

SOUTHERN VOICE

Anti-AIDS

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Taking Pride in Our Culture

March 29, 1988

INSIDE

Masters and Johnson's Crisis: *Heterosexual Behavior in the age of AIDS* is "the book that no one wants to read." Gary Kaupman examines and analyzes this controversial new work which has brought immediate and mostly negative response. Pg 3

Jamie Bowman, the victim of a recent Midtown shooting, recounts the experience. Angry at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and the Atlanta Police department, she discusses the anti-gay/lesbian aspects of the attack. Pg 6

Leigh VanderEls, a lesbian mother who lost her son in a custody battle in Clayton County last year, shares excerpts from her journal. Poignant and insightful, a journey through pain to growth...and hope. Pg 6

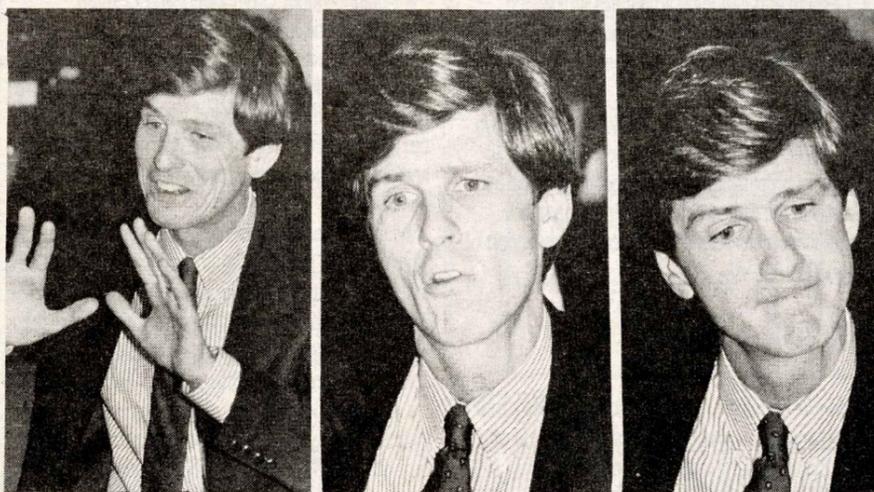
Tom Ammiano, "the mother of gay comedy", comes to town on April 15th for the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men. In this candid interview, Ammiano talks about the pros and cons of being an openly gay comic. Pg 7

Calendar—There's lots to do and see in the next few weeks in Atlanta: *The Normal Heart* opens March 30th; Moral Hazard in concert on April Fool's Day; FOCUS Atlanta on April 8th; the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus Spring Concert on April 9th and much more. Pg 8

Sports—Atlanta Team Tennis Association's Hotlanta Clay Court Invitational, the first national lesbian and gay clay court tournament in history, was recently held in Atlanta. Michael McMillan covers the action, (in his own peculiar way), and gives the latest standings of Hotlanta Volleyball. Pg 11

AIDS Focus—An overflow Atlanta crowd attended a discussion on experimental drug therapies for AIDS on March 23rd. Panelist James Braude of Atlanta and other experts set a tone of optimism with an emphasis on self-education. Pg 12

Sparks Fly Over Recent Shootings



4th Congressional District U.S. Representative Pat Swindall "chats" with constituents. Photo by Gerald Jones

Swindall Challenged on Civil Rights

In a carefully orchestrated ambush planned by lesbian and gay residents of the 4th Congressional District, eight people cornered U.S. Representative Pat Swindall during one of his Saturday morning "Chats with Pat". The confrontation took place March 19, 1988.

When contacted for comment, an unidentified person at Swindall's Atlanta office told *Southern Voice* that the "Chats with Pat" are scheduled to allow the "voters a chance to bring their concerns to Pat, and let him get a feel for how the electorate feels about legislation pending in Congress."

Swindall responded to press questions on his intentions regarding the upcoming vote to override President Ronald Reagan's veto of the CRRA (Civil Rights Restoration Act), by announcing that he is going to vote to sustain the veto, in keeping with his previous vote on the matter when it was before the House.

Swindall bases his opposition on two factors. He claims that "it's (not) an appropriate title to say it's a civil rights restoration act, the reality is it does not restore civil rights that were previously deprived. What it does do is open an unprecedented level of federal intrusion into previously private areas. One area that comes particularly to mind is the area of churches and synagogues." Swindall illustrated his point by saying that religious groups that offer "soup kitchens" that receive surplus cheese from the federal government, would be subjected to "full regulation with respect to every law passed by Congress that deals with discrimination for any of the reasons protected by Congress."

Swindall stated that such regulation of religious institutions was against "both the spirit and the letter of the Constitution." Swindall defended President Reagan's attempt to preserve the fundamentalist Christian Bob Jones University's tax exempt status when it was accused of racial discrimination in 1981. The intent of the CRRA is to close loopholes such as those used in the Bob Jones University case.

Swindall has also been quoted as being

opposed to the language in the Hate Crime Statistics Act, which specifically mentions crimes motivated by the perceived sexual orientation of the victim as being covered under the Bill. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act mandates the Department of Justice to collect statistics on crimes motivated by hatred toward certain oppressed groups of people.

During the "Chat with Pat", Swindall attempted to clarify his position. He claimed that sexual orientation "is by definition an ambiguous term. It includes child molestation, it includes necrophilia (sex with the deceased), it includes virtually anything that you could imagine...." He said that he had met with openly gay Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), sponsor of the sexual orientation clause, and come to an understanding of the "spirit of what we are trying to achieve." He said that the language would use the term "homosexual, or whatever the terminology ought to be, so that the bill is not ambiguous, as I think ... it is under its current form."

When contacted for comment, Representative Frank confirmed meeting with

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The recent shootings in Midtown of Jamie Bowman and Michael Denyou have galvanized and polarized elements of Atlanta's lesbian and gay community. Citing the recent attack as the latest in a spiraling increase of anti-gay/lesbian violence, the Atlanta Gay Center (AGC) announced the formation of the Task Force on Anti-Gay Violence. They demanded an immediate meeting with Public Safety Commissioner George Napper to voice their concerns.

According to Bill Gripp, Chairperson of the AGC Task Force, his organization has experienced a thirty percent increase in telephone calls reporting incidences of bias motivated crime for the past two consecutive years.

Kevin Berrill, Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Anti-Violence Project, agreed with Gripp's conclusion that hate crimes are increasing, stating that "violence against persons for their perceived sexual orientation has increased rapidly since the beginning of the decade." He warned persons at risk of violence to brace for more danger to come, as "this problem usually gets worse in the warmer months."

Both Berrill and AGC Task Force members refer to a 1987 Department of Justice sanctioned report, "The Response of the Criminal Justice System to Bias Crime: An Exploratory Review", to prove their contention that anti-gay/lesbian violence is on the rise. The report, prepared for the National Institute of Justice by Abt Associates, claims that "homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims (of violence)... and the most reluctant to report bias crimes."

Many Atlanta activists, however, are not confident that this incident was primarily bias motivated. Richard Swanson, AGC Administrator, answered criticisms that his organization was grandstanding, using the Bowman-Denyou shooting to promote the Center's private ambitions.

"It isn't whether or not the crime was anti-gay motivated. The question is whether or not the police were prepared to assess it as a hate crime," he stated. He complained that the Atlanta Police Department "will try and

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"Gays in the Center for More Women-Only Space" demonstrated their support at Charis Books & More on March 24th. See "Men for Women", Page 3.

ADAPT Takes On the DOT

Protesters blocked the entrances of the U.S. Department of Transportation building March 14 and 15 demanding an end to federal public transit policies which allow discrimination against people with disabilities. Americans, Disabled, for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT) organized the protest, demanding that DOT require wheelchair lifts on all new public transit buses purchased with federal funds.

Several of the protesters were able to gain access to the lobby of the DOT building. Others blocked entrances to the building and effectively disrupted employee operations. Participant Mark Johnson stated that DOT employees were forced to climb fire escapes to gain entrance to the building. Demonstrators spent the night at the agency blocking its front entrances. Half of the protesters moved into the street in the morning to chain themselves to DOT shuttle busses and block a METRObus.

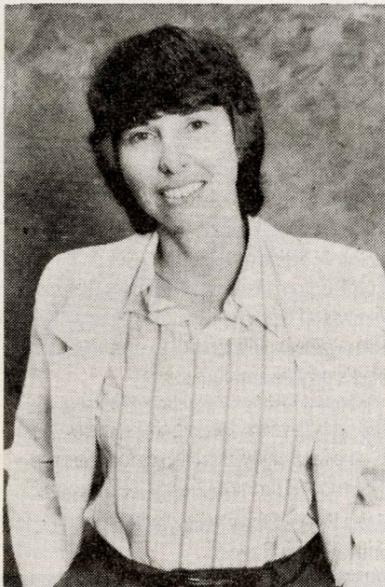
D.C. police arrested twenty-four demonstrators and charged them with a fine of incommoding.

Transportation Secretary, James H. Burnley said in a statement that the existing department regulations "allow the transit systems to select the kind of transit services which are most responsive to the needs of the riders in their communities."

ADAPT organized the action to coincide with the legislative conference of the American Public Transit Association. APTA has consistently fought disabled people's access to public transportation. APTA filed a law suit against Rule 504 (a federal rule from 1971) and got a ruling in favor of local option. The local option rule states that local transit systems would only have to spend 3.5% of their federal mass transit funds to provide services for disabled people. In addition, they were no longer required to use the service criteria identified in 504. District Court Judge Marvin Katz ruled on a suit filed by ADAPT, that the 3.5% figure was arbitrary and capricious and that local transit systems should utilize the six service criteria specified in 504. DOT filed an appeal on the ruling March 4, 1988.

ADAPT has planned another national demonstration on May 14-19 in St. Louis to coincide with APTA's Eastern Education conference.

- Leigh VanderEls



Karen Thompson, Photo by Irene Young

Kowalski to be Tested

Duluth, MN--Judge Robert Campbell ordered Feb. 5 that Sharon Kowalski, a lesbian severely injured in a 1983 auto accident, be formally tested for competency. Kowalski will be tested for the first time since the court granted her father unlimited guardianship three years ago. The court required at that time that Mr. Kowalski have his daughter tested at least annually. Gary Pagliacetti, Kowalski's court-appointed attorney, will consult with Duluth-area physicians to select a site for the testing.

Campbell also supported the request that no attorneys except Pagliacetti be allowed to contact the evaluators until their report is issued. The request was made by attorneys for Karen Thompson, Kowalski's lover who has been fighting to visit and care for Kowalski since her parents banned all contact between them in 1985. Thompson states that at the time she last saw Kowalski, she was able to communicate via hand signals and an electric typewriter. Kowalski asked at their last visit that Thompson take her home. Currently, Kowalski is in a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota which has no rehabilitation facilities.

Pagliacetti has visited Kowalski four times and told the court he believes she understands what others say to her, and can communicate effectively when she desires. He said Kowalski has more potential than she is allowed to use or explore.

Lesbian and gay legal advocates will watch Campbell's rulings as they may have implications for other lesbians or gay men whose partners are disabled.

According to *Gay Community News* in Boston, W. 57th St., the CBS nighttime news program, is filming in preparation for a segment on the case to be aired in the fall. *GCN* also reports that Rev. Jesse Jackson has released a statement in support of Karen Thompson.

FOCUS Atlanta

Atlanta--Focus '88, an exposition of lesbian and gay organizations and businesses will be held on April 8th at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1911 Cliff Valley Way, NE. The event is being sponsored by MAGLO (Metropolitan Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Organizations), and the purpose is to inform our community about the vast number of political, social and recreational organizations available for our participation.

Jeffrey Laymon, one of the event coordinators, reports that spokespersons will be on hand that evening to provide information on upcoming events such as the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, the Names Project Atlanta, Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Activities and the Democratic National Convention and Voter Registration Drives. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks will be available for purchase. The fun begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts until 10:00. Start your evening out at Focus '88 and discover the wealth of opportunity for involvement in the Lesbian/Gay Community of Atlanta.

Quick Response Phone Network Formed

Atlanta - Local gay activist R. Jones announced the formation of the Quick Response Phone Network at the Election Central party hosted by LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians) on March 8, Super Tuesday. The enthusiastic crowd quickly joined in line as the list circulated throughout the election night event.

As political activism in Georgia continues to grow, Jones expects the Network to play a vital role in protecting the rights of lesbians and gay men. Referring to the group's circular, he stressed that the Network will reflect the concerns of all gays and lesbians, not just those issues deemed important by the organizers.

"The Network is intended for use where speed is important and will not replace other means of reaching masses of people where time permits. The Network is not to be used for fundraising or for general announcements," according to Jones.

The Network is designed to disseminate news throughout each cell of 147 callers within two hours.

The Quick Response Phone Network is designed to be a circular, rather than pyramidal structure, with any member able to activate the system. An additional safety factor built into the Network will

ensure that everyone on the list is called at least twice, thus eliminating any deadlocks that might be precipitated by inactive or unavailable members.

While still in the formative stages, Jones urges interested people to sign up. He may be reached at 233-9583 during evening hours.

Couples, Inc. to Honor Gay & Lesbian Families

Los Angeles--In recognition of the love and commitment represented by lesbian and gay families, Couples, Inc. has designated May 8, 1988 as Parents Day. That Sunday, which is also traditional Mother's Day this year, will be marked by celebrations in several cities. According to Carey Junkin, Executive Director of Couples, Inc., "We plan to honor Gay Fathers and Lesbian Mothers for the love and care they give their children. Just as Couples, Inc. did with The Wedding at the National March on Washington, we plan to show the non-gay and gay communities that our families are based on love. Same-sex couples and gay families everywhere are organizing for this celebration."

Many of the same-sex couples that participated in The Wedding had their children present. After The Wedding, Couples, Inc. broadened its emphasis to include all family issues. "Same-sex couples make up a large and mostly quiet segment of the lesbian and gay community. While many of these couples are raising children, there are also large numbers of lesbian and gay parents without partners. These families deserve the same rights and privileges as heterosexual families," noted Walter Wheeler, the president of Couples, Inc.

Couples, Inc. is inviting other organizations, gay and lesbian families, same-sex couples and individuals to organize family celebrations in their local communities. While the form of the celebration will certainly vary, plans already call for large family breakfasts with honored guests and speakers on family issues. These events are also to be fund-raisers for Couples, Inc. and local organizations working for family rights. According to Carol Mortimer, Vice President - East for Couples, Inc., "The celebration of Parents Day to honor Gay Fathers and Lesbian Mothers will further emphasize our organization's slogan, 'Love makes a family. Nothing else, nothing less!'"

In California, the group has endorsed the March on Sacramento to "Bring the Message Home" (May 7). Therefore, the Parents Day celebration for California will be a family breakfast in Sacramento honoring Lesbian Mothers and Gay Fathers. Same-sex couples, other gay and lesbian families and their supporters are all invited to attend.

Organizations that want to co-sponsor local events, and individuals and families that want to help organize or participate should contact Couples, Inc. as soon as possible. Couples, Inc. can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013-0323, in the east at 109 Myrtle Avenue, Merchantville, NJ or in the south at P.O. Box 77266, Atlanta, GA 30057. To save time call (213) 550-7549 or (609) 663-3460.

Local Activists Elected to Board of Couples, Inc.

Atlanta - Two local gay activists, Christina Cash and Mark du Pont, were recently elected to the Board of Directors of Couples, Inc., The National Organization for Family Diversity.

Cash is the editor of *Southern Voice*, a publication of SAME (Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project, Inc.). She has been actively working for gay rights for the past year and a half. du Pont is employed by BellSouth Corporation at its headquarters in Midtown. He has served on several Gay Pride Committees both in Birmingham, Alabama and Atlanta, and has been politically active since the 1979 March on Washington.

The Los Angeles-based organization has as its goals to seek public acknowledgement of the existence of on-going, committed same-sex relationships; to invite families, friends, employers, co-workers, neighbors & society to recognize the value of same-sex relationships and to respect the importance of the love and commitment represented by them; to emphasize that same-sex couples belong to every segment of society; and to recognize the thoughtful heterosexuals who are attempting to redefine their families and the meaning of "wedding".

Couples, Inc. conceived the idea of, and produced, THE WEDDING--one of the events of the National March on Washington. Over 2,000 same-sex couples publicly declared their commitment for each other in front of the national press, and the world.

Couples interested in this organization should contact Mark du Pont at (404) 634-3061 or write to Couples, Inc., Post Office Box 77266, Atlanta, Georgia 30357-7266.

Israel Legalizes Homosexuality

Jerusalem--Homosexual relations between adult men are now legal in the state of Israel.

The Israeli parliament, the Knesset, revised its laws dealing with sexuality and, as a result, abolished legislation banning homosexuality.

The move came despite Jewish religious law which adheres to a strict interpretation of the Bible in opposition to homosexuality. Women's relations with other women were not mentioned in the legislation, a common oversight in legislative and other matters.

L.A. Activists Battle Opponents of Lesbian/Gay Youth Program

Los Angeles--Leaders of the lesbian and gay community are gearing up for another battle with Republican and fundamental activists; the issue, this time, revolves around a pilot outreach program for L&G youth in the Los Angeles Unified school district, Project 10. The program has existed peacefully for its first year at Fairfax High School, and has come against organized opposition only since its announced intention to expand districtwide.

Led by Assemblyperson Marian LaFollette (R-Northridge), the California State Republican Assembly Caucus voted unanimously to oppose funding for all special projects of the school district. LaFollette said she had received numerous complaints about the program from parents and students after Virginia Uribe, who heads Project 10, spoke to students and faculty at San Fernando High School.

Lesbian and gay activists familiar with Project 10 trace the wave of negative feelings to a group of radical fundamentalists operating under the banner of the TVC (Traditional Values Coalition). Led by the Reverend Lou Sheldon, a long-time opponent of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement, the TVC held a press conference February 11, 1988, to condemn the program.

"(Project 10) advocates, promotes and encourages homosexuality as a viable alternative lifestyle," said Sheldon.

Referring to the action by the Republican Assemblyperson Caucus, Frank Ricchiuzzi said "(that) shows the stupidity of the leadership in the Republican Assembly Caucus...Hopefully after the November elections we will have intelligent leaders." Ricchiuzzi currently serves on the State Republican Party Executive Committee.

"There are a large number of people in the Republican Party who will not agree with them," said Ricchiuzzi. He added that he did not believe that funds would actually be withheld from the school district.

CRISIS: Fear in the Age of AIDS

William Masters, Virginia Johnson and Robert Kolondy have written the book that no one wants to read. Their recently released bombshell on the heterosexual transmission of AIDS says what none of us want to hear: The worst case scenario involving the AIDS epidemic is, in fact, reality.

Scary Stuff.

Crisis: Heterosexual Behavior in the Age of AIDS was the subject of an immense mainstream media barrage when it was released three weeks ago. *Newsweek* did a cover story. *Good Morning, America* spoke at length to the authors. Response was immediate and negative: critics called it "fiction," "fantasy," and "wrongheaded." Researchers questioned MJ&K's data and its interpretation. Health and social workers accused the book of creating panic where calm and reason are called for.

A week and a half after its release, I couldn't find *Crisis* in two of Atlanta's largest book stores. A third store had moved the volume from the new nonfiction display to its AIDS shelf. An employee told me that customers complained vociferously about the prominent display of what they called "fiction" "or worse."

I called Grove Press (the publisher) to ask how the book was selling and question their rationale in publishing such a controversial manuscript. After many minutes of being shuffled from one extension to another, a friendly voice informed me that only the publisher was speaking to the press about *Crisis*. I'm still waiting for the gentleman to call me back.

That is an interesting contrast to the large and generally positive reception accorded *And the Band Played On* which in many ways contained

disclosures as disquieting as those in *Crisis*.

The difference of course is that *And the Band* author Randy Shilts exposed a dysfunctional interface between the political and public health systems of America. Yes, Shilts gave us chilling portraits of the effect of AIDS on the human body. The bodies of others. Heart wrenching as those personal snapshots are, they allow most readers to separate themselves from the PWA's.

Richard Goldstein described the concept in the December 29 issue of *The Village Voice*: "Our image of a person with AIDS defines what we blame for the epidemic, how we think we must protect ourselves, whether we want laws to identify, even isolate carriers."

Anal intercourse, promiscuity and drug use are a few of the practices that the public generally blames for AIDS. It's easy for most straight folks to separate themselves from *those* and thus from fear. Gays can apply the salve of safer sex to their AIDS nightmares.

"Wrong," says Masters, Johnson and Kolodny. Huge numbers of heterosexuals are infected they claim. The chance of transfusion borne HIV infection has been "virtually eliminated" according to the CDC. MJ&K's stats say that present screening techniques suggest a 1-in-5,418 chance of infection if you receive one unit of blood and 1-in-1,355 if you get four units. Far from "virtually eliminated."

Condoms aren't safe, they say. You can catch HIV from a toilet seat and even mutual masturbation is risky. The authors take care to document all their claims. And they take almost as much care to explain the small chance of actually contracting HIV illness in these and other equally

arcane ways.

But their explanations come after their allegations and those allegations, unlike what we've been hearing from the CDC, include acts that all but the celibate engage in at least occasionally.

Masters, Johnson and Kolodny have effectively destroyed the barriers that we've erected in order to protect ourselves from believing that we are not at risk of HIV infection.

On the other hand, MJ&K have suggested that the only safe sexual scenario is one in which both partners are proven antibody negative and agree to remain monogamous. The machinations that they suggest for first getting accurate antibody tests and then honestly communicating the results of those tests are tortured at best. The authors even acknowledge the likelihood of damage to whatever ardor or trust might exist in the early stages of a relationship between two (potential) lovers if their recommendations are followed.

In other words, the authors have destroyed the barriers that many have used to distance themselves from the epidemic and then suggested creating, through widespread antibody testing, a whole new kind of social division between those who are antibody positive and those who test negative. A virus-based class system where, for a change, the haves become the losers, the outcasts, the true have-nots.

Equally as frightening: *Crisis* suggests that AIDS-related civil rights issues will have to take the back seat to public health concerns. The authors call for a scheme of mandatory testing in a number of populations—pregnant women, those between ages 15 and 60 admitted to hospitals, convicted prostitutes, marriage license applicants. Their

conclusion on the hot potato of contact tracing? "In light of the price that must be paid in human suffering and lives if this epidemic is not contained within the next two years, the need for a contact tracing program seems compelling."

In the end, what seems most compelling is that Masters, Johnson and Kolodny (whose previous works have been neither reactionary nor repressive) appear to be so genuinely alarmed by the future course of the AIDS epidemic. *Crisis* is easy to criticize on many counts, including some that can easily be categorized as homophobic. And there's the very important and real dearth of discussion of funding and research in *Crisis*. But the fact that it comes from respected researchers who have never previously shown any need to grind their socio-sexual axes in public makes this frightening scenario difficult to ignore.

If the authors' data and projections prove correct, they'll likely be hailed as heroes for having had the courage to speak the truth while it may still have a positive effect on the epidemic.

And if their facts are fictional? *Crisis* may attract the attention of a large number of heterosexuals in a way that most gays learned only by actually losing a friend or lover to the disease. Neither scenario is attractive, but the former seems far less painful. The possibility that fundamentalists will use the book's conclusions to support their repressive agendas is a frightening one. We can only hope that M, J&K's willingness to openly discuss sexuality will discourage this unholy alliance.

If the authors are wrong, their reputations will be tarnished. In view of their pioneering work bringing light to a subject traditionally enshrouded in fear and misconception that would be a shame. Far worse a possibility is that their conclusions in *Crisis* are accurate.

- Gary Kaupman

Swindall, Cont.

Continued from Front Page

Swindall, and thought that the term "sexual orientation" would probably be changed to homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual," to avoid terms that would cover "abusive" sexual practices. He said that he was optimistic for the bill's passage, but that it was not certain.

Quoting from the Declaration of Independence, local lesbian activist Jean Hoffman attacked Swindall, demanding to know if according to the Declaration's assertion that governments are instituted to protect the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, he should be removed from office. She was referring to his record of negative votes on civil rights issues.

Swindall offered to interpret the Declaration of Independence "in the context of the Constitution" for Hoffman. He stated that the

"founders...acknowledged that our rights come from a creator god, and that creator god established certain absolutes, among ... (which) were the Ten Commandments." Citing the "Judeo-Christian heritage of this country's judicial system," Swindall continued to say that "homosexuality is a sin, as opposed to an attitude that you basically inherit....Homosexuality is a deviation from the norm."

The Representative acknowledged that "individuals have the right to deviate from the norm, (but) they do not have the right to ask society to change its standards. I respect your right to say, I don't want to discriminate. I respect other individuals' rights to say I do want to discriminate. I do not want my children to be taught by someone who is an avowed homosexual, who says that homosexuality is in effect something that I have no control over."

As his response became more heated, Swindall

declared, "I do not think it is right to have teachers, as role models for our children, who say that homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle. I think it is sin, and I think that it is important that our government acknowledge, as it has historically, that that is an act that individuals deliberately choose!"

Referring to the Declaration of Independence, Swindall conjured up the specter of natural law, and polled the increasingly hostile onlookers. The majority of those present indicated that they agreed with Swindall when he said, "From time eternal, we have recognized homosexuality as an un-natural act! Why? Because a natural god says the purpose of sex is procreation. If you look at homosexuality, it says that that is in fact not the purpose of sex."

"You have the right to go to the ballot box. But so do the people who think that homosexuality is an unnatural act. And I bet, that if you check the population of the 4th District of Georgia, the vast majority still believe homosexuality is an un-natural act, and that when they elected me, they elected me to represent that viewpoint in Congress."

Swindall dismissed the recent victory of LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays And Lesbians) in the Democratic caucuses in Georgia, and said "There is no question that if you are a homosexual, then the Democratic party is your party." He publicly challenged whoever his democratic rival might be in the coming elections to publicly declare his support for "homosexual rights" in a mainstream forum. "I hope ya'll take that issue (lesbian/gay rights) and elevate it, I hope in the next campaign you say the Democratic candidate has come to our community, run ads in our newspapers saying that he is for homosexual rights."

"I think that those are targeted campaigns, that keep those issues confined to those areas that people want it confined to. I'll gladly debate that issue in the context of the entire fourth district of Georgia (and) the Declaration of Independence," he said.

As the meeting dispersed, a woman who had spoken against the proposed extension of Georgia 400 and demanded that Swindall clarify his position on the matter, approached the group of gay men and lesbians. According to Hoffman, "she offered us encouragement mainly, but it's a prime example of potential coalition members when we throw him (Swindall) out of office in November."

-Chris Duncan

Men for Women

The latest salvo has been fired in the ongoing battle over woman-only space. Protesters James Braden, Peter Dakutis, and Bruce Rose were in front of Charis Books and More, Thursday evening the 24th, demonstrating in favor of women's right to meet without the presence of men. The three men were responding to an ongoing Atlanta controversy, most recently inflamed by a protest at a Alix Dobkin concert. Dobkin's concerts are often women-only events.

Atlanta Gay Center member, Michael Wilson led the group of protestors at the Dobkin concert under the name People Against Sexism. Braden, Dakutis, and Rose demonstrated under the name Gays in the Center for More Women-Only Space.

Their statement said, in part, "We support women-only space and men-only space when it is used in a positive manner to facilitate personal growth. ... We find it ironic and reprehensible that gay men would disapprove of women's opportunities to claim space for themselves. Such denial is out and out sexism."

"This sexism is really no different from homophobia or racism, for all extend from the same roots. It is shameful and perverse that gay men would behave the same as homophobes and racists who have enjoyed privileges for years and who begin to feel threatened when the oppressed group begins to assert its basic rights and freedoms," the statement continued.

Pam Martin, of ALFA (the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance), saw Braden et al before going to the Charis meeting. She called their work "wonderful," and said that she hoped they would take their protest to the Atlanta Gay Center. According to Martin, they have not been willing to support women-only space.

Referring to an interview with Wilson that appeared in a recent issue of *The News*, she described his assertions against women-only space as "misogynist, false, and misleading."

When contacted for comment, Wilson said "I don't think segregation is a right, or a form of elevated thinking. ... I think it is real disturbing. I think our statement is quite clear on the matter. I guess there is no accounting for casual thinking."

-Chris Duncan

VOICES

How Do You Feel About Women-Only Space?

"Why not? It should exist without threat, although I wouldn't seek it out."

Anonymous
North Georgia

"I think it's very sad. Lesbians are trying to get recognition for being a minority and they're seeking in the wrong direction. I'm not a person who believes in segregation."

Mickel Graham
Clarkston, Georgia

"I have no problems at all with women-only space. I support male-only and women-only space if the intent is to grow from that experience."

Bruce Rose
Atlanta, Georgia

"I don't have any problems with it. I think that women-only events need to be clearly identified as such and should not be codified. In the case of Deidre McCalla concert, the language should have specifically stated that it was a women-only event."

Sabrina Sojourner
Atlanta, Georgia

Guest Editorial

Missing Elements

Over the past few months, something's been happening in Atlanta of particular interest to lesbians and gay men: the accelerating maturity and splashy emergence of our community on the straight and political scene. We've been there for some time, of course; but never before have I seen the energy, the impetus, that seems to be breaking out now.

MACGLO moves closer and closer to coming into its own, after months of defining and redefining its role as the organization of organizations. LEGAL burst upon the scene, riding the crest of a tidal wave of its organizers' energies, and swamped the Democratic caucuses. The March Committee looked in the mirror, saw a good thing, and decided not to disband (thank heavens). GAPAC put out its own newspaper to cover the political scene, vigorously applauded the newborn *Southern Voice*, and began discussions of mutual cooperation and benefit between the two publications. And then of course there's SAME, pumping out seemingly unending calendars of arts productions relevant to our lifestyle; a sensational Southeastern Conference coming in April; the work being done to make Pride Week the proud party it can and will be...

Whew! It's enough to make you dizzy, and that's a very incomplete list. And the temptation is strong to sit back with a grin, feet up, and believe that all's-well-or-it-soon-will-be. But to do that would be a little like the immortal Moms Mabley's routine of the two women walking along, passing the time of day until one stopped short and said, "I smell hair burning!" "Do you think we're walking too fast?" her friend asked.

It's good to be encouraged by all this activity. But anyone satisfied with where we are now - even, with the framework of our community - may as well be walking around with their head afire. There are two crucial elements still missing in the formula for our success: the active participation of much of the community, and an existing framework in

which volunteers can work whenever they have time.

Leader burnout is endemic and epidemic in the gay community, because of these two missing elements. A need is perceived, a group forms with a core of enthusiastic individuals, participation flares, then falters; and the few left do as much as they can unassisted, before withdrawing in shellshock.

This is as much the responsibility of the leaders as it is the uninvolved community's. We seem to focus so strongly on what needs to be done that we ignore the necessity of a framework, an organizational structure independent of the original founders, within which the work can be done ad infinitum. We in GAPAC are as guilty of this as any other organization. But it's a helluva challenge to tend to the brushfires under your feet and still attend the one on your head.

I know for certain that there are hundreds of people out there who will gladly give an hour or two now and then to advance our cause. But how do we utilize this motherlode of talent without the needed staffing to make the calls to ask for help? The organizational structure that can capitalize on that kind of scattered blessing is missing, missing, missing.

The answer? People. I'll bet there's not an organization in town that wouldn't grovel just a little bit to snare the services of a volunteer business manager and/or administrator and/or super secretary to tend to the "tending" itself. I know I would.

We in GAPAC are working on that. But we need HELP!, from the Board level on down. We need people who will accept responsibility - just a little - to be the team captains, working with the more experienced generals. We need a continuous line of leadership developing administrative skills and procedures, so that we don't waste precious time reinventing the wheel. And then at last we will be able to offer a structure capable of using that spare hour or two, so that everyone can do their little bit to accomplish that whole lot.

And I know for sure that we're not alone in

this need. So I'll say it again: are you bored, lonely, angry, frustrated, or just generally looking for something fun and different to do? Then call us at 888-0510 - or call any MACGLO organization - because we sure need YOU. You'll meet interesting, nice people, and the world will become a much more fascinating place when you see firsthand how it's being run.

So live a little! Take a chance. Grab the phone and call, or come to Focus Atlanta, MACGLO's party for the community to meet its own organizations. Get involved; you'll be glad you did.

I gua-ron-tee it.

- Marie Murray

Marie Murray is Chairperson of GAPAC (that's like gay'-pack), our local political action committee. With an election year upon us, she's getting her grovelling fine-tuned to lure more people into the interesting and exciting world of (there's that p-word again) politics.

Clarification

In a guest editorial for *Southern Voice*, Vol. 1, No.2, Linda Meredith discussed the recently passed Omnibus AIDS Bill. Entitled "Just Say No...To Testing," her editorial advised readers of some of the consequences of taking an HIV-antibody test.

After publication, several community members telephoned *Southern Voice* and questioned the accuracy of two of her statements. At question were her assertions that: "Insurance companies are not required to continue medical coverage of individuals who have been tested"; "By accepting the brochure (published by the Department of Human Resources and describing the HIV-antibody test), you have complied with the stipulations in the AIDS Bill, and offered your consent to be tested."

According to Gil Robison, lobbyist for the Georgia AIDS Coalition, the intricacies of the Omnibus AIDS Bill prohibit issuing blanket statements. "Unfortunately," he said, "the Bill does not cover the issue of allowing or denying insurance companies the right to discriminate on whether or not someone has taken the test."

It does allow insurance companies to continue questioning and screening applicants on the basis of HIV-antibody status. "In states that have attempted to prevent antibody-status discrimination, the insurance companies have used the past infection with hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases or marital status as markers of insurability," he said.

In regard to consent to testing, there are many instances wherein a physician is not required to advise a patient of the testing being done. Those instances include "a person who is a minor,...unconscious,...temporarily incompetent, comatose,...in an emergency or life-threatening situation," or in a physician's opinion "in such an emotional state that disclosure of the test would be injurious to the person's health."

In most normal circumstances, however, a person "shall have the right to refuse the test," after having read the brochure prepared by the DHR to explain the important result of taking an HIV-antibody test.

Robison's adamant advice for individuals is to consult their attorney regarding any questions about HIV-antibody status and/or taking an HIV-antibody test.

"The Bill will have an overall positive effect," said Robison, "with the confidentiality and consent clauses in place. There is a great deal of room for discrimination to take place, however, and the unclear language in parts of the bill means that there are some issues that only the courts will be able to decide."

Southern Voice apologizes if information presented misled or caused distress to any readers. We thank Ms. Meredith and Mr. Robison for the time and effort they have spent trying to educate the gay and lesbian community on the intricacies of this piece of legislation.

LETTERS

Different More than Emotional Baggage

To the Editor:

In response to Terry Francis' review of *Different*, I would like to say that I think he missed the point. When I go to the theater, I do not go looking for the perfectly turned phrase or the perfectly executed dance step. I look for a deeply-moving experience, a message that will change the way I look at life or how I act. From the standpoint of what I expect at the theater, *Different* is remarkably successful for me. I'm sure I do bring "emotional baggage" with me to the theater; we all do. But I don't just sit and cry at the drop of a hat or stand and applaud because I need to stretch my legs. I cry at *Different* because something I feel the need strongly to say has just been said for me and that moves me. The idea that childhood humiliations are "superficial" or that allowing the reality of AIDS to intrude on the plot of a musical is "pandering" are sentiments I would expect to hear from a straight, even homophobic, reviewer - certainly not from a gay man.

With respect to theatrical expectations, SAME's theater projects, in my mind, have never sought to be successful on a traditional theatrical level. They have always sought to speak directly to the condition of lives by people who could be me, like the protagonists of *Jerker* or *Annie* in *The Incarceration of Annie*. Indeed, one of Mr. Francis' criticisms, that *Different* seems conventional, is what I see as one of the play's most important and most radical points. No other Atlanta theater (with the exception of Seven Stages) allows us the dignity of seeing our lives portrayed on the stage in a realistic and "conventional" manner. Dan Hulbert in his review in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* thought what he saw in *Different* was a plea for acceptance from the mainstream. But our issues are treated so unsympathetically elsewhere that depicting our lives and loves simply as they are without apology seems to a straight reviewer as begging for acceptance. Perhaps *Different's* message is that our "differences" were bestowed upon us by society's refusal to acknowledge alternatives, and that, though not of our creation, our "differences" are our strengths. Whatever its message, *Different's* voice is an important one for Atlanta, and I think its minor flaws are more than compensated for by its successes of spirit. The two audiences I have been in seemed enthusiastically to agree.

That said, as a board member of SAME, I would like to thank Chris Cash for printing what her reviewer wrote. When SAME decided to sponsor a newspaper project, it was because a strong, independent voice was needed for Atlanta's lesbian and gay male community. There was never the expectation that the paper would sycophantically endorse all other SAME projects, and I am glad that point was made so clearly this early in the paper's existence. If *Southern Voice* were ever to become an organizational newsletter rather than an independent organ for the voicing of our community's issues and concerns, my pride in it and involvement with it would decrease dramatically. As it is, I am extremely proud for the small part I have played in its existence.

Sincerely,
Al Cotton

Terry Francis responds: "Mr. Cotton is entitled to his opinion, but to label me 'homophobic' seems unfair."

SOUTHERN VOICE

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DOWN, PAT!

To The Editor:

Recently, it was reported that 4th District U. S. Representative Pat Swindall (R.) stated vociferous opposition to the Civil Rights Restoration Act. The Act was passed by Congress and subsequently vetoed by President Reagan.

Mr. Swindall says that private organizations and employers should be able to discriminate for whatever reason they wish. Apparently he hasn't heard of such laws as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which have the overwhelming support of the American people.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act simply clarifies Congressional intent that if a program receives federal funding and is found to have violated federal anti-discrimination statutes, the entire school, college or company will lose funding.

Mr. Swindall has shown time and again his blatant disregard for Civil Rights—especially for lesbians and gay men. His attacks on us are constant and pervasive. We must, as a community acting in concert with others of like minds, put an end to this kind of bigotry.

Register and vote. It counts!

Sincerely,
Bruce Rose

SNOOPY SAYS...

To the Editor:

Congratulations—a truly grand product and a classy act. *Southern Voice* is off to a very good start and it looks (and reads) as if the collective efforts of many very talented and knowledgeable individuals are producing a publication that not only looks first rate, but also has content...a pleasant surprise—form and content.

It was Charles Schulz—via his cartoon character, Snoopy, that said that there is no greater burden than great potential. *Southern Voice* has set quite a standard and from here on out the real challenge is to neither imitate one's self but rather, to continue to weigh and consider.

I look forward to future publications, commentary, sound reporting and the application of information, ideas, education and whimsy.

Kudos to the Art Editor, S. Hill, or rather Director—in any event, the work is good.

With warmest regards, I remain,

B. Serrano
San Luis Obispo, California

"The Other Side" of the New Alliance Party

To the Editor:

Congratulations on the publication of *Southern Voice*; I know from experience how difficult it is to produce a newspaper of this caliber and I applaud the efforts of you and SAME.

I am concerned about the article in the last issue "New Alliance Party/Questions Linger." Though Ms. Jackson brought up some crucial questions about this group, by asking Tammy Weinstein (the NAP Coordinator for Georgia) and other NAP members to answer the questions, the view the article presents is one-sided. Serious concerns remain about NAP and its reasons for approaching lesbian and gay groups. The fact that \$300,000 has been contributed by 17,000 individuals, is frightening in light of their tactics and ethics.

I would like to suggest that people read a detailed research report that identifies all its sources, which was written three months ago by Political Research Associates (an independent research institute which collects and disseminates information on right-wing political groups and trends). It would be

informative for anyone considering working with the NAP, voting for Lenora Fulani (their presidential candidate), or anyone interested in their history, tactics and involvement with gay and other groups: The report is "Clouds Blur the Rainbow: the Other Side of the New Alliance Party." PRA's address is 678 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 205, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139. The article includes discussion of NAP's relationship with LaRouche, NAP Organization, Newmanite "Therapy" Centers, Political Opportunism, and Support for Farrakhan, highlighted below:

NAP's relationship with LaRouche

NAP's characterization of their relationship with LaRouche is at best self-serving and at worst largely fictional. Some ten percent of the current NAP executive board are comprised of people who were at one time under the political leadership of LaRouche. NAP supporters relentlessly misrepresent the nature of LaRouche and their relationship with him, as did Tammy Weinstein in *Southern Voice*, March 15. While actual membership by New Alliance Party executive board members may have lasted a few months, the working alliance lasted far longer. LaRouche's group (the National Caucus of Labor Committees - NCLC) has used homophobia and sexuality as a weapon against internal dissent. They have collected and disseminated intelligence on progressive groups, providing intelligence to domestic and foreign government agencies. This has been revealed in documents released under the Freedom of Information Act. NAP was at the center of the first documented instance of NCLC collaboration with U.S. intelligence agencies. The theory, ideology, strategy, tactics and internal organizing practices of NAP and the LaRouchites are similar. The question is not how long NAP worked under the political leadership of LaRouche, but how they can explain what attracted them to LaRouche in the first place. To this day NAP leadership has refused to renounce or to deal candidly or accurately with the fact of their association with an organization which was at best a collection of paranoid sexist homophobic thugs and at worst a nascent fascist political movement.

Newmanite "Therapy" Centers

Wherever the party has a major organizing effort underway, there is a related "therapy" group reaching out to "persons with progressive politics who are also seeking emotional or psychological counseling." The connection between the leadership of the NAP and the Newmanite Social Therapy centers is manipulative and unethical. (The report outlines the connection in detail.)

NAP and the LaRouchites' practice include a methodological link between the psychological and the political which forms a theoretical world-view and justification for indoctrinating members through so-called "therapy." Though LaRouchite philosophy is apparently neo-fascist and NAP apparently left-progressive, both rely on psychological manipulative theories to control core members; both match a cult paradigm and are far from democratic, despite outward claims and appearances. Several critics call the NAP "the LaRouchies of the Left."

Political Opportunism

NAP makes a distinction between the core cadre (primarily white intellectuals) and the "organic" members (primarily people of color). The white-intellectuals are in the process of using "therapy" to raise the consciousness of the primarily Black and Latino recruits so that "some day in the future they will have the wherewithal to actually lead the organization"...but not yet. This has been described as "paternalistic racism."

The group's political and organizational history has been rewritten to meet current needs.

There is a continuing effort to imply a NAP



connection with the Rainbow Coalition, including use of the name "Rainbow Lobby" as their office; NAP leadership seems to have gone out of its way not to clarify. One example - a letter on NAP stationery was sent to gay activists on the west coast with the slogan "The Party of the Rainbow." Jackson has had publicly to distance himself and the Rainbow Coalition from NAP on several occasions.

One of the tactics used by the group is to penetrate a progressive organization and seek to take it over or recruit its membership. Eddie Sandifer, a well-known Mississippi Gay rights activist, told the *Advocate* that he resented the claim by NAP that it is the party of gays, lesbians, Blacks and dispossessed people in general. NAP contacted several members of the Mississippi Gay Alliance and invited them to meetings, but not him, the group leader. "I think their purpose is to divide and conquer," said Sandifer. "I'm very suspicious of them and what they are doing in Mississippi."

A long-time gay activist in California voiced similar concerns after NAP sponsored a gay rights conference. He feared the NAP wanted to duplicate the work of existing gay organizations as a way to build credibility and recruit new members for the NAP. Dennis Serrette, NAP's last presidential candidate, left the party after unsuccessfully struggling for a meaningful leadership role for Black NAP officials, who felt had organizational titles but no real influence or control. "I left the party because it continued to claim it was Black-led - I knew better..." Serrette denounced them as running a racist, sexist "therapy cult" that put people of color in public leadership positions merely as window dressing.

Support for Minister Farrakhan

When Minister Louis Farrakhan addressed a New York City rally of supporters in 1985, he was greeted with a telegram of support from the then NAP mayoral candidate Dr. Lenora Fulani: "It is with deep respect and the most

profound commitment to the liberation of our people that I welcome you to New York..." NAP at the time was seeking "a working relationship with Farrakhan's Nation of Islam," and members of both groups had attended each others conferences. Fulani was not unaware of the controversial nature of Farrakhan's remarks regarding Jewish groups as well as lesbian, gay and other groups. "I remain concerned that Minister Farrakhan's language can be interpreted as anti-Semitic or anti-gay. But I know, as do my Jewish friends and followers, that the Jewish people have nothing to fear from the Nation of Islam."

Minister Farrakhan's language is indeed a cause for concern, as are the actions of his organization. In Chicago, representatives of the Nation of Islam invited the author of a book calling the Nazi Holocaust a hoax to share their stage with other special guests. Members of anti-Jewish white racist groups have been invited to attend National of Islam events. There is ample documentation that Farrakhan regularly makes references about the Jewish people that reflect a bigoted and stereotyped bias.

The refusal of the NAP to deal candidly with and accept criticism for the LaRouche period, attempts to provoke the FBI to target former members and critics, and the connection between the NAP leadership and the Newmanite Social Therapy centers are among many valid unanswered questions surrounding the New Alliance Party; so long as such relationships exist, the NAP must be judged in the context of lacking clarity concerning basic moral issues involving personal and political exploitation. Such clarity surely is crucial if lesbian/gay issues are to be understood and included in any political movement.

Sincerely,
Beth D. Coonan

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

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of **Southern Voice**. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than four pages. Mail to: **Southern Voice/Viewpoints**, PO Box 54719, Atlanta, Georgia, 30308

Journal of a Lesbian Mother

In January, 1987, Judge William Ison of Clayton County Superior Court awarded custody of Leigh VanderEls' seven-year-old son, Chase, to VanderEls' ex-husband. After four days of testimony, Ison read the findings and conclusions of the Court, each of which addressed Leigh's lesbianism. No other grounds were offered upon which the change of custody was based. Subsequently, Leigh was asked to resign from her job at Clayton County Department of Family and Children Services where she worked with children in foster care and adoptive homes; Judge Ison had called and relayed details of the case to Leigh's employer.

Currently, Leigh is awaiting word from the Georgia Supreme Court, where the case will be reviewed in the near future.

Below, Leigh shares excerpts of her journal from the past year.

January 1987 I haven't stopped crying for two days. I feel as if my heart has been ripped from my body and thrown away so I'll never find it again. I keep picturing Chase hiding behind the dryer screaming and crying that he doesn't want to go. If I could have at least had the weekend with him...ten minutes isn't time enough to explain. We need to be together, to cry together. There are still so many things to say. I keep holding the furry white teddy bear, it's the only thing I have to hold on to.

April 1987 Chase is here for the weekend and I feel the need to organize my drawers. Our visits are very strained. When we see each other we are forced to deal with our pain. There's a part of me that wants to avoid it. Chase is mad at me because he had to move to Nashville. He perceives me as being unable to protect him. He's confused and not talking about his feelings. Our weekends are tension-filled, and often not very pleasant. I hope, with time, it will be easier and we will be able to share our pain.

June 1987 "On the Road Again" sung by Chase and the Manhattans. It was one of those very special times that none of us will ever forget. We were a tad nervous about recording our "first tape" in front of a crowd of strangers. None of us are country music experts, but we were in Nashville. We had so much fun that day and we were excited about a tangible reminder of our precious time together. Chase wanted to play the tape continuously (so did we). It feels so good to be together. Chase, good friends, our family. Our precious family.

September 1987 It's Chase's birthday. I really want to share this time with him. I miss listening to his ideas, perceptions of the world, and what he did at school. We had planned his party for next weekend, but they won't let him come even though it's my scheduled visitation. I wonder how that makes him feel. He spent the first seven years of his life with me... our family, our friends. I hope he knows how much he means to us. I am so angry. They want to pretend that I never existed. It's not healthy. I won't do that.

October 1987 We were riding home from mother's...I love riding in the car with Chase, there are no distractions, it feels safe for us. He asked me why judges always give custody to the "other" parent. He explained that his friend had to go live with his mother and he had been living with his father. He became very angry. (It feels good when he expresses his anger; I wish he would more often.) He asked why judges were allowed to make decisions about where kids should live because they don't even know the families. I don't know. I agree with him. We both feel that we have no control to make those decisions for ourselves. I told him that I'm still trying to regain custody. It made him feel better, but I am not so sure about me. There is still someone else deciding the fate of our lives.

It feels wonderful to talk with him. He's very insightful. I love the person that he is.
January 1988 I haven't been able to find Chase. They told me they were moving (two hours further

away) but there is no listing in Memphis. I need to hear his voice and be sure that he is all right. What if they didn't move to Memphis? This will be his fourth move in a year...and my home is unstable? They can move wherever they choose and I don't have a legal right to stop them. I am so afraid we won't be able to see each other as often.

February 1988 Chase couldn't wait to get home and open his presents. I gave him a journal with teddy bears on it. I thought it would help him to express his feelings since he's "not supposed to talk" about them in his father's home. He read the inscription and immediately began to cry. We have missed each other so much. Our time together is less frequent because of distance and finances. Fortunately, we can cry together now.

March 1988 I called home today and the message Chase made for Valentine's Day was still on the machine. His voice stirs feelings of happiness, love, guilt, anger and pain. We had a great time during his last visit (but it seems like such a long time ago). Our relationship is more comfortable again. Sometimes our long distance conversations are strained with his "new family" listening and reminding him to get off of the phone. It's difficult for him to open up under those circumstances. Often, we are able to get past it and really connect.

We will be returning to court soon. It's frightening! My faith in the justice system is shaken...but I still hope. Regardless of the outcome we will continue to love each other and grow. I really want to believe that things work out for the best. I will always remember what Chase told me during one of our visits, "You will always be my mother, you birthed me."

Sparks, Cont.

Continued From Front Page

demonstrate a person is or isn't gay. The police ignore the possibility of anti-gay crime being motivated by the perception of a person's sexual orientation." Gripp responded to the charges by calling the shootings a "window of opportunity" for the AGC to bring anti-gay/lesbian violence to the public's attention.

According to Gripp, "it is the ideation of a suspect," not the orientation of a victim which must be assessed by the police crime investigators.

A list of five demands prepared by the AGC Task Force against Napper appeared in an editorial commentary written by Swanson in an issue of *The News*, a publication of the AGC. Swanson is also Managing Editor of *The News*.

The AGC Task Force demands included a call for Napper to "make an unambiguous public statement that the city of Atlanta will not tolerate anti-gay crimes. . ."

Other issues addressed among the five demands were sensitivity training on lesbian/gay concerns for the corps of police officers, disciplinary procedures for discriminatory behavior by officers against lesbians and gays, recognition of hatred (bias) as a motive for crime, and statistical collection issues.

In the same issue of *The News*, Swanson and writer Gene Koland issued thinly-veiled threats against heterosexual society and Commissioner Napper's political career. Koland, an AGC Board member writing under a pseudonym, concluded that, "Some (people) are already saying that maybe we ought to consider buying guns, and that it might be immensely satisfying to teach some queer-bashing rednecks an expensive lesson. As a law enforcement officer, he (Napper) must be aware that people who are afraid sometimes do desperate things." Swanson stated in his editorial that "Commissioner Napper must do his job. If he refuses, he must be replaced. It's that simple."

Gripp stated that he was unaware of any plans to back up Swanson's statements with community-wide action.

Swanson stressed the perceived lack of concern by the Department of Public Safety in response to reports of anti-gay/lesbian violence as a primary factor in the formation of the AGC Task Force. Both Swanson and Gripp lambasted the previous work of the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Police Advisory Committee of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter to the Public Safety Department for its "ineffectiveness and inactivity" on past incidences of suspected bias crime.

Maurice Wiel, past Chair of the Advisory Committee, countered Gripp and Swanson's assertions

that the Committee was inactive, stating that "the Advisory Committee has always met on an as needed basis." He did admit, however, that the Committee had not been as active in the last three months, due to work the ACLU was doing along with the Georgia AIDS Coalition during the General Assembly Session.

The Police Advisory Committee has been in existence for seven years, according to George Brenning. The Advisory Committee has had "excellent relations in the past with the Atlanta Police Department, and that is because we search for constructive solutions to problems," said Wiel. Gripp was a member of the Advisory Committee in 1982.

When the AGC Task Force members were informed that the meeting they had demanded with Napper had been agreed to and set for March 24, they were dismayed to learn that members of the Police Advisory Committee, many of whom they considered unfriendly to the Gay Center, along with members of other metropolitan lesbian and gay organizations, would be present at the meeting.

Among those present at the meeting were Buren Batson, Jr., AID Atlanta; Ray Kluka, Midtown Neighborhood Association; Gene Guerrero, ACLU - GA; Greg Schroeder, ACLU - GA, Gay/Lesbian Rights Chapter; Jeffrey Laymon, MACGLO (Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay/Lesbian Organizations); Maurice Wiel III; George Brenning and Jud Hemdon. Representing the AGC Task Force were Bill Gripp, Chairperson; Richard Swanson; Michael Wilson; Dr. Donald Smith; and Jean Levine.

Present from the Department of Public Safety were Commissioner Napper, Deputy Chief of Police Beverly Harvard, and representatives of the police academy and the Atlanta jurisdictional zones.

"Napper was very constructive throughout the meeting, wanting to address all of the issues being brought up. It was evident that bias crimes are a part of their (the Department of Public Safety) agenda," reported Laymon.

Wiel and Brenning agreed with Laymon, stating that "They (the AGC Task Force) re-raised a number of issues we brought up as long ago as two years." The true purpose of the AGC Task Force was to place Gripp "in a position of importance in Atlanta politics. . . And this is a result of my refusal to reappoint him to the Advisory Committee," said Wiel.

Commissioner Napper refused to issue the blanket position statement on bias crime that AGC Task Force members were insistent upon. Instead, he chose to appoint an informal committee to assist him in wording a document to include all hate-motivated crime. He is expected to receive a report from his committee within two weeks.

Gripp refused to be a member of the committee, declaring "I don't want to waste my time sitting on a committee to write a statement that should come from you (Napper)." It was reported independently by Laymon and Brenning that Gripp also said "It's my responsibility to raise issues, not to solve them." Gripp has emphatically denied making such a statement.

He commented that he felt that it was "obscene that we had to form a committee." Wiel said that it was an example to him of Gripp using the "legitimate committees and organizations of the lesbian and gay community as his own personal tools. What he is practicing is the politics of exclusion, ...the politics of deceit. The purpose of this Task Force' was for the AGC to appoint themselves to power, ... it was a power play.

AGC Task Force member Smith did break ranks with Gripp and agree to help prepare the statement.

City Hall insiders predict that Napper will attempt to involve Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young in issuing such a statement.

All other demands by the Gay Center Task Force were referred internally to the Department of Public Safety, which will investigate the issues and report to Napper as appropriate.

According to Gripp, the Atlanta Gay Center Task Force "is enthusiastic ... and while we would have wanted Napper to do it (issue a statement against hate crimes) right away, we trust him at his word. We have thrown him the ball, he'll either dribble it or drop it."

Due to squabbling among the participants at the March 24th meeting, the groups involved agreed to form a temporary committee to study plans to improve the Police Advisory committee. Guerrero will act as temporary chair of the ad hoc committee.

Chris Duncan

Midtown Resident Details Shooting

Atlanta—Two people were shot in the Midtown section of Atlanta the evening of March 11, 1988, by an unknown assailant. The lovers, Michael Denyou and Jamie Bowman, were on their way to a local bar/restaurant when they were accosted by a man wielding what Ms. Bowman described as a "large gun", near the corner of 5th Street and Myrtle Avenue. Many Atlantans remember Bowman, a transsexual, as the female impersonator Jamie Cole, who performed regularly for several years in Atlanta before beginning the process to undergo male-to-female surgery.

Bowman, dressed as a female, believes their assailant initially assumed they were a heterosexual couple. He approached them out of a parking lot, and appeared to be on some type of drugs, according to Bowman.

"He was walking towards us on the sidewalk, and I stepped behind Michael (Denyou), to let him pass. When I did that, he was no more than two feet away from us, and he pulled out his gun from under his jacket, and pointed it at us."

"When the man pulled the gun out on us, I didn't know what to think. Michael was in shock. The man didn't say a word. I pulled my gun, and screamed at him Freeze! Drop the gun! I said it three times. He was shocked that I had a gun pulled on him. And he was amazed at the tone of voice coming from me. We don't look like two gay men walking down the street. When he heard the voice coming out of me, he just freaked, and he started shooting. That bought me three bullets, for being who and what I am. And then he turned around and shot Michael once," she said.

Bowman was shot in her shoulder and left chest. The injuries caused no serious complications, though surgeons were not able to remove two of the bullets. She was released from the hospital six days after being shot. Denyou was shot in the head, and was still in the hospital as of press time. According to Bowman, although the bullet itself did not enter Denyou's brain, it shattered his skull, and drove fragments into the areas of his brain that control speech.

Their attacker "turned and ran down the block and that was all I saw. When he turned the corner, there was a man standing there with a dog, and he shouted to me, 'He just jumped into a van.' I was very coherent throughout it all. I never lost consciousness."

Bowman is highly critical of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* accounts of the double-shooting, on both factual and ethical grounds. The first notice of the attack was reported in the Atlanta daily which stated that Bowman and Denyou were shot from a passing van, leading many to speculate that it was a random shooting, in an area of town known to have a large gay and lesbian population.

"Apparently he was waiting for anybody (to walk by), and he had the van parked...and waiting," corrected Bowman. "And after he did his thing, he just jumped in the van and zoomed off," she said.

"A reporter from the *Constitution* showed up on Monday (the 11th), and they put in all kinds of nothing (in their story). They even put in the address of where I live, so that this man could possibly come back and just finish me off. So, I'm kind of pissed off."

She is not pleased with the City of Atlanta Police Department, either. According to Bowman, she was not contacted by the Police until Monday, the third day after she was shot. "The Detective came in, asked me a few questions, said he would be back the next day, and I haven't seen hair nor trace of him since."

When asked if pulling the starter pistol didn't precipitate the shooting, she answered "No. We didn't have any money ... If he had pulled the gun, searched my purse, and found no money, he probably would have shot us anyway. He was very, very nervous. You could feel the vibes strongly."

Bystanders were quick to stop and help, for which Bowman is very thankful. "People were concerned. They did take time out to help us," said Bowman.

- Chris Duncan

Ammiano: Baptism by fire

Tom Ammiano's sense of humor reflects a ribald outrageousness - oftentimes spiked with angry moments and serious asides. Dubbed the "mother of gay comedy," Ammiano's wit must transcend the homophobia of his audiences. He best described the baptism by fire he experiences at each performance in an article he wrote for the January 20, 1987 *Advocate*: "One time when I was performing in a mainstream club, a straight comic who went on before me told the audience that the acts that followed me had better wipe off the microphone. When I finished my set, I wiped the mike on my butt; I said, 'This should allay his fears.' The audience loved it."

I had the great pleasure of meeting Ammiano recently in San Francisco. We met at a friend's apartment, and I enjoyed the pastries served during our high tea while he talked. And talked.

Peter Dakutis: *How long have you known you're gay?*

Tom Ammiano: Oh, from, I'd say, day one. In the womb, huh? It's my identity. You have a lot of identities. The gay identity has always been diminished and put down as something bad or weird or whatever - even in yourself. Yet, it's really been great. It's like a vein running through a mine...made of gold - gay gold. (Laughs.)

PD: *You do feel that you see through gay eyes?*

TA: Oh, right, it's helped my humor, but, you know, gay eyes, and another lens is maybe Italian-American eyes, and then the east. So I wouldn't say monolithic, but definitely. And to

me it's probably one of my more gifted parts. Although I think the Italian-American and the eastern gave me a lot of expressive skills, which certainly don't hurt. The gay stuff gave me a lot of anger, sharp stuff.

When to be loose. Survival.

PD: *You do bill yourself as a gay comic.*

TA: Yes, and a lot of people say, "Doesn't that sound limiting?" I think it's also expanding. Once Richard Pryor was established they stopped saying, "Black comic Richard Pryor." Being out is really where it's at. Some people say, "What does it matter?" It matters because it's not accepted yet. What is accepted is to stay closeted. You're not going to get any change from that. I probably like that part of it, although I suffer with that part of it.

I probably like being Frontier Woman - you know what I mean - nursing the babies. That's something in me to do. But you do suffer from it. You're the whistle blower. You don't get the rewards. In the Reagan years, you're not rewarded for conformity.

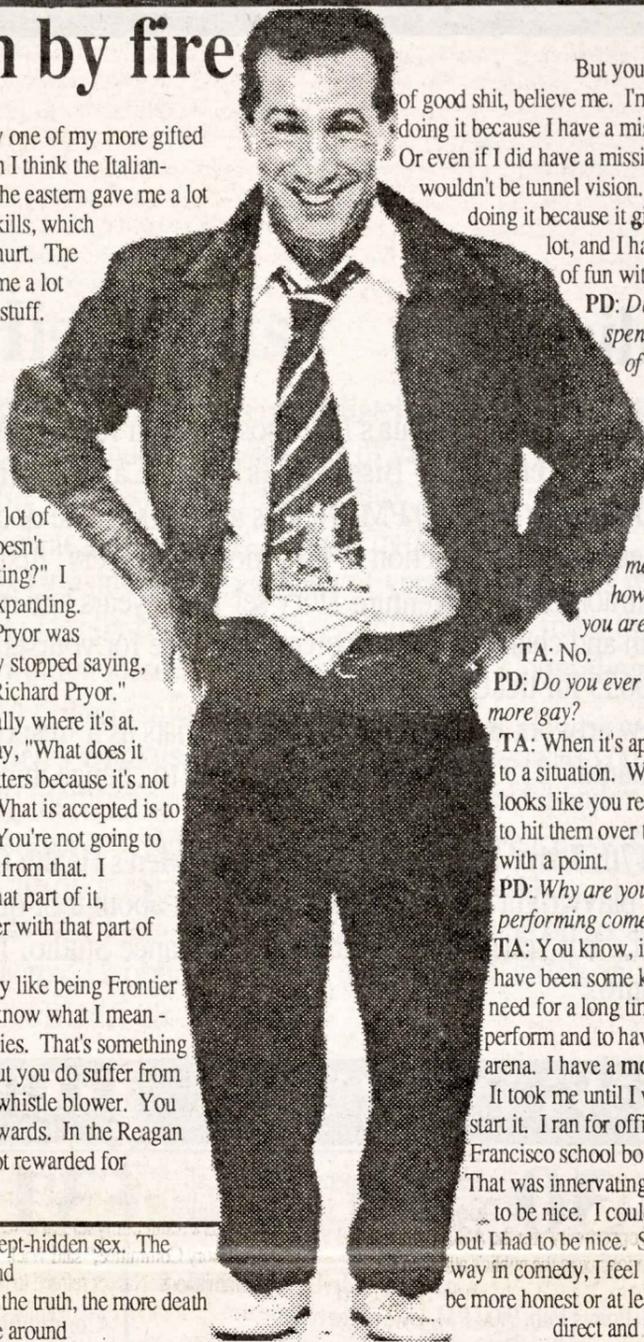
ambition, and kept-hidden sex. The closer Dexter and Sydney edge to the truth, the more death begins to accrue around them, and their strange finite relationship becomes their single source of trust.

Based on the 1949 B-picture of the same title, *D.O.A.* draws on any number of pop sources. Stylistically both the film and its directors, Rocky Morton and Annabel Jankel, are chiefly indebted to Orson Welles, particularly his *A Touch of Evil* (1958). Best known as the creators of "Max Headroom", Morton and Jankel mistakenly believe they're updating the conventions of film noir by applying concept video techniques to the most commercial kind of Hollywood movie. But what they're really doing is becoming absorbed in film technology at the expense of their characters.

Not only do we in the audience experience this distance, so, apparently do the actors. Everyone appears to be acting in a different movie, and at a fevered pitch. Only the drop-dead sensual Charlotte Rampling manages to more than hold her own. Veteran of such hyperbolic atrocities as Visconti's *The Damned* and Caviani's *The Night Porter*, Rampling commands the screen by her stillness, by speaking in hushed, even tones like a priest offering benediction at the end of a funeral mass. She seems to float in and out of the movie, and the directors clearly don't know what to do with her.

Probably their first time out Morton and Jankel were nervous about going all the way with this type of material. But updated or not, the characters and plots in noir movies don't necessarily have to make good sense. What they have to be is vivid. The same holds true for visual orgy movies, such as Jean-Jacques Beineix's *Diva* and *The Moon in the Gutter*. Morton and Jankel have talent, but next time out I hope they concentrate more on composition and character rather than editing and their own inept video techniques.

- Terry Francis



But you get a lot of good shit, believe me. I'm not doing it because I have a mission. Or even if I did have a mission, it wouldn't be tunnel vision. I'm doing it because it gives me a lot, and I have a lot of fun with it.

PD: *Do you spend a lot of time*

measuring how gay you are?

TA: No. **PD:** *Do you ever try to be more gay?*

TA: When it's appropriate to a situation. When it looks like you really want to hit them over the head with a point.

PD: *Why are you performing comedy?*

TA: You know, it must have been some kind of need for a long time to perform and to have an arena. I have a mouth.

It took me until I was 40 to start it. I ran for office (San Francisco school board). That was innervating. I had to be nice. I could be gay, but I had to be nice. So this way in comedy, I feel like I can be more honest or at least more direct and make comments.

I think I probably always would have been suited to something like that, and I knew

that, but because of the oppression would never attempt to get up and be out. You know, "You'll never be President if you're gay, or you can't do stand up comedy if you're gay."

Believe it or not, even in San Francisco, these men and women who do the booking don't have the sophistication. Comedy in San Francisco is highly industrialized. There's a lot of closetedness, and it gets demeaning. Women and gays are discriminated against most.

PD: *Do you think you'll have difficulties reaching a wide audience?*

TA: I think you can cross over. You do that with tenacity and...then you do it with tenacity. (Laughs.) But you also don't try to do it alone. I try to encourage other gay comics to come out.

I want change. I've seen it work. And I've seen it not work. There are some places where obviously it would be better for me not to go, where I'm not invited and they don't really know I'm gay.

Yet you prove it can be done, and you want the chance to grow, and they deny it. That really drives me nuts - the lack of venues and lack of opportunities to practice (my skills).

PD: *Is it easier now to be an openly gay comic?*

TA: The oppression is pulled back one layer at a time. You get to the point: well, you can be gay and be a teacher - but not comedy or not the Olympics. These are sacred cows, and people like to fool themselves. I'm sorry that there's a double standard.

There was a lot of moralistic shit in the beginning (of the entertainment industry). Then gays became a joke. Pushing the macho thing really seemed to have kept women in their place. It keeps everybody in their place.

I don't try to take it all on, believe me, because then you go nuts. Sometimes you do get tired. If you leave San Francisco you have to remember. Constantly coming out, constantly coming out. That could get weary unless you get stuff back from it.

Continued on Page 14

"D. O. A."

Directed by Rocky Morton and Annabel Jankel. Starring: Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan. Touchstone Pictures

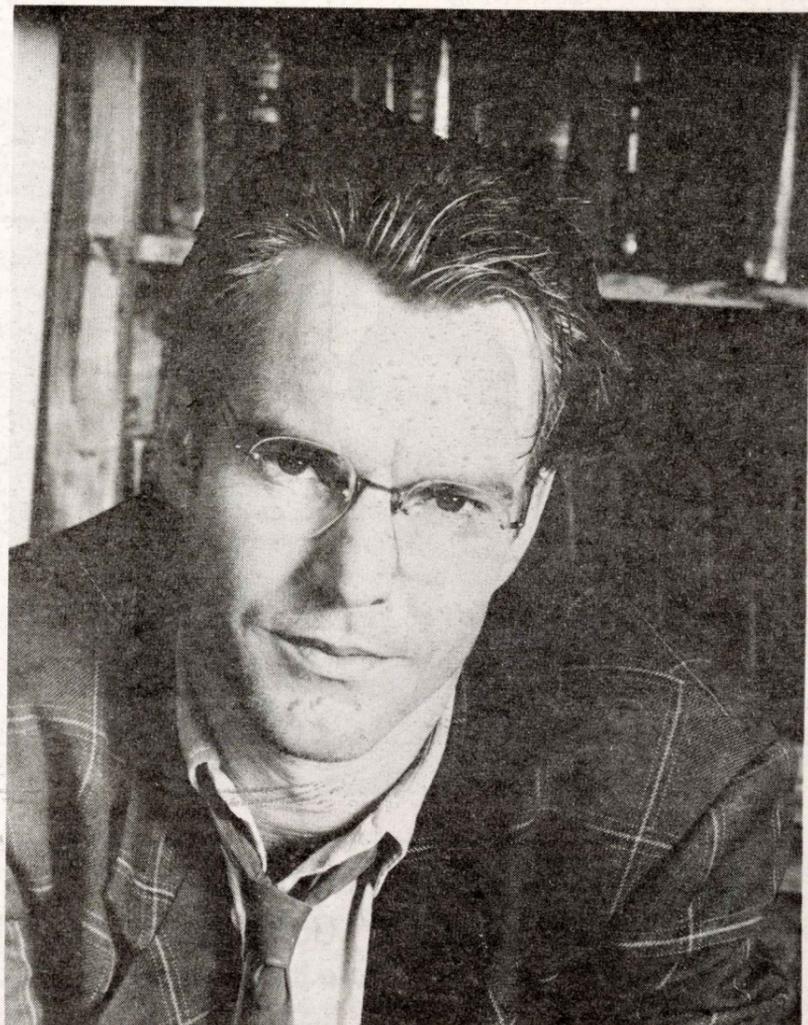
The new suspense thriller *D.O.A.* is so slickly derivative it develops a flash all its own. Even viewers who are finally disappointed by it aren't likely to feel cheated. Afterwards, you know you've seen 'something', and you respect the filmmakers' efforts to work beyond the conventional story-telling techniques that make most Hollywood movies seem stale.

The film opens on a busy college campus spangled in Christmas lights in preparation for holiday celebrations. But from the first shot a sense of ominous disjuncture hangs in the air. Neither the college nor the surrounding town is named to us, and the residents appear to be sweltering in a torpid Christmastime heat wave.

The usual order of things has been struck down. Though practically mid-winter, people's hair sticks in damp mats against their faces; glittering paper strips blow idly from grills on oscillating room fans; and a popular professor named Dexter Cornell (Dennis Quaid) wakes from a night of chaste boozing with an enchanting female student called Sydney (Meg Ryan), to news that he has been poisoned with a glow-in-the-dark toxin that will kill him within 48 hours.

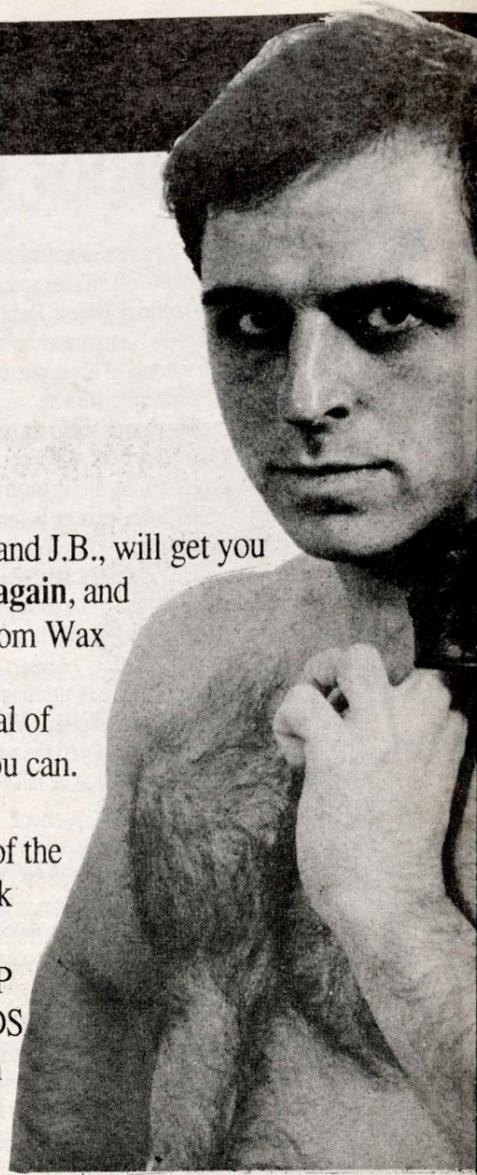
The plot centers on Dexter and Sydney's desperate search to uncover who his murderer is and why. Soon a string of flaky, intense characters feeds around them, including the beautiful campus benefactor, Mrs. Fitzwaring (Charlotte Rampling), her troubled, flighty daughter Cookie (Robin Johnson), and Dexter's colleague and drinking companion Hal (Daniel Stern).

As in David Lynch's great *Blue Velvet* and the recent, undervalued *A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon*, beneath the glassy surface of social politesse lies a subterfuge of lies,



Dennis Quaid stars as Dexter Cornell, a college professor who unwittingly witnesses his own murder in the suspense thriller, "D.O.A." Photo Copyright MCMLXXXVIII Touchstone Pictures. All Rights Reserved.

THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR



This Week's Highlights

- **Moral Hazard "Chain of Fools" Concert**- April 1. Atlanta's four most popular renegades, Jan, K.C., Jane and J.B., will get you on your feet with their blasphemous rock 'n roll. Remember "Bisexual Girl" and "Lavender Jane" ? Here they **again**, and more at the First Existentialist Church, 470 Candler Dr. 8:30 PM. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door or in advance from Wax 'N Facts or Atlantis Connection. Proceeds go toward production of the "moral offenders" first album.
- **Rashomon**- March 30th- May 1st. An extraordinary adventure story set 1,000 years ago in the ancient capital of Kyoto. Explores the illusory nature of Truth and challenges your perceptions. See for yourself, and judge...if you can. Theatrical Outfit, 1012 Peachtree St. 872-0655 for tickets and info.
- **TABOO**- April 1st-3rd. An exhibit of new artwork by eight Southeastern artists as a "response to weariness of the provincial and safe-art consciousness of Atlanta." 315 Peters St. If one is going to change things, one must break rules....
- **The Normal Heart**- March 30th- April 17th. Larry Kramer, founder of Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), is the playwright for this angry indictment about foot-dragging in the AIDS crisis. Mr. Kramer's anger may turn you off... but you're sure gonna hear it. Alliance Studio. Tickets range from \$5.00 to \$20.00. 892-2414 for tickets and info.

TUESDAY

29

- **Different** - Due to consistent sell-outs two extra nights of the musical, *Different*, have been added. Tonight and tomorrow night at 8:00 PM. Seven Stages Theatre. \$10. 523-7647 for reservations.
- **Last day for Jazzathon '88**, sponsored by Ga. State University. Colony Square Mall. 11 AM-11 PM. Free!

WEDNESDAY

30

- **Rashomon** opens at Theatrical Outfit. 8:00 PM. \$25 for opening night only.
- **Cass Kennedy Group** at Little 5 Points Pub. 9:00 PM. One night only.

THURSDAY

31

- **Paper Dolls** at the Little 5 Points Pub through April 2. Free record with admission! 10 PM
- **Alcohol and the Lesbian Community**- a woman-only event at Charis Books. Doors will close at 7:40 PM for this circle format evening. Whatever your experience and feelings, come listen and be listened to. 419 Moreland Ave.



FRIDAY

1

- **Silly Wizard**- A music at Center Stage. Peachtree St. 8:00 PM. reserved.874-1511.
- **Taboo**- An exhibit of new eastern artists. 315 Peters St.

5

- **Atlanta March Committee** More Than A Phase- 7:30 PM, N. Highland Branch Library.
- **The Normal Heart**- Alliance Studio. Through April 17th. 892-2414. Photo by Charles Rafshoon.



6

7

- **Charis Books**- Rae Street, British Peace Activist, shares experiences of women working for peace. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

8

- **Math & After** 30th. Seven Stages Theatre. 8:30 PM. \$10 in advance by calling 524-7647 for tickets and info.
- **Yoshiko Chumura** Hard Knocks with Nona He "The Big Picture". Presented at Seven Stages Theatre. 8:30 PM. \$10 in advance by calling 524-7647.
- **FOCUS Atlanta**- An expo for gay organizations and businesses. MAGLO (Metropolitan Atlanta Gay/Lesbian Organizations). Unitarian Universalist Church. 1911 Cliff Valley Way. 7:00 PM.

SOUTHERN VOICE

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
see page 15

The Atlanta March Committee
More than a phase...

NEXT MEETING:
April 5
7:30PM-Highland Branch Library

377-8312

Personal Wellness
through
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- Imagery and Healing
- Centering and Alignments
- Astral Cognition
- Relationship Counseling
- Meditation
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Page 14

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Next Week's Highlights

- **Math & Aftermath**- April 8th-30th. In the days immediately before the U.S. detonated the hydrogen bomb over Bikini Atoll, a lonely film crew wandered the beaches of that island, filming what was to become a classic underground porn film (*Big Bang on Bikini*) Bobby Box, pictured at left, plays porn star Joe Lube Cool. Seven Stages Theatre. Tickets \$10. 532-7647. *Photo by Joe Lesterlove.*
- **Workshop for Lesbians Considering Pregnancy**- Everything lesbians want to know about getting pregnant but don't know who to ask. Led by Barbara Burns, M.Ed., who has more than ten years' counseling experience. with special concern for women's issues. New South Center for Counseling and Psychotherapy, 1819 Peachtree Rd., Suite 420. For more info: 351-5307.
- **Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus Spring Concert**- They wowed you at the March on Washington and they'll do it again. This 70-member chorus offers pop, jazz, classical and more and always includes feminist songs in their concerts. A must see! Peachtree Playhouse, 1150 Peachtree St. Tickets are \$5 available in advance at Charis and at the door. Signed for the hearing-impaired.
- **Artists in Georgia:1988**- April 9th-May 14th. Showcases the broad spectrum of the best and most innovative art produced across Georgia. Works by more than 60 artists, including Karen Chance. Nexus Gallery. 608 Ralph McGill Blvd. 688-1970.

SATURDAY

2

- **Jesus Christ Superstar**- Onstage Atlanta. 8:00 PM. 897-1802.
- **Black and White Men Together**- 8:00 PM. 794-BWMT.
- **Congregation Bet Haverim**- Passover Seder. 7:00 PM. Morningside Recreation Center, 1053 E. Rock Springs Rd. 624-3467.

SUNDAY

3

- **Different**- final performance tonight. Seven Stages Theatre. 1105 Euclid Ave. 8:00 PM. \$10. 523-7647 for reservations.

TABOO

Ends Today.

EASTER SUNDAY

MONDAY

4

- **Dark Night Theatre**- a 90-minute evening of short works including comedic sketches, dramatic scenes, songs, dance and more. Alliance Studio Theatre. 8:00 PM. Free! 261-2969.

9

- **Lesbians Considering Pregnancy**- a workshop for lesbians, in couples or singles, considering having children through insemination. New South Center for Counseling and Psychotherapy, 1819 Peachtree Rd., Suite 420. 9:30 AM-3:30 PM. 351-5307 for more info.
- **Atlanta Women's Feminist Chorus**- Annual Spring Concert. Peachtree Playhouse, 1150 Peachtree St. 8:00 PM. \$5 at the door and in advance at Charis Books.

10

- **Artists in Georgia: 1988**- an exhibition by over sixty Georgia artists sponsored by the Georgia Council for the Arts. Showcases the broad spectrum of innovative art across the state. Through May 14th. Nexus Gallery, 608 Ralph McGill Blvd. 688-1970.
- **Nonsense**- final performance. Buckhead Roxy. 8:00 PM. 881-1977.

"Redheads", 1987 by Benjamin Jones. Artists in Georgia: 1988

11

- **Dark Night Theatre**- Alliance Theatre, Free! 261-2969. Also on April 18th.



S.A.M.E.

Southeastern Arts, Media Education Project, Inc.

THE NAMES PROJECT

ATLANTA
May 29th & 30th

Amethyst

A Literary Journal for
Lesbians & Gay Men
Available at your local bookstore

THE XIII ANNUAL
Southeastern
CONFERENCE

FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

APRIL 14 - 17, 1988

PIERREMONT HOTEL

ORGANIZATIONS

Registry

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

ACT- Atlanta Couples Together. Meeting times vary. 432-1085. A social support and educational outreach.

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

AGC- Atlanta Gay Center. 876-5372. Provides services and advocacy for the lesbian and gay community. Operated primarily by volunteers, AGC offers numerous services for lesbians and gays men as well as educational outreach to society as a whole. AGC Help Line-892-0061. Information, counseling and referrals.

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

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

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

AID Atlanta- A community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to all people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. Community volunteers working with a small professional staff. New volunteers orientation sessions: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM. 1132 W. Peachtree St. (Entrance 13th Street). 872-0600.

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

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

BWMT- Black and White Men Together. 1st Saturday of each month. 8:00 PM. Location varies. 794-BWMT. 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.

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

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

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

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

GAPAC- Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition. Meetings vary. 888-0510. The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene.

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

The Group- Thursday nights. Call the Gay Help Line at 892-0061 or write PO Box 15191, Atlanta, Ga. 30333. A support group for gay and bisexual men who are or who have been involved in marital-type situations with women.

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

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

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

MACGLO- Metro Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. 633-4754. A representative council of lesbian and gay organizations to facilitate the exchange of information.

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

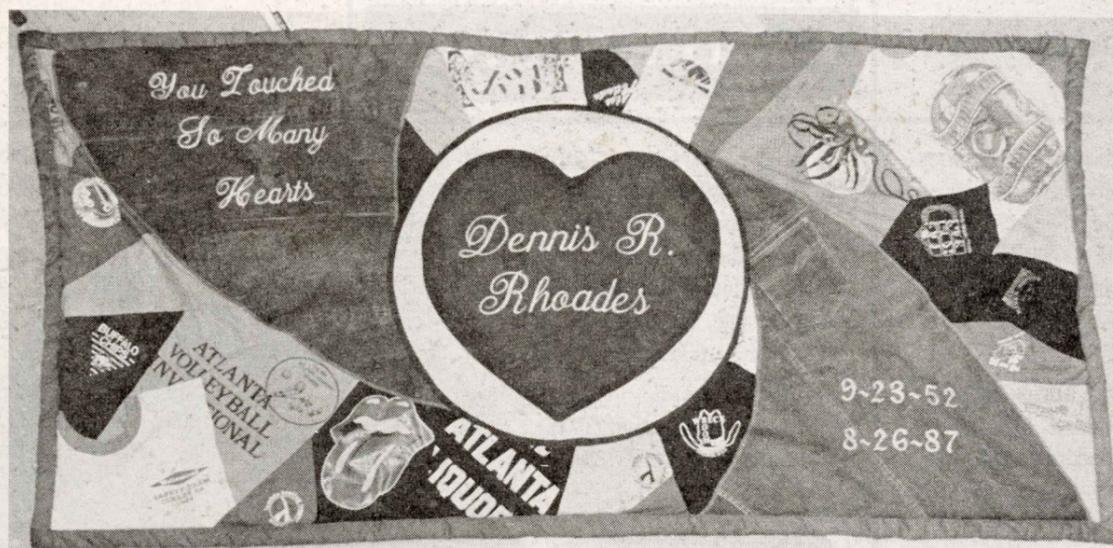
PLGC- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns/More Light. 1st Sunday of each month. 373-5830. Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage.

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

SECLGM- Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men. Every Monday. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. Volunteers needed to plan the Southeastern Conference to be held in April, 1988.

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

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



A panel for the Names Project quilt, sewn in memory of Dennis Ray Rhoades, 9/23/52 to 8/26/87.

Inscribed "Dennis, you touched so many hearts," the panel was exhibited at AVS (Atlanta Venture Sports) Bowling on March 14, 1988. Over \$130 was raised to assist in the national tour of the Quilt.

Contributions may be sent to The Names Project, c/o AID Atlanta, 1132 W. Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA 30309.

Photo by Gerald Jones

OBITUARIES

Dennis Ilgin 12/11/42 -- 3/14/88

Local gay activist Dennis Ilgin died of AIDS-Related Complex at his home on March 14, 1988. Born and raised in the Bronx Borough of New York City, he spent the last seventeen years of his life in Atlanta.

Ilgin is survived by his aunt, half-brother, and two best friends—Mac Wilson and Steve

McKeown.

Described by friends as a man who never complained about his diagnosis with ARC, Ilgin worked exhaustively with local community service groups. He was a member of the Atlanta chapter of NAPWA (National Association of People With AIDS); the serenity group of Alcoholics Anonymous; and the Frankly Open Group. He was founding member of the Galano

Club and served on its board of directors for three and a half years. He was also an active volunteer for AID Atlanta.

Known as "a selfless person, who never met a stranger," Ilgin made it his private mission to visit every AIDS patient at local hospitals. He spent a great deal of time at Grady Hospital, and expressed his gratitude to the Grady staff for their help and services on many occasions.

His signature trademark was a single red rose which he would send to hospitalized PWA's. As one of his final requests, he asked that those who wished to remember him would make a contribution to AID Atlanta.

A memorial service was held for him on March 24, 1988 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. His ashes were scattered during a service held at the Pavillion on Lake Clara Meade in Piedmont Park.

Hotlanta Clay Court Invitational: ATTA' Boy!

Well hello there, constant readers and fellow sports fans. Once again, I have prowled the town to bring you the latest and greatest of Atlanta's gay sports, and friends, this time I didn't have to prowl too long or too hard (damn!). On March 12, this lucky reporter was fortunate enough to attend the Hotlanta Clay Court Invitational, hosted by the Atlanta Team Tennis Association (ATTA). I know this may be hard to believe, but this was the first official national clay court tournament for gays and lesbians to be held **anywhere, ever!** Now, excuse me while I slip into something more comfortable, like present tense, for your reading enjoyment.

March 12 dawns cold and overcast, or at least I assume it does; I don't dawn until ten o'clock in the morning. Did I mention it's cold? Folks, it's cold. I arrive at the Bryan M. "Bitsy" Grant Tennis Center around 11:00 (Bitsy? People can be so cruel). Nice facilities, but somebody got stuck on one square of the color chart; green court, green bleachers, green fence, green ball shield on the green fence, green net posts. Now, these are clay courts, as opposed to "hard" courts, and I am told this means that the ball bounces a lot higher, the game lasts longer, and it's generally more of a running game. Frankly, I don't notice a difference, but then, what do I know, as I'll explain later.

You oughta know me well enough by now to know that I have to explain a few things before I give a blow-by-blow (oh, that phrase!) account of the goings-on. If you read my last article, or even if you didn't, I reported on the Hotlanta Volleyball games, and what struck me most was the camaraderie, the sense of teamship that permeated the play. None of that here. Although there is a tennis "team", the competition is strictly personal, one-on-one (of course, there's doubles, but that's another story), and that feeling of individual aloofness stands out as clear as the bulge in a pair of Johnny Holmes' jeans. As I arrive in the stands, I notice that there seems to be no sense of humor here. My first thought is maybe they need a guy hawking cold beer up here. But then I realize that this is a tennis tournament, a national tennis tournament. Tennis, the game of Wimbledon. You don't need a sense of humor here; you need skill. Case in point: one guy walked past me with the exclamation, "Aint't nobody here I can't beat." Such is the attitude.

Okay, let the games begin. There are 62 people playing here today representing Atlanta, Ft. Worth, San Francisco, San Diego, Long Beach, Houston, Dallas, Miami, and Ft. Lauderdale. Play takes place on 10, count them, 10 courts! Concentration is, need I say it again, intense. One person I watch

(looking redolent in his tennis attire, complete with Borg headband) grunts with each swing. I wonder if this is from exertion or if he is just trying to make it better for the other guy. Now, let me explain a few of the things I don't understand. In front of the clubhouse and the concrete stands are three courts. Our *Southern Voice* photographer refers to the court closest to the clubhouse (not the one in the middle, mind you) as "center court". I don't understand. And then, during one of the matches, a player yells across to the other one, "It's two-three, or thirty-fourty." Again, I'm confused. Is one of them metric?

It's now about 1:00, and I'm hungry. Aren't they supposed to have fresh strawberries and champagne here? Oh, wait. This is Georgia. Well, I'm game for peanuts and cider, too. Besides the lack of food, I'm also struck by the lack of net judges, or goalies, or referees, or whatever they're called. You see, this is another difference between tennis and volleyball. These people are **above** cheating. They are just too darn professional. To top it off, I only hear the word "fuck" come wafting up off the courts once. Ah, it's refreshing to know these folks can get worked up after all.

Only occasionally (as the day wears on, it gets to be more like sometimes) does a smattering of applause erupt from the stands, but it has to be prompted by something no less than spectacular, like a gentle lob into the forecourt of an opponent who happens to be standing in the far left corner of his own court, or a searing drive into the back court of an opponent who happens to be scratching himself at the net. But such is the way of tennis; reserve reigns supreme.

After Saturday's matches, there is a big party at the Armory banquet room featuring the ATTA-boys and ATTA-girls in revue. After Sunday's matches, the moment we've all been waiting for. AWARDS! Here's how it breaks down:

C - Division Singles

Rich Corder (Houston) beat Bill Whalen (Dallas) 6-2, 6-1.

C - Division Doubles

Jim Marshall and Tom Andrews (Atlanta) defeated Bob McKenzie and Bob McQuaig (Atlanta) 6-2, 6-0.

B - Division Singles

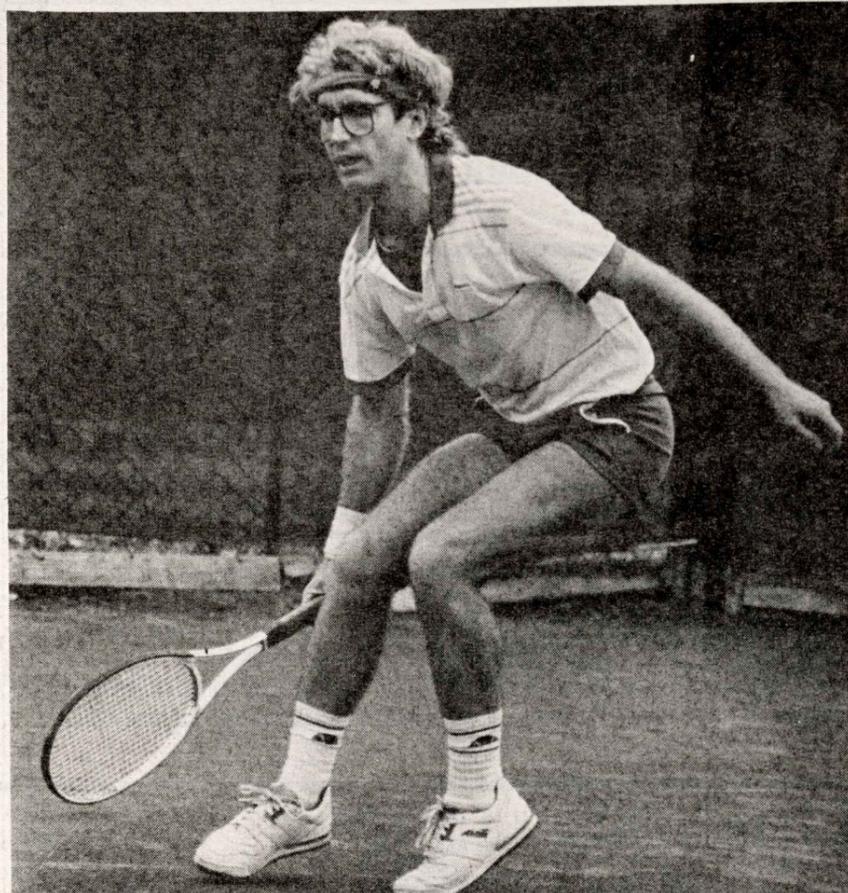
Ken Waibel (San Diego) thwarted Jim McMillan (San Diego) 7-6, 6-4.

B - Division Doubles

Ken Waibel and Jim McMillan (San Diego) foiled Steve Bearden (Houston) and Bill Whalen (Dallas) 6-1, 6-0.

A - Division Singles

Baron Medlock (S. Carolina) bested Rich Ryan (San Diego) 7-5, 7-6.



Concentration and intensity marked the ATTA Hotlanta Clay Court Invitational. Photo By Rhonda Mensen

A - Division Doubles

Rich Ryan (San Diego) and Brad Bloom (Dallas) vanquished Baron Medlock (S. Carolina) and Kirk Nobles (Atlanta) 6-3, 6-4.

If I have mis-cited or mis-stated anybody, my sincere apologies. Let me know.

Before I close tennis for this issue, something needs to be added.

The players of Atlanta Team Tennis Association awarded Steve Wentworth the prestigious and much deserved Sportsman of the Year award. Steve not only is the founder of ATTA, but was the primary organizer and driving force behind this tournament. My personal hat comes off to Steve. If you've read my articles, you know how important I think it is for people to get involved, to do things that make a difference. Steve has done this, and in a very big way. Congratulations, Steve!

Oh, one more thing, and this comes from Steve himself. ATTA needs new players, especially women, of all levels, to come out and play. Sounds like an offer you can't refuse to me, folks.

Now, on to softball. My heart goes out to anyone who, like myself, drove around for an hour thinking he or she had missed the Southside Recreational Center on Jonesboro Road where the

Hotlanta Softball Spring Invitational was to be held. As luck would have it (or as my luck would have it), the fields were too wet for play. Oh, the best laid plans of mice and persons (John Steinbeck never met my editor!). But never fear. By the time you read this, this reporter will have already covered it, and you can get all the juicy details in the next issue.

The latest standings for the Hotlanta Volleyball League, that is, the standings as of March 18 can be found in the table at the end of the article.

I hope I haven't given you too much to absorb all at once, because I'm going to give the phone numbers of these particular sports organizations to any and all of you who want to get in touch...

Atlanta Team Tennis Association

Neil Kalin 237-3321 Bob McKenzie 892-2578

Hotlanta Volleyball League

Jerry Harvey 577-1617

Hotlanta Softball League

Information line 242-1005

As always, folks, it's been a pleasure. I'll be talking to you again real soon.

- Michael McMillan

Team	Match Record	Game Record
1) Crazy Ray'z	8 - 0	16 - 4
2) Bulldog & Co.	5 - 3	12 - 7
3) Burkhart's Pub	5 - 3	12 - 7
4) The Armory	5 - 3	11 - 8
5) Renegade Saloon	5 - 3	12 - 9
6) Backstreet	3 - 5	6 - 12
7) Deanna's	1 - 7	3 - 14
8) Texas Drilling Co.	0 - 8	4 - 16

Being Alive Can Be Scary

And it can be hard work. But it's better than any of the alternatives.

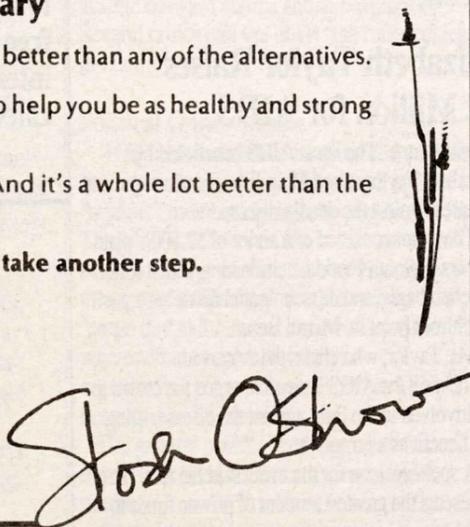
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Living With AIDS

"AIDS: An Invitation to Healing"

While we continue to hear about an increased number of AIDS cases, the scientific reports of AIDS-related treatments, and the sociopolitical oppression of gay people in the age of AIDS, we are hearing virtually nothing about the individuals who are experiencing emotional, spiritual, and, yes, physical healing as a result of this experience. If we begin to explore the positive impact of the phenomenon, we can see lives being transformed in wonderful ways. This experience called AIDS, while admittedly bringing sadness and real suffering into many of our lives, brings an opportunity for those willing to choose that path.

As I look at the impact of the AIDS epidemic on my life, I am grateful for the opportunity for spiritual renewal I have received. Describing myself as a recovering Catholic, I had chosen to basically ignore any notion of spirituality for about ten years. Yet as the possibility of dying from AIDS became more real, I have been forced to examine some significant spiritual/philosophical questions: the purpose of my existence, the values which are important to me, and the question about the existence of a Source, or Higher Power, a God. I know I am not alone in struggling to find answers to these questions; I further feel there is solace in spiritual understanding and sustaining faith which awaits those willing to find personal truth in this questioning. This faith has been realized by me because I have been forced to see the finite nature of my life.

Additionally, I feel that the experience of AIDS (and, specifically my fear of past exposure) has encouraged me to look at how I am taking care of my body and to take responsibility for doing all I can to

stay well as long as I can. Many of us are eating healthfully, taking vitamins, getting exercise, reducing stress, limiting or eliminating drugs and alcohol, and exploring other ways to care for our own beautiful bodies. Many of us are experiencing the best physical health of our lives; even more often, people are caring for their bodies better than they ever have in their lives. I am beginning to think - as I observe the subtle cruising at the shop I frequent - that the health food store may be the bathhouse of the 90's.

Finally, I offer that AIDS, while bringing pain and fear and sorrow to many people's lives, offers us enormous opportunity for emotional healing. In *The Plague*, Camus states that, in their response to this fictional plague, we see "the best and worst in men's souls." Clearly, this can be observed all around us. People who never dreamed they would volunteer their time or themselves are being buddies or answering phones or visiting hospitals or helping neighbors and friends; the response to AIDS by the Gay/Lesbian community is nothing short of heroic. Another enriching realization for me has been the knowledge that today is all that I can be sure I have. Ironically, it's all any of us have ever had, but I think we are all appreciating the preciousness of life differently. I see so many people trying to be more loving and to love themselves more. I think many of us have experienced improved relationships with friends and families; I feel people trying differently to allow me to know I am loved. I know I try differently as well.

Lastly, I see AIDS and the realization of the finiteness of this experience as an opportunity for joy. The pleasure and gifts available to us all mean more to me now than they ever had. Sunny Sundays and loving friends are gifts to enjoy and savor. In short, AIDS gives us all the opportunity to say YES to life; therein lies the invitation to healing.

- Jim Sacco

Jim Sacco, MSW, is a local psychotherapist and has ten years experience as a helping professional. Jim has worked extensively with individuals adjusting to HIV infection and conducts an ongoing support group for people with AIDS-Related Complex.

Updates

Experimental Drugs Symposium

Atlanta physician Dr. James Braude led a public symposium updating anti-AIDS drugs before an overflow audience at Crawford Long Hospital on March 23. Attendance so exceeded organizer's expectations that audience members were invited to sit onstage behind panelists who expressed surprise at the extraordinary turnout.

Besides Dr. Braude, panelists included Dr. Barry Gingell, Medical Information Director for the Gay Men's Health Crisis and Community Research Initiative in New York City, and Michael Cullen, an AIDS activist and long-term AIDS survivor (nearing his sixth year), and author of *Surviving and Thriving with AIDS*.

The tone of the evening was upbeat, with emphasis placed on optimism, self-education, and education of one's physician. Dr. Braude opened the discussion by saying he and his Atlanta colleagues were behind their counterparts in New York City and San Francisco in public discussions of experimental AIDS drugs.

Previously, seminars in Atlanta have tended to focus on holistic approaches to HIV, such as macrobiotics, imaging, stress management, nutrition, vitamins, and spiritual nurturing. Though panelists endorsed the value of many of these approaches, some members of the audience could be heard to say that Wednesday night's turnout indicated alternative drug therapies have gained favor in the city, thus more closely aligning Atlanta with New York City and San Francisco, where AIDS has hit the hardest.

Panelists characterized the night's discussion as information sharing, and said persons positive for HIV should read everything possible to remain up-to-date on alternative treatments and associated issues. Panelists did not endorse the use of particular drugs, but were aware that some Atlantans have begun to use them and, therefore, recognized a need for information sharing.

It was also stressed that persons should not assume their doctors have all the information necessary for them to make decisions about how to approach HIV, or have all the right answers. Persons must be careful to choose a physician with whom they are compatible, and do their own homework. Persons must make decisions for themselves and not be intimidated by physicians who may not be aware of the most up-to-date information (a common complaint among some PWA's and PWARC's).

The three hour discussion was structured this

way: a brief introduction followed by an overview of tests measuring HIV and immune functions; the drugs themselves (antivirals and immunomodulators); drugs for prophylaxis (preventives, such as aerosol pentamidine for PCP); audience questions and closing remarks.

The symposium was an acknowledgment that more persons have begun to turn to experimental drug therapies for HIV. Panelists sought to advise persons as to the latest findings and opinions on the drugs considered to be in widest use and availability. Among the drugs discussed were AL 721 (perhaps in wider use than AZT); AZT (Retrovir); Dextran Sulfate (the "hottest" new drug in New York City, under intense scrutiny by researchers, available over-the-counter in Japan, and through underground US markets); DDC (serious side-effects, under study at smaller doses with AZT, one hundred times stronger than AZT); Ribavirin (perhaps the most controversial of all AIDS drugs, object of renewed interest and studies); Imuthiol (promising, appears to benefit some persons and raise T-cells at earlier stage of infection); Antabuse (turns into Imuthiol in the bloodstream, may have benefits of Imuthiol, no formal studies, available over-the-counter); Ampligen (appears to stabilize T-cells in significant numbers of persons taking the drug, sparks clinical improvements in some others, while a smaller number show no response); DNCB and Isoprinosine (appears to have lost favor with both patients and physicians).

An important advance: aerosol pentamidine appears to be a major weapon in preventing first episode infections of PCP in persons with AIDS and severe ARC. It also is said to prevent most repeat episodes of PCP in persons with AIDS. According to Michael Cullen, "There is no need for anyone to get PCP a first or second time."

For information on all these drugs, write to: Gay Men's Health Crisis, Department of Medical Information, Box 274, 132 West 24th St., New York, NY 10011.

Southern Voice does not endorse any experimental therapy or drug treatment. Persons interested in such treatments should consult their physicians. - Terry Francis

Federal AIDS Policy Now in Effect

Washington--More than two million federal employees are now covered by the government's new AIDS policy.

Starting March 24, it will be illegal to

discriminate against a federal worker infected with the virus, and those who refuse to work alongside a PWA are subject to disciplinary action.

Under the new rules, a PWA is to be treated "in the same manner as employees who suffer from other serious illnesses." The Office of Personnel Management's directive also gives workers the right to continue working "as long as they are able to maintain acceptable performance and do not pose a safety threat." It instructs management to consider "appropriate corrective or disciplinary action" against other employees who refuse to work with co-workers infected with the virus.

Employees will be granted disability retirement if the length of service with the government qualifies them, and their insurance coverage will continue.

The guidelines apply to the 2.1 million workers employed by the federal government, those covered by OPM standards. The armed forces are not included.

AIDS Leveling Off in Africa

Washington--The spread of AIDS in African countries appears to be leveling off, according to an expert from Zaire quoted in a *Washington Post* report.

Dr. Robert Ryder, director of Zaire's project SIDA (the French acronym for AIDS), said there is no evidence of the epidemic worsening over the last several years. He attributed the leveling off to the increase in the use of condoms, and to the fact that most of those who were at risk became infected with AIDS and were counted in early statistics.

The *Post* article said most African countries were not affected by the disease, but that countries reached by the epidemic saw the number of cases increase sharply between 1970 and 1980. Those countries include Zaire, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Congo, Central African Republic, and Tanzania.

Elizabeth Taylor Raises \$2 Million for AIDS

Miami Beach--The latest AIDS benefit led by Elizabeth Taylor raised \$2 million for education and research against the deadly disease.

The event consisted of a series of \$2,500 a plate dinners in South Florida, culminating with a sold out champagne and dessert "grand finale" at a posh beachfront hotel in Miami Beach.

Ms. Taylor, who chairs the American Foundation for AIDS Research, urged the crowd to get involved in the fight against the disease, using this benefit as a prototype.

A spokesperson for the event said the total raised represents the greatest amount of private funds to

fight AIDS raised anywhere in the country.

One of the contributors, Celia Lipton Farris of Palm Beach, contributed in one single check a total of \$1.1 million.

Ms. Taylor spoke of the need for compassion and understanding, but stressed the need for money, as well, saying "People may say money can't buy compassion, but money can buy health."

Among the many stars in attendance were Brooke Shields, Marlee Matlin, Margaux Hemingway, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Ed Asner, Lynn Redgrave, Eddie Albert and Matt Dillon.

Spring AIDS Action '88

Atlanta--The Atlanta March Committee is coordinating activities related to the Spring AIDS Action '88. If you or your organization is interested in coordinating or assisting activities related to the following topics, contact Cathy Woolard at 377-8312.

AIDS and Homophobia
PWA's: Caring and Uncaring
AIDS in the Ghetto, Barrio and Reservation
AIDS on Campus
AIDS Behind Bars
Women and the AIDS Crisis
AIDS: A World Wide Crisis

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. Call 885-9996 for location information and directions. The next Atlanta March Committee meeting is April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Highland Branch Library. Come on out and help plan these activities as well as a 24-hour rally at the State Capitol on May 6-7. We need your help!

The Atlanta Chapter of NAPWA will host a private party April 10, 1988, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The event will be free to PWA's and PWARC's. If interested in attending, please call (404) 874-7926.



Making Room: Spiritual Alternatives for Lesbians & Gays: Part II

Last time I related some religious organizations that have emerged within mainline traditions. Several other organizations fall roughly into that category, among them Dignity, the Unitarian Universalist Lesbian and Gay Community, the First Existentialist Church and the Metropolitan Community Church.

Dignity is a national organization of gay Catholics, their friends and families. There is an active local chapter that meets at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 48 Martin Luther King Drive, SW (near the capital and next door to Central Presbyterian Church). Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 11 a.m., brunch afterwards at various locations. There are currently about 27 active members in the local Dignity chapter and of that 75% are men, 25% are women. Dignity has experienced an upheaval since last spring's papal pastoral letter on homosexuality which forbade their use of church property (among other equally abusive things). Since that time many have dropped away in anger and disappointment.

Recently the group has begun to rebuild its membership and has been working closely with two supportive priests. Prior to the time they were asked to leave church property they had an outreach to the homeless, volunteering at the night shelter at St. Anthony's. Currently members volunteer to help serve the weekly Saturday meal for the homeless at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Last spring Dignity orchestrated the Circle the Church protest (circling Christ the King, here in Atlanta) in response to the pope's 'pastoral' letter concerning homosexuals. Coming out of that protest is a working relationship with the Diocese's AIDS Taskforce (though no movement yet about use of church property). Dignity Atlanta has been working with the task force on a recent service of healing in which members served as lay ministers at the mass.

For more information call: 874-1694.

The Unitarian Universalist Community of Lesbian and Gays includes members of the various Unitarian congregations of Atlanta and others who are not affiliated with the fellowship. Many gay men and lesbians affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship when they became disillusioned (or rejected) by more orthodox traditions. The group, which meets the second Thursday of the month at the Unitarian Church on Cliff Valley Way, originally met more as a social than a religious group. It is now in a transition period which seems to be moving toward a more spiritual emphasis. About 30% of the members are women. For many years they have put out a newsletter which lists a comprehensive calendar of events in the Atlanta gay and Lesbian community.

For more information call: 634-5134.

The First Existentialist Church in Candler Park is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and differs from other UUA fellowships in its existential emphasis. One member interpreted that to mean that all spiritual journeys are honored and seen as very personal, and therefore can be channeled in a variety of ways. This is evident in the style and scope of worship there. All Jewish holidays are celebrated as well as many pagan holidays. Members come from a gamut of traditions and are able to find space in which to express themselves spiritually. Two major holidays that are also celebrated by the church are Susan B. Anthony's Birthday and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.

Roughly 65% of the congregation are lesbians. The First Existentialist Church serves a great portion of the Candler Park community: ALFA, BWMT and the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus all meet at the church regularly. The church is committed to providing space for lesbian and gay activities. This spring the 'E' is sponsoring the Candler Park Festival

which will bring a variety of performing and visual artists to the Park and the church. The church is located at 470 Candler Park Drive. For more information call: 378-5570.

MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) started about twenty years ago as an alternative Christian setting for lesbians and gay men. The Metropolitan Community Church has grown to an international body with congregations throughout the U.S., Europe, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and Africa.

Locally there are two congregations: MCC of the Blessed Redeemer and All Saints MCC. The membership is predominantly male, though in recent years more lesbians have attended and functioned in leadership roles.

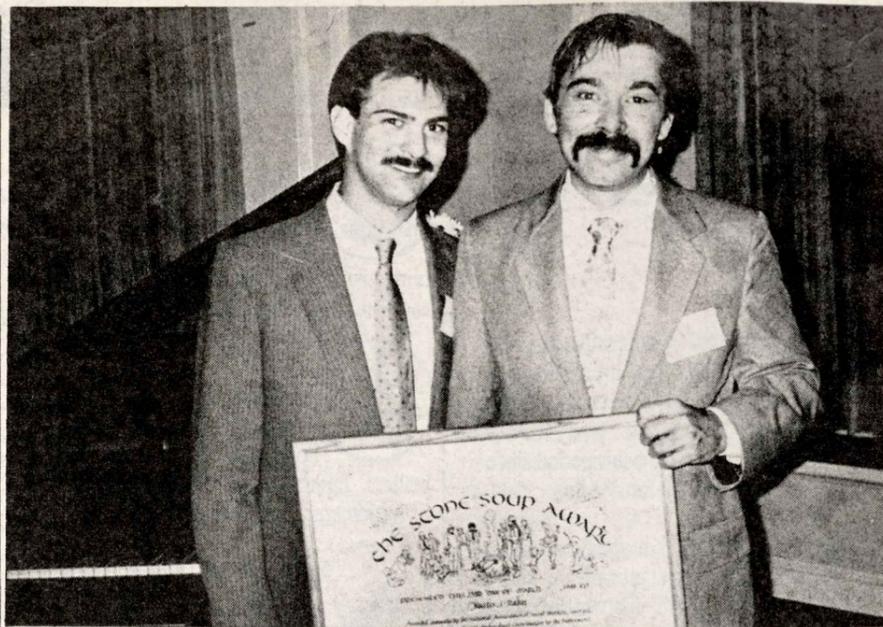
MCC of the Blessed Redeemer, in existence for 16 years, is located at 800 North Highland Avenue. Services are conducted at 2 p.m. Sundays and 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings. They run a coffee house for the homeless on Friday and Sunday evenings with a service Sunday evening. Chuck Larson is the new pastor. For more information call: 872-2246.

All Saints MCC is a somewhat newer congregation that meets at Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Services are held at 5 p.m. Sundays. About one third of the members are women, with strong representation of women in leadership roles. The church provides spiritual counseling and hospital visitation to PWA's. Each second Sunday a special donation is taken up for AID Atlanta. They have recently instituted a deacon's closet for indigent PWA's. Opportunities are available for participation in a variety of teams including couple's groups, singles groups and social outings as well as in committees that oversee the ongoing work of the church in its many facets. The pastor is Steve Fund. For more information call: 636-3507.

The possibilities within the community seem almost limitless. In the past two articles I have only begun to scratch the surface of alternatives for spiritual/religious expression. As in other areas of our lives, we have found it necessary to 'come out without maps' as spiritual beings, to make our way by trial and error, questioning the assumptions of the culture in which we were raised all along the way.

Next time I hope to look at some alternative traditions including the Vedanta Society of Atlanta, Science of Mind and the Church of Religious Science. Later: ex-gay ministries.

- Connie Tuttle



Kurt Rahn, Director of the Atlanta Chapter of NAPWA, accepting the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers Stone Soup Award. Rahn was given the award March 23, 1988, "in recognition of significant individual contribution to the betterment of the human condition in Georgia communities." Pictured with Rahn is NAPWA Atlanta Chapter Board Member, Chris Minor.

CELEBRATE LIFE



Thursday, 7:30 pm
Seder Dinner
Reservations Requested

Friday, 7:30 pm
Tenebrae Service
Crucifixion Remembered

Sunday, 2:00 pm
Main Service

6:00 am
Sunrise Service
Pier • Piedmont Park
All Welcome

7:00 pm
Evangelistic Service

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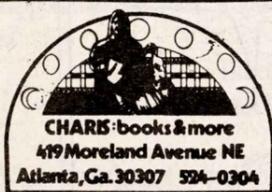
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KEEP REFRIGERATED

Star Gays

Star Gays
by Martia Proba

Don't be surprised if you feel like you're caught in the mud after the 12th. The four planets that rule the parts of the body from the waist down are all retrograde. Everyone should attempt to patronize the arts this period since the Full Moon is in artsy-fartsy Libra.

 **ARIES** You should avoid any dealings at all with any kind of partnership matters on Full Moon in your opposite sign on the 2nd. Try to avoid angry moments with friends, especially on the 7th.

 **TAURUS** Your career should get an energy boost on the 7th, when Mars moves into your 10th house. Journeys and plans for the future should be kept under wraps this month and postponed entirely on the 11th and 12th.

 **GEMINI** Look out for a Capricorn person messing with your money around the 8th. The weekend of the 9th may find you energetically pursuing a philosophical journey with like-minded friends - Venus will help you there.

 **CANCER** Venus in your 12th house after the 4th encourages a secret, regenerative romance. A dalliance with an Aquarius on the 11th will be exciting but could require a great deal of patience.

 **LEO** Fire and brimstone around money matters with the Sun in Aries and the Full Moon in Libra on the 2nd. Venus in your 11th house after the 4th suggests friends can become lovers.

 **VIRGO** Staying at home with friends and partners is a good idea this period. A Taurus can bring you good fortune, especially on the 8th and 11th. Your love life should be in high gear now.

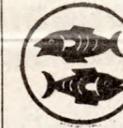
 **LIBRA** Full Moon in your sign on the 2nd and Sun in your 7th house could strain relationship matters. Jupiter in your 8th house helps you to be resourceful, especially on the 8th.

 **SCORPIO** With 4 planets retrograde after the 12th, be low-key in business and family matters. Venus will help salvage a relationship after the 4th, but the Sun warns you to watch your health.

 **SAGITTARIUS** Make love with an Aries on the 7th and you'll both be impressed. Three retrograde planets in your 2nd house after the 12th warn you to be wary of get-rich-quick schemes.

 **CAPRICORN** At last! One planet moves out of your 1st house into your 2nd on the 6th. Mars will energize your economic activities. Be wary of an Aries on the 14th.

 **AQUARIUS** Go all out for love on the 10th - the Moon is in your sign and Mars and Venus are in fortunate aspect. The flesh will be willing but the spirit may just want to meditate - try favorite sexual fantasies.

 **PISCES** Full Moon in your 8th house on the 2nd reminds you to file those taxes if you haven't already. Sun and Moon in Aries on the 14th indicate that you should make that big purchase you've been putting off.

Dear Nadisa

DEAR NADISA:

It's silly that I even have to write you about this, but I am beginning to feel like some kind of joke. I consider myself a political dyke, but others in my crowd give me no credit because I wear femmie clothes. So, what if I do wear high heels or dresses or scarves? Even flowers in my hair, if I so please. I'll be damned if I dress like some dyke clone just to prove that I am politically correct. I'm sick of the whole thing and simply need to say so.

Good for you. If you are spending a lot of your time defending the way you dress, I would think a new crowd is in order. Ideally, our lifestyle is all about FREEDOM to be ourselves and to live our lives as we see fit. Unfortunately, the REALITY is that Lesbians can be just as condemning as anyone else. And many women feel that their way is the only way to be, which, of course, is nonsense. Stop feeling like a joke and find some dykes with common sense. It sounds like you give your own self all the credit you need.

DEAR NADISA:

My lover and I broke up a year ago because she wanted to explore her heterosexuality. Now she has come back into my life and is 8 months pregnant. I've given her a place to stay and have helped with her medical costs because I still have strong feelings for her. I'm anxiously anticipating the birth of her child and would like to assist in rearing it, but she is incredibly indifferent, both to me and the upcoming birth. Please advise because I'm at a loss.

This woman explored her heterosexuality without a road map and now she is back with an empty seat just for you. It is wonderful to care so much for her, but don't let your love cloud your eyes. Take her indifference as a hint, O.K.? Ask her some hard questions. Does she want the baby? Is she financially and emotionally prepared to commit her life

to the needs of another person? Does she care at all about anyone but herself?

Though you are eager for the delivery of the baby, you must realize that the baby is HERS. Find out if she plans to stay with you and raise the child with you. Consider the possibility that she may disappear, leaving you ALONE with the baby, to "explore" someplace else. You can love this woman and still not allow her to make a fool of you. You deserve much better.

DEAR NADISA:

I am 54 and work in an office as a consultant. I am divorced from my husband but have raised 2 children into productive adulthood. Now I find myself attracted to a co-worker who is also divorced from her husband. I have never had feelings like this before. Should I make the wrong move, I could lose my job, my self-respect...everything I have worked so long and hard for. Are my feelings a signal that I am "coming out"?

Perhaps you are. Perhaps you are not. You did not say whether your feelings for this co-worker were sexual or not. And you made no mention of how long it has been since your divorce. Loneliness can intensify feelings and cause a person to mistake a strong need for friendship with someone else. Yet, I suspect that since you are reading this publication and have written "Nadisa" that more is going on inside of you. If you do not have an open-minded and close friend to whom you might confide your feelings, consider doing some independent research of your own. This publication could probably provide you with the phone number to a hot-line that could offer useful resources. Check with the nearest women's bookstore for literature that may assist you in clarifying your feelings. One book you may wish to start with is Look Me In The Eye by Barbara McDonald and Cynthia Rich (published by Spinsters Ink) which represents some "coming out" stories for women in mid-life. It may help you gain proper perspective.

Ammiano, Cont.

Continued from Page 7

I never worried about passing. (Laughs.) I just knew that it wasn't happening.

PD: Do you ever think about your being a role model?

TA: That's a little frightening. (Laughs.) The feeling is most powerful when I perform at college campuses. They're inspired that I'm out there performing as a faggot. I'm inspired that they're out in college. Twenty years ago there was no gay pride week in San Bernardino. It's a lot of fun.

PD: Where do you see yourself personally?

TA: I think I've evolved quite a bit from thinking I was not a very nice person to feeling very good. I think that was the real gay gift - the affirmation. Once you get that, well then everything else is a

piece of cake. So that's the biggest gift. So then you give back in your performing if you're a good performer.

With gay audiences, there's a trade-off in affirmation. And that happens even with straight people, because once they get their act together, if they're laughing with you, then they've grown too. They're not going to march in your parade, but they took a step.

PD: What is your life like at the present?

TA: Well, AIDS puts a damper on life or in general. Not to be pessimistic or to despair, but it's with you all the time. Maybe damper isn't the right word, but certainly restraint. I don't just mean sexual restraint. I mean it's such an agent for change - your attitudes and your own mortality and being so intimate. So that's just always there.

Given that, my life is pretty rich. I have

friends of 20-30 years. I like that. And their kids are growing up. So I have a nice support network. I have a nice extended family, and I have a nice family.

Life can be very exciting, but then there are times when it's not. You know, when you're not working, that's when you get the most paranoid. But I had a life before I started comedy, and I think a lot of the youngsters don't. And so it does become life and death, and you're willing to compromise more maybe. I have a house, and my lover (Tim Curbo) and I have been together for ten years.

Really, I get to vent a lot of my feelings, don't I? So comedy is therapy. I mean, it's much more than that. So it's good. But I am worried about AIDS, and I do worry about myself and my friends. I can't seem to shake that. But I don't live

with it to the point that you get round-shouldered.

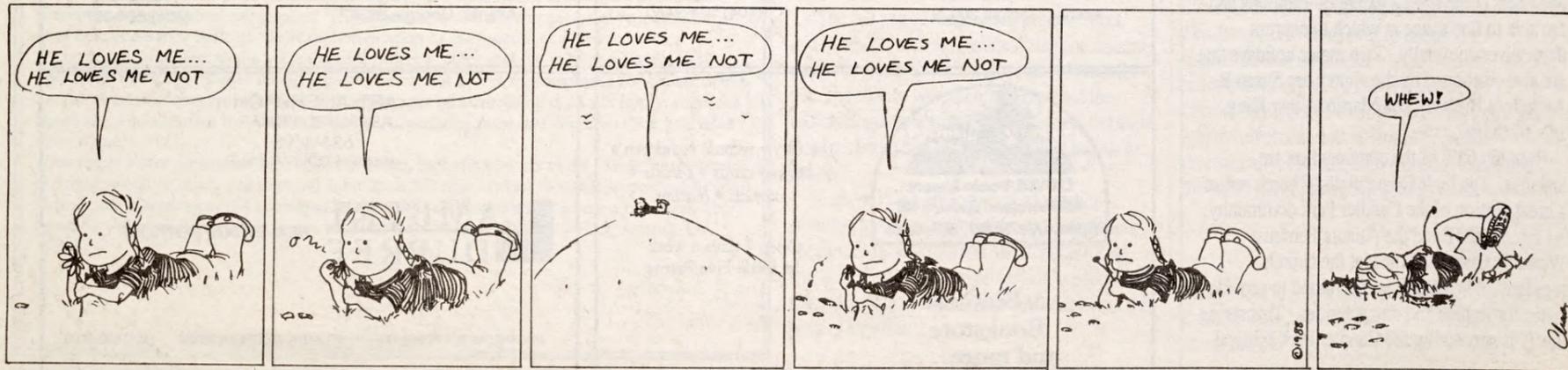
But I was thinking about that the other day when talking to somebody. And it is there. It's like a spectre. It's amazing, you know, if we can survive this not just physically but mentally, spiritually - then that says a lot for us. It's just, whow, what a test.

Tom Ammiano will appear with Linda Moakes on Friday night, April 15, at the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men. Admission is free to all those registered for the Conference. Individual tickets for the show only are available for \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance, available at Charis Books and The Boy Next Door.

Look for an interview with Linda Moakes in the April 12, 1988 issue of Southern Voice.

bittersweet

by Charles Haver



Southeastern Conference Creates Opportunity for Networking

The Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men will convene in Atlanta, Georgia, April 14-17, 1988, at the Pierremont Plaza Hotel. Founded in 1976 at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the Conference is the oldest regional conference of lesbians and gay men in the United States, and was last held in Atlanta in 1983.

Conceived as an opportunity for the isolated pockets of southern lesbian and gay activists to gather, network, and strategize; the Southeastern Conference has grown to national scope and significance, according to Alan Perrault, co-chair of the Atlanta Steering Committee.

Lainey Richardson, co-chair with Perrault, described the Conference as "really exciting for me to see."

Over 60 workshops and seminars are currently scheduled, each to last an hour and a half. Great care has been taken, according to Perrault, to ensure that conferees have ample time to satisfy their interest in a topic, and schedule relevant topics so they do not compete against each other.

Workshop and seminar topics will include: adult children of alcoholics, and co-dependency; meditation; healing the healer; fundraising; homophobia; AIDS statistical updates; holistic healing; assertiveness training; relationships; parenting; and how to organize a sense of community in small rural cities.

Panel members and workshop coordinators will include some of the best and brightest people in their fields, according to Richardson.

The continuing local issue of women-only space has also provoked some amount of controversy with regard to the Southeastern Conference. Pam Martin of ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance), complained that

she was unable to hold a workshop for women only.

When asked for comment, Richardson said that she and other organizers of the Conference had decided not to include events that are segregated on any basis. She did state, however, that if any group chose to segregate themselves, there was rental space available at the hotel and such an event would be announced during the Conference.

"The purpose of this Conference is unity; bringing the different elements of the lesbian and gay community together. Sabrina Sojourner is going to be specifically speaking to the concept of bridging the gaps in our community during her welcome address to the Conference," said Richardson.

In addition to the critically important networking, workshops and panel discussions, Perrault proudly points to the entertainment aspects of the Conference. Comedians Tom Aramiano and Linda Moakes will be performing on Friday night the 15th, along with Carolyn Mobley, the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus and the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus on Saturday night the 16th. Event organizers are especially excited by the significance of the first time the AFWC and the AGMC have sung together.

Mab Segrest, author, speaker and civil rights activist, will deliver the keynote address. She is the co-founder of Women Writes, and coordinator of North Carolinians against Racism and Religious Violence.

There will be an exhibitor and vendor hall during the Conference. Space is still available for a \$20 fee that includes use of a 6-foot long table. Persons interested may contact Perrault, or Richardson at (404) 237-3528. Space will

be limited, however, and Perrault urges interested parties to contact them as far in advance as possible.

Persons interested in attending the Conference may use the enclosed flier as a

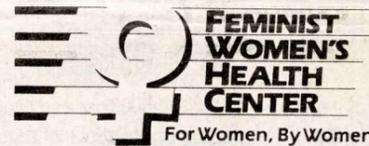
registration form. The cost is \$40, which will include entrance to all events, including entertainment.

Look for *Southern Voice*, Issue # 4, for a program guide and schedule for the SECLGM.

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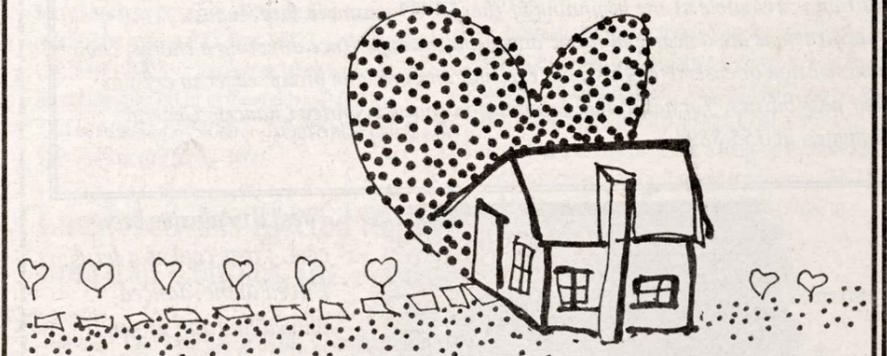
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