

SOUTHERN

VOICE

Vol. 3, No. 23

"Taking Pride in Our Culture"

January 3, 1991

LOVING



Interracial Couples
like Mary Anne Adams and Donna Smith are challenging the status quo.

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LIVING



Activist/singer
Michael Callen has been living with AIDS for 8 years.

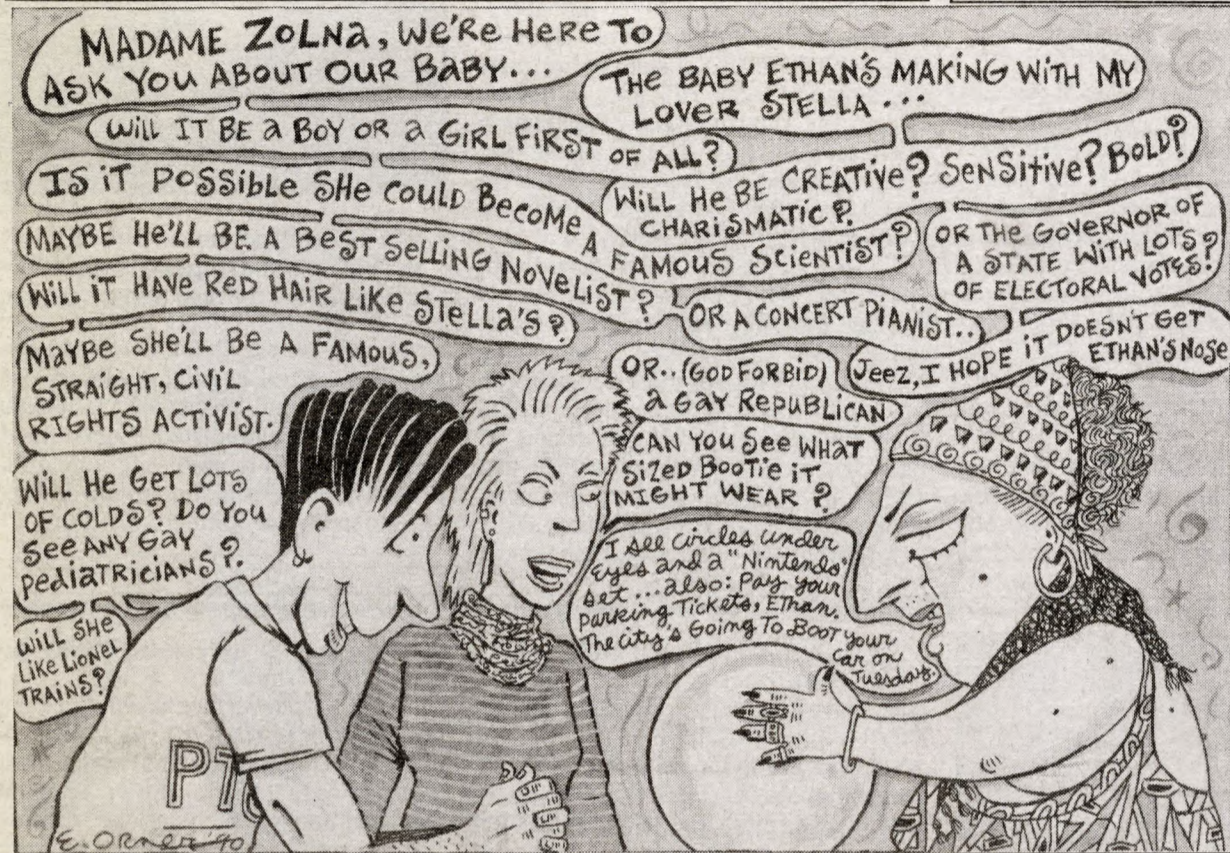
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LEARNING



NGLTF's New
lobbyist Belinda Rochelle will educate Congress on lesbian & gay health issues.

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The Triangle Love Child

Is this the lesbian/gay family of the future?

by K. D. Childers

I love my sister. She would be a perfect mother. She is understanding, patient, caring and very liberal in thought, the ideal role model for a child. That's why I want to have a child with my sister.

Wait, it's not what you're thinking! I do not plan to have sex with my sister. What I do plan is to donate my sperm for the purpose of conceiving a child with my sister's lesbian lover.

This idea may seem somewhat radical. I thought so at first. But, after long discussions with my sister, her lover, friends and lots of talking to myself, I came to the conclusion that this idea is not at all radical. What it is is a well thought out rational decision between mature adults who love each other very much.

My decision to conceive a child with my sister's lover was based on environmental rather than relational reasons. It matters little to us who the child's mother, father, aunt or uncle is. These are mere titles with little or no nurturing value to our child. What does matter is that our child will be raised in a loving and caring environment by a family who will protect, teach and inspire throughout his or her life.

Like Ethan, his sister and lover Stella above, we've wondered about what color our child's eyes will be, or whether she'll have red hair. But whether he has my nose or not doesn't really matter either.

I can think of no better parents than my sister, her lover and myself. Yes, I plan to take an

active part in raising our child, though the day to day responsibilities will belong to my sister and her lover. I will be there for financial support, love and guidance. I will be there for our child whenever he or she needs me.

I'm elated at this opportunity to have a child. Six months ago, I would never have dreamed it would be possible that I would be a parent. Like many gays, I have not had a stable and long-lasting relationship that would could foster the notion of parenting a child. Now I have the opportunity to share in the joy and responsibility of bringing a new life into the world.

My sister and her lover of three years assure me that they too have thoroughly thought their decision through. They have discussed every alternative, such as adoption and anonymous sperm donors. Other important matters such as legal, financial and medical considerations have also been discussed with pertinent decisions agreed upon by all. We're all happy with our decision and are ready to become "parents."

In about a year, with the help of a carefully chosen physician, insemination will take place. Nine months later, with luck, we'll be proud parents.

When the day comes and our child questions his or her birth origins, we'll be ready. My sister, her lover and I will, together, tell our child that he or she was conceived, in love, by the three of us.

PREDICTING THE FUTURE

Wave and say bye-bye to year one of the "Gay '90s." A year in which lesbians and gay men were invited to the White House—twice—not as sycophants, but as lobbyists who helped shepherd important legislation through Congress. The year that saw the blossoming and quiescence of "outing." The year that saw the death toll from AIDS in America exceed 100,000, with no cure in sight. The year that saw a group of lesbians agree to hold the first-ever National Lesbian Conference. The Michigan Festival S/M brouhaha. The reelection of Jesse Helms. And ...

The list, of course, goes on and on. Rather than repeat any more of it—as some are want to do at this time of year—we've chosen to gaze into our crystal balls and predict what year two of these Gay '90s will be like. What are the issues that face us? How will we respond?

Will Ethan Green be a good father? Will ACT UP blow up? What's the future of feminism? Of lesbians and gay men in the media? Of muscles? Our list is long, but far from comprehensive. The tone varies, from serious to silly. Many of the articles in this issue follow this theme. More will appear in issues 24 and 25.

ACTIVISTS DOMINATE FIRST CONFERENCE ON AIDS IN WOMEN

NIAID AIDS chief says "it provides new perspectives when I go out to the real world."

by Carrie Wofford

Washington, D.C.—In order to meet a demand made by ACT UP, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) agreed to hold a National Conference on Women and HIV Infection for health care workers, advocates, researchers, and top government officials. The Dec. 13-14 conference marked the first government attention paid specifically to HIV infected women.

Unfortunately, it also served as evidence of the lack of information that exists on HIV in women. Many researchers lamented their lack of knowledge, while government officials, such as Dan Hoth (Director of AIDS Division for NIAID) and Tony Fauci (Director of NIAID) apologized for not having conducted studies on women. The lack of information led to an underlying tension between government officials who denied that HIV+ women suffer vaginal infections—such as vaginal thrush—and health workers and infected women who described those symptoms. A

new suggestion by health workers is that pap smears must be offered every 6 months with calposcopy/biopsy.

Sessions were continually interrupted by AIDS activists, health workers, and even government researchers who criticized the government, citing activists' demands. Even most formal presenters called the government to task.

The most dramatic moment in the conference came when when HIV infected women interrupted the plenary presentations, refusing to be silenced by the moderator, as they described their substandard health and their fury at being denied treatment. Health care workers joined the women, describing horrific standards of care in unfunded clinics in the Bronx, and one AIDS worker demanded that Fauci and Hoth come to the Bronx the following week to meet with the HIV infected women.

Although Fauci refused to visit the Bronx, he later held a private session with the HIV infected women to hear their concerns. "I think he genuinely wanted to

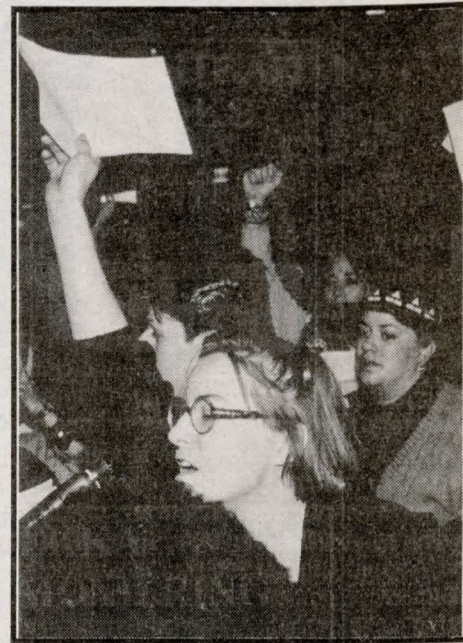
know what we need," reported PWA Keri Duran of Boston.

In the final plenary, the entire room of 2,000 stood up during the reading of a "Unity Statement" by the HIV infected women. The statement demanded a change in the CDC AIDS definition, disability benefits for women with disabling HIV infections, and inclusion of women in clinical trials. Afterwards, nearly half of the room carried their signed Unity Statements to the front of the hall to place them in front of Hoth and Fauci.

Women with HIV expressed frustration with the simplistic level of the formal presentations. Cries frequently rose from the audience of "Tell us something we don't already know!" One HIV infected woman said in the final plenary, "I'm terribly insulted with this AIDS 101. If you [researchers and health workers] needed to hear what they said, you should be ashamed to be in AIDS work."

Other sessions were clearly biased. For instance, a panel on fetal transmission included two Burroughs Wellcome representatives—an unspoken comment by NIAID on the controversial trial #076, in which AZT (made by Wellcome) is used to block transmission to fetuses, despite its 10% cancer rate in pregnant women, and despite the study being called "unethical" by the Food & Drug Administration.

Following the conference, Hoth said, "I



PATSY LYNCH

An unidentified woman with HIV is among 2000 who stood and demanded changes during the final plenary session.

absolutely believe that a continued dialogue [and] active interaction with activists is very important." Regarding a visit to the Bronx, Hoth contradicted Fauci's stand, saying he "would be absolutely willing and pleased. It provides new perspectives when I go out to the real world."

AIDS COALITION NAMES LOBBYIST

Atlanta—The Georgia AIDS Coalition (GAC) has announced the appointment of local attorney/activist Jeff Corrigan as its lobbyist for the '91 Georgia General Assembly session. Corrigan is a member of the Fulton County Democratic Executive Committee, a board member of LEGAL, a member of the Georgia Privacy Coalition and a board member of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Associates.

Corrigan, in his first professional lobbying job, says he "hope[s] to help the General Assembly take a more proactive view toward dealing with the AIDS crisis. Too often it appears that members of the Government react to news stories on AIDS and focus on some of the more hysterical aspects of the story. I consider one of my primary roles as that of educator."

News stories like the "alleged HIV transmission from dentist to patient in Florida" and the "HIV positive student at the Medical College of Georgia" are high on Corrigan's list of concerns. He calls legislation that would mandate the HIV testing and disclosure of healthcare workers a dangerous precedent that would make it "that much easier to propose future attempts to mandate HIV testing in other areas." (The CDC is expected to issue proposed guidelines on healthcare worker testing in the next few weeks.)

While the introduction of such legislation is only rumored at this point, it appears that legislation that would create a quarantine facility for TB patients who refuse treatment will be introduced. "This type of legislation has the potential for affecting Georgians who are HIV positive and should be watched closely," warns Corrigan.

Of course funding testing of healthcare workers or quarantining of anyone will face a stiff battle in the appropriations process as Georgia's solons fight to avoid tax increases. Corrigan is concerned that the hew and cry to "keep funding at the current levels would in essence be a budget cut since the money would be spread over an



Corrigan: "I consider one of my primary roles as that of educator."

ever increasing number of cases." Georgia with 4223 cases of AIDS currently ranks 9th in the nation; Atlanta, with 3228 reported, ranks number 10 in metro area cases.

Back on a more proactive note Corrigan concludes, "My desire is to help our elected officials develop a more positive view toward helping PWA's not only survive this disease, but also remain fully functioning members of their community. I am interested in a Bill of Rights for HIV infected persons being enacted in Georgia as a means of achieving that goal."

SMYRNA MAN MURDERED ON CHRISTMAS EVE

City finishes the year with eight known gay-related murders

Atlanta—The city which has both the highest murder rate in the country—and the greatest number of gay-related homicides—ended 1990 with the violent death

of yet another gay man. But unlike most of the city's previous gay-related murders, police have a self-confessed suspect in custody.

Friends found the body of 46-year old Smyrna resident Ben Osborne, who worked as a spiritual advisor, slumped on his kitchen floor on Christmas night. He had been shot once in the chest and his car was missing according to Smyrna police Lt. Ed Clack.

On the day after Christmas, David Arthur Stone turned himself into police in Ft. Lauderdale. He was driving Osborne's car and a pistol, the same caliber as the one that killed Osborne, was found in the car. Stone has been described as a drifter with no known address.

Lt. Clack said that Osborne and Stone had met on Christmas Eve at The Gallus. The pair then returned to Osborne's home where there was "some evidence there was a dispute" said Clack.

QUEER NATION ZAPS ARSENIO

Members question anti-gay material on show and demand interviews of openly gay guests

Los Angeles—About a dozen members of Queer Nation/LA disrupted the taping of Arsenio Hall's Dec. 14 show at Paramount Studios. The show, with many of the confrontations between an outraged Hall and Q.N. members edited out, aired later that evening.

"He was flustered and totally vicious," said Paul Steele. He went on to explain that QN had undertaken the action at the behest of a newly formed group "Out in Film" which Steele described as "still too closeted" to be involved such highly visible actions.

As taping began, the activists stood up singly or in pairs and demanded that Hall explain why he allowed homophobic remarks to be made on his show or when

he was going to have some openly gay guests on the show.

At first Hall seemed taken aback and argued that because he was black he understood oppression and would never discriminate on his show. Then he launched into a "joke is a joke" defense. But, as activists continued to interrupt him, he got angry.

"He marched into the audience and said, 'Get your own show, I'm tired of this gay trash,'" reported QN member Scott Robbe. After each outburst the activists who stood and spoke were escorted out of the studio.

A spokesperson for Arsenio Hall Communications declined to make any comment other than to confirm that the action took place.

Robbe added that Hall had been targeted rather than some other talk show host because he was black and therefore Queer Nation "expects more from Arsenio." Seattle's black weekly *The Facts* reports that Hall once responded to an implication by Roseanne Barr that he might be gay by saying, "When you challenge a black man's manhood, there are no rules anymore."

Steele said that QN was not trying to out Hall, but knew that QN had picked the right target when invitations for "Party Magazine Dance" were passed to audience members in line before the show. "They're for a new show he [Hall] plans to do and they said 'Remember, you must come as a guy/gal couple.'"

While response to the action from many gay and lesbian viewers was positive, not everyone was pleased. "I was embarrassed for the people who did it and the community," offered Michael Jones, editor of L.A.'s gay biweekly *Edge* magazine. "It was bad, bad judgment that made us look foolish to middle America."

QN's Jamie Green said that Hall had refused to reply to a letter requesting further dialogue and that the group is now planning to address the Writers Guild members responsible for Hall's scripts. Green says that the Guild's non-discrimination clause includes sexual orientation.

S/M SEX FOUND TO BE 'A CRIME' BY BRITISH COURT

Sadomasochistic sex is criminal assault, and it makes no difference that those taking part in S/M activities do so willingly according to Old Bailey Judge James Rant. The decision came in a case involving 15 men who were accused of "sexual torture and assaults on themselves and on one another," according to London's *Capital Gay*. Attorneys for the men had argued that the men could not be guilty because they had freely consented to what took place. British law says that sex between two people of the same sex is legal as long as participants are over 21, consent to the act(s) and that no more than two people are present. But Judge Rant said that individual liberty was not to be confused with acts that society regarded as cruel. As a result of the ruling, one of the defendants changed his plea to guilty; another is appealing the ruling. Rant will view videos which were seized in conjunction with the case before ruling on the remaining charges. In an apparently unrelated incident in late November about 25 patrons of a London leather bar stormed a local police station and obtained the release of three patrons of the bar who had been arrested earlier.

Christian-Gothic Novels Link Satan and Gays: A new brand of popular "Christian Gothic" fiction written for the religious fundamentalist market includes lurid violence and homophobic portrayals of gay men. Novels such as *Angelwalk* and *The Christening* by Roger Elwood, which have sold a combined total of 200,000 copies, include scenes where satanic demons entertain themselves by engaging in sex with gay men. Women aren't spared Elwood's venom either: when Satan appears in *Angelwalk*, he manifests simultaneously as a pregnant woman and a gay man. According to the *Secular Humanist Bulletin* the lurid thrillers seem to "manifest a new desperation and a new nastiness within a Christian community that remains incensed over everything from humanism and cognitive therapy to the Common Market."

"Discreet Homosexual Relationship" OK for Iowa Mom: The Iowa Court of appeals has ruled that Shawn Hodson may retain custody of her 10 year old son despite the fact that she has a sexual relationship with another woman, 24 year old Lori Bartlett according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In a decision written by Chief Judge Leo Oxberger the court said, "Although Shawn's homosexual relationship with Lori appears to be of great concern...we are more concerned about other aspects of the parties' situations...Both Shawn and Lori testified that they are discreet with respect to their homosexual relationship and do not engage in any inappropriate behavior in (the son's) presence." The case was initiated when the father of Hodson's son, David Moore, physically removed the child from his mother's home."

Gay Group Wins First Prize at N.C. State Fair: Don't tell Jesse Helms, but the Capital Cowboys, a country western line dance group from Raleigh, won first prize in their division of the Folk Festival Competition at the N.C. State Fair. The Cowboys were the first ever all-male group to compete in the competition according to *The Front Page*, which said the group received a rousing response from the crowd. The Cowboys, just over a year-old, performed here in Atlanta last August.

Gay Man Files Complaint Against Amtrak: Richard Wilson, an 11-year employee of Amtrak, has filed a complaint against the rail transport giant because it refused to grant his request for a free rail pass for his lover. Amtrak provides such passes for the spouses of its married heterosexual employees, but does not extend the benefit to domestic partners. Wilson claims that the denial of the pass on the basis of his sexual orientation is a violation of D.C.'s Human Rights Act. In 1985 Amtrak bowed to pressure from activists and began allowing same-sex couples to purchase discount rail tickets under its Family Plan program. But activists claim that change has not been widely publicized and that ticket agents are not familiar with the policy.

Dukakis Signs Mass. Hate Crimes Bill: Outgoing Gov. Michael Dukakis has signed a hate crime bill which mandates the collection of statistics concerning acts of violence or harassment against people based on their religion, race, sexual orientation, handicapped status or ethnicity. The bill also provides for police training in recognition and reporting of hate crimes and a public information campaign to alert citizens to their rights and responsibilities in reporting the crimes. Twelve states and the District of Columbia now have laws which mandate collection of bias crimes data or which increase the penalties for hate crimes.

AIDS Cap Found Discriminatory: Paul De Prez, a hearing officer with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission has found that a company whose self-insured employee benefits placed a severe limit on AIDS-related claims violates the state's civil rights law which prohibits discrimination based on handicap. De Prez ordered Lincoln Foodservice Products to remove its cap. The case against Lincoln was filed by Kenneth Westhoven, an Industrial Engineer employed by the firm for seven years. De Prez also found that enforcement of the state's civil rights laws is not preempted by ERISA, the federal law which governs health benefits and under which Atlanta-based Storehouse, Inc. is presently defending its \$25,000 AIDS cap.

N.Y. Medical Center Must Hire HIV+ Pharmacist: Amidst the national debate over the right of HIV+ healthcare workers to be employed in their field comes a stunning affirmative decision from the N.Y. State Division of Human Rights which has ruled that The Medical Center must hire an otherwise qualified, HIV+ pharmacist who had been scheduled to begin work at the hospital on Dec. 15, 1986. After hiring him, the hospital refused to allow Dr. Doe to come to work when a nurse informed the hiring physician that Dr. Doe was HIV+. Citing the "negligible risk of infection to patients," Human Rights Commissioner Margarita Rosa said that the hospital's actions were based on "surmise, conjecture, and blind prejudice, rather than the facts, and cannot be condoned..."

HIV Tests OK For Insurance: The N.Y. Court of Appeals has ruled that insurance companies in that state may require HIV antibody tests for applicants and may refuse to grant coverage if those tests are positive. The decision struck down a state regulation which prohibited testing; California is believed to be the only other state with a similar regulation according to the *N.Y. Times*. The court upheld a lower court's opinion that the State Superintendent of Insurance did not have the authority to issue such a regulation. Because of a lawsuit challenging the regulation, it never actually took effect. A lawyer for an insurance company told the *Times*, "It would be requiring the insurer to go in blind, requiring them to treat an unhealthy person the same as a healthy person." David Hansell of Gay Men's Health Crisis saw the issue differently: "The private insurance sector has been all too successful at avoiding its share of the cost of AIDS care."

Bias Incidents Report: The Lesbian and Gay Police Advisory Committee reports three bias-related incidents (other than the murder reported on page 2) since our last issue: one threat of violence, one physical assault and one incident of harassment. None involved police abuse. Individuals who experience bias problems are urged to call 286-BIAS to report those incidents.

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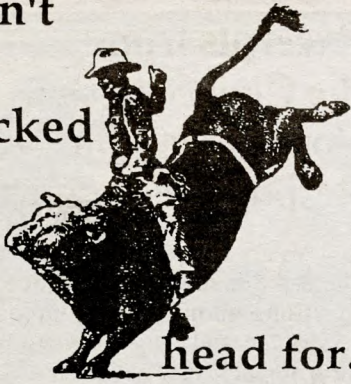
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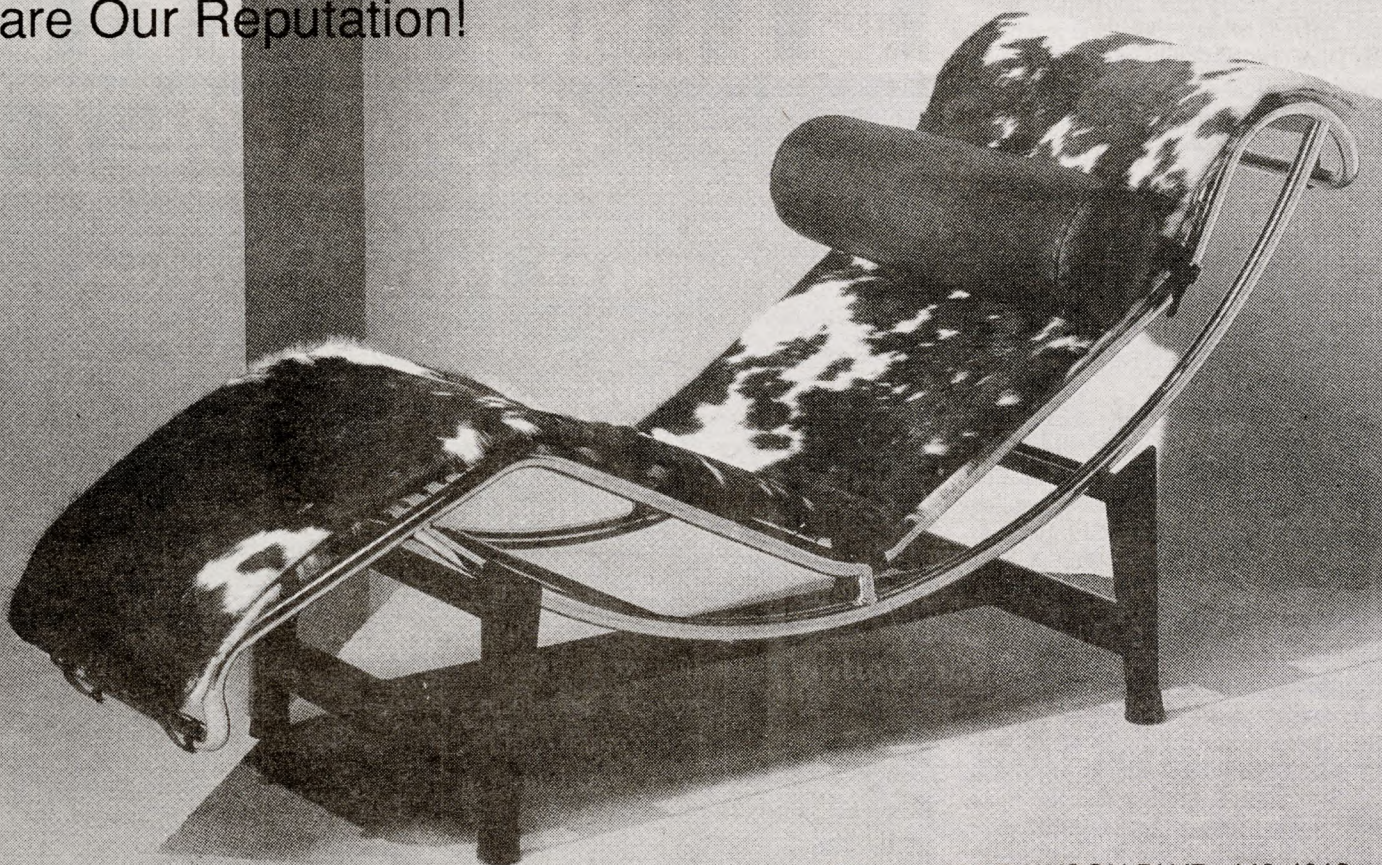
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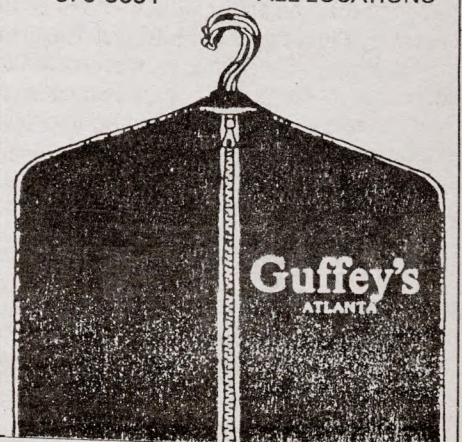
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NOW Thinks the Time for Third Political Party is Now!

Lesbians and gays urged to attend hearings which will seek an answer to the problem of political parties that are more interested in elections than in governing the nation.

As we enter the second year of the decade which has been widely touted as the Gay '90s, we can look back over the years since Stonewall and see that we've made huge strides towards a safe and open life. But the battle for acceptance and equality is far from won.

Before the final shot in that battle is fired, broad reaching legislation guaranteeing our rights will have to be passed on national, state and local levels. Both the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force say that they believe that passage of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill is possible within the decade. That bill currently has 90 co-sponsors, seven Republicans and 83 Democrats. HRCF's Gregory King, proudly points to the fact that that number will grow to more than 100 when the new Congress convenes. Locally, our political status remains annoyingly *quo*.

Despite the hopes of NGLTF and HRCF—buoyed by substantial bipartisan

success on lesbian/gay/AIDS matters in the 101st Congress—many gay men and lesbians see little difference between the Democrats and Republicans. It is increasingly evident that neither party was listening to the late Adlai Stevenson in 1952 when he suggested that, "More important than winning the election is governing the nation. That is the test of a political party—the acid, final test."

In an attempt to examine our government's inability/unwillingness to face that "acid, final test" (see sidebar)—as well as the more specific needs of women, racial minorities, lesbians and gay men, children, the differently abled and the indigent—the National Organization for Women has established a 48-person Commission for Responsive Democracy (CRD).

The CRD came out of a long process that originated as a call for the formation of a third political party in the U.S. In order to determine whether substantive change can be made within the context of

the present two party system or whether a third major party is needed/possible, the CRD is holding hearings around the country—here in Atlanta on Saturday, Jan. 19th. Those hearings are charged with receiving testimony from as representative a cross section of the community as possible.

Charlotte Gillis, a NOW volunteer, stresses that anyone who is dissatisfied with the current political system needs to be at the hearings. "People hear the words 'hearing' and 'testimony' and they think of what they see on C-Span," she said. "But we intend for this to be different, far more interesting and far more dynamic."

"[At a minimum] what I predict will come out of it is that the progressive political groups will find ways to work together," offers gay activist Rich Jones who has been attending local planning meetings for the hearings.

HRCF's King points to the fact that it has been well over a century since a third party has been able to wrest significant votes from the two majority parties in this country, but adds that third parties have been effective in getting major parties to review and revise their policies and platforms.

Jones adds that listening to representatives from the diverse groups who have been involved in the planning has made two things very clear: "the political system just is not working, it's not responsive;" and "whether anything [beyond the groups learning how to work together more effectively] comes out of this is going to depend almost solely on NOW's willingness and ability to push the agenda [on a national level]."

Obviously no coalition building effort is ever completely effective or satisfying in addressing the requirements of any one group. But the formation of the CDR is a definite step, a concerted effort to substantially expand the voice of those who are presently disenfranchised by our political system. And NOW's proposed expanded Bill of Rights for the 21st Century (see inset) clearly demands that our voices be heard.

At the morning session of the Jan. 19th hearings members of the CDR will hear testimony on the question of whether we actually need a third party or whether the two party system can be adequately reformed—two panels will debate the topic. The early afternoon session will repeat the process with a focus on how change might be affected. A final, late afternoon session, will open the floor up to comment from the public. The meetings will be held in the Atlanta City Council's chambers on the second floor of City Hall.

If you would like more information, call the NOW office at 523-1227 and leave your name and number. A member of the planning committee will call you back.

Excerpts from the Charge to the Commission for Responsive Democracy

Voters are restless in our society. There are many constituencies asking questions about where our political leaders are and why so many of them seem to lack resolve in dealing with problems. Why is corruption so rampant? How can we cut budgets of programs for the needy but find money to bail out the S&Ls? Why are there so many cost overruns in the Defense Department? Homelessness is enough of a scandal but insult is added to injury with corruption seemingly unrestrained inside HUD.

Why do our leaders fail to deal with our huge national deficit? Why does the defense budget continue to go up though the Cold War is over? Why are our political representatives allowing, nay abetting, the rich to get richer and the poor poorer?

The two major parties don't challenge each other and it often appears that we do not have a functioning two party system. In fact we seem to have two branches of one party, the party of corporate interests. As Rep. Dan Glickman told the *Post*: "it is very difficult to have ideological differences when the same people are giving you money."

Women, minorities and the young are nearly invisible in the public policy making bodies of this country. The hurdles in the way to a truly representative government—incumbency, PAC contributions, inability of challengers to buy TV time for lack of money, etc.—give those who hold the seats of power the virtual assurance that only death or retirement will open up those seats to newcomers.

The determination of the National Organization for Women that women shall become an equal voice in the policy making institutions of this country has led to the establishment of this Commission. Our goal is to enfranchise those who are virtually invisible in the governmental institutions of this democracy. As we seek to reach this goal we will ask what kind of a party structure we want—is it to be a new party or reform the existing party structure?

How can we build a more representative democracy? A democracy where women have equal representation with men, and where minorities of all kinds are also represented in numbers which bear a relationship to their presence in our society? Where policy is developed based on an understanding of the needs of the people and the country, and not controlled by the military/industrial/ political complex which drives our current elected leadership in such a manner that they do not respond to the needs of the majority, but rather cater to those who control power through their wealth and their domination of all communications: TV, radio and the print press?

The Commission is charged to hold Hearings throughout the country where the voices of those concerned with the deterioration of the political process can be heard, where the complaints about a two party system that does not function can be voiced. We seek answers from a wide range of individuals and groups.

Expanded Bill of Rights for the 21st Century

WHEREAS, we are determined that an Equal Rights Amendment that bans sex discrimination in the United States Constitution is ratified; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has begun to dismantle women's reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has refused to grant the right to privacy on the basis of sexual preference; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has dismantled affirmative action plans that fight institutional practices of race and sex discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the original Bill of Rights was passed in the year 1789 at a time when slavery was legal and women were considered legal chattel by our revolutionary founders; and

WHEREAS, it is time to complete the promise of liberty and justice under the law for all; and

WHEREAS, our nation faces new problems of catastrophic environmental conditions which could not have been conceived of by the country's founders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it is time for an expanded Bill of Rights for the 21st Century which will ensure that all of the citizens of the United States enjoy basic, inalienable and indivisible human rights to which must be added:

1. the right to freedom from sex discrimination;
2. the right to freedom from race discrimination;
3. the right of all women to freedom from government interference in abortion, birth control and pregnancy and the right of indigent women to public funds for abortion, birth control and pregnancy services;
4. the right to freedom from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation;
5. the right to freedom from discrimination based on religion, age, ongoing health condition, or a differently abled situation;
6. a right to a decent standard of living, including adequate food, housing, health care and education;
7. the right to clean air, clean water, safe toxic waste disposal, and environmental protection; and
8. the right to be free from violence, including freedom from the threat of nuclear war.

EDITORIAL

A political prediction for '91

SOUTHERN STYLE ESCARGOT

Consider, please, the following: The Different Drummers (a gay marching band) marched in D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon's inaugural parade yesterday; and a couple of weeks ago Mass. Gov.-elect Wm. Weld came to an awards ceremony held by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights and declared that "homophobia is going to be extinct by the time we're done." (Weld, by the way is a Republican.)

Or these facts: In 1979 an openly gay man was appointed to California's State Superior Court; In '80 an open lesbian was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives—she's still there 10 years later; In '82 Wisconsin passed a statewide

gay/lesbian rights law—Massachusetts did the same last year; In '83 a member of the U.S. Congress came out as gay, he has just been reelected; In '84 Berkeley, Calif. adopted a domestic partnership ordinance; In '87 a second U.S. Congressman came out—he, too, has just been reelected.

In '89 an openly gay black man was elected to the Common Council of Albany N.Y. (The list goes on, but we'll trust that if you've been reading this paper for the past year or two that you're familiar with the progress that lesbian and gay communities around the nation have been making in electing their own and getting strong legislation passed.)

It was also in '89 that two spokespersons for Atlanta gay/lesbian community told an A.P. reporter that Atlanta's queer community would soon be on a par with New York, San Francisco and L.A. when it comes to getting politicians to turn their promises into performance.

Sorry, dudes, it hasn't happened.

Why? Because this is the South? Because we do things differently here? Because we're too polite? Because we're too timid? We could go on and on, but it seems more important to ask, "why not?"

Why haven't the elected officials of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County made good on their promises to enact legislation that they have promised to their lesbian and gay constituents?

We cannot think of a single good reason why not.

Equal rights for lesbians and gay men in housing, employment, contracts and domestic partnerships exist all over this

country. A judge in Texas just found that state's (gay only) sodomy law unconstitutional. Massachusetts just passed a hate crimes act. It's not as if the idea of openly gay elected officials or this kind of action is radical anymore.

If the folks who schmooze with our local law makers aren't able to produce some action—like laws that stand firm in the face of bigotry and bias—and if they don't do it soon, we predict that '91 will see...

Actually we have two predictions: one is that not a damn thing will change, that protection for our rights will come with all the speed that a (very) polite snail can muster on a cold day in hell.

The second possibility is that a group of folks who are not stuck on the old saws of Southern posturing and politeness will start to ask some questions and make some noise. And that action will follow.

We trust that it will be the latter.

GUEST EDITORIAL

NO MORE SILENT SCREAMS

Good health, clear minds and self esteem are the issues for African American lesbians and gays in '91.

In our efforts to fight the powers that be, we as African-American lesbians and gays have to fine tune our physical and mental readiness. As an African-American lesbian reflecting for the billionth time on the past and those painful memories that cling onto your existence like lint balls on your favorite sweater, it's time again for the fresh start syndrome.

This time no more silent screaming. This year I predict us diving deep into ourselves. In the African-American lesbian and gay community my sisters and brothers are too often of poor health (apart from AIDS) we abuse drugs and alcohol, verbally abuse one another and our mental state of mind is critical. Time to ditch that old attitude.

This year I wish to adopt a new title for my sisters and brothers. "Cubemates". In '91, I visualize us pulling close together as we struggle to dwell in this cubicle society that embraces its multiple -isms. Time out folks. I predict that my cubemates and I will focus on good health, develop cool clear minds, achieve high self esteem through loving ourselves.

We are going to take the issues that separate us to hell and back if necessary. We're going to use vice grip love in the Black community to end homophobia. Our art will flourish as it is desperately important that we incorporate homosexuality into our mainstream culture.

I predict us operating organizations uplifting our innermost spirits, being seen in public places on our terms, and loving our sisters and brothers without baseball bats—no longer loving them to death.

My cubemates and I will dive deep into ourselves to unleash the harmful hate that cripples and try to get through to power hungry white men, bitchy Black women turned sour from abuse, white women that really care about Black women's health in its alarming condition (but could use our assistance), angry Black men, tongue-lashing ministers, homophobic politicians that "diss us" through clenched teeth.

I see us in 1991 fighting as healthy individuals working overtime to wipe out war, AIDS, rape, hate crimes, senseless beatings. It is time to make that change.

I visualize African-American lesbians and gays in 1991 breaking the silence.

Carol Tucker

FROM THE EDITOR

LOOSE LIPS ON LATEX

1991 will see the return of men talking about safe sex

It's almost as if we pretend that if we demonstrate against government stupidity about it, donate money to support research of it, and care for friends who are infected with it, that we won't get it.

It, of course, is human immunodeficiency virus. HIV. AIDS. And the pretending, of course, is dangerous and deceitful.

First there was the news of a California study which claims 13 of 82 gay men who tested positive for HIV antibodies claimed that their only risk factor within the previous six months was oral sex.

Then a freelance writer sent me an article about the fact that AIDS activists in New York admit that they aren't having safe sex. I didn't run the piece because it was unfocused, largely anecdotal and more than a bit preachy.

And last week I got a phone call from a friend, an ardent AIDS activist, who told me that he and some friends had been talking about sex. As they breached their embarrassment and started telling the truth, some admitted that they still engaged in "less than safe" practices—specifically

unprotected oral contact. Maybe there was more, but we didn't get into the specifics.

(It should be noted that the numbers released in that study were "preliminary," that there are a number of questions about the methodology and about what questions were not asked. And it should be noted that most AIDS educators in this country agree that cum in the mouth is bad idea, period, even though, in late '88, the Canadian AIDS Society removed oral sex from its "risky" list and London's Lesbian and Gay Switchboard began running big ads and printing posters that encourage people to "Suck!")

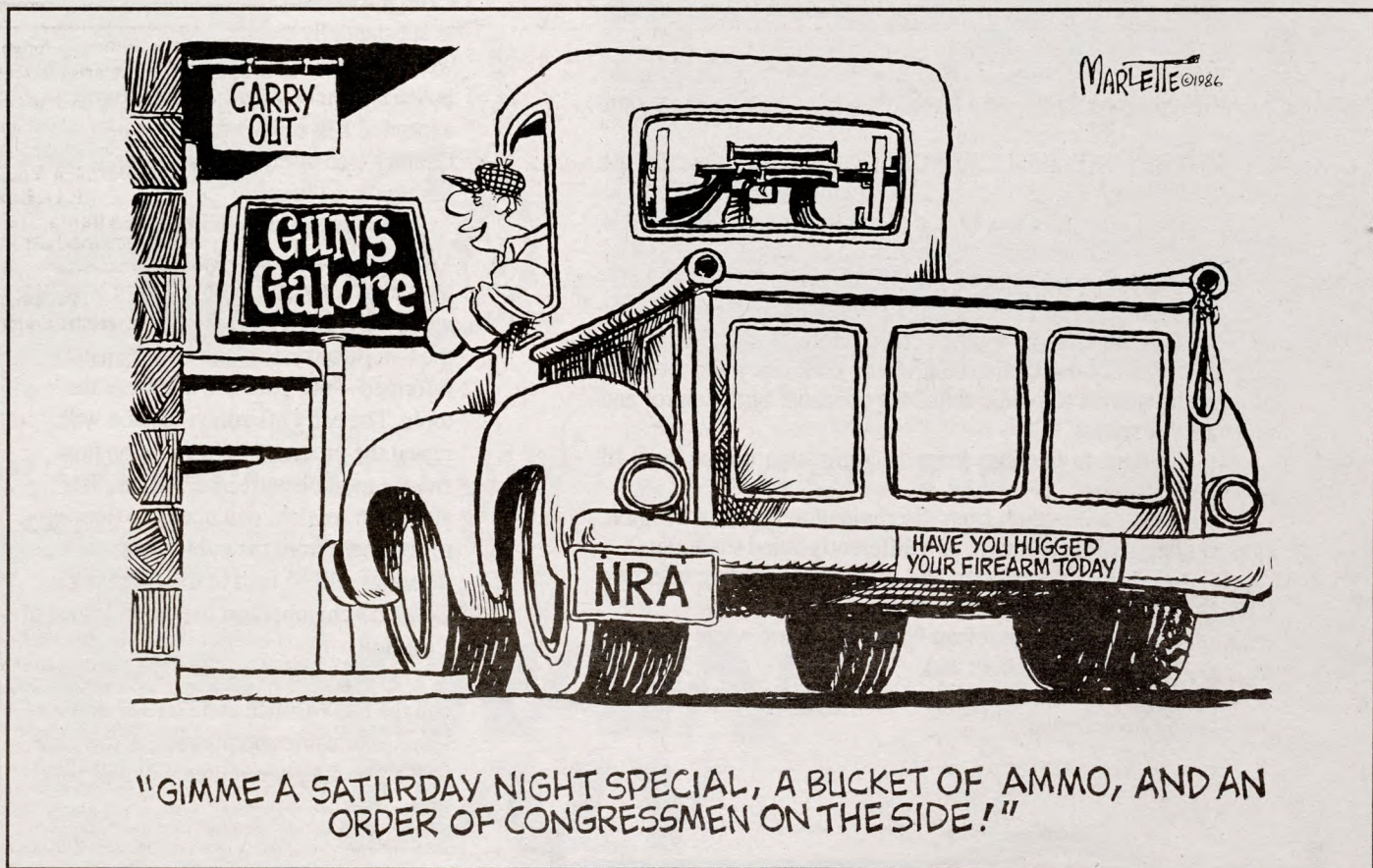
But the point here is not so much what's safe and what isn't. The issue is that it's been a long time since gay men in Atlanta have sat down with each other and talked about the nature of their sexuality and the precautions that they are and are not willing to take. AID Atlanta's "Campaign '85" ran on into '86 and BWMT has done some work with their "Hot, Horny and Healthy" parties, but that's about it.

(I'm told by the folks at AID Atlanta

that they have a new safe sex campaign—evidently modeled on San Francisco's recent efforts to deal with young gay men and those of us who should have heard the message the first time around, but didn't pay heed—ready to go. Funding has been requested from several sources.)

My friend said that he and his friends had agreed that they would sit down talk about their sexual habits again. I told him that I'd bring the issue up with a group of my friends. And I promised him that I'd write this article suggesting that you do the same.

When you talk about sex with your friends it's important to remember that those of us who are engaging in unsafe behavior—however you may choose to define it—are likely to be evasive and defensive about admitting it. The quickest way to make these conversations useless or even harmful, is to get preachy. Getting around that may not be easy, but if there is one thing that this horror should have taught us it is that men really are capable of being loving and compassionate in the face of even the deadliest fear.



"GIMME A SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL, A BUCKET OF AMMO, AND AN ORDER OF CONGRESSMEN ON THE SIDE!"

heterodoxy, n.
 the quality or fact of being
 an opinion contrary to that
 which is established or
 generally received.
 a monthly column by KC Wildmoon

**REVEREND WILDMOON
 PREDICTS!**

Didn't know that about me, did you? Yes, I am a reverend. I paid ten bucks for a little card that says so, mainly because I liked the sound of "Reverend Wildmoon," and figured someday maybe it would come in handy. And now for this first Heterodoxy of 1991, it has.

I've just returned from M'amzelle Marie Laveau's grave in N'awlins. If you don't

know about M'amzelle, check out Luisah Teish's *Jambalaya*. But the spirits were jumpin' down there, opening up the channels for a view of the year to come.

No, we're not going to wake up one morning to learn that the voices of the Indigo Girls are actually Dede Vogt and Angela Motter. And unfortunately the population of the Big Peach is not suddenly going to open their hearts and minds to Queers everywhere.

Hopefully we won't be enduring too much more of that "Gay Nineties" crap we were buried under this time a year ago. Quite frankly, I haven't seen much Gay in the nineties, unless you use the very narrow definition of Gay: assimilated white men. There's been plenty of that so far, and I have no doubt we see plenty more before the millenium rolls around.

In fact, that's about it for what I see for 1991: more of the same. It depresses me just to think of it.

But underneath the usual stuff we hear, I feel a surge of more positive growth. We don't, and won't, read about much of it in the press, because it's all taking place on a more personal level, and that translates to Not Interesting Enough to make newsprint.

What I see is more and more of us stopping and *thinking*. Instead of trying to mold ourselves to fit some already existing ideology, we are ever so slowly beginning to talk about where and why we differ. We are talking, and more importantly we are listening to one another.

This is all happening outside the realms of the Mayor's office and county commission offices. But then, most of you probably know that, since you are the ones doing this thinking, talking and listening. I've seen you in coffee shops, living rooms, car seats, restaurants, and on the streets.

I've heard you say that you don't fit in with the "Gay Community," and you certainly don't fit in the Mainstream World.

You've told me you feel a little lost, a little homeless, and it's no longer an acceptable feeling. You've gotten a glimpse of the Big Picture, and feel a little frustrated that you don't know what to do with it. But you've also told me that you've been running into other people who feel the same way.

So for 1991 there'll be more of the same. More of the same bullshit, and more of the same undercurrents of discontent. Sometime during 1991 we may become less of an undercurrent and more of a tide. It's already started—first ACT UP and now Queer Nation have sprouted from that discontent. And there's much much more to come.

Change is coming, my Friends. But change starts on a small level, in our hearts and minds, not in board rooms or government offices. And then it grows. If you know that already, keep at it. If you don't, try it. You just may be surprised at our strength. M'amzelle told me it is so.

MISCELLANY

Regular readers will note several changes in this issue. The most obvious is a new front page layout that will allow us to add some much needed copy space.

Our listing of local lesbian and gay organizations (which ran regularly in a slightly different format until early last year) has returned. When we dropped the listing we inserted a listing of lesbian/gay bars. Our hope at the time was that we would be able to attract sufficient regular bar advertising to expand the size of the paper by four pages and thus regularly have room for the organizations listing as well as some new, regular features. Ads from about 40% of locals bars would have done the trick. We thought it was a good idea and we tried hard to make it work, but it didn't.

There are a number of local groups and organizations that are not listed; there are also, no doubt some errors in the current listing. If you have additions or changes to the Organizations listing, please give us a call at 876-0789.

Readers would do well to remember that virtually all the organizations listed are staffed by volunteers. If you do not get a quick response to your letter or phone call, try again—gently.

**CARBON COPY
 NUNN SAYS NO**

Dear Samantha [Claar]:

Thank you for contacting me regarding civil rights protection for individuals on the basis of their sexual preference.

I understand your concern about protection from discrimination. In the past, I have supported civil rights measures which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, age, handicapped status, and sex. However, I do not support the adoption of federal civil rights statutes to afford protection to individuals on the basis of their sexual preference.

S. 47, the Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1989, was introduced by Senator Cranston and referred to the Senate Judiciary for further review. The Committee has not scheduled any additional legislative activity at this time. A similar bill was offered in the 100th Congress, but the Senate failed to act on this measure before the end of the session.

Should the full Senate consider any related legislation in the future, I will certainly remember your concerns. I hope you will contact me again on issues of importance to you.

It was good to hear from you.

Sincerely,
 Sam Nunn
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510
 Senator Nunn's Georgia office telephone number is (404) 331-4811.

**FIGHT AIDS,
 NOT SCAPEGOATS**

Dear *Southern Voice*,

I'd like to respond to the guest editorial by Vee Burns in the Nov. 22d issue.

Vee, why are you blaming ALL bisexual men for the actions of some individuals? In regard to AIDS it seems like everybody is blaming someone else for starting and spreading it, when it is so pointless to be worrying about blame instead of dealing with the problem especially since there is plenty of blame/responsibility/and sometimes credit to go around.

You might remember that women aren't the only ones whose lives are at stake. Those men you spoke of must be infected themselves in order to transmit the disease and I doubt they show any more concern for male tricks or boyfriends than they do for their wives. I suspect some women are just as thoughtless and insensitive, as some men, regarding their partner's health.

The fact is that each man and woman

must take the responsibility to protect themselves and their partner(s), and not rely on any presumption of fidelity that may not be justified. Obviously we can't condone the reckless disregard for others that Vee ascribes to her friends' husbands, but we know it happens and we know truthfulness is hardly to be expected when someone is passing for strait or fooling themselves.

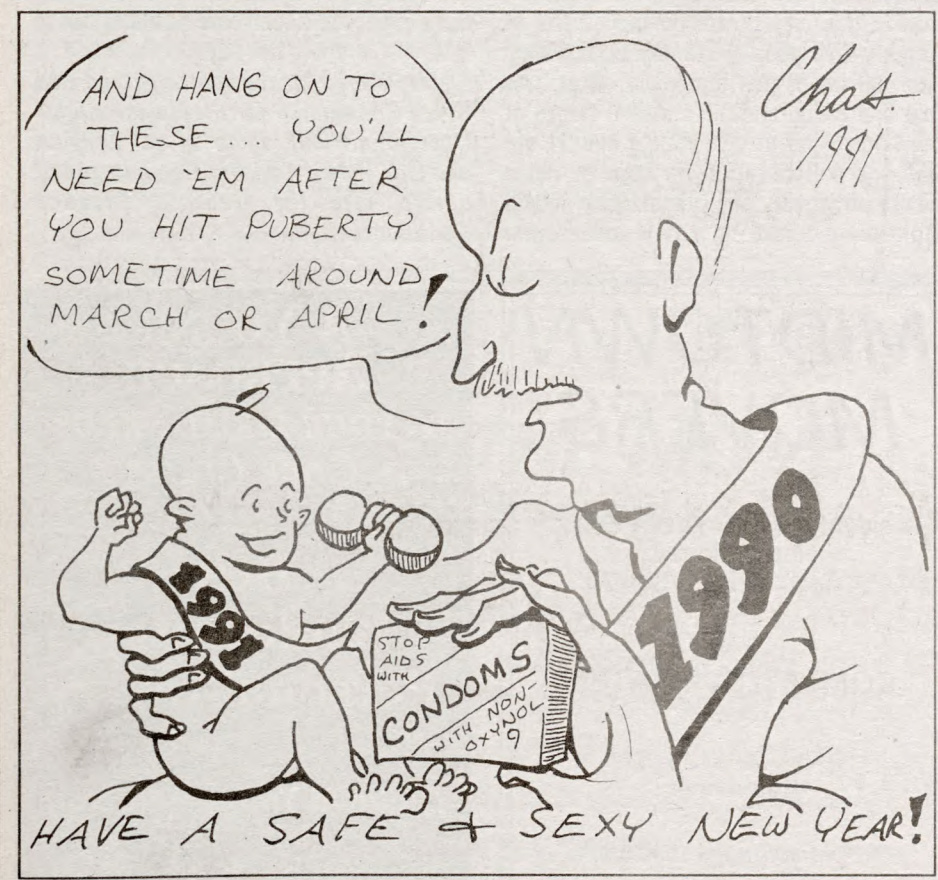
Yes Vee, the women you wrote about should have been treated better; they also probably should have known better; that shouldn't be necessary but it is and if neither partner is willing to face up to the issue why blame only one?

Please also keep in mind that bisexuals often get the worst of both worlds along with the best. Most gays and straits think someone is either gay or strait and not both or neither. Lots of people assume that if a male bisexual is married he will cheat on his wife with men (and that this is worse than cheating with women) not to mention the assumption that all heterosexually married men who cheat with men are bi.

Everyone should be up front and honest with themselves and their sexual partner(s), Vee, whatever the gender or sexual orientation—but no one should kid themselves that everyone is, some can't/won't/or don't know how and *those* are the ones we all have to watch out for.

Fight AIDS, not scapegoats.

Morgan Reid



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
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Political Fun in '91

Experience, exhaustion and prodding by born-again activists will spawn alliances among politicians who have been loathe to cooperate in the past.

by Cathy Woolard

Scanning the new, unscathed local political landscape of 1991 from the relative safety of battered old 1990 creates fertile ground for prognostication for one who loves to offer opinion about things political.

As a pre-March on Washington activist (barely), I am amazed to remember that this inspiring event occurred just three years ago. Our political evolution as a community since the March has been whirlwind, exhausting and invigorating at the same time. But new changes are coming as many of us seasoned activists are forced to reevaluate our goals and methods in light of the new generation pushing us along.

That generation is one of young gay men—who have known of AIDS since elementary school and who have the confidence to love and fuck without anxiety because they grew up understanding how to negotiate the mine field of sex safely. And of young lesbians—fierce enough about their love to express it publicly without that telltale insecurity which dominates the actions of many of their elders. Both are defiant in their impatience to get on with things.

Our political success as a community will be directly reflected in the ease with which assimilation occurs between the political styles of the two generations. Infighting over the relative usefulness of one style versus the other is clearly non-productive. An intelligent exploitation of different political tools should reap large benefits for us all. Given our glorious history as a community of self-conscious trend setters, my bet is that change will come relatively quickly.

This past electoral campaign season was a killer for many of us fossilized activists as we faced candidate interviews, political caucuses, campaign fundraisers and other volunteer efforts on behalf of our favorite candidates. As we reached the middle of those efforts, a number of us looked around and realized for the hundredth time that each political organization in this city is run on the efforts of roughly five people and any bodies they can pull in for the immediate effort. As that realization and the terminal stages of burn-out begin to take root, I believe we will see collaboration on large projects where previously one organization would stake out territory early and resist

attempts by other groups to play. Experience, exhaustion and prodding by born-again activists will spawn alliances among politicians who have been loathe to cooperate in the past.

I marvel at the thought of all the varieties of political hell-raising our community has wrought over the past several years. From gay and lesbian sports teams filling bowling alleys, gyms, and athletic fields to the infiltration of political parties by groups and individuals, to the proliferation of gay/lesbian owned businesses, we have been everywhere of late.

Lesbians and gay men have come out within non-queer communities and organizations and their efforts to include our agenda within the context of those organizational missions have paid off in new possibilities for coalition-building among progressive groups for political change. I predict that the upcoming General Assembly session will forge some strong partnerships in the effort to defeat Georgia's Sodomy Law, pass a comprehensive Bias-Crimes Bill, and keep reproductive choice for women safe from government tampering. But even if every lesbian and gay man in the state were to come out, register to vote and participate in the political process, we will never be the majority of the vote. The foundations we have been building for coalition work will begin to pay off early in '91 and should serve us very well as we prepare for '92s electoral battles.

Yielding to exciting changes in political style, collaboration among former ego antagonists and building coalitions with heretofore ambivalent allies are my prediction for the highlights of local political organizing in the coming year. The local impact of the upcoming National Lesbian Conference on the gender balance among political activists here might be very significant if, like the March on Washington, it moves previously uninvolved lesbians to participate in the leadership of our political organizations. If, in fact, these forecasts come to bear any resemblance to the reality of the situation, then we can truly expect to have some political fun in '91!

Ms. Woolard is the Southeastern Filed Office Coordinator for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Chair of the Lesbian and Gay Police Advisory Committee and active with the Georgia Privacy Coalition.

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OUTLINES

Ages:

Donna - 31

Mary Anne - 36

Occupations:

Mary Anne - works at Emory,
Donna - graduate student researching the Southern gay and lesbian experience.

How long together:

Two years



SHEILA BROUGHTON

DONNA SMITH and MARY ANNE ADAMS: Crossing Cultures

Although Atlanta bills itself as an international city, it is still in many ways two cities—one black, one white. And the gay and lesbian communities reflect these divisions. But couples like Mary Anne and Donna are changing this status quo. More and more, interracial couples are part of Atlanta's lesbian and gay population. And couples like Donna Smith and Mary Anne Adams are aware that they are not only watching history as it unfolds; they are making it.

Mary Anne Adams and Donna Smith—one from Mississippi and one from Alabama; one black, one white, both articulate, engaged, very feminist Southern women—have been together two years. They live near Emory, where Mary Anne works and Donna pursues a Ph.D. in history.

Mary Anne grew up in the mid-'60s and early '70s at the height of the civil rights movement, and the Black Power Movement. She went to a predominately white university in Mississippi. "There were about 200 blacks when I was there. I was real pro-African American. It was what I lived, ate slept. It was my whole life."

"And then suddenly I found myself in a relationship with an European-American. It was quite different, to say the least!"

"Found yourself pursuing?" teases Donna.

"We'll deal with the semantics later!" Mary Anne laughs.

Donna is from Alabama, "Where it was incredibly segregated. I didn't come into contact with any blacks really, until I was out of high school and working, and then in a personal relationship."

Donna's graduate study at Emory is a one of the lesbian and gay culture of the South during the '40s and '50s. She became interested in this period while doing research on Lillian Smith, author of *Killers of the Dream* and other important books on Southern culture and history.

Mary Anne and Donna both like Atlanta, especially the visible lesbian community. However, "I expected the community to be a little more diverse," says Mary Anne. "It's still segregated."

Mary Anne describes the white feminist lesbian community: "We go to Charis sometimes on Thursday nights. And oftentimes we'd be the only biracial couple there. Often I'd be the only black woman there. Or let's say Donna has met some women through school. They find themselves uncomfortable around us, even though they consider themselves feminists, because they don't have any women of color as friends. They don't know any. And you know the philosophy is that you're supposed to embrace people of all races, but it makes them uncomfortable, because we're living out the credo and they aren't."

Donna and Mary Anne are presently working on starting a biracial lesbian support and discussion group. "We at first thought about couples. But we don't want to exclude individuals who are perhaps just dating, or have dated, or who may want to date somebody of the opposite race.

"We're trying to reach out to other lesbians. To talk about the commonalities and differences in terms of race and class and culture and how they impact on relationships. Just to get together and talk, or if we want to get together socially, that's great too."

"I think that a lot of biracial couples deal with their differences by pretending that the differences are not there, or that they're not important," Donna says. "Mary Anne and I both grew up in the South, and we have a common cultural experience in that way. But in many ways, it's very, very different."

Mary Anne adds: "We met these women [another biracial couple], and they said, we don't see color. I was taken aback. Because, you see, I was just talking about commonalities and differences. Things that come up. Because things do come up."

"I tend to be pretty outspoken. Tactless! I'll call people on stuff, and it makes them uncomfortable."

"That's one of the cultural differences between black and white women," suggests Donna. "The way I was raised, as a woman, your role was to be the peacemaker. You were not to be confrontational, but to..."

Mary Anne: "Placate."
Donna: "Right. And that way, a lot of things don't get said."

How is the female role different for black Southern women?

"Talk shit, take no shit." That about sums it up."

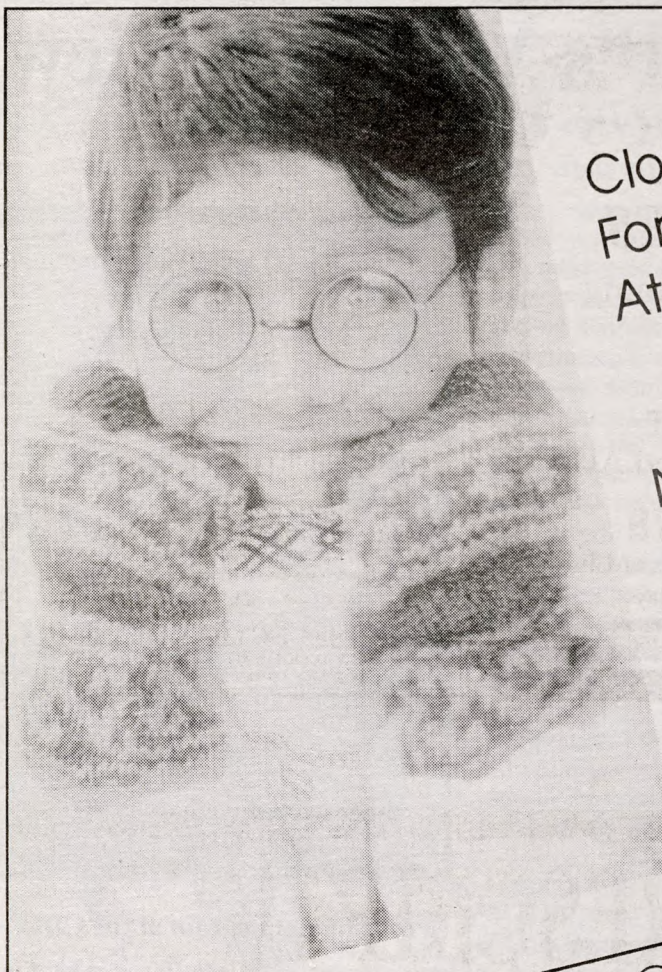
Donna adds, "Whereas for white women, it's been—if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything."

Mary Anne elaborates: "Some white Southerners, they'll tell you their life story in ten minutes. Most blacks from the South don't do that. It's like—this is my business. I don't know you, so I can't tell you all this stuff. When I get to know you, more and more comes out."

In spite of all the differences, do they have a lot in common? "We have a lot of similarities," says Mary Anne. "We're both feminists. Both voracious readers. We both like to talk to each other about ideas."

Mary Anne sums it up: "I think the only way that you can really break down barriers is that people have to know each other one on one. You have to start with individual relationships. That's how it starts. One on one."

—Charlene Ball



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ACT UP's Year in Review

Activists finally get seats at the tables of power, but question if that's their purpose

by Carrie Wofford

It's been a ground breaking year for ACT UP. Members of the network of organizations that are on the forefront of AIDS activism have been offered seats at the metaphoric tables of power with the drug companies, research teams, and even of the government itself. Activists gained this respect by bypassing researchers to hold their own treatment conferences and to write their own research documents.

This year also saw women in ACT UP move to the forefront, forming coalitions with other groups of HIV-infected women to coordinate nationwide demonstrations calling attention to the discrimination women with AIDS face.

Clearly, too, there have been problems: several ACT UP chapters have split; AZT is still the only anti-viral available on the market; and prophylactics for HIV are also largely nonexistent or non-available.

The good news is that, drawing on experience built over the past years, ACT UP held five major national demonstrations this year pressuring government agencies in Atlanta, Maryland, Washington DC, and San Francisco, and private insurers and hospitals in Chicago. ACT UP now boasts a technologically expert media machine, broad coalitions with AIDS support and service groups, and medical and treatment knowledge so exhaustive as to surprise government officials.

And women have come forward: For AIDS activists, 1990 began and ended in the same place, large demonstrations at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta protesting the CDC's exclusion of certain



EVETT BENNETT

Protesters in the rain at the CDC.

opportunistic infections (found mostly in women) from their list of which illnesses qualify as AIDS infections.

It is telling that an organization founded primarily by and for middle class white gay men now confronts the inherent racism and sexism of a health care system which categorically excludes women with AIDS. Women members of ACT UP came forward nationwide to coordinate numerous demonstrations: at a Chicago hospital which excluded women from their AIDS ward—the hospital changed its policy within the month; at the

Social Security Administration on Oct. 2 in Washington; and, in numerous cities during late November's "Week of Outrage" on women's health care.

This organizing work resulted in new and powerful coalitions with groups like Life Force and Health Force of NY—women who took over last month's NIH conference on women with AIDS, demanding that NIH Director Tony Fauci listen to their health care horror tales.

ACT UP is also taking research into our own hands. The group held its first conference, the AIDS Treatment Activist Conference (ATAC) in Washington in November. ATAC united chapters do not always have contact, even when they are negotiating with the same drug companies.

And, at a time when the AIDS research budget has decreased, some ACT UP members even lobbied Congress—although a two hour discussion on lobbying at ATAC revealed much disagreement on whether ACT UP could afford the compromises inherent in lobbying.

In November, ACT UP/NY's Treatment & Data Committee introduced the "Countdown 18 Months" plan, a comprehensive challenge to government and the drug industry to find more effective treatments and prevention—within 18 months—for the five opportunistic infections which cause the highest morbidity.

Like other recent moves, the plan received scientific respect, gaining endorsement from the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, and some researchers. Even major pharmaceutical companies met with activists to discuss "Countdown 18 Months". This marked the first time that representatives of the government and drug companies came to activist turf to discuss their agenda. Although no agreements were reached, "it was good that they all showed up," ACT UP/NY's Derek Link said.

After years of pounding on the doors of

government meetings, this year ACT UP members were finally invited in. Thousands listened to N.Y.'s Peter Staley at a plenary session at the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco, marking the first ever invited activist presence in a plenary session at the conference.

In the closing plenary of the same conference, Tony Fauci surprised many by crediting ACT UP members with being more informed, at times, than the researchers themselves, and by asking those researchers to listen to ACT UP.

Some ACT UP/NY members have become so familiar with the government researchers, that they even join Fauci for dinner—a cause of concern to other AIDS activists.

D.C.'s Linda Meredith questions the larger issue of working on the inside. She served as the ACT UP representative on the committee which planned the NIH conference on Women and AIDS, but resigned after the NIH dictated no presentations by anyone who opposed government policies. "Okay, you can have a seat at the table. Now, shut up," says Meredith mimicking the governmental attitude.

Clearly, there are some tables where activists may be less compromised—such as helping design drug trials. Boston's Stephen Scuse calls it "very wise" that companies solicit PWA input for their trials. However, Scuse also agrees that "it's not as easy to yell at someone in a very public way when you just left a very civilized meeting."

"We are their consciences," Larry Kramer reminded those at the ATAC conference. "They don't have consciences and they're ashamed of it. We must remember: we are not their friends. And we must not ever forget that they are not our friends. If they were our friends and if they did have consciences, we wouldn't be here."

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Bonfires and Godfathers

by Terry Francis

Space limitations prevent me from detailing at length the plots of the two films discussed below. However, by now most readers will be sufficiently familiar with the plots of both films so that I may concentrate on their qualities rather than their stories.

The great Dwight MacDonald once wrote, "To transpose a book into a movie means to destroy the form of the original in order to recreate the effect in another medium." Brian DePalma's *The Bonfire of the Vanities* (no ★'s), adapted by Michael Cristofer from Tom Wolfe's best-seller, destroys the form of the original alright, but it also destroys the book's themes in their entirety.

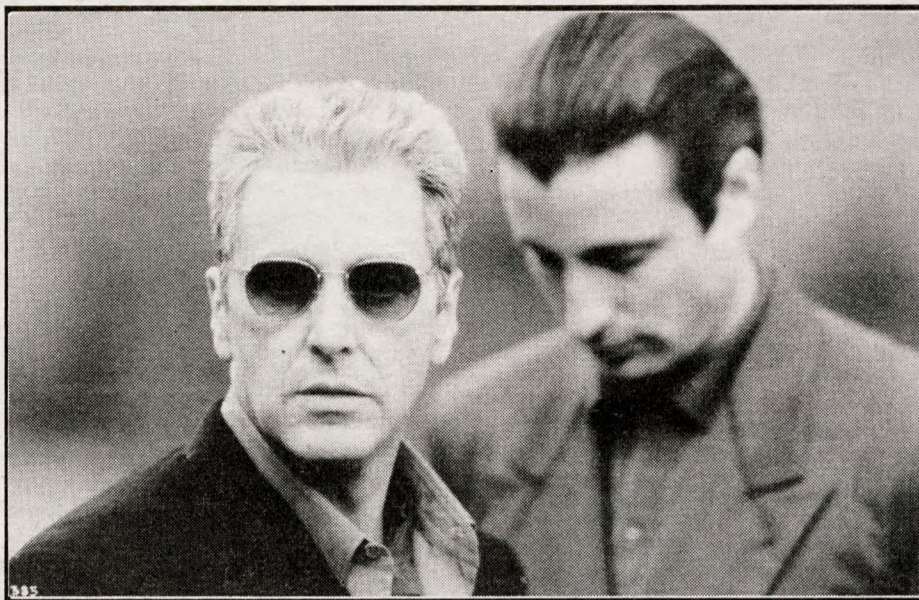
In brief, Tom Hanks stars as a rich, young New York bond trader who gets involved in a hit-and-run accident while on a secret rendezvous with his equally married mistress (Melanie Griffith).

The young victim, Henry Lamb, lies comatose in the hospital, and the fact that his skin is black leads several different elements in the city—journalists, politicians, the clergy, attorneys—to use his tragedy for their own personal gain and self-interests.

DePalma's film represents a complete reduction of everything the book aspired to, its chief meanings and moral ambiguities. All is lost: the fire of cultures and ethnic groups clashing and yet feeding off each other; deceit and half-truths deepening into larger, more pervasive forms of corruption; the transference of feeling from people to things.

The film plays all this for lame parody, turning everything into a cartoon or caricature. There's no daring in any of this, only sophomoric misconception.

Women, blacks and gays come off worst in DePalma and Cristofer's benighted adaptation. The film is flat-out racist. Henry



With Pacino's and Garcia's help, Coppola brings surprising wit to the material and *The Godfather III* stumbles along.

Lamb's mother would cheerfully shuffle him off to Forest Lawn for the price of a lawsuit and some new dresses. Blacks are repeatedly photographed in leering, stylized close-ups in order to magnify the bulging whites of their eyes and exaggerate features of ethnic heritage.

A gay character, a poet "on the short list for the Nobel prize," is introduced socially to everyone as having AIDS. DePalma has Hanks wince in fear when he must shake the man's hand. In Wolfe's book the man is a character of dignity and intelligence who breaks through to a depth of feeling and thought which alarms the other characters. In the film he merely seems an escapee from an asylum for the most hardened insane.

Tom Hanks, a growing and valiant actor, is utterly miscast. Melanie Griffith vamps it up in the old style, lazily remembering every few words or so that her character is meant to have a Southern accent. And Bruce Willis, as an opportunistic, alcoholic journalist, mugs his way through like the latest version of Burt Reynolds.

Even technically the film is far from first class. DePalma's handling of mob scenes is inexpressive and incompetent; his use of focus-racking, split screens, and a freeze frame appear desperate attempts for texture; his overhead shots of a mass of umbrellas in the rain comes from Lean's *A Passage to India*; and he cannibalizes his own past work in *The Untouchables* by repeatedly framing persons against boldly

designed ceilings to shallow effect.

And the end of the matter is another wiped-out chance to speak to adults about the present circumstances of our lives. The immature film is worse than a disgrace. It's an act of cowardice.

The Godfather Part III (★★) starts off strong, becomes bogged down in expository dialogue and finishes with an anti-climactic climax. The central problem with the film is that it has been rushed to theatres for Christmas, resulting in considerable frantic editing and fundamental narrative incoherence.

Perhaps an even costlier flaw is the casting of the director, Francis Ford Coppola's daughter, Sofia, in a key role. Ms. Coppola, lately known for her dreadful scripting of her father's segment of *New York Stories*, here brings equal vapidness to her acting. She is not an actress, and her casting here by her father cruelly exposes her and diminishes the film.

Fortunately, Al Pacino and Andy Garcia are on hand as different representations of Corleone generations. One wishes to sink back into the relative calm of legitimate business, while the other is a fire brand who volunteers to make hits.

Scene by scene, Coppola's direction is formidable if wholly familiar. Still, with Pacino and Garcia's help, he brings surprising wit to the material and the film stumbles along.

Oh, yes, in a tiny, cutting-room floor role as an adventuresome journalist, Bridget Fonda, with her naughty, mesmerizing smile, promises in her couple of early scenes to live the film boldly. Then she disappears, never to return. There's no young actress I more look forward to seeing on screen today than Ms. Fonda. She deserves better than this movie.

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BOOK REVIEW—MEN ON MEN 3

Authors Suggest Home is *the* Issue for Gay Men in the 90's

by Jim Marks

What occupies the gay male consciousness as the second year of the Gay '90's begins? If the short stories in the splendid new addition to the *Men on Men* (Plume) series are any indication, the answer is, in a word, home. Or, more precisely in the two word title of Paul Monette's opening work, "Halfway Home."

Twelve of the sixteen stories that make up Part One of this collection detail the transactions between gay men and the heterosexual families from which they came. Only two of the sixteen, Joe Keenan's amusing "Great Lengths" and Peter Cashorali's moody, disturbing "The Ride Home," take place entirely within the milieu of the gay ghetto. Yet even though "The Ride Home" deals exclusively with gay characters—two couples, each made up of a WASP and a Hispanic—it focuses primarily on the way the gay Hispanic men turn to a form of traditional spirituality—"Santaria," a voodoo-like healing cult—to deal with the AIDS they fear.

The ratio is reversed in the final three stories by the well known gay authors Felice Picano, Andrew Holleran and Edmund White, collected here as a tribute to the deceased writers Robert Ferro, Michael Grumley and George Whitmore. As Holleran's narrator shuttles physically back and forth between his father in a nursing home and his mother in a physical rehabilitation center, and his mind shuttles between the suburban Ohio where he lives and the New York City where his friends are dying and going blind from AIDS, his story seems emblematic of the ones in the first of the book.

There is, by contrast something almost touchingly anachronistic in White's sexy story of a man moving from the lover he is losing to the lover he has newly met. (Picano's story of a beautiful double amputee New York subway beggar and the man who pushes his wheelchair, "Why I Do It," is like White's concerned with male-male sexuality, but the characters lack any "gay" consciousness.)

If these stories share a common message about family life, it is the paradoxical one that it is extremely difficult to escape one's past, and yet equally difficult to reconcile that past with the gay man one has become.

Again, Paul Monette's opening story sets the pattern. It concerns a gay man who has retired to a friend's now shabby California beach house to die of AIDS. The house has no phone: only the owner and the narrator's best friend Mona can

intrude on the narrator's solitude. Or so he thinks. Until his hated brother—now a successful married businessman—shows up from Connecticut and is stranded overnight by a broken down car. The story betrays all of Monette's irritating ticks—his bitchy, self-obsessed, self indulgence—yet his redeeming honesty keeps it from becoming facile. The meeting doesn't produce a reconciliation, but something "halfway": an unnoticed kiss, and the final wish "pleading the gods to be rid of him."

What diverse families these are. In "Myths" it is a gay American Indian uncle and a grandmother. In the hallucinatory "Blond Dog" it is a theater mother and her alcoholic-

With stories ranging from beautifully lyrical to grimly realistic, it's hard to imagine any gay man who enjoys the printed page not finding something to like here.

turned-religious-zealot husband living in a Nevada trailer park. In the gut wrenching "A Happy Automaton," the parents are so middle class it simply doesn't register when their son tells them "I'm a cocaine-using homosexual living on the fringes of crime with a nineteen-year-old ex-offender hustler." Dad piped up: "Clown. Eat your asparagus."

These families are variously fragmented: Divorced parents in "Popular Mechanics"; an alcoholic father and crazed mother in "Big Sky"; a niece and her boyfriend in "Meeting Imelda Marcos"; an orphaned sister and her younger gay brother in "When Maquita Goes Home." A successful, middle-aged college professor goes home for a wedding at the ancestral family mansion in "Journey" and can't bring himself to make his wealthy sister deal with his gayness. Family, and the black power movement, come between a gay Vietnam veteran and his sixteen-year-old fatherless lover in "Willie."

Yet despite all the dysfunctional family life, the turn toward home can bring solace. "Enrollment," in which a Jewish and a Catholic lover find both their gay and straight families expanding, is the most positive and hopeful. In "My Face in the Mirror," a gay man dying of AIDS is consoled by his lover's twelve-year-old son. There is also a beautiful moment of closeness at the end of editor George Stambolian's own work, "In My Father's Car," as the father and son, one

old, the other middle aged, watch an aging queen maneuver through the wreckage of the neighborhood in which the father had a tailor's shop.

Given Stambolian's own family oriented story, it is somewhat odd, and disappointing, that he didn't turn his penetrating intellect on the theme in his introduction. Where his introduction to *Men on Men 2* (1988) precisely summed up those stories as marking a gay male community in transition, the current introduction is almost perfunctory, accurate as far as it goes, but almost too insistent on these stories differences to grasp the ways in which they are alike. Stambolian sees AIDS as "the most insistence of our realities," and writes about the tension in these stories between our gay outsider status, and our yearning for assimilation within the wider community, yet he fails to connect the two themes, and see the myriad ways in which AIDS, in exploding the duplicities of the closet, forces a confrontation between gay outsiders and the world they left behind.

Not that Stambolian incorrectly notes differences and diversity. Especially welcome in this collection are a cornucopia of splendid works from West Coast authors. The oddest story is "Twilight of the Gods." Set in a Parisian AIDS clinic, it's a fantasy bringing together right winger Roy Cohn, movie star Rock Hudson and philosopher Michel Foucault in a furiously theorizing, oddly loving menage a trois. The stories range from beautifully lyrical to grimly realistic, with almost every shade in between. It's hard to imagine any gay man who enjoys the printed page not finding something to like here.

Even the slightest of these tales demonstrates exemplary craft. Eight of the stories easily meet A.E. Housman's test for poetry—recited while shaving, it can make your beard stand on end—simply hitting you over the head with their ravishing poetic power. In "Big Sky" a manic-depressive boy and his father climb at dawn into the wintry Montana mountains rounding up sheep:

"The trees thinned higher up: we could see a hundred miles across the landscape in every direction, the snow covered mountains and the lonely, frozen valleys and the timber there, the white and coal-blue of the world, the heavy silver sky, seamless with the day pushing down behind it."

This is not gay or straight, but pure beauty, and justification by itself, if any were needed, for this wonderful and luminous collection.

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Author Interview

Julia Penelope—Reformism Does Not Work

"I hate to hear lesbians talking about 'families.' The word 'family' comes from the Latin meaning 'slave.'"

Julia Penelope—the lesbian separatist, linguist, prolific author and anthologist, humorist, (and former softball coach)—is still radical after all these years.

As a young English instructor at the University of Georgia in 1970, she would stride into the classroom clad in jeans, Western boots, a wide belt with a large metal buckle and announce in a crisp, clipped voice: "My name is Julia Stanley, and I flunk people!"

She was an out lesbian when women's studies programs were just beginning, when gay and lesbian studies had not been thought of, when the number of important feminist books published could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Now Julie Penelope—the patriarchal nomenclature abandoned—is a mainstay of the radical lesbian separatist movement. She is older but not one whit compromised, still a mine of barbed wit: "What do lesbians have that gay men don't? Brains."

She is no longer a teacher: "I'd teach a class if they'd pay me a hundred grand. I can't be bought, but I can be rented."

More seriously: "I don't think I'd much like the students. They're not interested in learning what I want to teach. I want to teach dissatisfaction."

She continues to do scholarship—but with a difference: "I gave a paper at NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) last weekend called "Grammar is Sex; Language is a Woman." I talked about how language is perceived in the patriarchy as like a woman, something they have to control, and grammar is their rules. Het sex is proper, you see, and correct. So then queers are deviant when we break the rules."

Julia's most recent book is *Finding the*



SHEILA BROUGHTON

Ms. Penelope promotes her product while chatting with an admirer at Charis Books.

Lesbians (Crossing Press), an anthology edited with her lover Sarah Valentine. The book starts with the premise that what most lesbians have in common is that, after coming out, they try to find other lesbians—not just sexual partners, but friends, lesbian community.

She also has plans for some more offbeat books—"I've always had a weird sense of humor." One of her more popular books is a survey of lesbian goddesses, including the deities Chocolata, Vibrata ("She Who Hums Steadily"), and Cuddles. She's now working on a book of feminist crossword puzzles (the clue for "era" is "failed constitutional amend-

ment"), and a Wonder Bread Cookbook ("We have a recipe for matzoh ball soup, only it's made with Wonder Bread").

Her book *Speaking Freely* (Pergamon Press) is a scholarly, historical analysis of the English language from a radical lesbian feminist perspective. She points out that commonly used words reflect sexist and patriarchal assumptions: "I hate to hear lesbians talking about 'families.' The word 'family' comes from the Latin meaning 'slave.' The concepts are coded in the language."

How can we get around this? "I suggest talking around the word. Instead of talking about a 'family,' what's wrong with 'kin' and

'kinfolks'? 'Kin' is related to the Latin 'gyn'—'woman.' Goes back to Indo-European."

She is adamant on the need to remain radical: "I don't see how anyone can be anything but radical. Every time I read about 'post-feminism,' my blood boils. Things are not better, they're worse. Rape, battering—men can batter women to death, and yet any woman who dares to kill her batterer in self-defense is bound to go to jail. How can anyone think that there are just a few things in the system that need changing? Reformism does not work."

"I still want to change the world. I don't like the world; I think men have made it a terrible place to live in, not only for women and children, but for men who don't have political and economic power."

She is passionate about lesbians valuing themselves; "Lesbians historically have always been at the forefront of other people's liberation. We give ourselves very little. Lesbians have to care more about ourselves."

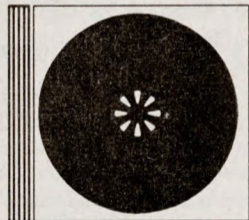
How has she changed since she was a young teacher in Athens, Georgia? "I think I've become more realistic. Now I know that it's going to take a long, long time to change the world. When I was teaching in Athens, it was the late '60s. We thought we could really make a difference; that it was a matter of years. Now I think it's a matter of centuries."

However, Julia intends to continue into the next century agitating and writing her own peculiar heady blend of serious politics and offbeat wit.

"Lesbians are happy," says Julia Penelope, "even if we're poor and don't have a pot to piss in, because we're lesbians. We are who we are. And integrity is the basis of happiness."

—Charlene Ball

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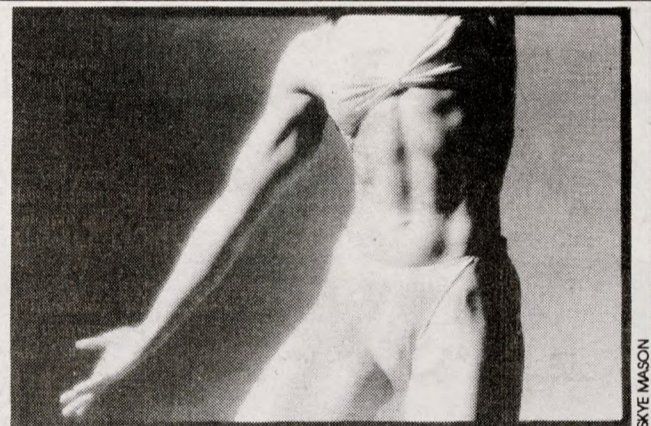
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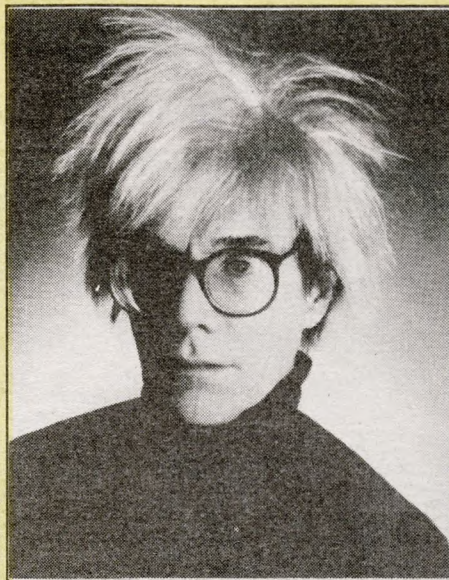
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SUSAN TERENCE: PERFORMANCE/POETRY. Thurs. Jan. 3, 7:30pm. San Francisco poet/puppeteer/actress will present a selection of her work featuring Dreams of the Mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina. A visually encompassing evening. Interpreted for the hearing impaired. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

COPING WITH GRIEF. Sat. Jan. 5, 8:30-4:30. N.C. Rev. Christine Oscar is a specialist in bereavement counseling. His special one-day seminar will be a comfort to those who must survive and grow in the face of overwhelming grief. The prior registration fee of \$15 is a bargain and scholarships are available. At All Saints MCC, 575 Boulevard. 622-1154.

FROM BOTANIST TO POLITICAL ECO-ACTIVIST. Wed. Jan 9, Noon-1pm. From leaf love to lobbying this lecture by Deborah Sheppard, executive director of the Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia, will help you move into action to stop world browning. Bring a lunch and eat with others who care about our environment. At Nexus Gallery, 57 Forsyth Street. 688-1970.

DEB CRISS/HEARTBEAT. Thurs. Jan. 10, 7:30pm. This Asheville artist blends banjo and guitar with new age synthesizer sound to create a multi-dimensional effect. Her work is a blend of earth percussion and a voice that speaks to the heart. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT: NUTRITION-THE STARTING POINT. Thurs. Jan. 10, 7-9pm. Nutrition is usually the first treatment sought after HIV diagnosis. Better health through better eating may also be looked upon as a preventative measure. Come learn more about eating your way to a healthier body from a panel of professional nutritionists. At Colony Square Hotel, call 874-7926.

1990 OMNI AWARDS. Thurs. Jan 10, 8pm. Lisa Buslet & Riverbend, Jacque & Joyce and other local talents entertain as community women are honored for their accomplishments. Voting to determine the recipients will take place January 2-8 at local women's bars, Charis Books, and Boy Next Door. At the Hellenic Center, Cheshire Bridge Rd. Tickets (\$10 in advance/\$12 at door) at Deana's, Boy Next Door, Brushstrokes and Charis.

SEX!?! WHY IS IT SO COMPLICATED!?! Mon. Jan 14, 7:30pm. Dr. Ann McAllister is the featured speaker at Women of Wisdom's January meeting. Her topic is one that should interest all. There is a \$2 charge. At Chrysalis Women's Center, 2045 Manchester. 723-1112.

Fundraisers

HIDDEN AGENDA. Thurs. Jan. 10, 8pm at Phipps Plaza Theater. This fine film, the winner of the Special Jury Prize of the 1990 Cannes Film Festival, will be shown to benefit Atlanta's Theatre Gael. The political thriller directed by Ken Loach focuses on confrontation in Northern Ireland, where urban warfare is as common as shamrocks. Call 876-1138.

Music

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.

DIANNE DAVIDSON. Sat. Jan 12. 8pm. An incredible vocalist whose voice is as big as her heart performs her special songs that give insight into the soul of the South. The magic of her presence expands to include the whole audience in an evening of unforgettable music that rings with joy. At Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid. Tickets at TicketMaster or 249-6400.

ANGELA MOTTER. Mon. Jan. 14, 8:30pm. For those who have not yet heard her, here's your chance to fill that experiential hole in your musical memory. Those who have heard her once will need no other reason to come back for more. Music that makes you close your eyes and take a long, deep breath. And its free at Oxford Acoustic Cafe, 360 Pharr Rd, 262-3333.

Spirituality

CIRCLE OF HEALING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 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. All are welcome, there is no charge. At the First E. Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. Call 378-5570 for info.

Sports

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION. Sun. Jan 6 & 13, 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.

FRONT RUNNERS. Weds. Jan. 2, 9, 16 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.

AVS BOWLING. Every Monday, 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.

Theatre

MURDER AT THE VICARAGE. Thurs. Jan. 4-Feb. 2. This Agatha Christie mystery was the first to introduce the Miss Marple character to the world who adopted her as their maiden aunt. Makes Murder She Wrote look like a bargain basement knock-off. At the Neighborhood Playhouse. 373-5311.

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

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JANUARY 16

WHATEVER COWPOKE KNOWS. Thurs. Jan 10-Feb. 9. The world premiere of Patty Lynch's hilarious revenge comedy shoots ten-gallon holes in some of our long-cherished cultural myths, sexual stereotypes and movie clichés while scoring bulls-eyes about intolerance today. A rootin', tootin' evening. At Horizon Theater, 584-7450 for tickets and info.

DRINKING IN AMERICA. Fri. Jan. 11-Feb. 2. Off-Broadway opens just west of Little Five Points with Eric Bogosian's critically acclaimed one-man show performed by Atlanta actor Scott Higgs. Chris Coleman directs this rapid, raucous, rousing, romp about twelve of the most pathetic, funny addicted and addictive characters in contemporary American society. At Actors Express, 221-0831 for tickets.

SAINT JOAN. Fri. Jan. 11-26. George Bernard Shaw's version of the fiery cross-dresser features Lindy Wood in her critically acclaimed interpretation of the Maid of Orleans. At Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree, 874-5299.

EDGAR ALLEN POE FESTIVAL. Weds. Jan 16-Feb. 16. A full length evening for Poedephiliacs with poetry readings featuring some of Atlanta's finest actors. Especially chilling: The Fall of the House of Usher, the tale of a tomb with a view adapted by Jim Grimsley performed with macabre music. This will be no evening dreary. At Theatrical Outfit, 872-0665.

Upcoming

PEARL CLEAGE/MAD AT MILES. Thurs. Jan. 17, 7:30pm. This local author's new offering subtitled "A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth", takes on topics as varied as domestic violence and self-nurturing without missing a beat. A no-holds-barred evening of reading, discussion and booksigning with Pearl. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

THOSE FABULOUS RESEEDING ANNUALS. Thurs. Jan. 17, 7-9pm. Eve Davis, who sports one of the greenest thumbs this side of Oz, gives an informative and entertaining lecture and slide show on self-perpetuating plants that are some of nature's hardiest survivors. At the Atlanta Botanical Garden, 876-5859.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY AT FIRST MCC. Sat. Jan 19, 7pm. The women of First MCC host a vegetarian dinner and discussion about the problem of developing faith in traditional and non-traditional religious settings. The meal and discussion are free. Call Marge Ragona at 875-7878 or the church at 872-2246.

CHRIS BURNS — ANTI-VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS. Sat. Jan. 19-20. Gay erotic film star Burns will offer workshops on street self-defense and shows his new video Take Back the Night. The free workshops will help to combat violence against gays and lesbians and promises the opportunity to meet and talk to Chris, who has appeared in more than forty erotic male films. At the Atlanta Gay Center, 876-5372.

62D BIRTHDAY OF OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. & 6TH NATIONAL HOLIDAY. Mon. Jan. 21. Celebrate the legacy of the man who fought racism with a dream and a prayer. Let freedom ring. Call 524-1956.

AIDS HEALING SERVICE. Thurs. Jan. 24, 7:30pm. A spiritual offering providing an opportunity for spiritual renewal and refreshment spe-

cifically geared toward the needs of those affected by the AIDS epidemic. The Right Reverend Douglas Theuner, Bishop of New Hampshire will preach this quarterly service. At the Cathedral of St. Philip, 2477 Peachtree.M.

AIDS PRAYER VIGIL. Fri. Jan. 25-27. An AIDS workshop and pray vigil led by Dr. Stephen Peters, UFMCC, who has been living with AIDS for seven years. Informative and uplifting, a special weekend for those who face an uncertain future. At First MCC of Atlanta, 800 N. Highland. 872-2246.

WEEKEND WITH RABBI SHULA GHELFIUS. Fri. Jan 25-27. 3 days of events with the esteemed Rabbi. From the 8pm Shabbat Services to a Sunday 10am Brunch, the weekend's events promise a cultural and spiritual feast. At 1053 Juniper St.. 642-3467.

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

FINDING HOME/STORIES & SONGS. Tues-Weds, Jan 29-30, 8pm. Louise Runyon Bath presents a blend of dance, dialogue and singing. Her work examines woman's carnality and spirituality and the issues of nurturing and abandonment. A premiere performance of "Life is Like a Mountain Railroad" is included in the evening's offering. At Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid. 523-7647.

YOUNG FEMINIST CONFERENCE. Feb 1-3. 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 Mardi 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 CONFERENCE. 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. 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.

M. BUTTERFLY BENEFIT. Fri. May 3. Opening night for this widely acclaimed Broadway play will be a benefit for three AIDS outreach organizations, followed by a post theatre party in the Egyptian Ballroom. A Viennese Coffee House atmosphere with fine food and chanteuse Denise DiRenzo will entertain folks in the second benefit of the evening. At the Fox Theatre. Call 256-5209 or 261-8329 for info.



Scott Higgs plays 12 different roles in the critically acclaimed Drinking in America at Actors Express. Photo: David Zeiger

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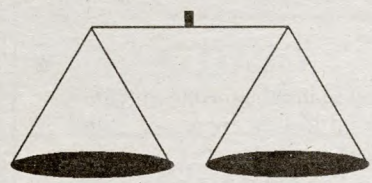
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AIDS ORGANIZATIONS

AID Atlanta—Community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. 872-0600.

AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). Answers to questions about AIDS, referrals, etc., by trained volunteers staffing lines 9am-9pm daily.

First MCC AIDS Ministry—Spiritual and emotional support for PWA's and Families. 872-2246

The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—Meets 2d Mon. of month, 874-8969.

National Association of People with AIDS/Atlanta—Regular meetings, groups and events. A political, social, and educational organization confronting the AIDS crisis. Membership is open to all individuals with AIDS, ARC or who are HIV positive. 874-7926.

The Names Project/Atlanta—A National AIDS Memorial. Meets Tuesdays, 6:30pm at All Saints Episcopal Church. 286-6263.

The Names Project Quilting Bee—For those interested in creating a panel or helping others working on a panel. Thurs. 7:30pm at First MCC. 872-2246.

Project Open Hand Atlanta—Prepares and delivers meals to people with HIV illness. Volunteers needed for organizing, kitchen and delivery. 525-4620.

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—A community-oriented chorale group of women's voices. Membership is open to all women interested in singing. Practice each Sunday. 294-8983.

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—Community-oriented chorus of male voices. Membership open to all interested singers and non-singers alike. 627-7830.

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

DIRECT ACTION/POLITICAL

ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—Working for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the metropolitan Atlanta area. 523-6201.

AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—Direct action group with the purpose of fighting homophobia, AIDS, sexism and racism. Meetings held every Tuesday at 7:30 PM Little 5 Points Comm. Center. 286-6247.

BIAS Crime Hot Line Line—To report all bias/hate crime incidents and police abuse. 286-BIAS.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—Works to lessen public expressions of homophobia, especially in the media. Meets First Mon., 7pm at Peachtree Library. 286-7476

Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition—Meetings vary. The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene. 368-7420.

Human Rights Campaign Fund—The nation's largest Lesbian & Gay political + lobbying organization. Field office, 373-6330. Annual dinner committee, 365-8766.

Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians—A voice for lesbians and gays in the Democratic party. Mtgs. on 3rd Mon. of the month. 7pm at P'tree Library. 286-7476.

Queer Nation—Direct action countering homophobia and educating the public. Meets 2d and 4th Mon. at Little 5 Points Comm. Center. 286-7476.

PROFESSIONAL

Atlanta Business & Professional Guild—A service organization of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. Meets 2d Tues. 662-4202.

Fourth Tuesday—A networking organization for lesbian professionals and entrepreneurs. Regular dinner meetings on 4th Tues. Also special social, sports and educational events. 662-4353.

Success Oriented Networking Group—Structured networking for gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals. Meets every other Weds. 662-4202

SPIRITUAL

All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—Serving metro Atlanta with positive Christian support for lesbians and gay men. Services 5 pm every Sun. at 575 Boulevard, SE. 622-1154.

Circle of Healing—Open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. at First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. 378-5570

Congregation Bet Haverim-Reconstructionist Synagogue serving the Gay and Lesbian community. Services every Fri. at 8pm at AIDS Interfaith Network 1053 Juniper St. Shabbat Seder 2nd Fridays monthly at 7:30pm. 642-3467.

First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta—A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment for individuals and couples. Same sex Holy Unions performed. Sun. at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM Also Weds. 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. 872-2246.

Gay Catholics of Georgia and Friends—Support group for lesbian/gay Catholics and friends. Meetings and activities vary. 390-0739.

Integrity—Ministry of Gay Episcopalians 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. 7:30 PM. All Saints Episcopal Church, 3rd floor of Ellis Hall. 642-3183.

Lutherans Concerned/Atlanta—A Christian Ministry for Lesbian and Gay Understanding. 636-7109.

Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns—Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage. 373-5830.

SPORTS/OUTDOOR

Atlanta Team Tennis Association—Men and women's divisions as well as singles and doubles play. Friday nights and Sunday afternoons at Eastlake Tennis Center. 622-GAME.

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

Friends Atlanta—A social, recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. Volleyball, bowling, dinners, theater nights, and dances are among the activities. 662-4501.

Front Runners/Atlanta—A running/walking/ social group for lesbians and gay men. Weds. 6:30pm in Piedmont Park and Sat. 9am at Chattahoochee and Powers Ferry Rd. 622-0739.

Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—For gay men who enjoy nude outdoor and social activities. Not a sex club. For info send SASE to: GANG, PO Box 7546, Atlanta, GA 30357.

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

SERVICE/SUPPORT

Athens Gay & Lesbian Association—All welcome at Mon. meetings. 404/543-0598.

Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee—The group responsible for our annual pride celebration meets the 1st Mon. of each month at 2069 The Page (2069 Cheshire Bridge) and the 3d Thurs. at Ponce Library (980 Ponce de Leon) at 7pm. All are invited. 325-4435.

Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—A lesbian feminist organization which welcomes lesbians of all races, religions, political orientation, economic status, occupation and degree of openness. 2d Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. Write PO Box 5502, Atlanta, Ga. 30307.

Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—A non-profit, non-partisan, nonviolent broad-based organization created to support the right to reproductive freedom for all people. 239-8016.

African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—A political and social organization for black lesbians and gay men. Meets 1st Sunday of each month. 4pm, Ashby and Gordon Streets. 349-3739.

Atlanta Couples Together—A non-political, non-religious, social organization to support positive aspects of gay and lesbian relationships. Events and meetings vary. 365-2455.

Atlanta Gay Center. Operated primarily by volunteers, AGC offers services for lesbians and gay men as well as educational out-reach to society as a whole. 63 12th St., 876-5372; Coming Out Group 4pm Sat; Young Adult Support Group 6:30pm Tues; HIV+ Group Fri. 8pm, Sun. 6pm; Clinic 6-9pm Mon., Tue., Wed.

Black and White Men Together—A gay inter-racial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. 794-BWMT.

Codependents Anonymous-Lambda—A 12-step program of recovery from codependency for gays and lesbians. Meetings Tues. & Wed. at 8 PM and Sun. at 7pm. 239-1657.

The Cobb County Group—Monthly social and frequent recreational activities for those who live in Cobb. 438-1421.

Chrysalis Women's Center—Provides social, educational and informational programs and services for the community. 881-6300.

Delphi—A fraternity of gay men, offering recreation, fellowship, and idealism. P.O. Box 14591, Atlanta, GA 30324.

Gay Help Line—Operates 6pm-11pm, daily. 892-0661.

Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—Addresses unique issues that lesbian and gay drug addicts deal with in their recovery. Meets Mon. & Fri. at 8pm in basement of education building of Grace United Methodist, Ponce de Leon and Charles Allen. 237-6262.

Lesbians in Fun Endeavors—Bringing professional gay women together for the fun of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events. 938-2009.

Gay Fathers Association—Support group meets 4th Fri. 296-8369.

The Group—Support for gay and bisexual men who are or who have been involved in marital-type situations with women. 892-0661.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—Committed to help parents of lesbians and gays and to help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding, so all gay people can live with dignity and respect. 3d Sun., 3-5pm at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. 296-0830 or 875-9440.

Women of Wisdom—Facilitates women meeting in a pleasant atmosphere. Offers timely programs, reaches out to older women and women with special needs. Usually meets 3d Mon., 7:30 PM. Ponce de Leon Library. 723-1112.

ZAMI—Women who work together as friends and lovers, a support group for women of color. Meets 2d Fri. of each month at Charis books. 315-7684.

STUDENTS

Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—Meetings every Wed., 7:30pm, Room 362E, Dobbs University Center. Emory Univ. 727-6692.

Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw Community College's group is still in the process of formation. 434-7826.

Georgia Tech Gay and Lesbian Alliance—Weekly meetings. 676-0183.

Ga. State Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance—Support group for the gay and lesbian community at Ga. State. Meeting and activity times vary call. 378-1370.

S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—Networking group for lesbian and gay student groups. 634-2524.

Young Adult Support Group—For men and women 14-24, meets at Atlanta Gay Center, 63 12th Street, 6:30pm every Tuesday. 876-5372.

Michael Callen is outraged by lack of government interest in why PWA's survive.
Research for his book on the subject shows that people who do survive AIDS tend to be

Gritty, Frisky and Difficult

by Jim Marks

Michael Callen is weary. He looks out the window of a downtown Washington D.C. hotel as if searching the early twilight for the reason to give one more interview to a poorly prepared journalist, as if he can see past the next day's half dozen interviews, as if he can see beyond the book tour that has nearly a month more to go.

Callen's been an out-front gay man living with AIDS for eight years and counting and he's tired of it. When the tour is over, he's dropping his AIDS baggage. "I'm not going to stay up too late. If gay papers call me up for comment, I'm going to have nothing to say. I'll be a veteran of foreign wars."

Not that he's discarded the convictions and passions of the past eight years. People who survive AIDS, Callen says, tend to be "gritty, frisky, difficult people." The description includes himself.

He opens his book, *Surviving AIDS* (Harper Collins) with a frank account of the many sexually transmitted diseases he had contracted before he was diagnosed with AIDS, and calculates that between 1973 and 1982 "I had racked up more than three thousand different sex partners in bathhouses, back rooms, meat racks and tea-rooms." He links the words "promiscuity" and "cause" in ways that will make politically correct AIDS activists wince, yet he recounts with enthusiasm the "trash tours" of gay strip joints he's conducted across the North American continent. "I've been burned in effigy in San Francisco," he says, because of his outspoken opposition to AZT. While he approves the call for more government spending on education and services for people with AIDS, he thinks federal spending on AIDS research is "pouring money down a rathole."

Callen started conducting the interviews that form the heart of *Surviving AIDS* "not for a book, but for my own sanity." By the mid-eighties "there were so many myths; one was that there were no survivors, that AIDS was an automatic death sentence. But I knew I was alive and I could name six or seven people around the country who were still going strong. So I began talking to them and interviewing them." All told, Callen interviewed three dozen survivors, people who have lived three years or more after the onset of full blown AIDS.

The first things Callen discovered when he began the project were that there was little good information on how many people survive AIDS, and virtually no information on why some people continue to live productive lives. The lack of government interest in why survivors survive outrages him.

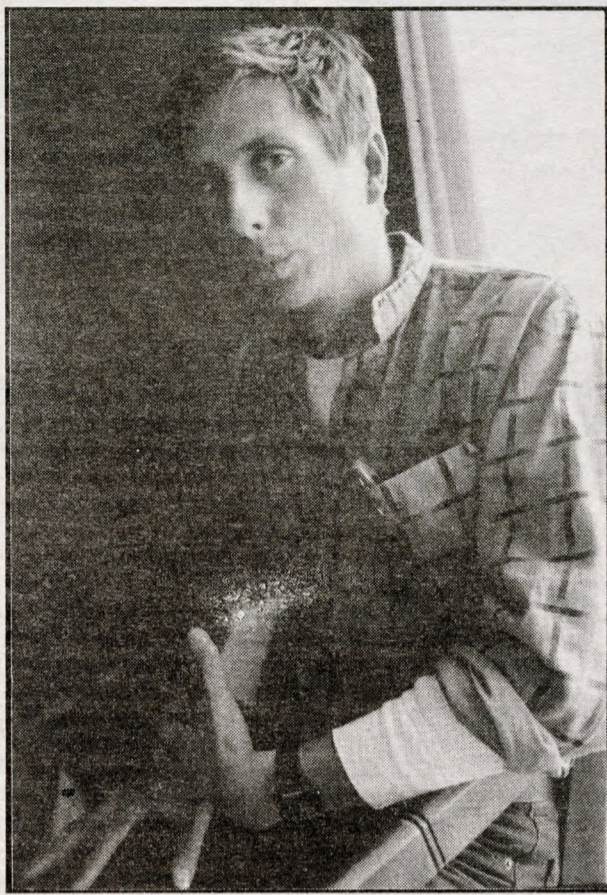
There are, Callen says, three contradictory studies of how many people with AIDS are long term survivors. The one generally considered the best puts the number at around ten percent. Callen acknowledges the grim side of the figure: "Nothing should undercut the serious tragedy of people with AIDS," he says. But he equally stresses the hope of the still living ten percent: "It is very important to know there is a reason to fight on. For me, the bottom line is, I'm not alone."

Why do some people survive when so many don't? "Nobody has a clue," Callen says, and there's "no funding to find out." From his interviews, Callen says, "patterns emerged, but no simple recipes."

Most interesting, he says was the fact that "very, very few took AZT. I oppose AZT. I don't think you can take AZT and survive AZT."

Strict diet and abstemiousness don't necessarily play a role. "I knew a long time survivor who used, and dealt, cocaine from his hospital bed. Only when he woke up three years later and realized, I'm still living, did he stop. Every time I thought I found a pattern, someone came along to break it. There were people like me who live for sugar, and those who are totally macrobiotic." With so much variety, the only piece of medical advice Callen feels comfortable giving is to take preventive measures against PCP, the pneumonia that is the most prevalent AIDS-related cause of death.

Most survivors, he says, are politically active. "They get involved at the outset with their struggle with the disease. They don't take a pill just because a doctor says to. They want to know the theory behind the drug, the possible side effects, all the options. We value the



JIM MARKS

Callen: "Women, especially lesbians, have done an awful lot for us during this crisis. I want to do a little payback, if they'll have me."

opinions of our doctors, but we make our own decisions. We all take responsibility for our health."

Callen is inclined to believe that the key factor is as much mental as physical. "Survivors are passionately committed to living. There may be a biological explanation for the connection between their attitude and their survival. There is a whole movement called psychoneuroimmunology that's trying to pin down the relationship between your mental state and your physical health. I think that to survive, you have to have the right attitude. Having the right attitude won't guarantee that you will live, but, I'm convinced, the opposite is true: if you think it is hopeless, it is."

That belief motivated *Surviving AIDS*. "The book was six months late because I was a fanatic about doing it right. I wanted people of color, women, IV drug users, straight and gay, included. Having role models is important and they exist."

Callen's continued survival has brought unexpected trials. Yes, he says, people do ask him if he really has AIDS, and "I'm not alone. You'd think the world, or at least the gay community would want the evidence, the hope, that there are many long time survivors. But two of the people I interviewed had received death threats. There's the morbid, weird reaction some people have to us."

That reaction, the rigors of AIDS activism and the desire for a different kind of personal growth, all spur him to say farewell to AIDS activism. "I want a life," Callen says. "I've been living five lives."

The first two lives were full time AIDS activism. "It's taken an incredible amount of time; I've racked up 180,000 frequent flyer miles." The next two lives have been his musical career. Callen is a founding member of the popular gay a capella singing group The Flirtations and a solo artist as well. Until recently, he listed his fifth life as "housewife", but he says he's now divorced.

The contentiousness of gay life has, he believes, contributed to his "profound spiritual and physical weariness. When you have five queens in a room, they have six opinions, and they tend to express them loudly. We don't know how to disagree," he says: "When you step out of the party line, it can be brutal. Yes, the stakes are life and death. Still, we need a Robert's

Rules of Disorder on how to handle disagreement."

This fall Callen moved to Los Angeles. "Sure, it's terrifying. I've moved to LA to reinvent myself. Now I have to face all that stuff I've put off. Like, do I really, really want to be a musician."

Clearly, the answer to that question is yes. Callen will stay active in The Flirtations. When he talks about The Flirts he becomes an animated exponent of all the things he likes about being gay. "I totally love queers and queer culture," he says. "When we travel to smaller cities—like Hartford, or Syracuse or Morristown, New Jersey—the audience just soaks up gay culture like rain in the desert. They hoot and stomp. I love that energy."

In addition to his music, Callen hopes to spend time on women's health issues. "Women, especially lesbians, have done an awful lot for us during this crisis. I want to do a little payback, if they'll have me." He wants to promote literacy. "I'm a good cook; maybe I can cook for the homeless."

And he even holds out the possibility that he won't totally end his eight years of AIDS activism. "I might," he says, "on a case by case basis, if something intrigues me, get involved in something related to AIDS. My therapist suggested, don't burn any bridges completely."

More Lesbian and Gay Performers in 1991?



PHOTO BY NOTABLE TALENT

Dianne Davidson, a performer with a set of "world-class pipes"

1989 saw Atlanta deluged with concerts showcasing the talents of lesbian performers: Lucie Blue Tremblay, Lea Delaria, Cris Williamson and Teresa Trull, Suede, Diane Davidson, Phranc and Kate Clinton to name a few. But in 1990 the flood turned to drought.

Why? One reason is that promoters/producers have had the choice of renting spaces with too few (Seven Stages) or too many (Center Stage) seats to make a profit.

Hopefully that problem's been solved now that Steve Harris of Windstorm Productions has taken over operation of the Variety Playhouse—with about 500 seats—in L5P. Harris isn't gay, but he has produced a number of lesbian performers and is happy to rent the spiffy space to producers of gay/lesbian acts.

Actually our prediction is already coming true: Lea Delaria just performed at Variety and Diane Davidson—"chillingly powerful" according to *Variety* and "most compelling" according to the *NY Times* is due in on Jan. 12.

So get with it you would-be producers. It's been too long since we've seen Kate Clinton, Suede, Lynn Lavner and Romanovsky and Phillips. And what about Michael Callen or The Flirtations? Or Betty?

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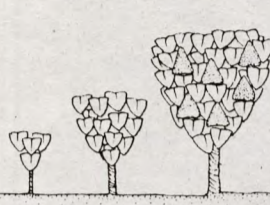
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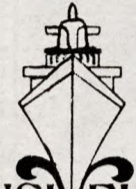
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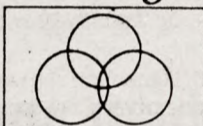
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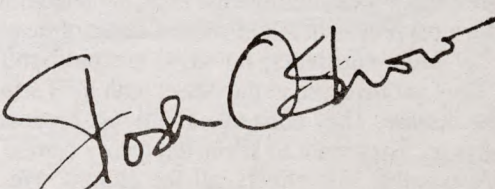



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Belinda Rochelle:

Expanding Congress' View Of Lesbian and Gay Health Issues

By Cliff O'Neill

Sometimes people step into positions knowing that they will have big shoes to fill. Sometimes they know they will have to blaze trails.

Belinda Rochelle has to do both.

As the newest face at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, she is now in the newly created position of lobbyist in charge of lesbian and gay health issues. And just hearing her outline what that entails, one realizes that addressing even *some* of those issues will be a tall order.

First off, she makes no bones about the fact that AIDS and how it affects gay men, women, and people of color will likely be the most pressing of her concerns. And as an African American woman, she expects that she will bring valuable insight to the position as she works to affect AIDS policy, especially as it relates to women and people of color, who are experiencing the fastest rates of growth in numbers of American AIDS cases.

Having worked with the Wilmington AIDS Task Force in North Carolina and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Rochelle comes by her AIDS experience honestly. As a mother of a nine year-old daughter, her motivation comes just as sincerely.

"When my child asks me at a later time, 'Mommy, what did you do in the war?' I wanted to be able to set a good example for her that we all have to contribute in some sort of positive way to our being," she offers. "And I felt that for me, as a lesbian, that meant working in the movement."

In the position she has held since late last October, Rochelle will not only be in charge of lobbying Congress on AIDS related bills, she will also be pushing federal agencies and drug companies on the myriad issues relating to AIDS.

Taking a large burden off NGLTF's other lobbyist, Peri Jude Radecic—doing double duty on gay and AIDS issues since the departure of former-Task Force Executive Director Jeff Levi in 1989—Rochelle will now carry the water for the Task Force on AIDS issues. Prior to his departure, Levi acted as the organization's AIDS lobbyist, allowing Radecic to concentrate on federal gay, non-AIDS related lobbying.

But unlike lobbyists in similar positions with gay, liberal, women's, AIDS and civil liberties groups in Washington, Rochelle's job description specifically includes a mandate to address lesbian health care issues as well as AIDS matters.

"The lesbian community is pretty much invisible," she notes, "but our health needs and concerns need to be addressed in some sort of direct way. My job is to bring that voice and those concerns to Capitol Hill."



DOUG HINCKLE

Rochelle: "It's not a question of some of us getting there. ... I don't think the white gay community is going to get there without people of color and I don't think that the lesbians are going to get there without gay men. It's a question of all us of getting there together."

Her voice will now join a small, but growing chorus of Capitol Hill activists pushing for action on those issues. But before pushing specific legislation, right now she is focusing on carefully defining what those issues are and prioritizing what needs to be done.

That, by itself, won't be easy.

Most visible on the lesbian health front are federal initiatives crafted to address the mounting numbers of women with breast and cervical cancer, which includes a disproportionate number of lesbians because, being less likely to bear children, lesbians are more prone to these

types of cancer.

But beyond that, there are a host of other issues to address, ranging from abortion rights to prenatal care for pregnant women to day care. And as more lesbians (an estimated 1.5 million according to a recent *Time* magazine story) chose to bear children, these issues will become of greater concern, she notes.

Running under the entire gay and lesbian health care agenda is the increasing fight for national health care insurance which would guarantee that all Americans, regardless of income, could receive adequate health care.

Even this issue, she points out, is of particular interest to lesbians. Since most lesbians, as women, make substantially less than their male counterparts, she notes, lesbian couples facing the double whammy of lower incomes, have twice the hardship in paying medical bills.

That most insurance plans do not cover the domestic partners of lesbians and gay men only serves to complicate matters.

"I think that all of our issues are somewhat linear," she notes. "One affects the other and so on and so on."

Her focus, founded in four years of potluck socials and round table discussions in North Carolina's lesbian community and her AIDS work in the Tarheel state, will be to work with activists on the grassroots levels of the lesbian and gay health movement, a tactic that matches up perfectly with the Task Force's approach to lobbying.

"A lot of people are not even aware of information that affects them," she suggests. "And our job is to get that information out there, so when legislatures and Congress and organizations make decisions, they know that they cannot make decisions about our lives without our input."

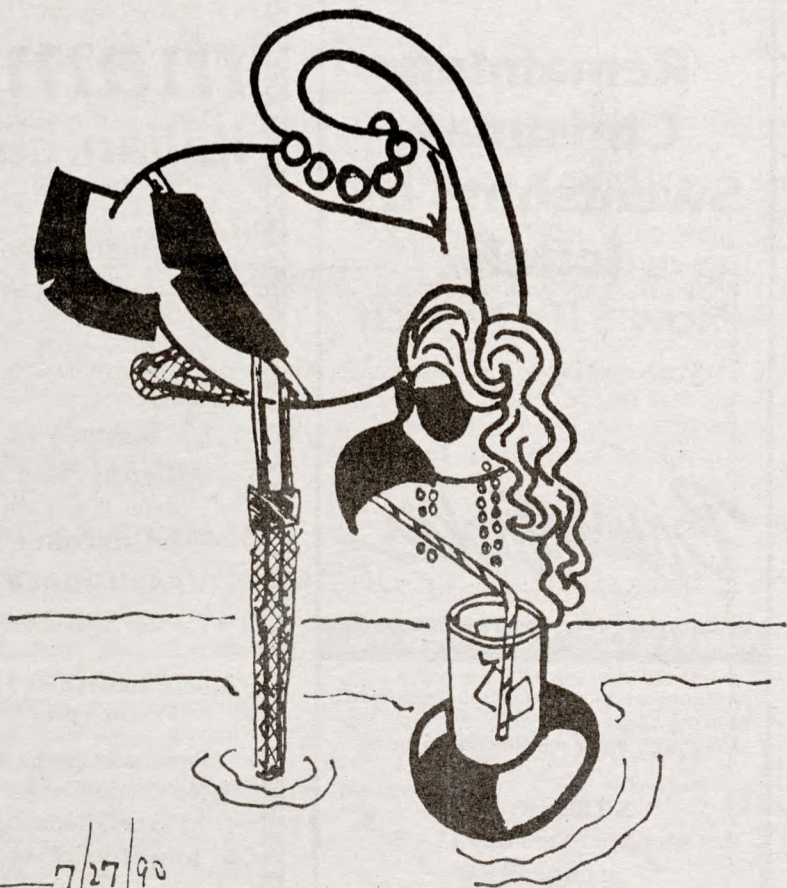
What gays and lesbians must learn, she suggests, is that the movement is as diverse as the issues she wants to address.

"Number one, we have to recognize and respect our differences," she articulates. "We need to recognize that we come from different backgrounds and different experiences, and that truly to reap any rewards of any successful battles, everybody has to participate in the struggle."

"It's not a question of some of us getting there... I don't think the white gay community is going to get there without people of color," she says, "and I don't think that the lesbians are going to get there without gay men. I think it's a question of all us of getting there together."

Does she think they will?

"Hopefully," she sighs. "I think that's part of our responsibility."



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DISH

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

M-A-R-T-I-N-A: While flipping through the AJ/C (looking for the comics) what should catch Dish's eye, but big pictures of Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King (who was looking rather orgasmic). Calvin & Hobbes could wait. What more could a local dyke dream of than to learn that Martina will be playing for Atlanta in the professional TeamTennis league founded by Billie Jean King (thank you). Seven home matches will be played at the Sporting Club at Windy Hill between July 9-Aug. 11. Real Estate agents take note: Dish predicts that just the thought of those forearms might make hordes of Dish dykes want to move to Perimeterville.

And the Winners Are: No, Dish would not be so reckless as to predict who will be voted Businesswoman, Volunteer, or Bar of the Year (or anyone one of 12 other categories) at the upcoming Omni Awards for Women on Jan. 10. What Dish will predict is that—with Funny That Way, Leigh McClelland, Jacque & Joyce, Bev Cook, Angela Motter and others providing the entertainment for said awards—a good time will be had by all. Ballots are available at all hours thru Jan. 8 at Charis and The Boy Next Door. Ballots may also be cast at Deana's, The Page, Options, The Tower and The Otherside from 10pm 'til 1am on Jan. 4&5. Or at Crazy Rayz during Brunch on the 6th. Tickets are \$10 in advance at Deana's, Boy Next Door, Charis, the Page, Brushstrokes and polling sites. Or you can wander to the Hellenic Center (Dish approves of the name) on Cheshire Bridge at 8pm on the 10th and pay \$12. Either way, be there or get dished!

Ethan's Not Alone: Activist and dyke about town Cathy Woolard gave Dish a start last week when she dropped the accompanying photo at the office—sans explanation. Our immediate assumption was that Ms. Woolard and Ms. Genet had been keeping secrets from



KEVIN LYNN

us. But it turns out that the precious young lady in question (and in Cathy's arms) is her niece, Kelly O'Neill. Woolard says that the urge to parent is running rampant in her household. Dish predicts that if a blessed event is in the wings it will be soon or else it will interfere with the '92 elections!

Dick's Replacement?: Dish does not like this prediction. We fear that Atlanta Journal editorialist Jeff Dickerson has fallen heir to Dick Williams' homohating crown. On Ch. 36's "Sunday News Conference" Dickerson noted the recently reported statistic that 36% of gay men reported that they had been the subject of a bias crime. He then went on to offer an opinion that, in order for that to have happened, these men must have been making an issue of their sexual orientation. Dish unfortunately does not have a tape of this travesty and Dickerson (claiming *he* is a victim of misunderstanding) told

Dish what he *meant* was that there is a difference between being bashed because you are black and being smashed because you are gay. Right, Jeff! Gay people can hide—and obviously you think that if we don't it's ok to beat up on us. Mr. Dickerson's office phone number is 526-5312. The station manager at Ch. 36 (881-3600) is Don Hess.

Smart Seamen: Dish visited L.A. recently and joined some Queer Nation friends on a shopping trip to a suburban mall. We cringed when two well developed sailors spotted our friend's "Queer Boy" T-shirt and began beating feet towards us. But not to worry! The friendly swabbies merely wanted to know where *they* could buy similar finery. Seems they'd figured out that if they wore same to a morning formation, their fears of being shipped to the Persian Gulf would go up in a puff of lavender smoke.

Who's Afraid of What?: Dish notes with a combination of dismay and amusement that the CDC's Jim Curran has now twice refused to appear on TV programs with members of ACT UP. The first time was last spring with Chip Rowan; more recently Jimbo declined to sit on the same stage with Kathleen Brockel on Ch 11's Mike Robert's show, where the subject was the CDC's refusal to recognize that women are dying of AIDS. Curran claims that the CDC told him he can't play and the press people on Clifton Road ain't talking. Kinda makes you wonder.

Miscellaneous Predictions: 1991 will see the emergence of yet another Direct Action group, this one concerned with safe sex. Its name? Condom Nation. And, in some of the more macho circles of the community the term "male bonding" will be supplanted by "stud welding."

January 3 - January 16

RULING PLANETS

by Mary Bailey-Rule

Happy Birthday Capricorn! Mercury is stationary direct on the 3rd, the Sun is conjunct Neptune on the 4th, Epiphany falls on the 6th and there is a new moon eclipse on the 15th.

ARIES—With the Sun and 3 planets in your first house, there is a strong emphasis on career and status in the community, as well as your relationship with authority figures, making this a good time to set your priorities.



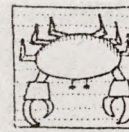
TAURUS—Mars moving through the last degrees on your first house should provide plenty of energy to complete end-of-year projects. If you are feeling frustrated or impatient, take time to relax and breathe.



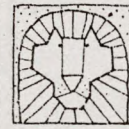
GEMINI—Venus moving through your 9th house of personal and spiritual values, publishing and travel may stimulate your need for new experiences. Physical exercise will ease tension and restlessness, if travel is not possible.



CANCER—Your 7th house of partnership and balance between your inner life and others is active all month with the Sun and 3 major planets, making for potential rapid changes and creative solutions to old problems.



LEO—Venus, ruling our sense of beauty, our need for affection and sensual expression is in your 7th house of personal relationships, so you may want a massage, as well as a romantic evening with someone special.



VIRGO—With the Sun joining 3 outer planets in your 5th house of creative expression, playfulness and children, you may need to plan a weekend for fun and for art/craft projects. No worries allowed!



LIBRA—Changes on the home front are a possibility, although it may not involve a move. However, someone may be moving in or out of your home space. Excellent time to clean closets and reorganize for an active year.



SCORPIO—Your 3rd house of communication and transportation is highlighted, so this is a good time for maintenance and repairs on your vehicle and working on correspondence, especially with old friends & distant relatives.



SAGITTARIUS—With the Sun joining the 3 outer planets in your 2nd house of income and material assets, this is a good time to free yourself of things you don't need or use and consider ways to increase your income for next year.



CAPRICORN—Happy Birthday! This is a busy month with the Sun conjuncting Neptune and Saturn, so use this special energy in every phase of your life to create new and useful ways of doing and relating. Change = Opportunities!



AQUARIUS—With Venus in your 1st house of personal identity and self awareness, this is the perfect time to focus on abilities, talents, hopes and dreams. New friends and potential lovers may be walking through your life now.



PISCES—Venus is now in your 12th house of dreams and the unconscious, stimulating intuitive and creative abilities. A good time to keep a dream log and be creative with color and images. Personal boundaries also crucial.



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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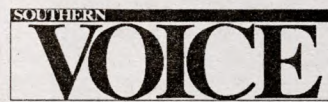
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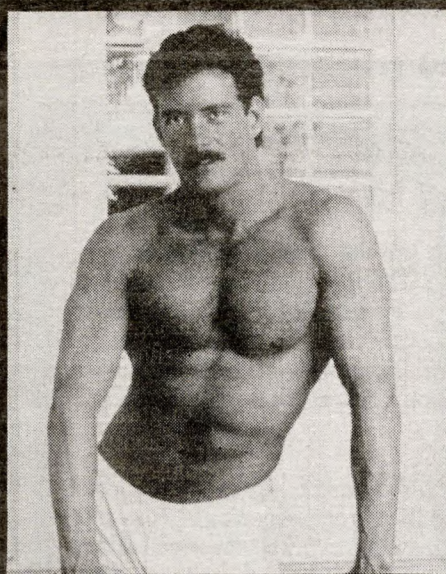
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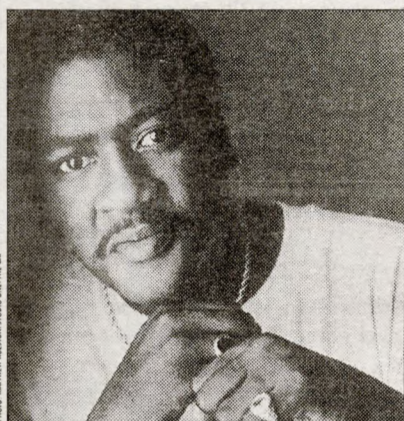
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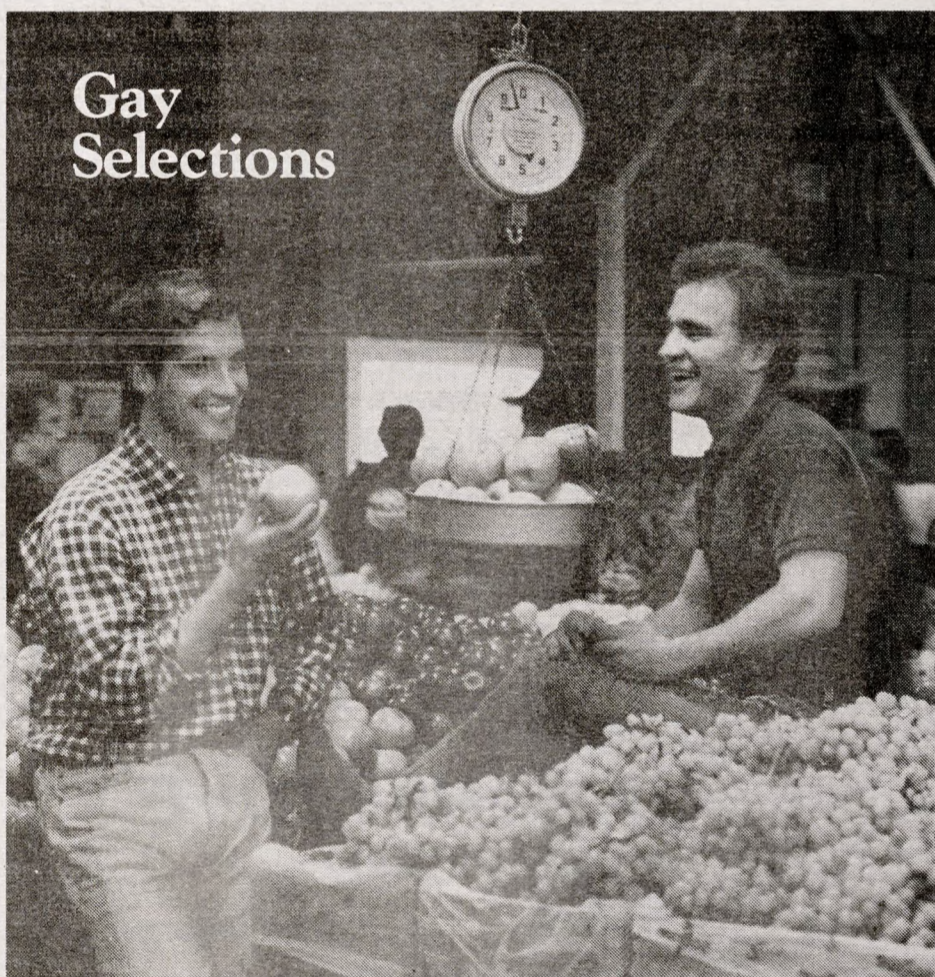
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Atlanta Gay Center Clinic - M, T, W, Th 5:30-9:30 pm. Anonymous HIV antibody counseling and screening, \$15.00. Confidential Hepatitis B Screening, \$15.00. Confidential STD screening, free. Arrive by 9:00 pm, please. Call 876-5372 for more information.

Atlanta Gay Center Plus groups for HIV-affected people. Fridays, 8:00pm and Sundays, 6:00pm. 63 12th Street. Call 876-5372 for more info.

Atlanta Gay Center Helpline, 892-0661, for info, counseling and referral. 6:00-11:00pm 365 days a year.

ACT UP/ATLANTA: (404) 286-6247

Atlanta Gay Center People Project. Information and advocacy for HIV affected people in the metro area.

AID ATLANTA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS
Groups and Meeting Times:
PWAs I Wed. 7-9pm
PWAs II Sat. 4-5:30pm
Lymphdenopathy/ARC Mon. 7-9pm
Hispanics with HIV Wed. 7-8:30pm
Worried Well Tues. 6-7:30pm
Bereavement Mon. 7-9pm
Family, Friends & Partners I Mon. 7-9pm
Family, Friends & Partners II Wed. 7-9pm
PWA in the Family Wed. 7-9pm

AIDS Information Line: In Atlanta 876-9944, Toll-free: 1-800-551-2728

Support Group forming for **Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Living With AIDS**. Contact Social Services, AID Atlanta at 874-6517 for more info.

The People Project - Ready to assist PWA's in locating services that are available in the community. This is a people-for-people program. Call Ron at 371-0819 or the Atlanta Gay Center at 876-5372.

AIDS Information Line - 9AM-9PM weekdays, 9AM-5PM, weekends for confidential, factual answers on risk, transmission, testing, medical and other referrals in Ga. and elsewhere. Atlantans call 876-9944, other Georgians dial toll-free 1-800-551-2728. Hearing-impaired callers access via TTY 876-9950. Spanish-speaking operators available. A service of AID Atlanta and the Ga. Dept. of Human Resources.

AIDS Care Coordinated is a new service for PWA's in need of housing and assisted living. Call for more info at 371-9433.

P.O.O.H. - Positive Outlook On HIV+ is a supportive network of HIV+ persons who share positive health attitudes and want to meet similarly oriented people for social and emotional interaction. For more information call 874-6102.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Writer would like to interview lesbians about their experiences with breast cancer. Personal stories, information and referrals are welcome. I will respond with respect and confidentiality. Please call or write, whichever feels more comfortable to you. Gareth Fenley, PO Box 18286, Atlanta, GA 30316, (404) 377-5468. (V3, #24)

Southern Voice would like to publish a selection of love poems in our Valentine's Issue. Preference will be given to short-

er works and those written by and for individuals who will allow us to use their photos but all submissions are welcome. Please include your full name, address and phone number - preferably daytime. Deadline Jan. 21. Please include a SASE if you would like your submission returned. Southern Voice, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316. (V3, 24)

Do You Have a Computer that can talk to ours? An idea that's time has COME. The Gay Computer Church of Atlanta is now online. Check it out, Call 264-1202. 24 hours a day. (V3, #24)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS The Conditions Collective is accepting submissions for an anthology of new writing by women on the topic of *women and censorship*, to be published by Cleis Press. All literary genres considered. B/w photos, visuals also considered. Please send submissions (typed, double-spaced, up to fifteen pages, with an SASE for return) to: Conditions, 247 Liberty Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307. Deadline: June 1, 1991. (V3, #24)

AUDITIONS

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)

AUTOMOTIVE

1979 Audi 5000 S. 4 dr., silver/blue int., ice cold air, AM/FM cassette. 5 Speed, good tires, well-maintained, looks/runs well. \$1485.00 cash (may take payments). Call Lee at 288-9415. (V3, #24)

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84 VW.....\$50
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75 Jeep CJ.....\$50
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For Sale: Lincoln Continental Mark V, Cartier Edition. White, blue interior, sunroof, 1979, 85,000 mi. \$1350. Call 876-2203 or 876-1819. (V3, #24)

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WANTED! Spanish tutor for beginning student sought. Native speaker. Gay/Lesbian preferred. 874-8294 (V3, #26)

Director of Sales & Marketing Immediate opening with local security guard firm. Need sales person to sell security services in Metro Atlanta. Call Collins Security Professional Services. (M-F, 10-1) for appt. 320-3163. (V3, #23)

Development Director Small non-profit organization. Excellent communication skills. Grant-writing, direct mail solicitation, special projects. Send resumé to Karen Boyles, Project Open Hand, 1080 R Euclid Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307. (V3, #24)

\$200-\$500 WEEKLY Assemble products at home. Easy! No selling. You're paid direct. Fully Guaranteed. **FREE** 24 Hour Recording. 801-379-2960 Ext. GD 182H (V3, #23)

\$40,000/yr! READ BOOKS and TV Scripts. Fill out simple "like/don't like" form. **EASY!** Fun, relaxing at home, beach, vacations. Guaranteed paycheck. **FREE** 24 Hour Recording. 801-379-2955 Ext. GE182B. (V3, #24)

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FOR RENT

Sunny unfurnished Studio Apt. in private gay home. Cheshire Bridge/LaVista area. Utilities incl., W/D connection. Free cable/Movie Channel, AC. Built-in dressers, cabinets & storage. Private entrance. Lease/Deposit. Non-smoker. No Pets \$395.00. 320-1450. (V3, #24)

Professional Office Space for Rent

Partners in Health/Chrysalis Women's Center has office space for lease to women's service oriented businesses. Affiliation with Partners in Health or Chrysalis is an option. Additionally, we are seeking an experienced chiropractor and massage therapist. Building is located near Piedmont and Cheshire Bridge. Call 881-6300 for information. (V3, #26)

GRANT PARK AREA 4BR, 2BA. Fenced. Shed. Appliances. Quiet Street. \$575 + deposit and references. 627-7387. (V3, #23)

MORNINGSIDE Huge house (parts unfinished) quiet; no pets. Temporary OK. \$100/wk. 892-8111. (V3, #23)

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CUSTOMIZED FURNITURE Customized wood furniture built and designed by Eydie Schultz to your specifications. Design & finish. Custom cabinets, tool! 642-9255. (V3, #24)

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TEXT _____

Note: Deadline Date Tuesday at Noon. Please Print.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

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 reply to the appropriate party.

Classified Display Rates: Call 876-2709 for information.

Editing Policy: We reserve the right to refuse or edit your ad.

Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

COMPUTE YOUR COST

40 words or less @ 15.00 _____

Additional words @ .25 ea _____

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x _____ number of issues _____

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PERSONAL ADS (4X)

Volunteer Ads

AIDS Services

Limited to 40 words.

Check appropriate box.

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ORGANIZATIONS

North American Transvestite-Transsexual Society & Clearinghouse. 1206 East Pike Street, Seattle, Washington 98122. For more information, contact: Dr. Phillip Salem 206-623-1549. (V3,#26)

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,#23)

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,#23)

PERSONALS

GWM - Southern Ivy educated with Northern tendencies seeks GWMs 25-45. Hot top who likes a little music, theatre or just talk. If you know Rossini is not just a pasta dish, answer this ad w/photo. SV Box 2345 (V3,#26)

WM, 44, seeks "lifestyle" sensitive female to explore new dimensions in intimacy. Educated, kind, healthy; new to opposite sex relationships, but committed to this as best option for me. Seeks same WF. Call 876-8147 (V3,#27)

36y. (5'10"-darkish) cultivated **EUROPEAN** seeks friendship with active, cosmopolitan + intelligent GWM (max. 55y old). Medical doctors, academics and businessmen welcome. Should have interest for the arts and be willing to correspond. Longterm relationships welcomed, but not preconditioned. Sensitivity is more important than your bank account! Write (+ photos) or call (evenings-my local time): G U H A / O b e r l ä n d e r Str.33/W-8000 Munich 70/Germany. Tel.: (+89) 776556. (V3,#26)

JENNIFER I'm sorry I missed you. Please meet me at the In Touch Café Friday night after the bar closes. Marjorie. (V3,#23)

Serenity In Florida Farewell my friends, I'm off to Miami Beach & hope you'll call, write or visit. I'll miss you. Drew Averett (305) 865-6508 (wk), 1954 Marselles Dr. Apt #1, Miami Beach, FL 33141. (305) 866-1046 (hm). (V4,#1)

WANTED: 28 year old (cuddly 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,#24)

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,#24)

GWM, 33, 5'10", 150 lbs, non-smoker, 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,#24)

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,#24)

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, 5'7", 135 lbs. 18, yet mature. Blonde/Blue. Easy-going and passionate. Seek same (20-30) for fun and possible relationship. Send letter. (I know you are out there!) SV Box 2339. (V3,#24)

Tired of being lonely? Me too! GWM, 37, 5'7", 125lbs. Swimmer's build, thinning brown hair, hazel eyes, average looks, smooth - seeks WM (18-23) who is precocious, affectionate, dedicated, devoted, and seeking intense friendship / relationship. Steve 426-0812. (V3,#24)

GWM 32, 6'3" Brn/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. Non-working 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,#24)

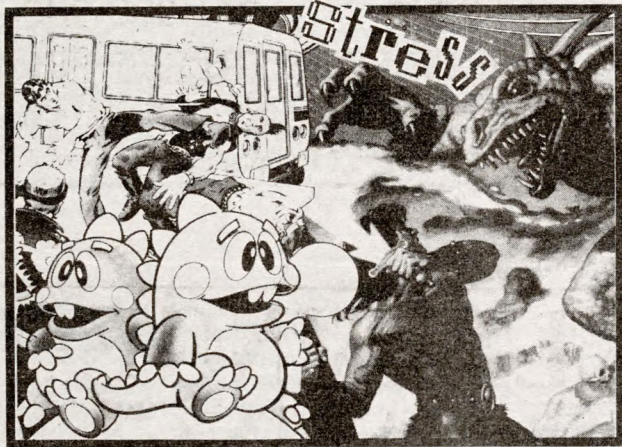
CATCH OF THE CENTURY - GWF - Butch, 37, Don't let me slip through your fingers. Financially stable, intellectually strong, emotionally secure. You are femme with similar qualities & someone I can adore and respect. You are ready to create a loving, safe, exciting, passionate, romantic, communicative,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

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. (V3,#24)

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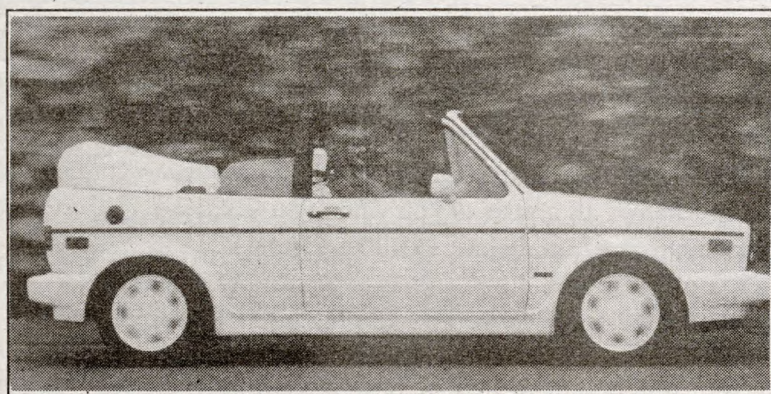
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Today Volkswagen is the world's fourth largest car maker and the only car maker that combines European design at an affordable price. The Passat GL is designed to live up to the Volkswagen tradition, and to provide an exceptionally gratifying driving and ownership experience. Test drive one today.

CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS

WM, 26, 5'8", 160. Inexperienced. Seeks older masculine discreet hairy daddy type for understanding private closeness. Photo/phone. SV Box 2334 (V3,#24)

GWM, 30, HIV-, non-smoking, professional, attractive, masculine, athletic, stable, bright and passionate seeks same 27-33 for friendship & possible relationship. SV Box 2335 (V3,#24)

GWM, healthy, active PWA. Has too much free time, seeks same to fill some of it with. P.O. Box 44, Atlanta, 30301. (V3,#24)

GWF-39. Butch, but not masculine seeks GWF-Fem. (30-45) for friendship and possible long-term relationship. NO DRUGS. SV Box 2336. (V3,#24)

30'ish GWM. Pudgy, erotic bottom invites imaginative top for daytime adventures and safe, erotic explorations. Replies with photos answered first. SV Box 2338. (V3,#24)

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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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)

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Southern VOICE

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forming for adults who have been sexually abused by therapists, counselors, clergy, physicians, and other helping professionals. For information contact Ann McAllister, Ph.D. 231-0751

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Want Madonna's Boyfriend in your stocking? Original In-Touch issue 101 with Tony Ward uncensored as centerfold. Full front & rear photos will sell for best cash offer or consider trade for other rare nude celebrity photos. Very serious offers only. Call 286-4705 before Jan. 13th. (V3, #23)

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2441 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
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ROOMMATES

Roommate: Share, Buckhead, 2 BR, 1 BA, apartment. You must be GWM, non-smoking, no drugs or heavy drinker. References required. Lives got enough problems. \$300 a month. Call evenings 841-9712. (V3,#23)

DECATUR, NEAR EMORY GWF seeks GF to share 3 bedroom house. Pets considered. \$375 + 1/2 utilities. Furnished or unfurnished. Call Phyllis 377-1349. Leave msg. (V3,#23)

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, #25)

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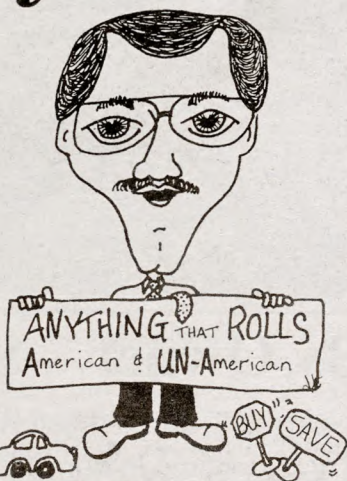
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IS LEASING SO PLEASING?

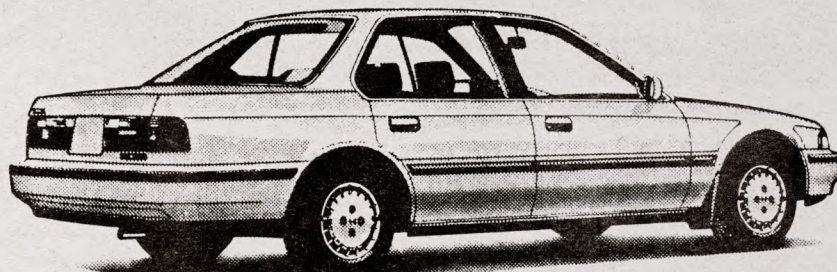
With the recent change in tax laws, the answer in nearly all cases is yes. Analysts predict that 70% of new car buyers will be leasing by 1992. This is not totally new thinking, J. Paul Getty once said, "If it depreciates lease it, if it appreciates own it."

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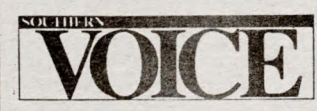
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Then pick up your FREE rose from Petals Florist at 1830-A Piedmont Rd. on February 14, between 8am and 6pm.

Name _____

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Valentine Message (Limit 40 words)



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 2/8/91

Mail with your check for \$10.00 to:
Southern Voice Valentines
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Atlanta, GA 30316

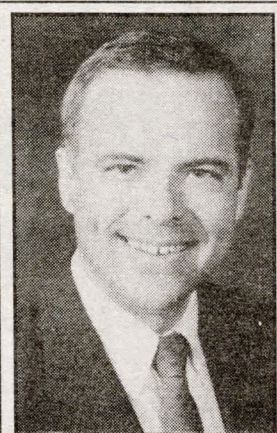
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CENTURY CENTER/I-85... over 1800 sq. ft. in this two level condo home. Contemp, open flr plan includes 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, den/office, eat-in kit, more! Red. to \$84,500

Having Lunch Alone? Too much TV? Want to meet new friends and have community? Enjoy new activities? Join the day program at Common Ground for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program operates Monday-Friday, 10:30-3:30. Call 874-8686 for information. Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network.

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(V4,#4)



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VOLUNTEERS

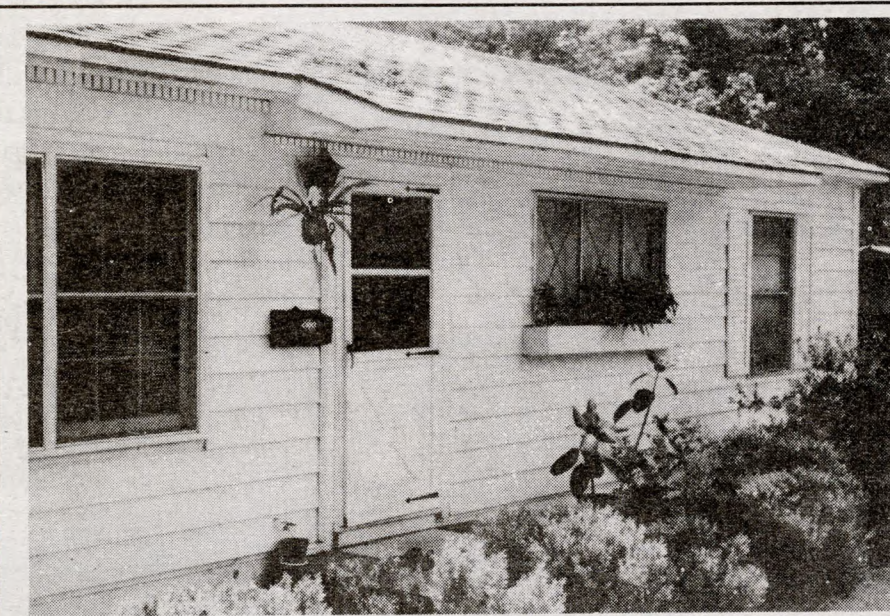
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Writers - If you have a way with words, Southern Voice wants to talk to you. Those interested in politics, community and sports are especially encouraged to call Gary at 876-0789. Volunteer or small fee paid.

SOUTHERN VOICE CIRCULATION

Join us distributing Southern Voice as a volunteer. We have single copy box and route distribution where your involvement can help us reach the Atlanta lesbian and gay community. It's fun; it's fulfilling, and you get to read the paper first!

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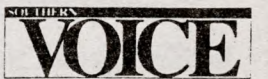
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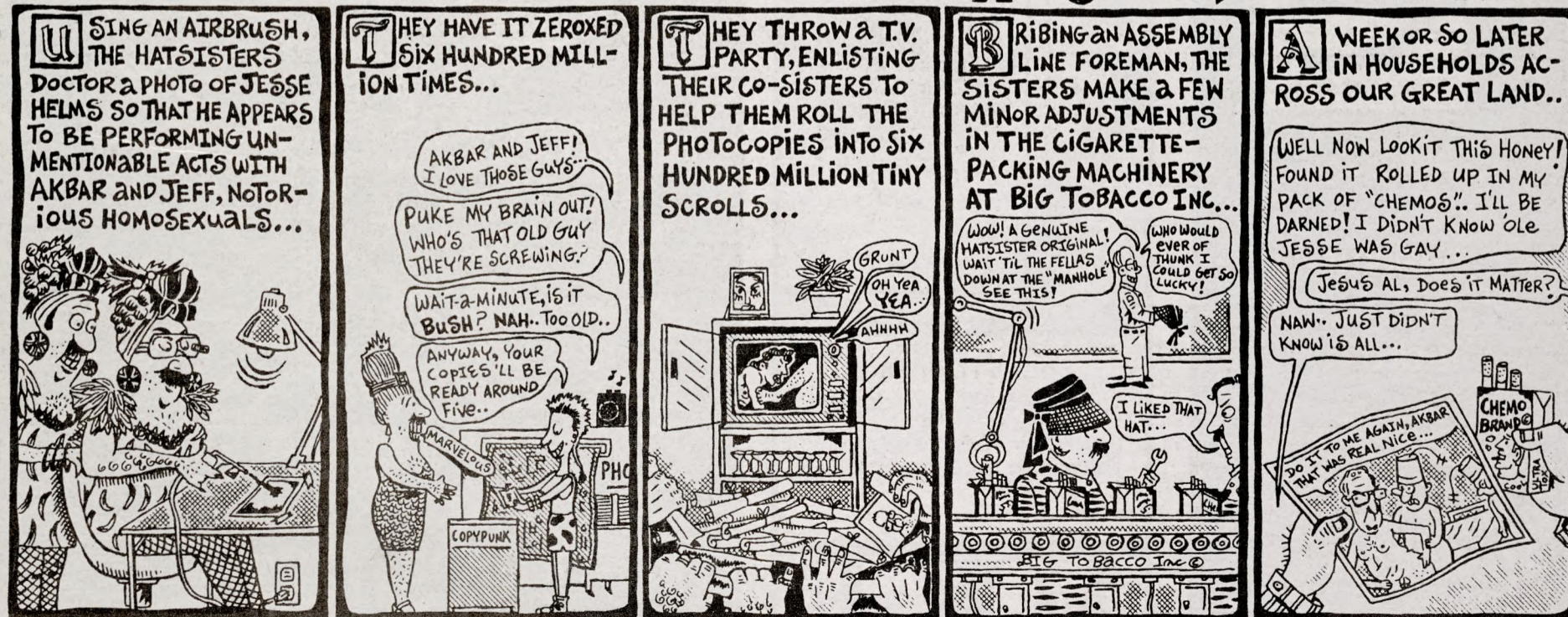
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THANKS TO GARY KAUFMAN!

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Partners

Couples Confront Problems With Little Assistance

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.

Most married heterosexual couples can count on congratulations, wedding presents, blessings and a host of other tangible and intangible support from the very start of their relationship. Gay men and lesbians have yet to achieve broad support.

On average, the couples in this survey reported shockingly low levels of support from their relatives—less than they got from co-workers. In fact, they ranked their relatives as the third greatest challenge in their relationship, and less than 10% had sought relationship help from their relatives.

Similarly, the "church" was considered more hostile than supportive on average, and only 4% of couples had sought relationship help from the clergy.

The couples instead had sought and found support from gay friends and institutions, such as churches, organizations, and couples groups. Many couples also had secured effective assistance from counselors, though women were far more likely to have sought this form of help.

Sources of support
(rated from 1=strong support to 7=hostility)

	women	men
Gay friends	1.50	1.65
Gay church	1.59	1.99
Lesbian/gay couples group	1.63	1.77
Other gay organizations	1.69	1.91
Other friends	2.15	2.09
Co-workers	2.72	2.55
Siblings	2.82	2.80
Boss	2.84	2.78
Mother	3.34	2.98
Other relatives	3.44	3.34
Father	3.71	3.37
Church	4.22	4.54
Average	2.64	2.65

On average, women reported more support from the gay community than men. On the other hand, men found more support than women from all other sources except the church. The "church" was the only source rated more hostile than supportive.

Not all couples were in a position to receive support. One-quarter said that at least five of these potential sources of support didn't know about the relationship. These couples reported more arguments and abuse, yet they were less likely to seek help from friends, counselors, relatives, or the clergy.

Strangely, relationship quality and longevity were not related to the amount of support couples received from any source.

Greatest Challenges

	women	men
Communication	42%	49%
Career	26	30
Relatives	26	28
Sex	25	22*

	women	men
Money	25%	28%
Health	9	12
Co-workers	3	2
Neighbors	1	1
Other	23	13

The survey asked respondents to categorize the two greatest challenges to their relationship. Communication was far and away the most commonly reported challenge. Notable, gay men faced fewer challenges from relatives than did lesbians.

Partners in relationships of five or more years more often considered sex a challenge (28%) than newer couples (19%).

Among the diverse "other" challenges written in were children, religion, non-monogamy issues, friends, recovery, and long-distance relationships.

Sought relationship help from:

	women	men
Friend	47%	43%
Counselor	45	27
Relative	9	7
Clergy	4	5

Of all the couples, 64% had sought relationship help from at least one source, and 93% of those found help from at least one source. On average, couples who sought help assigned their relationship a higher quality rating than couples who had not.

Both short- and long-term couples were less likely than mid-term couples to have sought help. Only 30% of all couples together more than 10 years had seen a counselor, and only 36% of couples together one year or less had sought any kind of help.

Relationship has suffered from:	women	men
Partner's		
Verbal abuse	17%	15%
Substance abuse	7	11
Physical abuse	3	3
Respondent's		
Verbal abuse	19	16
Substance abuse	8	8
Physical abuse	3	2

Fully 31% of all couples said their relationship suffered from at least one kind of abuse. Abuse was significantly more frequent among couples who had experienced relationship discrimination, and among those with less income and education.

Predictably, partners reporting abuse argued more often and gave their relationships lower quality ratings. They also were more likely to seek help.

Big arguments per month

	women	men
None	57%	65%
One	31	26
Two	9	6
Three or more	3	4
Average number	1.0	0.6

Small arguments per month

	women	men
None	10%	13%
One	21	20
Two	28	26
Three	14	14
Four	11	10
Five	5	6
Six or more	11	12
Average number	3.5	3.7

Eleven percent of all couples reported no arguments whatever.

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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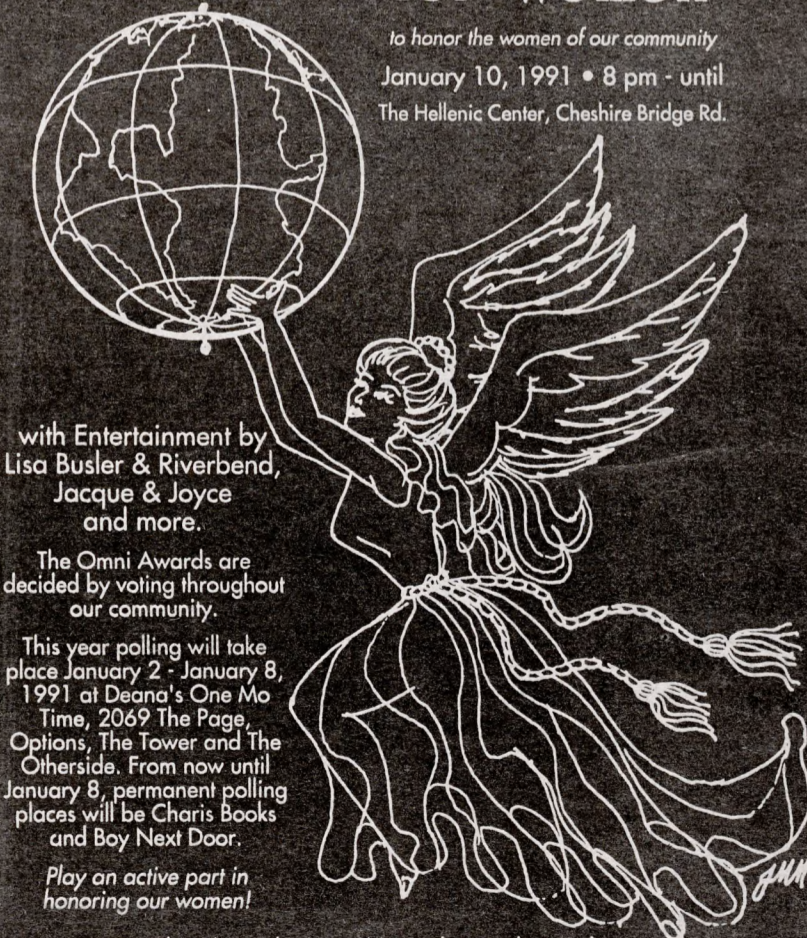


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