting of the local Business and Professional Guild. Dish wonders if they came to Atlanta, would the J/C do a front section feature on these two tan treasures? Paris, by the way, says he intends to become a civil rights attorney. Bigots over the world watch out!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLOBITH

December 21 - January 2

RULING PLANETS

by Mary Bailey-Rule

Happy Birthday Capricorn! The Sun enters Capricorn on Friday, December 21 which is the Winter Solstice, the first day of winter. ARIES-Venus is now in your 10th house of career and community status, indicating a



good time to evaluate and appreciate your talents and abilities. You may be yearning for a situation with more room for growth and expres-

TAURUS-With the Sun and Venus now trining your natal positions from your 9th



house of higher education and travel, you may feel a little restless or in need of a new perspective on life. Time for a change of pace.

GEMINI-Mercury, your ruling planet, is currently retrograde and returns to your 7th



house of personal relationships on the 26th, so be sure your communications with loved ones are clear and try sharing your emotions.

CANCER-Now that the Sun has joined | Mercury and Venus in your 7th house of



close personal relationships, you will have more opportunities to meet potential new friends and spend time with old and dear ones.

LEO-If things haven't been going your way for the past few weeks, take a deep breath



and relax because change is often difficult for a fixed sign, which you are. Do your best to be flexible, stay off your own case and trust your guts.

VIRGO-With Mercury, your ruling planet, now retrograde and moving back and forth



between your 4th house of home and family and your 5th house of creativity and passion, you may feel scattered, so do your best to stay in the present.

LIBRA-The Sun and Venus are both in your 4th house of home, family and parents, so just be sure you have time to



pay attention to yourself during this holiday season, even as you are busy with entertaining and thinking of others.

tunities for growth and expan-

sion. Keep your ears open

SCORPIO-With Jupiter retrograde in your 10th house of career and community status, you may uncover new oppor-



and trust your intuition as you proceed. SAGITTARIUS-Jupiter, your ruling planet, is now retrograde in your 9th house of val-



ues, and spiritual awareness. You may need more quiet time to sort out your feelings and insights, so don't overload on activity during the holidays

CAPRICORN-Happy Birthday! More change on the way, but by now you are prob-



ably getting used to it. So, take time to celebrate the beginning of your solar year with friends and loved ones and be proud of your increasing ability to adapt.

AQUARIUS-Jupiter is now retrograde in your 7th house of close friends and loved



ones, making this a good time to settle any old disputes, clear the air, and have a fresh start with the New Year. Also includes business partners.

PISCES-With the Sun in your 11th house of community causes, you may want to help out

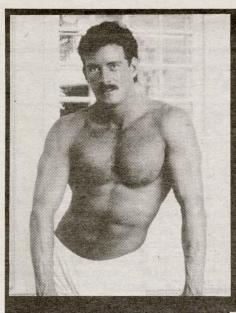


with your favorite charity or organization. Also remember that Pluto is still trining your natal positions, indicating personal transformation.

Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer who specializes in birth chart analysis, relationship charts, and astrological career counseling. Her office is at Partners in Health. For information or an appointment, call 881-6300



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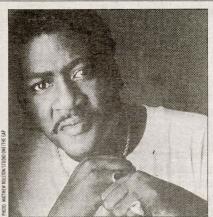
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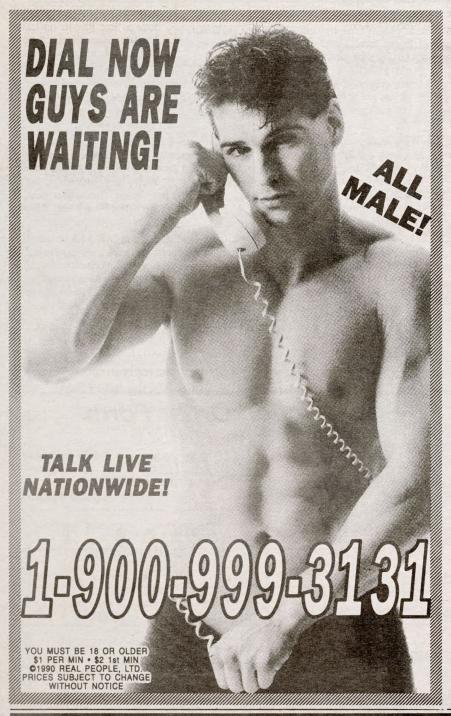
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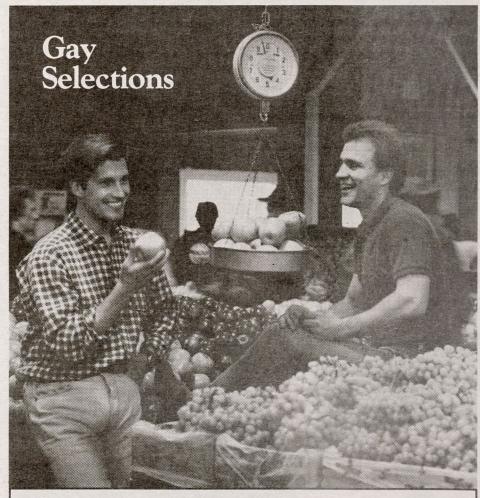


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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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An organization of support and affiliation for lesbian and gay physicians and med students. In the US and Canada. American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR). (415) 255-4547 or 2940 16th St. #105, S.F., CA 94103.

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Atlanta's most successful 50's/60's showband is auditioning for tenor vocalists. Need good vocal range, comedic and dancing ability. No travel. Call 325-2660. (V3,#24)

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P.T. RECEPTIONIST – Chiropratic office. T-F, 3:30pm-7:30pm. Saturdays, 10AM-2PM. Must be responsible, self-motivated, people person. Student preferred. Call 636-7222 (T-F, 10am-2pm) (V3,#22)

KEY LIME PIE – Full service up-tempo salon accepting applications for FT assistants, FT hairdressers. (Established clientele preferred.) Paid vacation and other benefits. Experience required. Call for appt. NO WALK-INS. 873-6512. Ask for Diane. (V3,#22)

Atlanta's most successful 50's/60's showband is auditioning for tenor vocalists. Need good vocal range, comedic and dancing ability. No travel. Call 325-2660. (V3,#24)

FOR RENT

GRANT PARK/LAKEWOOD HOUSE Rent/Buy - 3 BR, 1 BA, fireplace, off-street parking, close-in, MARTA, clean. \$450. 284-9066 leave message. (V3,#22)

FOR RENT Large attractive home on Scott Blvd for sub-lease. Available immediately. 3 bedrooms and huge playroom. \$900.00 per month. Call Sharon 373-0278. (V3,#22)



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Ad Placement: Classified ads may be placed by mail, in person or by

phone (404) 876-2709, 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday. **Deadline:** Tuesday noon prior to publication.

Discounts: 10% for seven or more insertions of ad.

Confidential Boxes: Forwarding boxes are available for replies to your ad.

Southern Voice will forward all replies to you when you fill in the Forwarding Box blank in the form below (\$1.00 per issue).

To Respond To A Box Number: Easy! Enclose your reply in an unaddressed, stamped envelope with the box number on the lower left corner. Mail your reply envelope in a separate envelope to: Southern Voice Classifieds, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316. We will forward your

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Classified Display Rates: Call 876-2709 for information.

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Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

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To get the answers and qualifications, call Monty Poe at 451-2700 or come by and see me at Curry Honda in Chamblee, GA.

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BOLTON/RIVERSIDE (N.W. inside 285) See Real Estate. (V3,#22)

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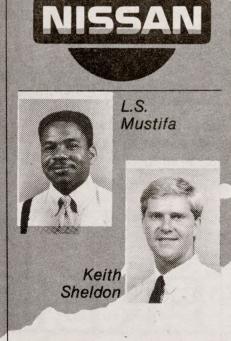
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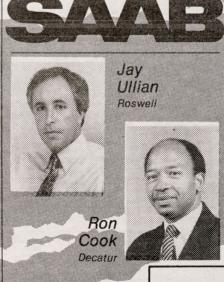


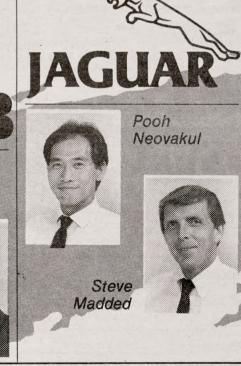
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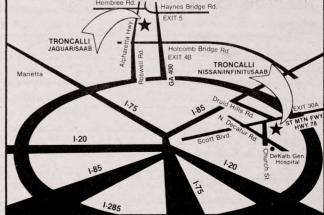
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ORGANIZATIONS

PILOTS Join nationwide Gay Pilots Association. Connect with other pilots. Newsletter and personals. Totally discreet. For more information send SASE to: PO Box 1291 Alexandria, VA 22313. (V3,#22)

ZAMI: Women who work together as friends and lovers. A support group for Women of Color. Meetings 2nd Friday of each month at Charis Books & More. For more info: 315-7684. (V3,#22)

Atlanta Gay Center Young Adult Support Group, ages 14-24, Thursdays 6:30-8:00pm. For more info, call 876-5372.

Atlanta Gay Center Coming Out Group, Saturdays, 4:00-5:30pm. For more info call 876-5372.

PERSONALS

WANTED: 28 year old (cuddley and adorable) GWF with blue eyes (most of the time), dimples, a smile that warms the soul, a dresser and a microwave. No calls – you know where I live. (V3,#23)

Marjorie, we met last Saturday at 3am at the In Touch Cafe. Would like to see you again next Saturday, same time, same place. Jennifer (V3,#23)

GWM, 33, 5'10", 150 lbs, nonsmoker, non-drinker, educated, playful, into travel, exercise, long walks, museums, tired of bars and games, seeks similar for fun / friendship / relationship. SV Box 2343 (V3,#23)

To: Debbie F. All I want is a chance! Please, allow me to have at least that...I'm confident you will be satisfied. From T., your liquor store admirer. (V3,#23)

GWM, 45, seeks mature GBM in Rome, GA area for companionship or relationship. P.O. Box 3257, Rome, GA. 30164-3257 or (404) 236-9807. (V3, #24)

Attractive GWF, 57", 135 lbs. 18, yet mature. Blonde/Blue. Easygoing and passionate. Seek same (20-30) for fun and possible relationship. Send letter. (I know you are out there!) SV Box 2339. (V3,#23)

Tired of being lonely? Me too! GWM, 37, 5'7", 1251bs. Swimmer's build, thinning brown hair, hazel eyes, average looks, smooth – seeks WM (18-23) who is precotious, affectionate, dedicated, devoted, and seeking intense friendship / relationship. Steve 426-0812. (V3,#23)

GWM 32, 6'3" Bm/Grn. Stable, self-employed, down to earth. Seeks GWM 21-30 yrs for friendship and hopefully much more. PLEASE, no drugs or heavy drinkers. SV Box 2342. (V3, #24)

GWF, fem, 35, seeks mature GWF for friendship, fun, possible relationship. Are you honest, sincere, humorous, intelligent? Do you like to explore the city, travel the country? Are you a romantic? Write and tell me what you're looking for. SV Box 2344 (V3,#26)

GWM, HIV+, 30 yrs, 150 lbs. 5'10". Considered attractive. Nonworking but financially secure. Would like to meet a self-confident man w/same circumstances for an all-around hang-out buddy. Photo/phone/note. SV Box 2340. (V3,#23)

CATCH OF THE CENTURY – GWF – Butch, 37, Don't let me slip through your fingers. Financially stable, intellectually strong, emotionally secure. You are femme with similar qualities & someone I can adore and respect. You are ready to create a loving, safe, exciting, passionate, romantic, communicative, committed relationship. SV Box 2341. (V3 #24)

GWF – 19 seeks GWF (18-25) for friendship / possible relationship. Interests – Progressive Music, Little 5 Pts, dancing, concerts, roses. No fakes, please... write to: PO Box 516, Lebanon, GA 30146. (V3,#23)

GWM, 30-40, sought by GWF for corporate activities. Prefer upwardly-mobile, "Guppie" type involved in stable, gay relationship. Reply to: SV Box 2333.

Attractive GBF, 24. Enjoys movies, the arts, music, nature, laughter, pillow talk and more. Seeks progressive independent, honest, dedicated, spiritual and discreet GF (24-30) Possible relationship. All replies answered. No drugs or bisexuals. SV Box 2337.

WM, 26, 5'8", 160. Inexperienced. Seeks older masculine discret hairy daddy type for understanding private closeness. Photo/phone. SV Box 2334 (V3,#22)

GWM, 30, HIV-, non-smoking, professional, attractive, masculne, athletic, stable, bright and passionate seeks same 27-33 for friendship & possible relationship. SV Box 2335 (V3,#22)

GWM, healthy, active PWA. Has too much free time, seeks same to fill some of it with P.O. Box 44, Atlanta, 30301. (V3,#22)

GWF-39. Butch, but not masculine seeks GWF-Fem. (30-45) for friendship and possible long-term relationship. NO DRUGS. SV Box 2336. (V3,#22)

30'ish GWM. Pudgy, erotic bottom invites imaginative top for daytime adventures and safe, erotic explorations. Replys with photos answered first. SV Box 2338. (V3,#22)

876-2709

PERSONAL GROWTH

Coming Out Group For Women Begins January 9th for six weeks. Fees negotiable. Professionally lead. For those unsure, scared, unconnected or seeking information. Explore feelings in safe, supportive environment. Chrysalis Women's Center. 881-6300 (V3,#23)

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ST MT/DECATUR Large room w/bath in private residence. Everything \$280 per mo. Female student or professional preferred. 284-8229. No smoking/drugs. (V3,#22)

Woodland Hills/Emory -February 1, lesbian, non-smoker housemate wanted to share my 3 BR home. On bus route, safe, W/D, 1 & 1/2 baths, large den, no kids or pets. \$400.00 mo. includes utilities. Nights 325-2630, days 252-4843, leave message. (V3,

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AUNTIE IRENE YOU REALLY I KNOW, BUT I WAS IN THE "YOUNG ADULTS" SECTION

AND I SAID TO MYSELF IRENE, THAT KEEP ON RAPPIN' SWEATSHIRT IS SOMETHING ETHAN'LL JUST ADORE ...

A DEPARTMENT STORE YOU THOUGHT, WENT OUT OF BUSINESS IN THE MID 70'S

THE HATSISTER GIFT

BEEFY SOPHOMORE FOR THOSE + VIDEO FOR THE SET FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS. YOU Guys ARE THE

LOVER'S GiFT...

ALRIGHT, MAYBE THERE ARE PERFECT COUPLES SOMEWHERE ON THIS EARTH WHO GIVE EACH OTHER EXACT-LY WHAT THEY WANT WITH-OUT ASKING ... BUT NOT



@1990 E. ORMER

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers With An Attitude
this one's for you.
You've always
wanted to help us out but:
Typing is so trying,
paste-up is just tacky,
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How 'bout modeling? Be part of a series
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Real Material...Real Value

LESBIANS & GAYS

At last a quality ring to represent relationships among our members one that is sophisticated, conservative, yet uniquely noticeable.

ELIGIBLE FOR A POTENTIAL RELATIONSHIP – wear the ring on the small right finger.

COMMITTED

RELATIONSHIP – wear the ring on the ring finger of the right hand

FRIENDS/FAMILY MEMBERS SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH THE HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY – wear the ring on the left small finger.

SALES PRICE GOOD UNTIL 12/31

Join us in saying YES I want to be recognized by our members. YES, I want the beautiful Reebekka Black Diamond Ring. Please mail me the Silver Black. Diamond Ring for \$55.00 or the 14K White Gold Black Diamond Ring for \$300. Satisfaction Guaranteed or Full Refund.

Reebekka Ltd., Inc Dept. GA 12 POB 28617, Atlanta, GA 30368 Telephone 394-0974

YES! I WANT TO ORDER MY
__SILVER ___14K WHITE
GOLD RING - SIZE
RIGHT NOW. ENCLOSED IS
__CHECK __MONEY
ORDER FOR \$____(Include \$2.50 for postage and handling: GA residents include sales tax).

You, too, can ACT UP without risking arrest. ACT UP Atlanta needs help hosting the national demonstration at the Centers for Disease Control on Dec. 3. We need help with housing and transporting visitors from Dec. 1-Dec.3, benefit hosting, and throwing an Outrageous Ball. To volunteer talen or equipment or to donate supplies, call the 24-hour ACT UP Line at 286-6247.

Writers – If you have a way with words, Southern Voice wants to talk to you. Those interested in politics, community and sports are especially encouraged to call Gary at 876-0789. Volunteer or small fee paid.

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Good Home
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Southern Voice Classifieds

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Brushstrakes

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VOICE

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from Mark & Gary

Brushstrokes

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Have a Joyous Holiday

HARWELL - STEFFLER COMPANY

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Best Wishes

from Harry & Patrick



1409 N. Highland Ave. NE

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Chuck & Gary

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Peace and progress to all of us in the new year.

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No Scrooges Allowed

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an organization that delivers meals to over 200 PWA's every day of the year

If you want to contribute to Project Open Hand Call 525-4620 Happy Holidays from Our Staff

Thanks for Supporting Project Open Hand

2000 Cheshire Bridge Road

321-5775

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Ed Jim Michael Michael Eric

HAIRANOIA INC.



2000 Cheshire Bridge Road

Good Health And Prosperity for 1991



Don Love

2025 Peachtree Rd. NE Suite 1, Atlanta, GA 875-8855 PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO YOU ALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.



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Wishing You the Best this Holiday Season



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Happy Holidays



Charles Larmer 873-3855

The Hotlanta Connection Wishing You All Good Things...

SUTTON PLACE APTS 321-1255

SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from

Paul M. Kimmell, MD David J. McDonald, MSW, CAC 633-5935

Good Will To All!

Franklin Abbott, LCSW ANSLEY THERAPY ASSOCIATES 874-8294 CHEERS!

Backstreet

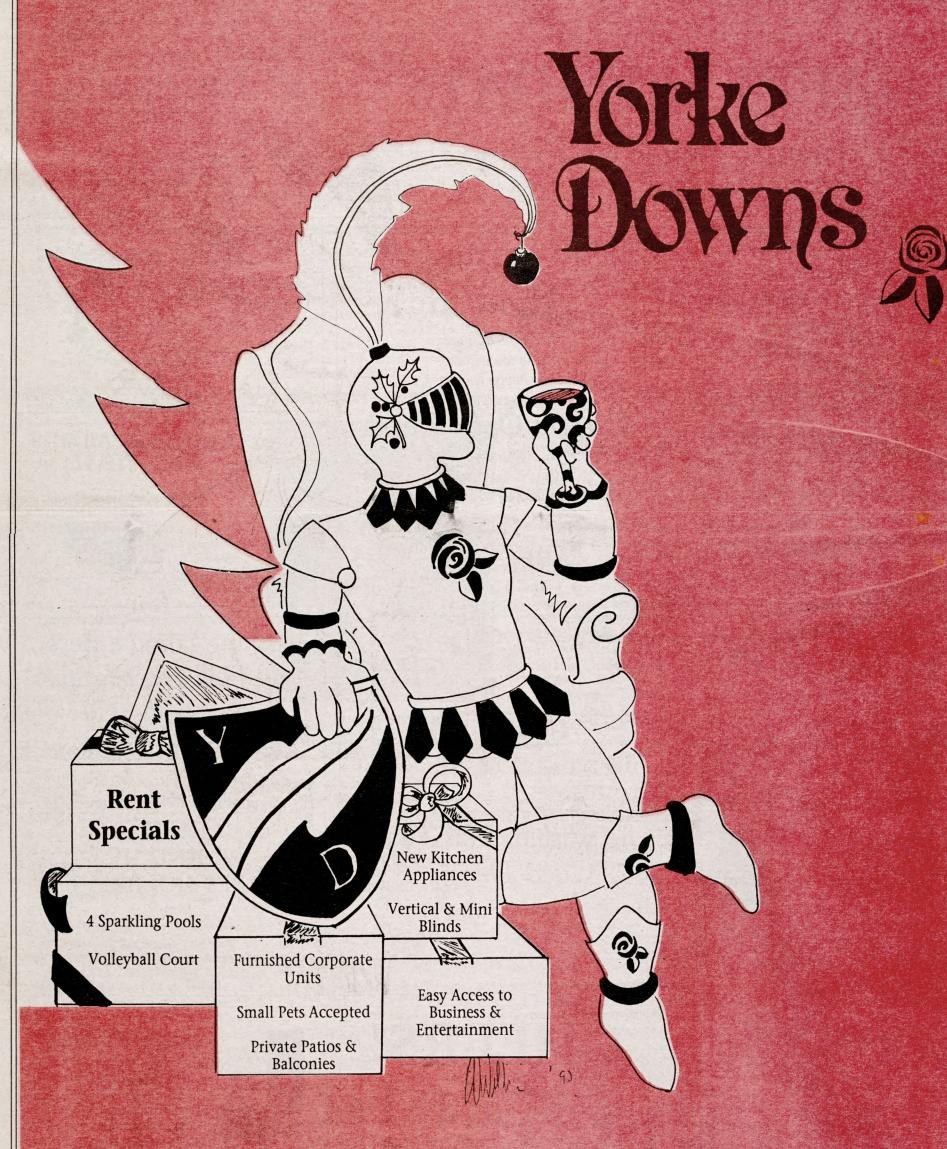
845 Peachtree Street 873-1987



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holiday gift guide

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Anti-sexist, anti-racist gifts such as SHAKE IT TO THE ONE YOU LOVE THE BEST, play songs and Iullabies from Black musical traditions.

New Titles

MAD AT MILES, a Black Woman's Guide to Truth by Pearl Cleage

and

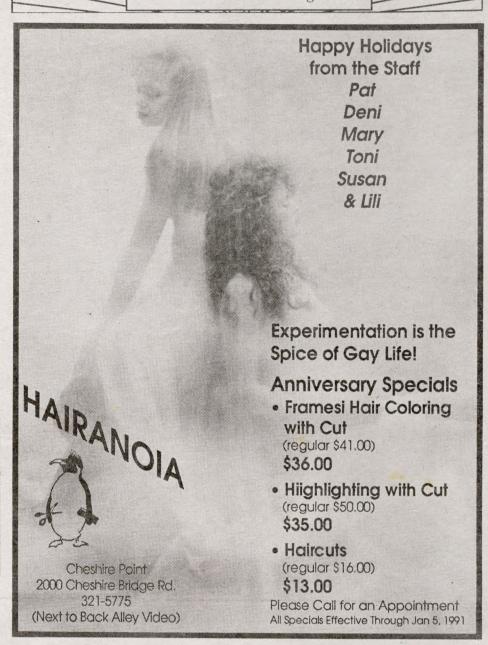
DIFFERENT MOTHERS,

Sons and Daughters of Lesbians Talk About Their Lives by Louise Rafkin

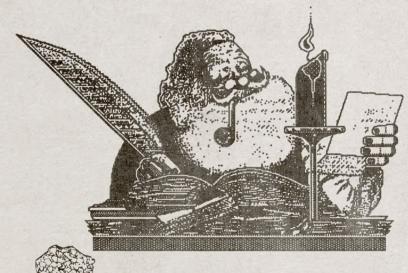
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Gift Certificates Available!

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Rainbow Flags Stickers also:

Gay 90's Tees ON SALE

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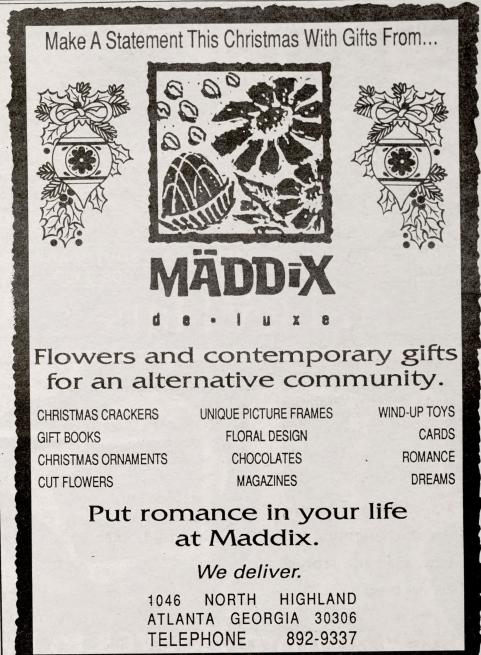
STILL AVAILABLE Rocky Horror - \$89.95 Total Recall - \$24.95

Pretty Woman - \$19.99



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25%

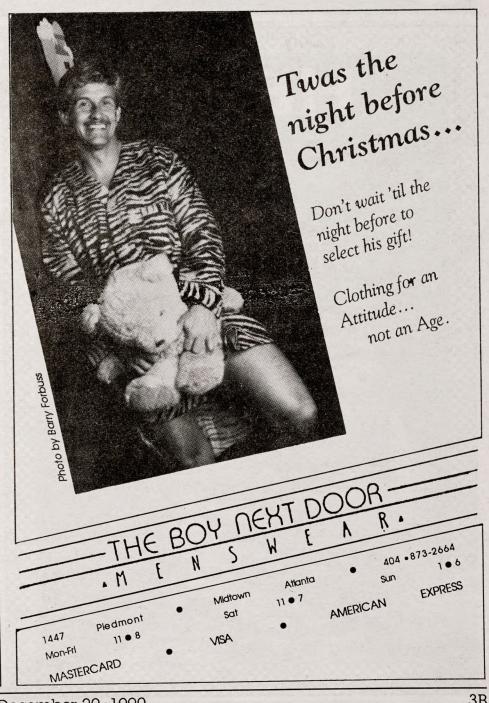
Wet Regular Priced T-shirts & **Sweatshirts** Windsocks Painted Plaster Safe Sex Baskets

Also - 10% off on purchase of Gift Certificates!

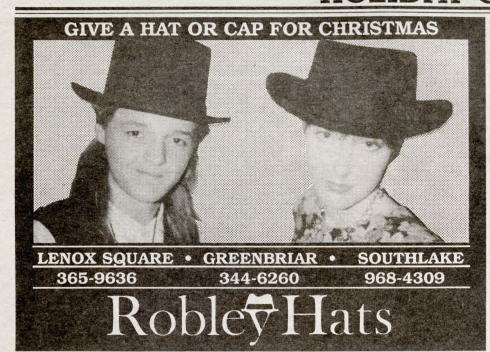
Everything for Xmas - Except the Tree

Brushstrokes is located at 780 N. Highland NE, #4 In The Alley Just look for the purple neon "Alley" Sign. We're the 4th door on the right.

> STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 11-8, Sunday 12-6 PHONE: 876-6567

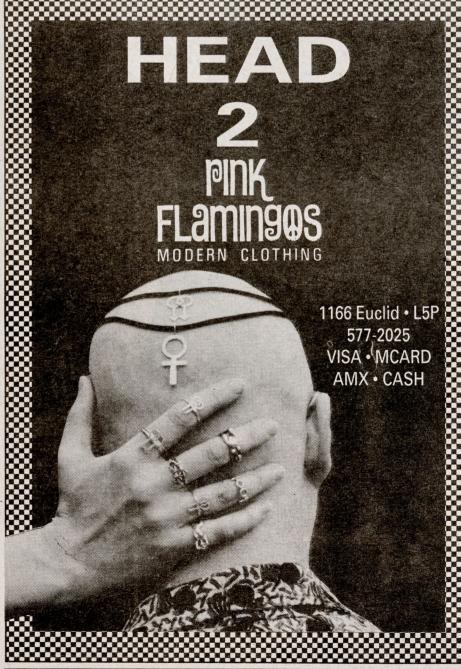


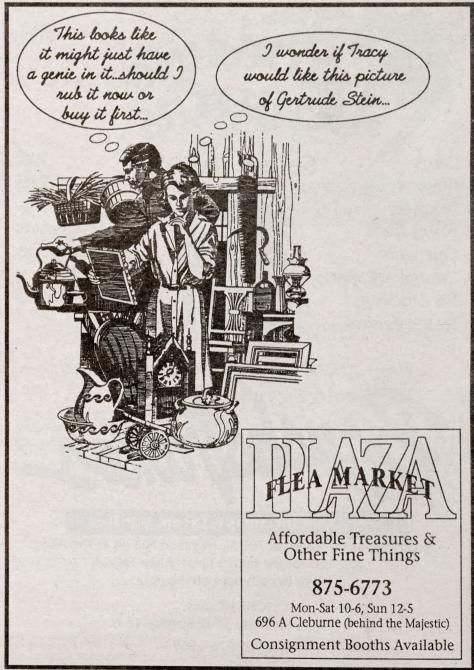
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE











Clothing for men in taste and tradition



Guffey's

Guffey's does not deal in phrasessuch as slashed prices or significant discouts or drastic markdowns... we simply call our twice-yearly event

ASALE AMONG SALES

Beginning December 26, we start our twice-yearly sale of clothing for men in taste and tradition. Suits, sportcoats, trousers, furnishings and shoes are from our regular inventory at substantial savings. This ad is an advance announcement to our Preferred Customers...you are advised to shop early for the best selection. Charge accounts are invited: VISA, MasterCard and American Express are always welcome.

Free parking at all locations.

TOWER PLACE • 3340 PEACHTREE ROAD • 231-0044 GALLERIA • ONE GALLERIA PKY • 955-0500 MIDTOWN • 999 PEACHTREE STREET • 873-3331

Queries

Nice Neighbors

Dear Celia Lloyd:

The lesbian couple that lives across the street has been so nice to me since I moved here six months ago. They're video freaks. What can I get them for Christmas?

Louis Lastminute

Dear Mr. Laggard:

It's probably too late to get a copy of "Lesbian Tongues" to put under their tree on the 25th, but check with the folks at Back Alley Video about ordering a copy and giving your friends a gift certificate until the tape arrives. This dandy compilation candidly addresses everything fro m internalized homophobia and coming out to feminism and the butch/femme debate. Those profiled: a S.C. couple who make their living as goat farmers, a writer comic who advises offending at least 10 folks a day with overt lesbianism and a publisher who wants to make it possible for lesbians anywhere to walk into a bookstore and find a book that proclaims, "of course you're a lesbian.....and you're wonderful." This video accomplishes that as well. Would that there were an equally fine film for gay men.

Celia



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B&B ITALIA



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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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Lines

Style,

Call Teri: 493-9111 • BEST PRICES FOR QUALITY CABINETS

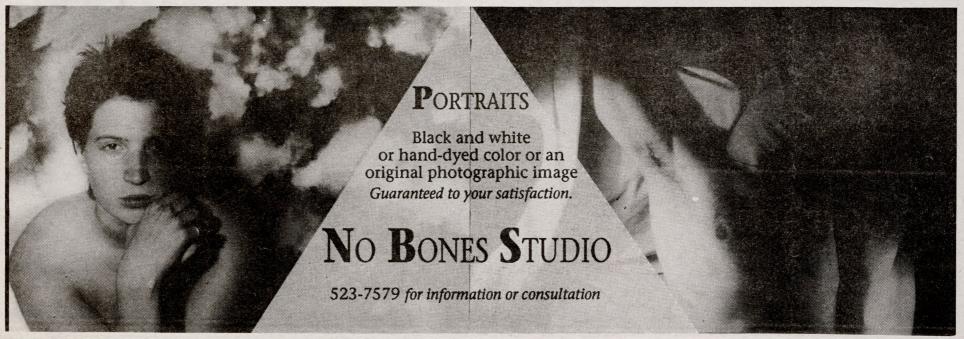


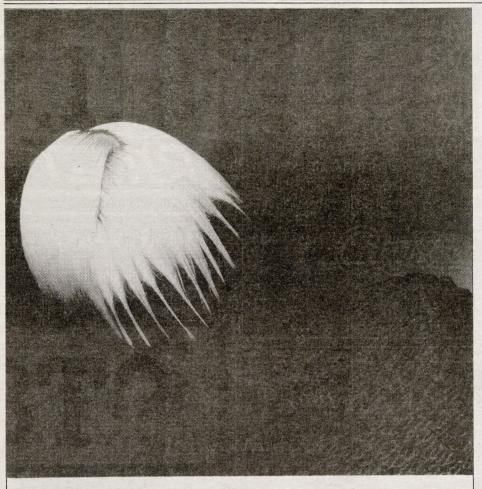
and please, Santa, get them from...abbadabba's Shoes Clothes Jewelry

Little 5 Points 421-B Moreland Ave. 588-9577 Free Parking

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Buckhead 332 East Paces Ferry 262-3356 Free Parking





key lime pie key lime pie

> Full Service Salon 806 N. Highland Ave., NE, Atl., GA 30306. Tel. 404 873 6512

<u>Queries</u>

Fir Fret

Dear Eartha Treefriend:

I want my apartment to look cheery for the holidays, but I'm confused about what kind of tree I should buy if I'm trying to be concerned about ecology.

Mr. Green Jeans

Dear Emerald Britches,

Remember that cut tree that you had last year? The one that you decorated with all those glitter-filled condoms that nearly gave your mother heart failure? Bad news, honey! First, forget the cut trees. You're always forgetting to water them anyway. Get a live tree, but make sure that you keep it inside no more than a week and keep it well watered. Plant it in your yard or in the lot up the street and in a few years you can cuddle with your honey under its spreading boughs. Or, if you can find one that doesn't offend your delicate decorative sensibilities, buy an artificial tree and leave it decorated until next year-saves having to come up with a new theme. Best of all, forget any kind of new tre e and just decorate the old reliable ficus. No ecological damage at all that way. Santa will really love it. And the condoms that you leave on his plate of milk and cookies.

Holiday Hugs, Eartha

PS-If you choose to ignore Eartha and buy a cut tree, please be sure that you recycle it. The Atlanta Botanical Garden had a good program last year; or you can chop it up and use the branches for kindling; save the trunk for next year's yule log.



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TOP HATS Black Latigo-Leather \$48 to \$70

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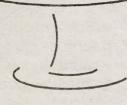
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Queries

Party Problems

Dear Dr. Complain:

My beloved is a party animal and I am a bigtime homebody. Usually it's not a major problem since we don't live together, but the crap really hits the fan when December 31 rolls around. In years past we've each tried doing what the other wanted and one of us always winds up miserable. Any suggestions?

Couch Potato

Dear Sofa Spud:

The easy way out is to buy the Wild One a ticket to New York so that (s)he can wave to you from the Times Square celebration as you languish on your sofa diddling with the remote control. More fun might be for the two of you to celebrate the arrival of '91 with a private diddling party of your very own, then have a New Year's Day party for a thousand or so of your nearest and dearest. Option three: Have a small dinner party on New Year's eve and celebrate the arrival of '91 an hour early. That way you can be snoozing at midnight whilst Snookums trips the light fantastic.

Shirley



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> Portion of each sale will go to ACT UP/Atlanta



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open early - open late

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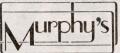
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CORNER COMPACT DISC New Releases \$11.99 Every Day Mon-Th 11-9 Fri & Sat 11-11, Sun 12-6 1048 N. Highland Ave. 875-3087



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your holiday table. 1019 Los Angeles Ave. 872-6992

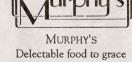
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870 N. Highland

875-7775



Don't spend your time or money in the malls with the other 999,999!

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6



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key lime pie

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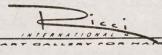
OGLEWANAGI American Indian Arts & Crafts Tu-Fri 4-9, Sat & Sun 10:30-6 closed Monday 842 B N. Highland (Behind ARH) 872-4213

NATURES ART

minerals • fossils • jewelry • crystals

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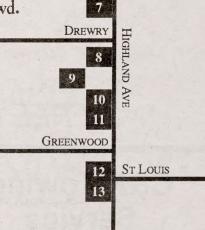
Art Gallery For Hair a progressive high tech salon 826 N. Highland 876-2887



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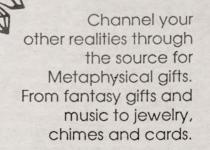
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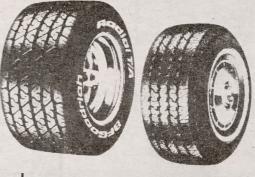
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Just Add Water (and Fish or Plants) & Plug In

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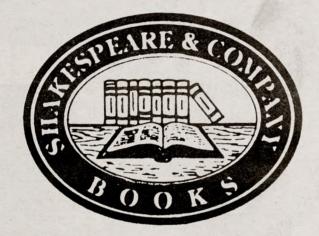
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Wondering what to give that someone special for the Holidays?

How about a menage a deux for two to eight people?

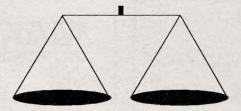
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VOICE

for their work producing this Holiday Gift Guide THE BEST IS YET TO COME



The Southernaire Restaurant

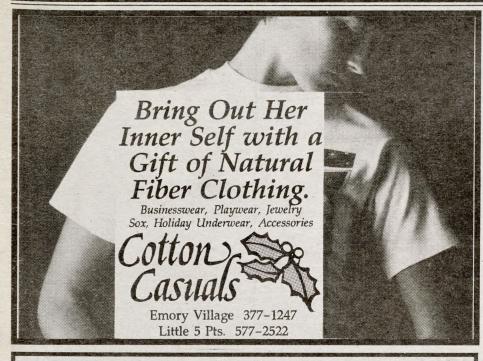
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Queries

Potluck Panic

Dear Fruity Gourmet:

I work a retail job so my schedule during the holidays is frantic. I also have about a zillion friends who seem to think that holiday potlucks are the only way to go. My regular diet is nothing but junk food and I don't know how to cook, so I usually just go to the Big Star and buy one of those goppy cakes when I go to a party. Several of my friends have told me to shape up or stay home. I'd prefer to do the former.

Tasteless Thomas

Dear Garbage Gut:

Your culinary advisor would like to give you a lecture on taking better care of yourself rather than answering your question. But, since you didn't ask for that, may I suggest the following as fast and excellent pick ups for pot lucks: A veggie platter from Two Chef's deli located in Sevananda (577-5425); a cheesecake from Classic Cheesecakes on Briarcliff Rd. (982-0065), they have several sizes and 23 different flavorsyum; a container of smoked catfish pate and some pita chips from the East Way Out on Peachtree (262-9944), not cheap and maybe a tad politically incorrect, but Goddess its good!; or a pizza (cut into small squares so that its easy to put on a crowded plate) fro m Avondale Pizza (299-6922) or from Stone Soup (872-8991) if you or your party is closer in to town.

Fruity

You to Tone

Fine Lingerie for the Larger Woman



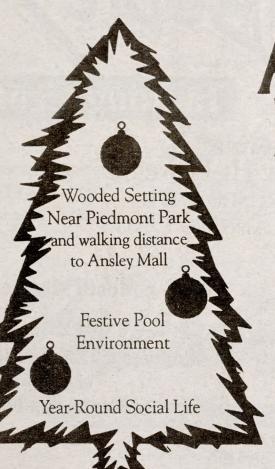
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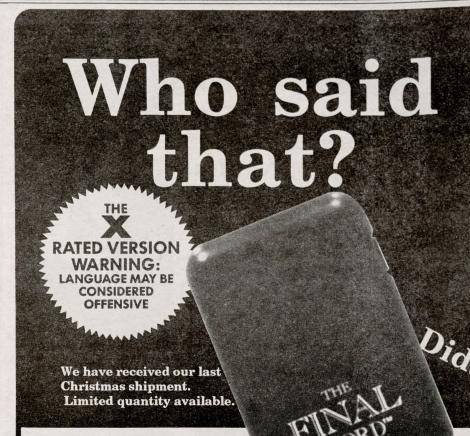
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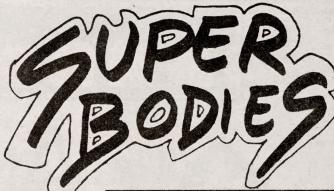
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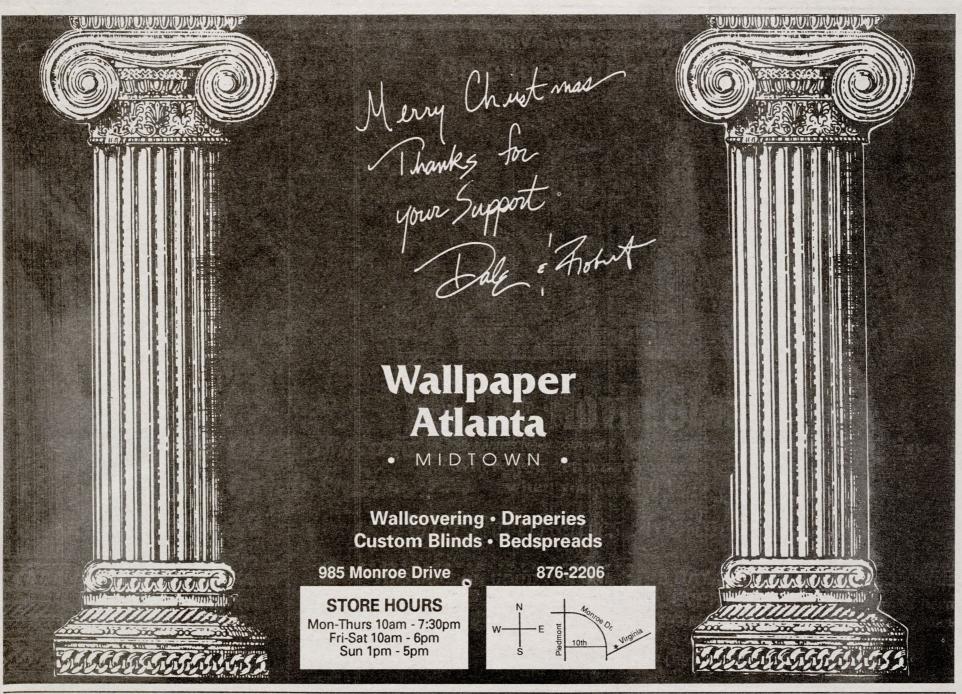
Howell Mill Village Shopping Center 857 Collier Road

Down the block from U.S. Bar & Grill on Collier Road

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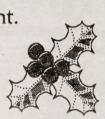


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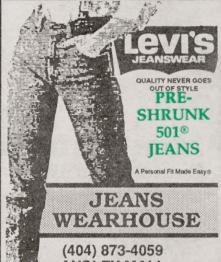
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