

SOUTHERN VOICE

Celebrating
Mother's Day
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Taking Pride in Our Culture

April 26, 1988

INSIDE

Florida to Quarantine PWAs, if Governor Bob Martinez has his way. Described as a "fight for survival," Bob Kuntz of Cure AIDS Now details the plans that may stop this AIDSphobic administration. Page 3.

Lesbian and Gay Pride Week returns to Atlanta June 18th through the 26th. Plans are now underway for the festive celebration of gay and lesbian life in "the city too busy to hate." Page 6.

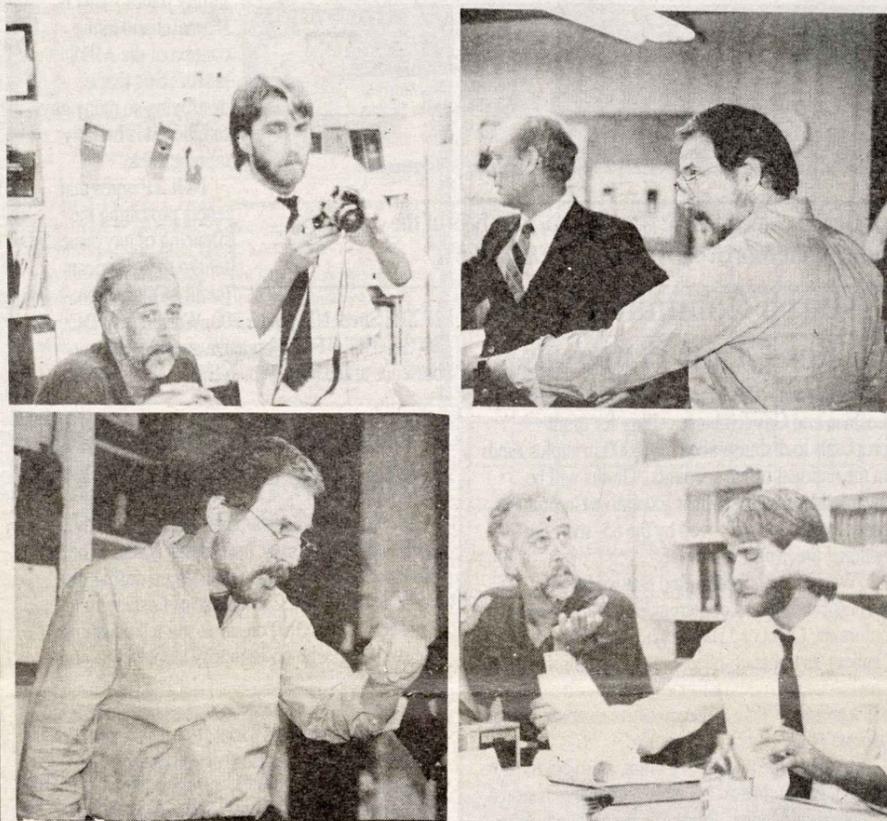
Black-feminist Poets are featured in Terri Jewell's review of *A Dangerous Knowing; Four Black Women Poets*. She finds haunting rhythms, woman to woman bonding, and "poetry...steeped in the roots of black culture" in the works of Barbara Burford, Jackie Kay, Grace Nichols and Gabriela Pearse. Page 7.

'86 International Women's Weightlifting Champion, Colleen Colley breaks new ground with each "snatch" and "clean and jerk." Raised in an exclusively female home, Colley surges past old records while making a place for other women to follow her into the male-dominated sport. Page 11.

Dear Governor Harris: Georgians are tired of seeing their friends die due to your lax attention to the health of this State. The Atlanta March Committee is sponsoring this clip-out campaign of thousands of letters to be read at the Spring AIDS Action '88, and then delivered to Harris' office. Page 12.

Dykes to Watch Out For almost makes the term 'dykes' politically correct. It certainly makes Keep Refrigerated funnier. Bestseller Alison Bechdel draws women and men into the hilarious escapades of Mo, Clarice and Lois. Page 14.

Infighting Disrupts Police Advisory Committee



Gay "Leaders" argue over taping of Police Advisory Committee meeting. Photo by Cathy Denobriga.

Favorable Ruling by Georgia Supreme Court in VanderEls Case

Atlanta—In an apparent legal victory, the Georgia Supreme Court has remanded lesbian-mother Leigh VanderEls' appeal to the Clayton County judicial system. VanderEls, who lost a January, 1987, trial to retain custody of her then 7-year-old son, Chase, is now preparing her case to prove that the original judge, William Ison, exhibited "actual and personal bias and prejudice against the appellant..."

A motion for recusal asks a judge to remove themselves from hearing a case due to a possible perceived or actual prejudice against the litigants.

"The ruling is indicative that the (Georgia) Supreme Court had extremely serious problems with the trial judge's behavior," said Michael Hauptman, attorney for VanderEls.

Ison, who denied VanderEls' original motion for recusal, allegedly made use of the Clayton District Attorney as an agent to cause VanderEls' supervisor, Anne Plant of the Clayton County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), to telephone him. During that conversation, Ison reportedly told Plant that DFCS didn't need "people like that" working with children. He also was said to have warned Plant that VanderEls' publicly-acknowledged sexual orientation would destroy her credibility as an



Leigh VanderEls. Photo by Rhonda Mensen

expert witness in Clayton County DFCS court proceedings.

VanderEls was immediately dropped from consideration for a new position and "constructively terminated." The constructive termination occurred when VanderEls was transferred to an inferior position and given demeaning tasks to perform, considering her

past experience and training. Ison would not allow Plant to testify to these allegations when he heard VanderEls' original request that he remove himself and schedule a new trial.

The new hearing will determine if Ison should have removed himself from hearing the motions. If either VanderEls or her ex-husband appeal the decision, the case will return to the Georgia Supreme Court. The date for the hearing has yet to be set.

Said VanderEls, "I feel optimistic about the Supreme Court's ruling. However, the length of litigation still required before a ruling will be made on the actual custody case is disheartening."

Leigh VanderEls is a staff member for *Southern Voice*. Chase, now 8, currently lives with his father and step-mother in Memphis, Tennessee.

- Chris Duncan

Atlanta - Representatives of several metropolitan Atlanta gay and lesbian organizations met April 20 to discuss proposals to alter the present formation of the ACLU's Police Advisory Committee of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter. The meeting was the culmination of a month-long series of events that began with the March 11 shooting of Midtown residents Jamie Bowman and Michael Denyou, involved Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner George Napper directly, and ended with a fractious display of non-cooperation which disrupted last Wednesday's meeting.

Early reports on the shooting of Bowman, a transsexual who prefers to be referred to in the feminine gender, and her lover, Denyou, during an apparent robbery attempt, led some local activists to conclude that the incident was a case of anti-gay, hate-motivated crime. Bowman later stated her belief that the incident was not motivated by either her perceived sexual orientation or her status as a transsexual.

Immediately following the double shooting, however, Atlanta Gay Center (AGC) Administrator Richard Swanson and Board of Directors member Bill Gripp began a frantic media campaign to draw attention to the escalating incidence of bias-motivated crime directed at persons who are perceived to be gay or lesbian. Gripp later termed the tragic shooting a "window of opportunity" for the AGC to focus non-gay society's attention to the dangers the lesbian and gay community face daily.

Gripp and Swanson subsequently formed the AGC Task Force on Anti-Gay Violence, of which Gripp is the chairperson. Also on the Task Force are Jean Levine of AID Atlanta, and AGC Board members Dr. Donald Smith and Michael Wilson.

The AGC Task Force and other concerned members of Atlanta's gay and lesbian community met with Commissioner Napper on March 24. During that meeting, complaints by the AGC contingent that the current Police Advisory Committee was ineffective prompted Napper to ask Gene Guerrero, Executive Director of ACLU-GA, to "assume the chairmanship (sic) of a committee that will come up with recommendations on how a more active and more representative policy advisory committee can be structured." Guerrero also agreed to participate, in the meantime, as a liaison between the Commissioner and the lesbian and gay community.

Agreeing to serve in an official capacity with Guerrero were Swanson, Gripp, Ray Kluka, president of the Midtown Neighborhood Association, and Judd Herndon of the ACLU's Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter.

The ad hoc committee was apparently hampered from its very conception by the radically conflicting goals of the participants. AGC Task Force members originally asked that they be accepted as the Commissioner's advisory committee, but quickly retreated to a position calling for a body which would be "completely independent and not controlled by any organization or group of organizations."

Representatives of the ACLU's Advisory Committee, meanwhile, accused the AGC group of "sour grapes" political maneuvering and maintained throughout the public fracas that their organization was representative of the community and performed its mandate successfully.

In a letter to Napper dated April 13, Guerrero acknowledged receipt of a summary of the March 24 meeting from Napper's office, and said, "My effort in bringing this committee together has been

Continued on Page 3

NEWS IN BRIEF

Savannah News Panics Over "Homosexual Invasion"

Savannah, Ga.—A gay and lesbian brochure about St. Patrick's weekend events in Savannah was distorted by a local newscaster last month as a planned "invasion by homosexuals" to take over the city, citing one sentence from the First City Network, Inc. brochure: "We plan to make Savannah the San Francisco of the Deep South."

Prior to the WTOC-TV11 (CBS affiliate) six o'clock lead news story by News Director Doug Weathers, WTOC reported Jim Carswell had received direct information from FCN Boardmembers that the quote meant FCN hoped the non-homophobic attitude granted generally to lesbians and gays in San Francisco would be imitated in Savannah. Nevertheless, Mr. Weathers implied an underground conspiracy to take over Savannah was in the works.

Another sentence from the brochure: "Men don't forget your condoms" instead was reported to have "recommended homosexual visitors bring Safesex devices."

One ray of light in the newscast: WTOC approached Savannah Mayor John Rousakis as to what his reaction to the brochure was (copies of the brochure had been sent by FCN to Mayor Rousakis and the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce). Mayor Rousakis looked squarely at the reporter and said that he thought the one-thousand brochure-invitation distribution to gays and lesbians across the USA "great" and that St. Patrick's Day was a time Savannah was known for "opening its arms and welcoming everyone."

FCN sent a critical letter to WTOC and a "thank-you" to Mayor Rousakis.

British Gay/Lesbian Activists Fight Clause 28

London - British lesbian and gay activists face the most serious threat to their community in twenty years if, as expected, the House of Commons approves on third reading a law which prohibits local governments from funding materials or programs which "promote homosexuality." The law, known in legislative language as Clause 28, will likely go into effect in June, 1988.

In a move echoing the Helms Amendment in this country, the British Parliament seeks to squash any neutral or positive presentation of lesbian and gay life by restricting the power and autonomy of local governments. Local governments in Britain administer social services, public housing and community health services, schools, youth groups, colleges and libraries, as well as fund counseling projects and other volunteer sector work, subsidize many theatres, cinemas and art galleries, and grant cafe, bar and club licenses. Because local governments have such broad powers under British law, Clause 28 creates a virtual gag order on publicly-funded and authorized lesbian and gay activity and culture.

Clause 28 also outlaws the teaching of the "acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship," leaving public school teachers with two options - to cast gay and lesbian relationships as "unacceptable" or to suppress all references to homosexuality in their teaching. Teachers will likely be prohibited from even answering students' direct questions in a positive way or offering any advice or counseling to lesbian and gay pupils.

"We regard Clause 28 as a savage attack on our rights of access to information and freedom of association," stated a press release by Stop Clause 28. "Many supporters of Clause 28 intend to use it as the first step toward recriminalization of male homosexuality and, for the first time, criminalization of lesbian sexuality. Clause 28 is already fueling anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence, with the firebombing of the offices of the newspaper *Capital Gay*."

But the Brits are fighting back! Mass

demonstrations are planned in London on Saturday, April 30; Saturday, June 18, a lesbian solidarity march; and Saturday, June 25, in conjunction with the Lesbian and Gay Carnival Parade and Festival. Said Jan Parker, a lesbian officer for the Association of London Authorities, "It's discouraging that we're not going to win in terms of the law, but we have succeeded in mobilizing the biggest gay rights movement ever in Britain. A hell of a lot more people have become engaged in the struggle."



Pat Norman, Stephen Gendin, Steve Ault & Kay Osterb, members of the Executive Committee for the March on Washington. Photo by ETC.

March Committee Calls For Grant Proposals

Washington - The March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights is calling for grant proposals to disburse about \$70,000 in surplus funds in the national office accounts. Grants will be awarded by seven member Executive Committee based on criteria approved by the 65-member national Steering Committee.

"We were shocked to find that we had any surplus funds given our struggles to raise money before the October 11th march", reported Kay Osterberg, national co-chair in Washington, D.C., "however, the amount of money we raised during the week of events was evidence of the overwhelming success of the march."

In order to be awarded a grant, a project must be lesbian, gay and/or AIDS related and have national or state significance. Proposals for amounts up to \$5,000 will be considered. At least one-half of the recipients will be lesbians and least one-quarter of the recipients will be people of color. Preference will be given to grassroots projects, projects born of march organizing, and projects working toward one or more of the march demands.

Those interest in applying for a grant should get a copy of the request for proposals. Write the March on Washington at P.O. Box 7781, Washington, D.C. 20044. Grant proposals must be received by June 1, 1988 to be considered.

American Family Celebration Neglects Gay/Lesbian Issues

Washington, D.C. - A labor movement initiated coalition calling for the creation of a national family policy agenda has deliberately refused to address the needs, problems and concerns of gay and lesbian families, rejecting strong appeals by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The American Family Celebration (AFC), a national gathering scheduled for May 14, 1988 in Washington, D.C., has the support of over 165 feminist, labor and professional organizations. The principal sponsor of the event is the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLU). NGLTF and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund are the only two gay/lesbian endorsers of the event.

Organizers of the AFC rejected NGLTF's formal appeals to address the concerns of gay/lesbian families at public coalition meetings held on February 10, 1988 and March 25, 1988. The event's organizers said at both meetings that they had deliberately decided not to address gay and lesbian families in order to obtain a broad base of support for the May 14th event.

NGLTF endorsed the AFC because it is deeply committed to the issues of economic justice, comprehensive health care, child care, family and medical leave, services for the elderly and equity in

education upon which the AFC platform rests. All of these issues affect gay men and lesbians. In addition, gay/lesbian families face discrimination by the legal system, lack of legal protection and recognition for unmarried partners, and lack of access to tangible economic benefits such as medical leave, insurance and other government benefits accorded to married partners.

"This deliberate avoidance of gay/lesbian families is an example of the cowardice and benign neglect that typifies the mainstream civil rights'

community's approach to gay and lesbian equality," noted Jeffrey Levi, Executive Director of NGLTF. "The American Family Celebration is trying to avoid controversy by not taking up gay/lesbian family issues. This is shameful and in the context of the AIDS health crisis that is destroying so many gay families, it is morally reprehensible."

NGLTF urges that letters protesting the silencing of gay issues be sent to the American Family Celebration,

1920 L Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036. NGLTF will organize a gay/lesbian presence at the May 14th event.

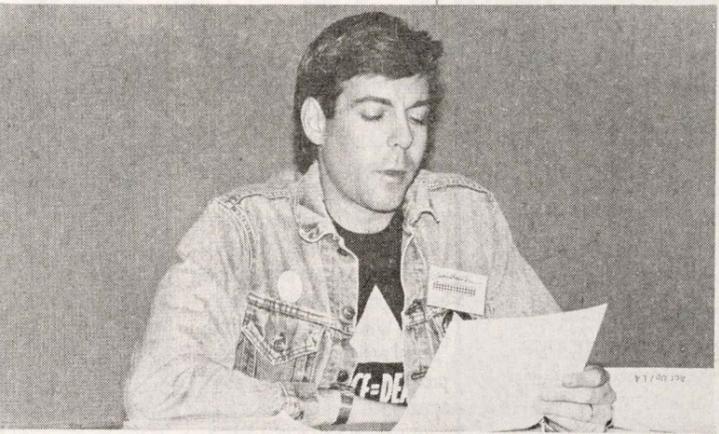
Couples, Inc. Designates May 8th "Parents Day"

Atlanta—Los Angeles-based lesbian and gay civil rights activists J. Carey Junkin and Walter Wheeler presented a seminar/discussion group during the recent Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men (SECLGM) on same-sex relationships. The two men, who co-founded Couples, Inc. and organized The Wedding as an integral part of the National March on Washington last October, discussed the legal and social benefits of same sex couples living an open life; as well as the ramifications.

Couples, Inc. was formed in response to the National March Committee's demand for full legal and social recognition of same-sex relationships.

According to Junkin, "the primary focus of our organization is to confront society with our existence in day-to-day life. Every time someone says you're not a couple, you should correct them."

During their seminar, the two recommended that couples read *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* by Dennis Clifford and Heyden Curry. The book contains valuable information on legalizing gay and lesbian relationships, according



J. Carey Junkin. Photo by Rhonda Mensen

to Wheeler.

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 Junkin, "We plan to honor gay fathers and lesbian mothers for the love and care they give their children. ...we plan to show the non-gay and gay communities that our families are based on love."

They announced on Saturday a planned action for October 11, 1988, the anniversary of the March on Washington and the first ever National Coming

Out Day. They intend to flood local marriage license bureaus with same-sex applicants just before closing time.

"Unfortunately, same-sex couples often have to hide their identity to protect themselves from protracted child-custody battles, and to secure our economic base," said Junkin.

Couples, Inc. is therefore recommending that participants worried about being photographed disguise their identity by wearing a paper bag over their heads.

They warned participants that local bureaucrats might call the police. "If that happens," said Wheeler, "people should leave. We're not planning this as a civil disobedience action." People presenting their applications inside local government offices will be supported by picketers outside, according to Junkin.

In those states requiring an HIV-antibody test, Junkin and Wheeler warned participants to leave that space blank on their applications. "Couples, Inc. suggests that people wanting to know their antibody status go to independent, anonymous testing sites. We do not recommend that people submit to government testing."

Atlanta is home to one of Couples, Inc.'s three regional offices. Interested persons may contact Mark du Pont at (404) 634-3061.

NCBLG Moves to Detroit

Washington, D.C. - The Board of Directors of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG) has announced the relocation of its national headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Detroit, Michigan, effective May 16, 1988.

NCBLG's executive director, Renee McCoy, sees the move as a positive step for the organization. "As NCBLG moves into its second decade," McCoy says, "we plan to intensify our outreach to establish more local chapters and gain greater visibility, especially within the Black community. Moving to Detroit will make the organization more accessible to Blacks in the central areas of the country, and thus, better enable NCBLG to provide technical assistance and leadership training to beginning groups. Since operational costs will also be lowered, we will be able to put more resources into service-oriented programs and education."

NCBLG's new office will be located at 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. This building is owned by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, (MOHR) Foundation and also houses MOHR, Michigan's Gay rights organization, and the Detroit Gay Community Center.

Lesbians Thrown Out of Marine Corps

Parris Island, S.C. - Two women Marines received discharges for being lesbians. The women, two of seven under investigation at the Parris Island

training center, were given honorable discharges after waiving their right to a hearing before an Administrative Discharge Board.

Three other women Marines have already had hearings where the military accused them of violating the

Pentagon's policy on homosexuality. The remaining two under investigation have had their hearing postponed in order to prepare their cases with civilian attorneys.

There was no evidence that the discharged women had not performed their duties as required by superiors. Marine officials said that their conduct was not serious enough to warrant charges but, they said, "it specifically violates Department of Defense policy." The military's policy against homosexuality has recently come under attack, with a major defeat in a recent case before a Federal Appeals Court which found it to be unconstitutional."

Future Of Gay/Lesbian Rights Analyzed

For Tom Teepen, it's "very, very bad, and not at all promising." That's how Teepen, the editorial page editor of *The Atlanta Constitution*, describes the current political outlook for gay and lesbian civil rights. But while Teepen is pessimistic, Atlanta city councilperson Mary Davis says she's "very heartened" by some recent developments on that same front.

Teepen and Davis were two of the panelists at an Emory University symposium last week. They were joined by Kathy Wilde, the ACLU attorney best known as defense counsel in the Michael Hardwick case, and the Rev. Rex Kaney, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Atlanta.

The forum probed the question of whether the notion of civil rights for gay and lesbian people is a logical outgrowth of traditional American values, or a radical departure from them.

For Davis, who sponsored the ordinance which protects City of Atlanta employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation, those rights are basic to a country with a history of offering freedom to the oppressed. "The challenge is making the fact of life meet the myth and the dream and the hope of a free place for everybody," she said.

"There are a couple of cases of what, to me, is clear-cut police brutality right now," Davis said. "Last time, I said to George Napper, I think I'm going to have to start doing what Hosea does, and take to the streets."

Teepen was less than optimistic about the

possibilities nationally for advances toward equal rights. "As a national proposition, I think it is utterly out of the question for some years to come, barring some just absolute revolution in values," he said.

He theorized that the American public, after the civil rights struggles of the past few decades, is "simply fatigued with change." The outlook on the legal front may be better, he said. "I think there are still very important opportunities to be realized through case law."

The Hardwick case, Wilde said, should have been another step in the Supreme Court's ongoing process of protecting the privacy of individuals, a logical follow-up to its upholding of the rights to use contraceptives, and have the option of abortion. "We said, there's no way to draw the line between what you've said is the right of individual autonomy for a single person, and what we have in this case."

"One of the high ironies," she said, "is that [Justice Lewis] Powell, who got a whole lot of heat after the abortion decision, thought he was taking the easy way out, and absolutely did not expect the swirl of political comment that happened in the wake of the Hardwick decision."

Although the law can be the instrument of social change, Wilde pointed out that the judicial system needs guidance from the populace at large.

"There are limits to what the law can do without a community that is visibly making demands behind it," she said.

"The church hasn't known what homosexuality is about," Rev. Rex Kaney said. "It's time to find out about these folks."

"The scriptures, it seems to me, from beginning to end, show God continually identifying with the oppressed people in the world," he said.

Rev. Kaney believes that readers who approach the *Bible* as a rule book for modern living must also consider that it speaks positively about the owning of slaves, recommends death for anyone who curses his or her parents, and forbids the wearing of clothes made of more than one fabric.

"That's part of what I try to talk with people about, in terms of how important it is to stand up and say, 'I'm sure you knew, but in case you didn't, this is who I am, and you need to keep that in mind when you're making decisions about people's lives.'"

- David Tucker

Florida Activists Fight Quarantine Proposal

Miami - Florida activists wasted no time in responding to Governor Martinez' proposal to quarantine AIDS carriers. *Southern Voice* reached the head of Cure AIDS Now in Miami, Bob Kunst, as he returned from a press conference where he attacked the Governor and his proposal.

Martinez outraged people throughout the country when he said, "The time has come to quarantine those whose character and conduct are a clear threat to society." His proposal was called "hysterical" by Kunst.

The proposal includes a facility to incarcerate up to 22 people in Lanatana, and six juveniles in a state hospital in Orlando, at a cost of \$1.1 million. That money could be put to better use, said Kunst who heads Miami-based Cure AIDS Now. "We could use it to provide 28 shelter beds for people living with AIDS (PLWA), we could hire 15 social workers, we could feed 500 sufferers, we could buy 100,000 condoms and distribute them to prostitutes, we could buy a computer to collect AIDS information from around the world." The chances of success for the bill are seen as small. "I don't really think it's going to pass. If it does, it's only going to

embarrass the state. We'll make sure of that."

Kunst explained the bill as "political nonsense," saying, "This is no more than a political move designed to create a national campaign issue and divert attention from the facts. The facts are that Florida ranks 47th in the nation in health care services and 49th in education."

Reaction from around the state seems to back the activist's view that support is lacking. There have been no major endorsements, although the head of the AIDS Taskforce in the Florida Senate does support it, but many in the Legislature have objected to the emphasis on the quarantine idea. In fact, the state already has the power to quarantine, according to Kunst.

Cure AIDS Now is preparing a comprehensive proposal to be sent to the Legislature. In addition to increased care for the suffering, the proposal will deal with education and administration of AIDS-related services in Florida.

As part of his strategy, he told *Southern Voice*, he wants to collect signatures from four or five hundred delegates to the Democratic Convention in Atlanta. That, he said, would allow him to be nominated as a Vice Presidential candidate, giving him the floor of the Convention for a few minutes.

Kunst requests that anyone wishing to help at the Democratic Convention write to him at: Cure AIDS Now, 2240 South Dixie Hwy., Coconut Grove, FL 33133, or call him at (305)865-1490.

-F.G.

Infighting, Continued

Continued From Front Page

to include all those who wanted to participate in this discussion. I presume that in our coming meeting we will fashion a proposed structure which represents the community. ... I learned today that representatives of the Atlanta Gay Center have apparently decided not to participate in this cooperative process."

Instead, the AGC Task Force printed a proposal to form a new advisory committee in the April 15 issue of *The News*, an AGC publication. That proposal called for the Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations (MACGLO) to serve as the temporary organizing group for the new committee.

Jeffrey Laymon, executive secretary of MACGLO, said he did not receive notice of the proposal until it was presented to him prior to the April 20 meeting.

Local pundits have already begun to call the Wednesday meeting the "Battle of Walton Street," and the "meeting that never met."

The smoldering undercurrent of tension burst into flames when ACLU member and longtime foe of the AGC George Brenning vociferously objected to Wilson taping the proceedings. Said Brenning, "They even misrepresent facts they have on tape." He accused Wilson of doctoring audio-tape and printing malicious lies about him in *The News*, which he referred to as "this rag."

Those present voted 5 to 4 to turn the tape recorder off. Voting in favor were Cathy Woolard, newly-elected president of the ACLU lesbian/gay chapter, Max Fain, secretary, Brenning, Guerrero, Kluka, and Laymon. Those opposed were Gripp, Swanson, Wilson and Dr. Donald Smith, all members of the AGC Task Force.

After losing the vote, Wilson still refused to turn the tape recorder off, and demanded that individuals state their votes for the record so that the tape would pick up their voices. He declared that he would be "physically removed" from the premises before he would stop taping.

In light of Wilson's intransigence, Guerrero called for and received a motion to adjourn. No new meeting has been scheduled.

In a carefully worded statement, Woolard said, "I think they were deliberately trying to intimidate and disrupt the meeting." Kluka went so far as to suggest that the entire community "consider them (the AGC) organization non grata."

Wilson refused to comment to *Southern Voice*.

Gripp did agree to comment, however, and stressed the importance of an "accurate record... We offer to the community what was in our letter (to Napper). A very democratic, inclusive organization. That's what Napper said he wanted."

Commented Laymon, "No community speaks with a single voice. The Advisory Committee has functioned well in the past." He predicted Woolard will appoint a diverse panel of people, as all past presidents have done, to the Police Advisory Committee, and re-establish relations with Commissioner Napper.

-Chris Duncan

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LOBBYING: Whether it's AIDS related discrimination, or gay rights protections; Whether opposing a judicial nomination or pressing for immigration reform, NGLTF lobbies the federal government on the full range of gay issues.

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Taking Care of Our Children and Ourselves

As lesbian and gay people we are often diligent in our attempts (at least in theory) to embrace people from oppressed minorities. We strive to ensure the rights of all others, understanding that "none of us are free until all are free". However, as a community we fail frequently when we do not include and support a large and silent voice: the children of lesbian and gay parents.

There has been a lot of discussion about our desires to nurture children and our choice to take on a parental role. The case is often made that we are not thinking for ourselves when we choose to be parents. Instead, we are following prescribed social norms that oppress us and don't allow us the freedom or energy to live our lives productively. There is a kernel of truth in those words. Indeed parents (traditionally mothers) have given a great deal of their energy to nurturing children with little or no support from society and certainly not from the lesbian and gay community. However, children are human beings (contrary to popular belief) with thoughts and feelings that are always unique and often very exciting. They, in return, have gifts for us if we will listen.

Many of us do have children. By virtue of the fact that their parents are lesbian and gay, they too are a part of our community. Regardless of their consciousness of their own sexual orientation, we have a community responsibility to include their voices as part of our community. We cannot pretend that the children do not exist.

This does not mean that lesbian and gay parents should be delegated solely for educating and nurturing children. Everyone is responsible. We attempt to educate the media, government employees, our families of origin and people we come in contact with. However, we do not discuss educating children similarly. Perhaps this is partly because they are perceived as not having power, therefore, unworthy of our attention. This is a very limiting and dangerous view.

We need to begin to create environments where our children are welcome rather than occasionally tolerated. When organizations plan events, provisions for children should be an automatic and credible part of the planning process. It is an intolerable assumption that childcare provided at events will be staffed by parents. Event organizers have often said that people do not utilize childcare provisions, thus conclude that it is not important. Isn't it understandable? It is not enough to provide a small space away from activities and an undercurrent of hatred and unwelcomeness. Given the choice, most people would not choose to be in a place where they are at best tolerated and often the source of political discussion on their "right to be".

We need to welcome lesbian and gay parents and their children. Children are not inherently bad because they fall under the range of acceptable chronological age. We can learn a great deal about each other and ourselves by listening to someone who has not weathered the fears of our society's oppressive values. Many of us expend a lot of energy getting in touch with the "child within" yet we shut children out. Perhaps it's our homophobia or anger at anything we perceive as being a part of heterosexual society that causes us to deny the existence of children in our community. To do this because the children may be the product of a heterosexual union is foolish, not to mention injurious, to our children and to ourselves.

It's time we face the fact that there are children in our community; it is not only their parents' responsibility but **everyone's** responsibility to care for them and to love them. Children are great teachers—it's time to start listening. That way, we take care of the children and ourselves.

Pedophile/Homosexual: The Myth Lives On

Stories of sexual abuse of male children by male perpetrators are hot topics for the media these days and they have been for some time. The daily and more frequent horror stories of female children abused by males are seldom mentioned. As lesbians and gay men, it's understandable for us to assume that the same-sex aspect is the underlying reason for the media attention. But is the alleged "homosexual" nature of the crime the primary reason we are served up story after story of men molesting male children? The answer is more complicated than that. Both homophobia and sexism are driving the media in this coverage.

Historically, male children have been more highly valued as a group than female children. Also, it is still assumed by a large portion of our society, that men have an inherent right to be sexually aggressive where women are expected to be passive and accept this imbalance of power. The media reflect all of these values. The reason we see more stories of sexual abuse of males than females is because the abuse of males is perceived as a more heinous crime. Rape puts the male child in the traditional role of "female". And like it or believe it or not, the female role is near the bottom of the hierarchical power ladder, right down there with gays and lesbians, people of color and people with disabilities. The media's emphasized coverage of man-to-boy abuse is not just homophobic, it's sexist.

The majority of child sexual abuse cases involve a heterosexual male perpetrator and a female child. This is well-documented and statistics are easily available from the Georgia Council on Child Abuse. But the media do not report on these unless the story also involves mutilation or murder. It appears that incidents of grown men sexually abusing little girls is—commonplace, expected, and therefore, not newsworthy.

The homophobic aspects of mainstream media coverage of man-to-boy sexual abuse come into play when they make no distinction between pedophilia and homosexuality. No disclaimer or statement is ever made that says, "the overwhelming majority of gay men are not pedophiles," and they should say that; it is irresponsible and dangerous not to do so. When a reader or viewer learns that a man has sexually abused a boy, a logical assumption is made that the man is a homosexual, but this may or may not be the case. By failing to make a distinction between homosexuality and pedophilia by omitting that information, the tired old myth that gays "recruit" children is perpetuated ad nauseum. And sins of omission are as dangerous as sins of commission. As long as people are fed the myth, our battle for equal rights under the law will continue to be thwarted. We will never be seen as a "minority" that deserves fair treatment as long as the media present us as criminals. We will continue to have violence against us as well, because the myth also gives license to people to "bash the queers".

The myth of homosexual as child abuser is the one we must fight first, and the hardest, because it is the one that continues to be put in the face of the American public on a daily basis. Until we educate the media, we cannot educate the public. Unfortunately, today more than ever, the media is the message.

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Atlanta Needs



JOBS WITH JUSTICE

For more information call — 786-8631

Atlanta, Ga. — April 30th

Gather at World Congress Center 12 noon, March at 1:00 pm
Rally at 2:00 pm (In Civic Center Parking Lot)

Jobs With Justice: A Nationwide Campaign for Workers' Rights, will hold a march and rally in Atlanta on Saturday, April 30th. **Jobs With Justice** is a national coalition of community, religious, civil rights, labor and women's groups who have come together to build unity and support for basic workers' rights and to garner support for the rights of all people.

Thanks to the efforts of Cathy Woolard and The Atlanta March Committee, the Georgia Call for **Jobs With Justice** includes "sexual orientation" in the mission statement. It reads: **It is time that we aggressively reassert the great goals of the human rights and labor movements of justice and equality for all people regardless of race, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or national origin.**

Some of **Jobs With Justice** national endorsers include: Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, Inc., Coalition of Labor Union Women, National Organization for Women and National Farmers Union among others.

Is Randy Miller less manly?

To the Editor:

Enclosed please find my letter to WZGC-FM (Z-93) regarding the on-air antics of Randy Miller. It is my understanding that, in addition to the incident covered in my letter, he has a frequent character by the name of Les Manley (sic).

Since that initial letter to the management of the station (to which I have yet to receive a reply...apparently the station is lacking in business etiquette as well as acumen) I was confronted with the on-air character Monday, April 19th at approximately 8:15 a.m. The gist of the sketch centered around the loss of his poodle, FROU-FROU. Les said that he had been attending the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians & Gay Men (SECLGM) and in all of the parties and excitement, his doggie had been lost. The situation degenerated from that point. I hope that many of the participants in the Conference are made aware of this slur, as the seriousness of the Conference and the issues it addressed are not a laughing matter.

It is distressing that any venue of mass media should be allowed to maintain such a blatant and high-profile disregard for any organization whose efforts are towards the betterment of our community. To underscore it with demeaning humor is an affront not only to the many professionals in attendance at the Conference, but to all of us in the gay community.

I certainly hope that others shall take it upon themselves to not see this as an isolated incident, but as a dangerous crack in the fragile world of acceptance and respectability that we in the gay/lesbian community labor daily to construct in our personal and professional lives.

In closing, I would urge others who share my anger and frustration to call or write the station management and echo the feeling. The station number is (404) 851-9393.

Sincerely,
Jim Warren

March 15, 1988

Community Relations Department
WZGC-FM Radio
1100 Johnson Ferry Road, Room 593
Atlanta, Georgia 30342

Management:

This morning at approximately 9:25 a.m., the Randy Miller morning show contacted the Marlin Beach Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, while on the air. This was precured by a reference to an article which appeared in the Atlanta morning paper on this same date about an effort to establish an organized area for a gay resort.

While Mr. Miller lisped about, waiting for his call to be answered, the young lady(?) on the air with him chuckled in the background, obviously a cohort to the adolescent slant of the whole "bit".

Mr. Miller then spoke with an owner of the hotel, whom—and I kid you not—was asked DIRECTLY by Mr. Miller on the air if he was gay. The gentleman stated that he was not, but most of the management was, indeed, homosexual. Mr. Miller then asked if "the guys frolic" around there. Other than being an inane question, what did Mr. Miller expect as an answer? It is a resort, people are on vacation, they are drinking...I would imagine that at the very least that they are indeed frolicking.

It would be interesting to see what the public reaction would be to a phone call from Mr. Miller to a black person in the news while Mr. Miller did a poor imitation of Mammy from *Gone With the Wind*.

Incidentally, if Mr. Miller has a subconscious need for gay jokes, perhaps he would like to know that the Marlin Beach Hotel is the same hotel that was used in the film *Where the Boys Are*. Unfortunately,

we in the gay community have just about exhausted that knee-slapper.

Sincerely,
Jim Warren

cc: ETC. Magazine
Atlanta Gay Center
FCC

NAP Pops Up, Again!

To the Editor:

I strongly object to allowing Patricia Jackson or anyone in the New Alliance Party (NAP) to use *Southern Voice* as a vehicle to publicize NAP's view or promote Fulani's campaign. There were surely enough issues brought up in my article in the third issue of *Southern Voice* to raise questions about this "independent" party with ties to LaRouche. The article "AHA Defends Lack of Accessible Housing" (Vol. 1, #4, p.2) was informative and it's great if NAP members help with this issue (with no strings attached!), but building independent parties has nothing to do with the fight for accessible housing. The quotes from Weinstein had no place in the article. Given NAP's history of manipulation and infiltration (see article, page of Vol. 1 #3), I hope that *Southern Voice* publishes nothing else that tries to give credibility to NAP.

Sincerely,
Beth D. Coonan

Lesbian-raised Babies Can "Carry Vision"

To the Editor:

I was very upset by the editorial on "Why Are Lesbians Having Babies?" by Deignen in your last issue, and would like to address her personally on this question.

First of all, for a lesbian to choose motherhood takes much contemplation and self-questioning. We are not used to the idea for a variety of reasons:

1. The society we've all been raised in says "lesbian" means never having children.
2. Until recently it would've meant having sex (oh god!) with a man.
3. We are only now beginning to feel like we have something to offer instead of hiding.

So when you write that we want to have children "because of a sadly misdirected urge toward self assertion", I say that assertion is long over due! As for finding a reason to reproduce, let us not underestimate the as-yet unknown consequence of AIDS. You may feel it is premature to be concerned about humankind being wiped off this earth, and although I don't feel it will come to that, I do have concerns about our future in regards to building a society with sympathies toward lesbians, gay men and other oppressed peoples. Although having children is not the only answer to teaching & informing the public, what better way to insure proper knowledge that to raise a child (or children) in a lesbian home? "Having vision" you say, "not babies". Babies are our vision. They are our future. And it's high time there are children born into this crazy world who will carry our vision without having to fight off straight-world attitudes from the word go.

Seeing a lesbian with a child, whether conceived by artificial insemination or in the parent's "straight days" makes me feel hope, gratitude, and admiration.

Sincerely,
M. Lutz,
Mother



I DON'T KNOW! IT SEEMS LIKE TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION TO ME!

"Four years ago I learned my three children are gay"

As parents we tend to make definite plans for our children at birth. Certainly, I was not different in my attitude. Their future would entail the usual, marriage, children and careers. As their mother I saw them through the usual adventures which take place, bumps, bruises, school days, teen years and all that accompanies the process indicative of learning responsibility, thus qualifying you to graduate into and participate in adulthood. This state of adulthood would be the realization of my original purpose, to see them educated, married and eventually parents. Their state of parenthood would perpetuate the generation and make me a grandmother, my right as a now seasoned parent. Being very conscious of my plans, I attempted to dictate each phase of growth.

Four years ago, I learned my three children are gay. Shock, anger, guilt and grief took control of my life. As I worked through each painful phase I was forced to

reassess my expectations. Gradually, the realization of who they are rather than what they are took priority. They had failed to adhere to my plans, but as individuals they were very successful at achieving adulthood, possessing the qualities I find most important. Acceptance made me aware I had not failed at all. The support and love I receive from them creates a far more valuable relationship between us than most parents are every lucky enough to share. They are not different, their needs are exactly the same as mine or yours. We each need love and emotional support. What makes them so special is the ability to give this as well as receive it.

Proud is the way I feel about them. Each of them developed their own path of life which is their privilege, not mine. As adults they contribute to their careers, they respect the elderly, the sick and the young and most important they love and trust me. I feel very fortunate to be the mother of these nice people.

-Loretta Rouse

Loretta Rouse is the President of P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Atlanta chapter.

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

Civil Rights Commission To Look Into AIDS: What are They Up To Now?

Washington - President Reagan's controversial Civil Rights Commission is stirring up suspicions in the minds of Civil Rights activists, gay and lesbian groups and AIDS rights groups. The Commission long criticized by many, including congressional leaders for rolling back progress on civil rights, has announced it will begin holding hearings on AIDS next month.

Jeff Levi, Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington told *Southern Voice* that he will testify in the hearings,

even though he does not believe this is the proper body to conduct a study on AIDS. It would be, he said, "if this were a true Civil Rights Commission."

The Commission has been the subject of strong criticism by the Congress which has consistently reduced its funding. Levi, a Washington-based attorney and long-time activist, said the Commission is biased and anti-civil rights—not just for gays. That view is shared by many on Capitol Hill. Several Congressmen have recently questioned the need to spend another \$200,000, the estimated cost of the study, when there's already a Presidential Commission on AIDS working full time on the problem.

Suspicious about the true motives behind the study are fueled by the discovery of a memo written by the Counsel to Attorney General Ed Meese. In the memo, William Bradford Reynolds urges the Civil Rights Commission to "polarize the debate" on AIDS and several other subjects, saying AIDS is not a civil rights issue, but one of

"public health and safety."

Commenting on the statement, Levi said, "It sets up a false dichotomy. It implies you can't protect public health and civil rights at the same time. In order to do good public health that requires cooperation (from the public) you need to protect civil rights." He said the memo by Bradford Reynolds, which is probably one of the main reasons behind the study, is anti-gay. That is likely to set the tone for the hearings. For one thing, Levi explained, they leave open the question of whether AIDS is casually transmitted. The hearings will consider testimony from witnesses who will argue against the scientifically accepted fact that AIDS cannot be caught by having only casual contact with an infected person.

Skepticism about the objectivity of the study is shared by the American Civil Liberties Union. Nevertheless, representatives of the ACLU and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will testify in the hearings scheduled for May 16th through May 18th. They say they will at least present their views to the Commission.

Levi, who will represent the NGLTF in the hearings, told *Southern Voice* he thinks this is "a last ditch attempt by the right wing people in the Reagan administration to impose their values."

- F.G.

Lesbian/Gay Pride Gears Up for June

Atlanta—The Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee (ALGPC) in conjunction with the Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Lesbian and Gay Organizations (MACGLO), announced tentative plans for the week-long celebration of lesbian and gay pride, scheduled for June 18th through the 26th.

According to Dale Biggers, of the ALGPC Steering Committee, the week will culminate in a parade from the Civic Center to Piedmont Park, where a "festive" air will prevail.

"We are going to have speakers, of course, plus activities ranging from volleyball to sunbathing. We are also lining up entertainment for an evening concert," said Biggers.

Activities currently being coordinated by MACGLO-member organizations include a prom night, AIDS memorial services, sports tournaments to include volleyball, softball and bowling, a series of theatrical productions produced by the Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project, Inc. (SAME), and an extended family-night dinner.

People interested in volunteering or offering services may contact Biggers at (404) 662-6748, or MACGLO at (404) 633-4754.

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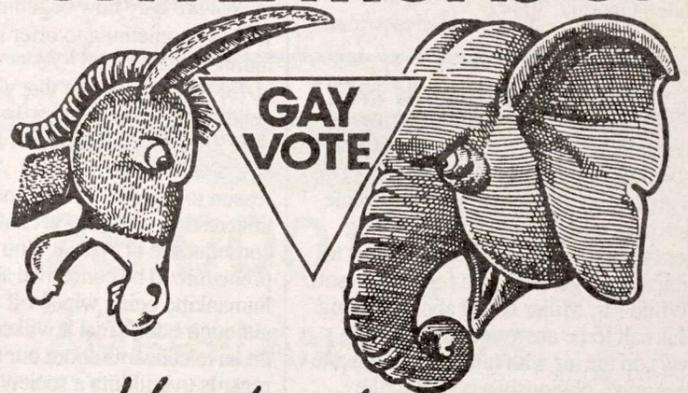
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If you can help, contact Bill Kunkel at (404) 873-4661. He will be in Atlanta for three days only - May 5, 6 & 7.

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NYC, NY 10003 (212) 477-4220**

Black Feminist Expressions

A Dangerous Knowing; Four Black Women Poets, by Barbara Burford, Jackie Kay, Grace Nichols, Gabriela Pearse. Sheba Feminist Publishers. \$6.95 softcover.

In these days when the Black woman's voice is being choked down under the guise of "budget cuts" and "not suitable for a broad (white) audience," it is no less than a miracle that *A Dangerous Knowing; Four Black Women Poets* made it onto a bookstore shelf at all. In fact, this volume celebrates itself as the first anthology of the poetry of four British-based Black feminist writers. Full of unhindered and startling imagery, it stands as a testimony to the depth of Black feeling and the complex power inherent in Black love.

The poetry of Barbara Burford is lyrical and meant to be read out loud. Her sounds are like a walk through soft brush, as in "The Other":

Four you are the salmon leaper
in my headlong flood. Stretching, flashing.
The deep undershimmer of my still riverbottom.
The smooth pebble
cool in my desert mouth.

Closely linked to this steady sensuality are her unmatched indignation in "The Nth Day of Christmas," and her loneliness for a baby lost in "Christine." Burford's sense of fun and adventure shows in such lines as:

Down off my perch.
Runnin' on all fours,
a rose between my teeth.
Down-Looky here!

in "State of the Art," and her strong bond with women and herself is apparent in her "Women Talking":

And we are mistresses

of strong, wild air,
leapers and sounders
of depths and barriers.

The magic of her poetry is in the way she handles the subtle yet important relationship between sound and imagery.

Jackie Kay was born in Scotland. Her voice is assertive and irreverent, as in "So You Think I'm a Mule?":

I have to tell you:
take your beady eyes offa my skin;
don't concern yourself with
the "dialectic of mixtures";
don't pull that strange blood crap
on me Great White Mother.

Kay's feminism is keen and rampant in her lines, but not to distraction. In "Happy Ending" she muses:

Maybe Rapunzel
gets rescued by a
woman firm of muscle
and strong of heart
who takes the scissors out
after dinner and says
"You could use a hair cut"...

and then ends with:

Whilst we lie on
this solid bed
we make our own stories.

showing the value she places on self-determination and strong community. The power of women does not elude her in "The Sky Changes Every Second Now":

...that ancient Black Woman
waiting within
for me to call her
let her out to roam
about my hopes and fears...

but the sense in tragic death does elude her. Jackie Kay says in "And I Still Cannot Believe It":

I awoke this morning
crying for you
reaching out to hold you
desperate for movement
for time to stretch our possibilities
for hours to let a sprinkling
of our dreams take
root

Kay's word-music is rhythmic in "Remi" but impacts like glass. She writes:

I sang to you before
my soul echoed a longing
you returned
we held each other's need
and our sweat stuck
our bare Black skins together,
we tried to banish that image forever

The poetry of native Guyanan Grace Nichols is steeped in the roots of Black culture, and forges strong links between women and magic, nature and dreams. Her imagery is simple, yet haunting and sulfurous, as in "Up My Spine":

I see the old dry-head woman
leaning on her hoe
twist-up and shaky like a cripple insect

I see the pit of her eye

I hear her rattle bone laugh
putting a chill up my spine

She also pronounces her own power and writes of rebellion and change. In "I Coming Back" and "Wind A Change," Nichols gives direction to the means by which she believes revolution will come about:

Wind a change
blow soft but
steadfast...

But pass easy
up the big house
way
let them sleep
they happy white sleep

Yes, Wind a change
keep yuh coming fire secret

Grace Nichols also has her own slim volume of poetry, *The Fat Black Woman's Poems* (Virago Press, London) that is well worth the purchase.

Lastly, there is the work of Gabriela Pearse, who was born in Columbia. Her voice is young and optimistic, vulnerable and fresh. Although some of her imagery does not work for this reader, as in "Credo":

Continued on Page 14

Designer Lines

Forty Ways to Sunday, by Robert McCartney Moore, Knights Press, Pound Ridge, NY, 1987: paperback \$8.50.

A note on the first page of *Forty Ways to Sunday* explains that the title is American slang for "total confusion." The novel is anything but confused, however. It's a fairly normal tale about two men who fall in love, who are pulled apart by circumstances, and then ultimately reunited.

The circumstances are the international world of wealth and glamor, as personified by the wealthy and glamorous Pola. Pola's husband is Sydney Straight, the dynamic hotel developer, who bears some resemblance to New York real estate mogul Donald Trump. Straight builds an opulent hotel with a glassed garden in the heart of Manhattan, and this project leads to our two heroes, Donald and David.

David McCartney is the narrator. He is young and blond, and not afraid to call himself an interior decorator. He is just getting his start in business as the story opens, but his love life is nowhere on the map. By chance, he meets Donald Meier on the street. Donald is also young, but while David feels like an "urban wren," Donald is tall, flamboyant, sexy, and know-it-all. Donald is also Jewish, for what that may be worth. He bosses David unmercifully, David loves it, and they have fabulous sex - often.

When they first meet, Donald is a dance instructor, diddling his lady customers. He knows plants, though, so David steers him into business as a garden designer. The two collaborate on the hotel and on Pola's Long Island house, then proceed to more spectacular projects for Straight, all over the world. As if to justify his name, Straight has sex with any woman in sight, but especially with the

bewitching Princess Itchypetal, from Mexico. Jealous Pola seduces gay David, and amid much decadent society intrigue, marries him. They go so far as to begat a daughter, but David is never really won over to heterosex. On business trips to Madrid and Tokyo, he manages some torrid gay sex scenes, as Donald does likewise in southern France and Peru. The two finally argue themselves back together. Pola returns to her husband, who has been suitably humbled, and a British nanny takes charge of the baby.

The great thing about all this activity is that it is told in dialogue--fast, witty, racy lines of repartee. It sounds like a Noel Coward play, specifically *Design for Living*. Indeed, the characters are essentially Noel Coward types. While this approach sparkles, it can also prove a little exhausting, like the conversation at a charity ball. In the end, everyone seems motivated mostly by a need to sound smart. The crux of the plot--Pola's cynical manipulation of David--remains unexplored. For such an event to happen, what would be the psychological givens? What would be the consequences in the real world?

The real world, even for the very rich, is not at all what Moore presents. And his version of the world of interior design is strictly fluff. I say this as a designer, with experience working for two of the top names in New York, Angelo Donghia and David Easton.

Still, if not taken too seriously, Moore's romps through the Rainbow Room, the island of Delos, and Madison Square Garden on the back of an elephant, his fixation on diamonds and gourmet food, and his frequent sexcapades--all these make for a fun read. The minor characters, like old Miss Hecker, are first-rate, and the use of body gestures to supplement the dialogue is dramatically right. I'd be curious to see Moore tackle more down-to-earth material--meat as opposed to meringue. His comic gift is nothing short of brilliant.

- Robert Boucheron

HELD
OVER

MATH AND AFTERMATH

by Jim Grimsley

May 5 - 15 Thursday - Sunday

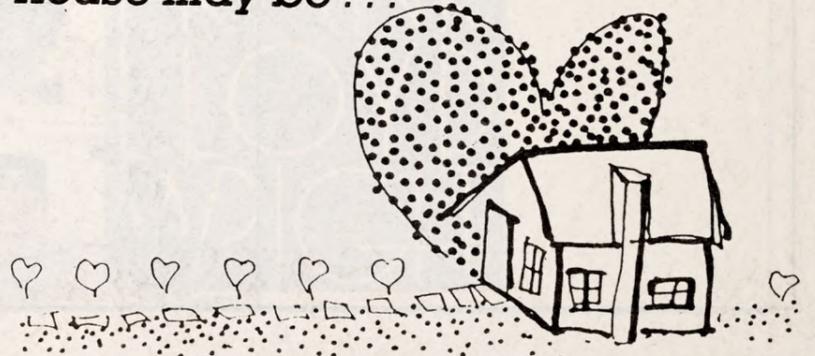
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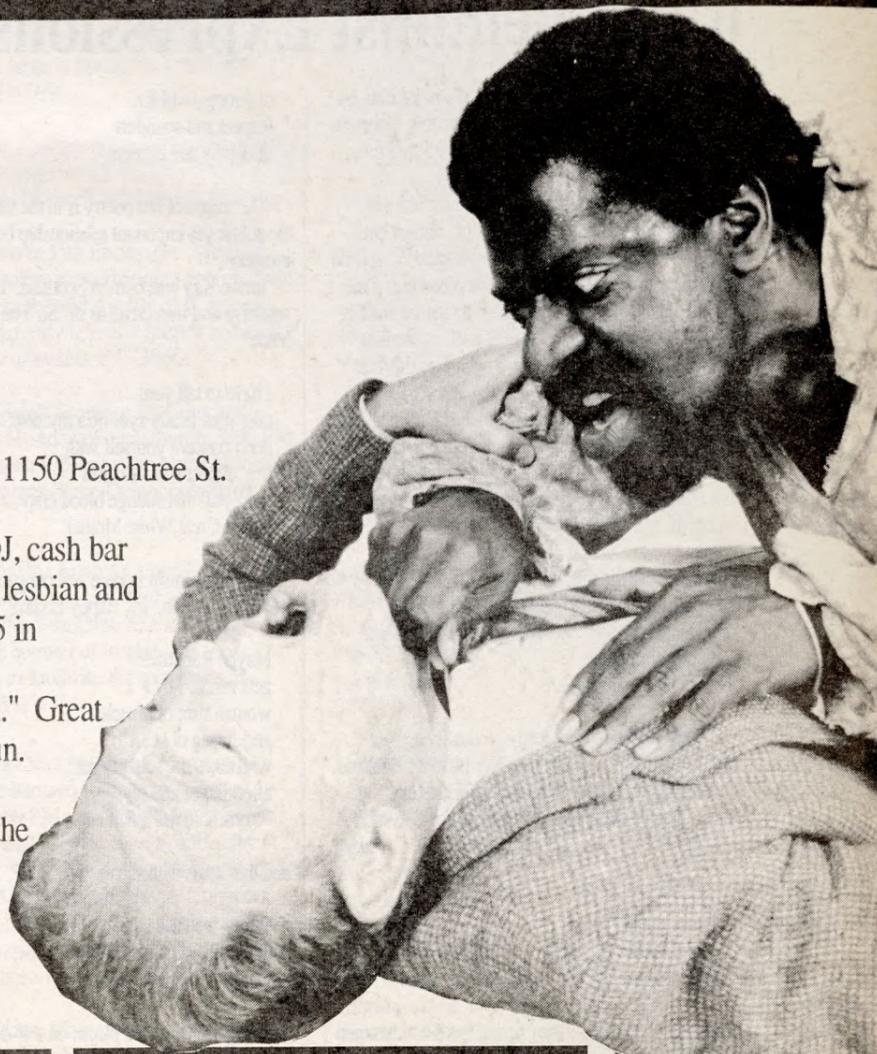
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THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

- Different** - Back by popular demand! April 28th-29th only. Peachtree Playhouse. 1150 Peachtree St. 8:00 p.m. \$15. 827-9678.
- Nifty 50's Spring Dance** - April 30th. Pull out your bobby sox, it's time to bop! DJ, cash bar and prizes. Hosted by Congregation Bet Haverim - Atlanta's synagogue serving the lesbian and gay community. First Existentialist Church. 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6 at the door, \$5 in advance from Charis Books and The Boy Next Door.
- Inman Park Festival** - April 30th-May 1st. "Atlanta's best outdoor spring festival." Great shopping, music and food, food, food! Tour of homes Noon to 6 p.m. on Sat and Sun. The best people-watching in town this weekend.
- The Boot Dance** - April 28th-May 1st. A daring play by Edgar White dramatizes the effect of racism as it pervades the lives of four people. Pictured at right are actors, Afemo Omilami and Stuart Culpepper. May 1st is the final performance. 3:00 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. performances at 8:00 p.m. Academy Theatre. 892-0880 for reservations and information. *Photo by Jim Alexander.*



THURSDAY

28

•Angela Motter Band - Little 5 Points Community Pub. \$3.
 •Different. Peachtree Playhouse. 8:00 p.m. \$15. 827-9678 for reservations. Tonight & tomorrow night only. *Photo by Barry Forbuss.*
 •Bonnie Raitt. Center Stage. 9:00 p.m. 873-2500.



•Women and AIDS - Charis Books. 7:30 p.m. Interpreted for the hearing impaired. 524-0304.

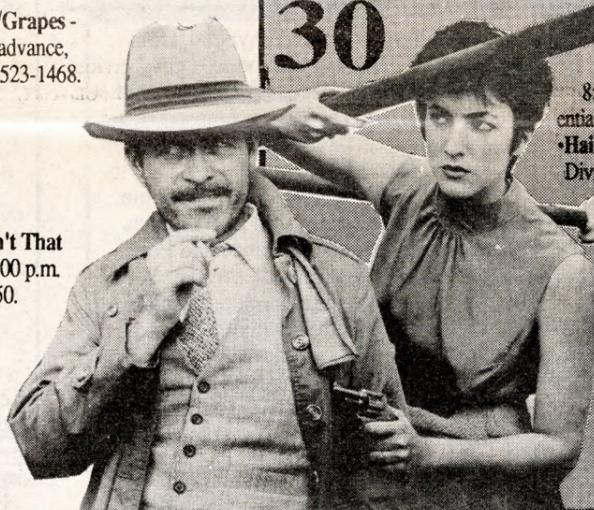
•inside OUT - the "International Gay & Lesbian Radio Magazine": WRFG (89.3 FM). 6:00 p.m. and every Thursday at this time.

FRIDAY

29

•Iron Butterfly/Grapes - Metroplex. \$11 advance, \$13 at the door. 523-1468.

•Because Pretty Girls Aren't That Smart - Horizon Theatre. 8:00 p.m. Through May 21st. 584-7450. *Photo Right.*



6

•Spring AIDS Action '88. Noon today - Noon tomorrow. Georgia State Capitol.
 •All quilt panels to be displayed at the Atlanta NAMES Project Quilt must be turned into AID Atlanta today. 1132 W. Peachtree St. 872-0600.



SATURDAY

30

•Nifty 50's Spring Dance - 8:00 p.m. First Existentialist Church. 642-3467.
 •Hairspray Party - Club Rio. Divine Look-a-like Contest. Tease-Off. Hair Do's and Hair Don'ts. 525-7467.
 •Jobs for Justice Rally. Civic Center. 10:00 a.m.
 •The Wellness Workshop: An AIDS Survival Course. Colony Square Hotel. 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

7

•Split Britches - 8:00 p.m. First Existentialist Church, 470 Candler Park Drive.
 •Waterfalling - Atlanta Venture Sports. A day in the Mountains. Jeff or Gary. 634-1511.



1

•Rashomon - Closes T p.m. 872-0665.
 •Inman Park Festival
 •The Boot Dance - Ac 892-0880. Final perform

8

•Jazz Master Concert and Abbey Lincoln Tr p.m. 892-5021.

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Next Week's Highlights

- Spring AIDS Action '88** - Noon on Friday, May 6th to Noon on Saturday, May 7th. A 24-hour rally at the Georgia State Capitol to protest our state's inadequate funding of AIDS education, research and treatment. Speakers rally on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Entertainment, exhibits and food throughout the 24 hours. Bring your mother, your brother, your lover - and don't forget your sleeping bag! 377-8312 for more information.
- Split Britches** - May 7th. A one-act play performed by a 3-woman group of the same name. "An imagined re-creation of a day in the life" of three women - an idiot savant, an aging "spinster" and the lesbian who cares for them. Split Britches is a company with "fire in their pockets." Don't miss this one. For real. First Existentialist Church. 8:00 p.m. \$7. 242-0256.
- Frank Lloyd Wright and the Johnson Wax Building: Creating a Corporate Cathedral.** Through June 19th. Features the only examples of Wright's non-residential architecture that remain unchanged today. High Museum of Art. Tues-Sat, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wed until 9:00 p.m., Sun Noon-5:00 p.m. 892-HIGH.
- Because Pretty Girls Aren't That Smart** - April 29th - May 21st. Who needs a man to get out of a jam? Playwright Patty Lynch takes favorite female/male myths and tosses, turns and twists them around in this action-packed and funny "detective" story. Horizon Theatre. Thurs-Sat at 8:00 p.m. 584-7450 for reservations and information.

MONDAY

2

- Artists in Georgia: 1988 - Nexus** Contemporary Art Center through May 14. 688-1970.
- Compleat Beatles** - WGTV (Ch. 8). 9:00 p.m. Yea, yea, yea.

TUESDAY

3

- Death of a Porn Queen.** WGTV (Ch. 8). 9:00 p.m.
- The Atlanta Chamber Players.** Cannon Chapel at Emory University. 872-3360.

WEDNESDAY

4

- GSU Gay Student Alliance.** 10:00 a.m. 651-3636.
- Women Artists Respond to AIDS** - Rebecca Ranson, playwright. Sponsored by Women's Studies, GSU. General Classroom Bldg #939, 12:30 p.m.

9

- A Touch of the Poet** - Academy's Twilight Theatre. 6:00 p.m. Play runs through June 4. 892-0880 for reservations.

•**Crystal/Form 88** - Illumina Gallery, Clear Creek Center, 1529D Piedmont. Through May 28. Feature piece by Caroline Montague. 875-7617.

10

- Atlanta March Committee** - 7:30. North Highland Branch Library.

11

- Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibition.** High Museum of Art. Open until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. 881-0452.

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ORGANIZATIONS

Registry

AALGA- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance. 1st Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. Quaker House. A political and social organization for black lesbians and gay men. 523-3376.

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

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

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

AGC- Atlanta Gay Center. 876-5372. 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. A semi-professional community oriented chorus of male voices. Membership open to all interested singers and non-singers alike. 296-6581.

ALFA- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance. 2nd Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. A lesbian feminist organization which welcomes lesbians of all races, religions, political orientation, economic status, occupation and degree of openness. 378-6769 for more information and newsletter.

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

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

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

AID Atlanta- A community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to all people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. 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 Business & Professional Guild- A non-profit service organization comprised of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. 2nd Tuesday of each month. Place varies. Membership and further information: 872-1922.

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus- A community-oriented choral group of women's voices. Membership is open to all women interested in singing. Chorus practice held each

Sunday, 6:00-8:30 PM at the First Existentialist Church at 470 Candler Park Dr. 355-8894 or 435-4498.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Group- Thursday nights. Call the Gay Help Line at 892-0061 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.

Gay Student Alliance of Georgia State University. Every Wednesday, 10:00 AM, Room 212, Georgia State Student Center. To educate students, faculty and staff on matters of

concern to gay and lesbian students. The community at large is invited to attend and participate. 651-3636.

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. Bringing professional gay women together for the fun of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events. 493-3966.

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

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

MCC Atlanta- Metropolitan Community Church of the Blessed Redeemer. Sunday Services at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM evangelistic service. Mid-week services on Wednesday at 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. Office hours Noon-6:00 PM, Tuesday-Friday. A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment for individuals and couples. 872-2246.

NAPWA- Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS. 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. 1132 W. Peachtree St. A political, social, and

educational organization which exists to confront the AIDS crisis. Membership is open to all individuals with AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex. 874-7926.

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

PLGC- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns/More Light. 1st Sunday of each month. Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage. 377-5830.

SAME- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc. 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. 584-2104.

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

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

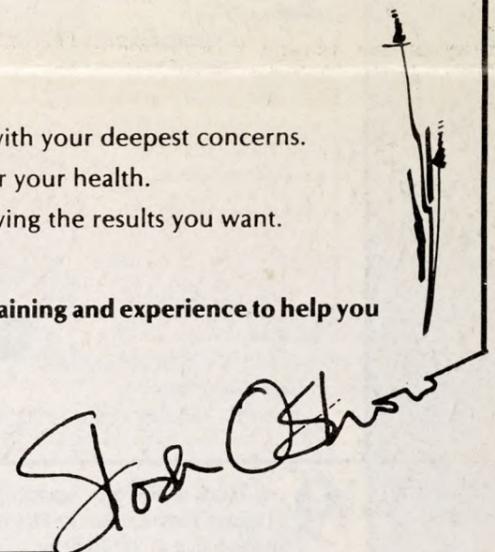
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Colleene Colley: Pioneer, Sportswoman, Champion

Olympic weightlifting is not to be confused with powerlifting or bodybuilding. Powerlifting athletes primarily rely on brute strength, and their competitions are executions of three movements, bench press, back squat and deadlift. Bodybuilders' contests are judged with regard to looks, showmanship and too often a judge's whim. In an Olympic weightlifting meet, two classical lifts are performed, the snatch and the clean and jerk. If you refer to the photographs that break down the snatch, notice it is performed with a wide grip and is completed with one constant movement. Whereas, the clean and jerk is first cleaned to the shoulders, and after a few seconds, during which time the lifter takes a breath and regroups, the jerk is accomplished. In competition, the lifter gets three attempts at each lift, and the highest score from each is combined to provide a total. If all three attempts of either lift are not successful, the lifter is disqualified. My favorite description of the sport is it is a ballet with weights. Strength must be combined with flexibility and endless repetition of the lifts to gain technique worthy of becoming the claiber lifter I plan to highlight here. No one has equalled, in my opinion, the beauty of finesse and power Colleene exudes in her technique with the lifts.

Colleene Colley is the only person I know to be raised in an exclusively female environment. Her mother divorced when she was four, and from the ages of eight to sixteen, she lived with her mother and her roommate. Upon interviewing Mrs. Colley, she had this to say about her only child: "She was a planned, wanted and loved child always. I knew what she would look like before she was born. The thing of which I am most proud to have provided her is the freedom to be herself, and the courage to stand up for who she is. The most important thing in life is to like yourself, and I'm proud to say that she does." So rare I have found such healthy dynamics between parent and child. This persisted even after Colleene was open with her mother about her lifestyle. This alone is worthy of a trophy to both. Colleene returns the love when she states, "My mother has always been my best friend. She taught me it was good to be different and having attitudes that were not necessarily the most popular, were worth standing up for."

Colleene, who, by the way, turned 23 January 29th, has always been a winner in every athletic endeavor she has ever tried. The delicate little thing won the Southern States Rodeo barrel racing championship title at eight years of age. She competed in softball, track and was a gifted basketball player. In fact, the desire to improve her jumpshot is the reason she ever walked into a weightlifting gym. Quite a number of colleges were

sport, vast experience, and his unique personality promotes an environment void of sexism but rich in opportunity to train aggressively and successfully. So the truth is Ms. Colley picked a dead ringer of a gym to launch her weightlifting career.

John worked with her on basic strength exercises before seriously training on the lifts. Eight months passed, and Colleene at sixteen entered her first weightlifting contest which happened to be the first women's nationals. This was the spring of 1980, the place was Waterloo, Iowa, and Colleene was not to be a champion in this contest. Colleene said, "I felt very intimidated by the experience but not discouraged. The thing that fascinated me about this sport was the degree of technical difficulty, and the incredible mental concentration needed to make that lift when you need to make it to win. This sport did not come easy for me, but I have never been a quitter. Efficiency of technique usually requires 1-1/2 to 2 years of constant training before the motor pathways are established in the brain. So, I'm glad I decided, and John encouraged me, to hang in there and keep training."

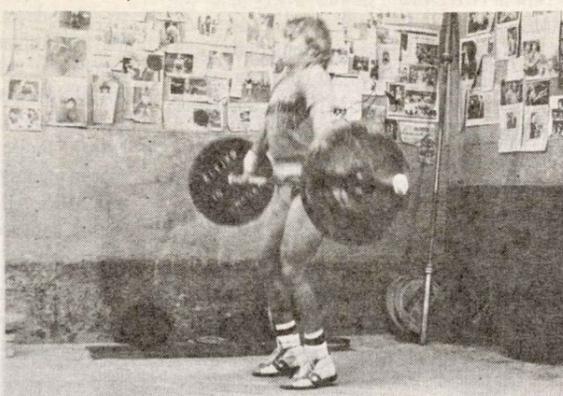
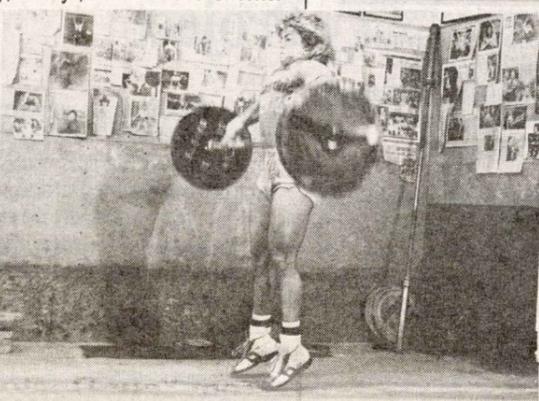
Two years elapsed before she placed in the top three, nationally, in her weight class of 123 lbs. This meet was in Milwaukee, and she walked away with the second place trophy. It was, however, the first team title for the women of Coffee's Gym.

In May of 1984, the women's nationals were held in Atlanta. This day, she says, still remains her sweetest victory. When the contest ended, she had set new U.S. records in both lifts, overall total and awarded best lifter trophy in the lightweight divisions. Not only that, with her record clean and jerk of 203 lbs., at nineteen,

she became the lightest American woman to lift 200 lbs. overhead. Her snatch was set at 148 lbs. Some lightweight. Her winning streak continued to keep plenty of fresh trophies around the house. The women's nationals held in New Rochelle, N.Y. in 1985 and in 1986 in Portland, Oregon provided first place titles that established her dominance as a virtually unbeatable force. She is respected by teammates, competitors and coaches around the country for her good sportsmanship and beautiful technique in the lifts.

The first international women's weightlifting event occurred in March, 1986. Five women from the U.S. were invited to participate in the annual Pannonia Cup tournament which up until now was an all male event. Her first trip out of the U.S. had her bound for Budapest, Hungary. Women from China, Great Britain, Hungary, Bulgaria, and others gathered for a well organized and executed meet. Colleene set her first international record with a 160 lb. snatch at twenty-one years of age.

After that contest, Colleene took a much needed break from the weightlifting cycle. The child needed to play. She resumed her training in September of '87 with the goal of being a member of the U.S. team selected to go to Indonesia in the fall of this year, the



interested in offering Colleene a basketball scholarship, and although she was a great player, she was and is 5'2" tall. Needless to say her basketball prowess sprang from her explosive jumping ability, but still she needed to improve to compete with women 6' tall. Her basketball coach noted a newspaper advertisement for a place called Coffee's Gym in Marietta that welcomed women and athletes wanting to strengthen their sports. Much to his chagrin, the fifteen year old got a taste of weightlifting and forgot all about basketball. She would commute from Gwinnett County to Coffee's several times a week after school. The person directing her training there was John Coffee. John still is her coach and, I might add, has been the head coach for the U.S. championship women's weightlifting team for five years. John's love of this

site chosen for the women's world tournament. First, she must compete and win April 30th at the women's nationals to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. If I was bettin' money, I'd lay down a few bucks on Colleene. I watched her lift in a small, but official, meet in Coffee's three weeks ago. She clean and jerked 231 lbs. which is a new U.S. record.

Colleene Colley is not sitting home polishing her trophies. She is entering her third year of teaching

people. Her first message to her students is, "This is a mental game, then physical. Change your mental attitude, put your body in a position to benefit, and you will feel better about yourself, your life." She feels weightlifting can be used as a way to compete, tone up, or release aggression. A 44 year old woman, married for 22 years and enrolled in one of Colleene's classes, spoke with her about the fact she had been physically abused for 11 of those years. After 10 weeks in the course, the woman divorced.

Another student felt that the self-confidence produced through the course helped her do well on an important job interview and ultimately get hired. I know in my experience as a lifter, a look from Colleene always inspired me to do my best. When I started lifting, I was the oldest member of the team at thirty-one. It always amused me to have a mentor that was eighteen, but she truly was. She has made an indelible impact on my life. Best of luck, Colleene, and hats off.

- Jane Black

Jane Black has been a member of Coffee's Gym championship women's team for the past five years. She has lived in the Little Five Points community since 1973, and is proud to have her first published article be for Southern Voice.

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Living With AIDS

The fight against AIDS, both the disease and the stigma, suffered two blows on Monday, March 7. Blow #1 is of a national scope - Masters and Johnson release the book CRISIS. Blow #2 is closer to home - H.B. 1281, The Omnibus AIDS Bill, passed in the Georgia General Assembly.

First, the book, CRISIS. The only "crisis" here is the ethical crisis Masters & Johnson seem to be suffering from. They have taken data manipulation to its highest form. Masters & Johnson have decided that because 6% of a small group of sexually active heterosexuals are seropositive, that AIDS must be spreading by mosquitos and casual contact. The test group was not even selected in a scientific manner. Masters & Johnson go on to showcase this data with sensationalized chapter titles. They then describe every "theoretically possible" means of HIV transmission imaginable. Never mind that these theories have been proven insignificant by extensive investigation of the CDC into the epidemiology of this disease. (M & J were careful to bury disclaimers in the text.) It is obvious that Masters & Johnson have opted to disregard scientific method in favor of playing the AIDS hysteria market.

Why would Masters & Johnson do this? Because panic sells books. Who cares who suffers? I care! I'm certainly not rushing out to buy a copy. My time will be better spent reviving my "You can't get Aids from a toilet seat" speech. I'm sure it will now be needed again. I've considered putting the speech in book form, but then it probably wouldn't sell. It's based on facts.

Now for the second blow. The Bill. Georgia now has some of the most regressive AIDS legislation in

the country. Admittedly, it could have been worse. The version that originally came out of the house could have been passed. But the bill still has serious problems, i.e., criminal sanctions and mandatory testing provisions. And it is noticeably absent in educational provisions. Safe sex is not a defense against the criminal sanctions. Ignorance of your HIV status is. There is no anti-discrimination provisions. It is obvious that the state of Georgia wants this disease to go underground. They are sending a clear message to the public: AIDS is criminal. Good luck if you are trying to get an I.V. drug user to see a doctor!

It will be interesting to see how far up the CDC list Georgia will go. We used to be ninth in the country in the number of AIDS cases. We are now seventh. The General Assembly is obviously trying for the number 1 slot. Too bad, because the citizens of Georgia will lose.

Where does this leave the person with AIDS or ARC? We are the ones who will bear the brunt of this type of hysterical reaction to this disease. We have one option left. Educate, educate, educate. Both ourselves and then the general public. It is clear to me that education is the only way to change the way that people look at this illness. I have seen it happen. It is not an exercise in futility! It is, however, an enormous task. A challenge to us all.

Am I discouraged? Yes. Am I defeated? No! We have the power to make a change in the way this illness affects us, as well as those around us. We must learn to use that power. Our lives depend on it.

Two blows have not ended the fight.

-Kurt Rahn

Kurt Rahn is the Director of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA).

Reprinted from *Alive and Aware*.

Updates

Spring AIDS Action '88

The Atlanta March Committee is organizing Atlanta's participation in the nationwide Spring AIDS Action '88. There will be a 24-hour Rally at the Georgia State Capitol beginning at noon on Friday, May 6 and ending with the Speakers Rally on Saturday, May 7 at 11:00 A.M. There will be numerous speakers during the Rally including Michael Lomax, representatives from the Feminist Women's Health Center, NAPWA, LAMPP Project, Red Cross and more. Entertainment during the 24-hour period will be provided by Carolyn Mobley, Angela Motter Band, the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus and others to be confirmed. A Bloodsisters Blood

Drive is being planned for Friday. Several organizations will be there with booths exhibiting their projects and services.

We need your help to make this event successful. You can help by organizing your friends to be there for any or all of the 24-hour period in support of this community-wide effort. Come to the next Atlanta March Committee meeting at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 26 at the Highland Branch Library to find out more information and to lend a much-needed hand. Or call 377-8312 for more information.

The Atlanta March Committee is also sponsoring a letter writing campaign to Governor Harris to protest the State's handling of this disease. Please tear this letter out and fill in your ides, then send it to us. We want to be able to read thousands of letters on Friday during the demonstration.

The Quilt: Stories From The NAMES Project

In 1987, a small group of volunteers set up shop in a San Francisco storefront. They posted a "wish list," containing items they desperately needed: sewing machines, needles, chairs, worktables, extra hands. Their goal was to revive the old fashioned notions of quilting and the quilting bee, and create a lasting memorial to those who have died of AIDS. The result weighs over 7 tons, covers the size of three football fields, and is the largest on-going community arts project in the nation. It is The NAMES Project Quilt.

Now in *THE QUILT: Stories From The NAMES Project* (A Pocket Books Hardcover, May 11, 1988, \$22.95) the beauty and spirit of the Quilt lives on. The book is a keepsake edition in full-color photos and text of The NAMES Project Quilt, the national AIDS memorial. The QUILT is dedicated both to preserving the memory of those who have died and increasing national awareness of the disease.

Created by friends, parents, lovers, siblings and

co-workers, the 3' x 6' panels that make up The NAMES Project Quilt have arrived from 48 states and five foreign countries. Each panel is unique with its own meaning and memories, each celebrating a life, and the love and hope of those who have made the panel. Fashioned with paint, applique, stencils, and embroidery, some contain mementos of the person's life, including clothes, photographs or locks of hair. Some are bright celebrations of fur, feathers and glitter; still others are stark and solemn, bearing only a name or initial.

THE QUILT: Stories From The NAMES Project is at the same time a visual book and moving narrative. Full-color photographs throughout highlight the panels that have become the moving and passionate memorials to those who have died of AIDS. The accompanying text captures the grief and courage symbolized by the panel makers and volunteers involved in this endeavor steeped in American tradition.

This spring The NAMES Project Quilt will travel to some 20 American cities where its message of love and remembrance will reach tens of millions and help raise funds for local support groups providing direct services to people with AIDS. The May publication of the book coincides with the national tour to further focus attention on the NAMES Project. Profits from *THE QUILT: Stories From The NAMES Project* are going to the NAMES Project and will help raise funds for local support groups providing direct services to people with AIDS. *THE QUILT* is written by Cindy Ruskin, designed by Deborah Zemke with photographs by Matt Herron.

Dear Governor Harris:

The government of the State of Georgia has been extremely negligent in its treatment of the AIDS crisis. There are presently 1,234 reported cases of AIDS in Georgia, 30 of them are children. We are currently rated 8th in the nation in the number of AIDS cases, yet the state is 35th in the amount of money appropriated per Person With AIDS. Only 7¢ per capita in AIDS-related spending has been appropriated as compared to a 65¢ per capita average in the country. You cut the requested amount of 2.6 million dollars for AIDS spending by the Department of Human Resources in fourth. Alabama spends almost 30 times as much money per PWA as the State of Georgia! These statistics are an outrage and I, as a resident of this state, demand an immediate change in the policy of this administration with regard to AIDS appropriations and education.

The AIDS crisis has affected me in this way

I demand that you make the following changes in the response of the State of Georgia to the AIDS crisis

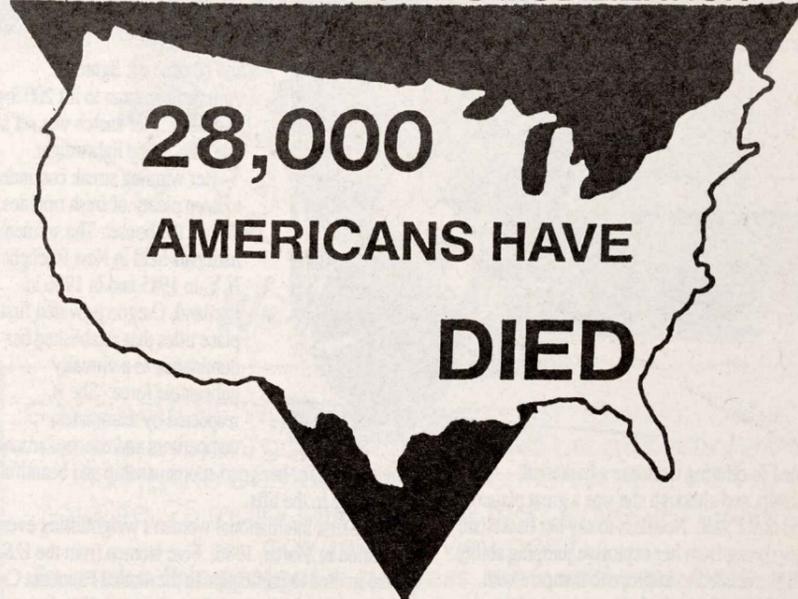
Signature _____ City of Residence _____

I want to commit to be at the 26-hour Spring AIDS Action '88 to protest this state's policy on AIDS. I will be at the Capitol from _____ A.M./P.M. to _____ A.M./P.M. This letter will be read at the rally with names withheld and then forwarded to Governor Harris with your name if signed.

Please add my name to your mailing list: NAME: _____ For more information: Cathy Wollard 377-8312 ADDRESS: _____ Ann Leverette 378-7734 Phone: _____

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Celebrating Mother's Day Sunday May 8, 1988

CHOICES

They say that I/we made choices:
to love each other,
to live like we do
to give up our families and the duties that go
with having them.
They were all inappropriate,
immoral and/or
immature.
In other words, poor choices.

Choices.
Choices implies control and control, if nothing
else
Is certainly reassuring - certain certainty-
status quo
Control.

They say I made a choice to love you.
The only choice I really made was
to take fate into my hands
And kiss you.

Do you remember how it happened?
Sitting on that yellow-flowered sofa, under a
blanket
Holding hands
Excitement flowing lava-like through our
fingertips
We looked at each other, or rather,
We looked at each other's
Lips.
I remember wondering
Would you scream? but, your look
Gave me permission.
Then, our lips touched. Ever so briefly (that
time)
Soft lips lightly touching
soft lips.
I did have control over that action - and I made
a choice.

Choices.
Control.
Neither of these were operational when
it came to
Falling in love with you.
My heart and mind and body gave me no
options-
It was so sudden.
I was so afraid. I truly thought I could
Make a choice.
I told myself,
You're out of control! (A frightening thought
in itself - for me)

I cried, alone in that Pepto Pink bathroom,
begging God
to make me stop feeling this
love I felt for you.

I suppose, in looking back, I could say
that a Higher Being was asking me to
NOTICE.
Notice me for who I am.
The fact was, I had been making
Choices.
I had chosen
to live a lie.
To maintain the status quo at all costs-
Even if it cost me my-self.
For the truth is this: The moment I gave up
control was when
I fell in love with you - my most
honest and totally uncontrolled
Non-choice!

They say I've made a "bad choice" - I "chose"
to give up
My responsibilities as a mother.
Yes, I probably made a choice.
I think I was in control, but, I can't be sure.

I am sure of one thing - THAT choice was hurt.
It hurts to my very core because,
like my love for you, I have no
Control to choose whether I love my children.
I just do.
And the hurt is one that I create
Deep within myself and it brings
A new Fear.

I don't have a Pepto Pink bathroom to cry in
anymore.
I've graduated to a town house with more
Modern colors and
A psychologist with tasteful gray tones in her
office.
But cry, I do. Sometimes hard and long.
This fear is much worse than the first because,
Although my mind tells me
I cry because I caused my child(ren) pain
because I have caused them to confront
the reality of my lifestyle.
My heart knows otherwise - it knows the truth
of the pain and
The truth is this: Like Pogo, I have met the
enemy and
She is Me.

I said I gave up control.
I said I gave up lies.
I really believed it. But,
that I is cerebral.
My mind believed it when I said
I am who I am and I'm OK
But my heart,
that uncontrolled,
uncontrollable place of true Love
Knew better.

And what a shattering confrontation:
Mind and heart.
When I cry now, it is my heart
that cries and,
Maybe, just maybe, if
my heart cries long enough,
Another non-choice will be made and I will
have
a new lover, a lover who
can share my heart with you and them
A lover who will make it possible to love
you even more
than my heart and
Mind can now imagine.
A new lover:
Myself.

- Margaret Moore

Coming Out to Charlie

He was 21, living on the West Coast, suntanned,
handsome, cocky with moments of real communication,
full of warmth and humor, child-like and vulnerable, his
eyes still asking for love. There was and is no question
in my mind that I adore Charlie. I guess I'm a typical
mother in that sense. I know what I love in Charlie. I
don't love him simply because he came forth from my
body. In fact, I don't remember the birth as much fun.
Perhaps if I had known something besides being gassed
and out for the birth I might have fonder memories of
that time. What I love in Charlie is that I have been
privileged to watch his growth as a person through all of
his life. I assisted with the growth process as much as I
know how. At each stage of his development, I told him
where I was in my own development and memories of
my own experience, hoping they would be useful for
him.

At 13, he moved away from me to live with his
father. My second husband and I ran a small theater and
rehearsed every night after work. Charlie was tired of
the chaos of our household, wanted to live "somewhere
where there was a steak in the freezer and a mother at
home after school." We laughed about "the Brady
Bunch" as a model. From 13, Charlie never lived with
me again until he was 22. A lot changed in both our
lives in those nine years. Charlie went on to play
quarterback on the football team, became student body
president at his high school, went to UNC-Chapel Hill
to college, joined a fraternity, worked, fell in love. I
went on to fall in love too - with a woman. She and I
and my husband and her husband struggled to find a
balance. We finally gave up. I moved to New York
City, built a cabin in the woods, fell in love with a
couple more women and settled in to make a life with
one. I had always told Charlie everything but I didn't
tell him this. He was around for Christmas, other
holidays, brief visits. Both of us were in motion,
moving from one part of the country to another
regularly. Charlie was facing his own demons, very
much alive within himself, confused, growing. I was
afraid to add my changes to the multitude of ones that he
was already going through. So, I didn't tell him I loved

a woman. He knew I lived with one but Charlie had
roommates too and the questions were never asked.
In 1985, I flew to California for the one-year
anniversary and final performance of Celebration
Theater's production of Warren, my play about my
friend who died from AIDS. I wanted Charlie to share
that night with me. The play uses real names, real
experiences, and I knew that it was a fairly chicken
approach to coming out to Charlie, but I also know it
was time. I planned to spend the rest of my life with
the woman I was living with and I wanted Charlie to
release his anxieties about my not having someone in
my life.

Charlie and I were met at the airport by two of the
actors who were absolutely bubbling with curiosity to
know more about the characters they were playing
since for them it was a first to be in a play about real
people's real experience. From the airport we were
going to a meet-the-playwright reception. I was feeling
very proud that Charlie was with me, that he could see
that I was respected for some of my
straightforwardness and my career. At the reception, I
was greeted at the door by the actress playing Rebecca
who gave me a wonderful hug, and asked for all the
details of my passionate relationship with the character
called Marouka. I saw Charlie's face change. This was
not the coming out I had planned but it was clear that
he understood immediately. We were surrounded by
lots of people. Charlie was welcomed by everyone and
I saw the question on many of the men's faces: was
Charlie straight or gay? While I was smiling and
talking to other people, I saw Charlie pull up his social
grace and humor and launch into interaction. Charlie
did not inherit my self-consciousness or else he learned
to cope in a way I never have. He was laughing about
being straight, telling his own set of Warren stories,
charming the crowd. I teared up watching him. Then,
he disappeared.

I found him in a bedroom just sitting on the bed.
Apologies about his finding out so abruptly were
spilling out from me. He shut me up with a look; my
worst fears soared. I couldn't stand it if Charlie hated
me. He had been my light and energy during years of
his growing up. I thought of Charlie as a little prophet
as a child. He would say these incredible things like,
"it fits to you Mama, but it's too tight around you," or
"it's good to have hanging down things," and I would
go write a poem or a short story or a play based on his
wisdom. I froze. Charlie had tears in his eyes. I
waited. "I should have known," he said. He started
tracing visits home when the information was clear to
someone who was really watching. I realized that his
tears were ones of frustration with himself for not being
more focused on who I was and what was going on
with me. I realized that Charlie didn't care who I loved
as long as I had love. I was ecstatic. I could not have
hoped for a more fair and appropriate response from
my son. I had told him for years that I didn't care what
he did with his life as long as he was fair and decent to
other people. Here I was receiving the proof of that
understanding.

About six months later, Charlie moved to Atlanta
and moved in with me and my lover. Shortly after that,
his lover, who is now his wife, moved in. For me, it
was wonderful. We were an odd little family but I felt
we were family. Before the wedding, my lover and I
gave Charlie and his bride-to-be a shower. Most of
those friends who came were from the gay community
and people that Charlie accepted as his friends, too.
The worlds that we lived in didn't seem so far apart.

Now Charlie attends the gay plays SAME produces.
We still do some of those Sunday dinners that Mom
cooks but not very often. Charlie still worries about
my health, my cars that fall apart, my lack of financial
stability, my happiness. I still worry about his driving,
his consumerism, whether I will be a grandmother in a
few years, whether he wishes he had a more traditional
Mother. I feel that we are pretty normal in one sense
and pretty unusual in another. I think despite our
concerns about each other, we look at one another with
interest and pride. I know that I am proud of him,
partly because he is my son but more because I believe
in him as a person and look forward to seeing what he
does next.

I've never been great at saying all the good things to
Charlie. I tend to criticize more than I praise, agitate
more than I support. The opportunity to express some
of my love for him and some of his importance to me is
my reverse Mother's Day present to him.

- Rebecca Ranson

Foster Mother of HIV-positive Babies Plans for More

Barbara Chamness, director of the DeKalb County Arts Council, dreams for her two babies.
Annie is nine months old, John is two months old. Her dreams include those typical Mother things
like seeing Annie as a gymnast because she likes to climb and tumble and seeing John as a pianist
because he has long fingers and is such a serious baby. Barbara's two babies are HIV positive,
children of drugs and shared needles and mothers with AIDS. Barbara is the foster mother for
Annie and John. "This disease is calling people to do what we perceived as extraordinary in the
past but which we have to see now as ordinary," Barbara says. "We have to know we will be
okay."

Barbara became involved with babies with AIDS when she became a member of a group of
volunteers who went to Eggleston Hospital to rock a baby because the hospital nurses were too busy
to just sit and hold the child. She applied to become a foster mother with the Department of
Family and Children Services. She went to Grady and held Tammy. Tammy died during the
prison riots at the Federal Correctional Facility and her burial had to be delayed until after the fires
were out. Barbara attended the funeral, along with about ten other people, and saw the smoking
scar across the prison as the backdrop for Tammy's life, a baby in a casket the size of a shoebox.
"Tammy's death haunted me," says Barbara, "because she never was able to go home from the
hospital, she never had a home."

Barbara was approved as a foster mother. Annie came home to live with her. Barbara describes
her "as the most wonderful human being who has ever walked the face of the earth." Then John
came to live with her. John was suffering from heroin withdrawal and required intense care. He
needed to be held all the time. Barbara called in AID Atlanta's practical support team and her
friends to help with John and Annie. She employs a full-time helper. She says people line up to
love these children.

There are 140 HIV-positive babies predicted to be born at Grady this year. Most of them will
go home with blood relatives. Others will not be so lucky. Barbara is making plans around these
babies. She has put her house on the market and is looking for a larger house. She and several
other women are working on a project called the "I Can House, Inc.", a home where HIV-positive
and other chronically ill children can have a home, a room of their own outside a hospital facility.

Annie was real sick recently. Barbara tucked her baby, a bottle and some diapers under her arm
and took Annie to a clinic. Barbara was the only white woman there and was holding Annie, a tiny
black baby. A black child of about seven or eight let curiosity get the best of him. He eased over
to talk to Barbara. "I want to ask you a question," he said to her. "Where is her Daddy?" Barbara
responded with, "Beats me" and the entire waiting room laughed. "Annie and I became a part of
the crowd because of that child."

Barbara says she has changed a great deal with the babies. Her own three children by blood
have been supportive. Her friends have helped. Now she works and comes home for quiet time
with her new children. Barbara always had generic caring about AIDS but the babies have made
that caring real and intense. She speaks of caring for them as a "privilege and an honor." Happy
Mother's Day, Barbara.

- Rebecca Ranson

KEEP REFRIGERATED

Star Gays

Star Gays
by Maria Proba

Hooray, hooray, it's May! There are two Full Moons this month, so we can all go crazy twice. The first is in Scorpio and the second in Sagittarius. These two signs are full of sexual energy, so act accordingly.



TAURUS After the 5th, Mercury and Venus are both in your house of finances. Make love to your banker. This period is a good one to plan for future trips. Watch out the evening of the 1st when the Full Moon could cause intimacy problems.



GEMINI The Moon in Sagittarius on the 3rd and 4th cautions you to avoid work-related arguments. Your thoughts should be esoteric, elevated, euphoric and exciting now as Mercury moves into its natural home in your sign.



CANCER You will do well with any educational activities after the 5th. Look for a Capricorn lover on the 6th but be prepared for the person to be totally incapable of making a decision--take charge!



LEO The Full Moon on the 1st could signal unrest and turmoil in your domestic arena--this will improve after the 5th with the help of a quick-witted friend. Improve your reputation on the 15th, but not with a Taurus.



VIRGO On the 5th and 6th, be especially creative at work. If you are particularly resourceful with a Libra on the 12th, the two of you may solve a money problem, but steer clear of an Aries.



LIBRA With Mercury and Venus (your ruling planet) in Gemini after the 5th, a long trip could result in some beautiful interactions, but only if intelligently planned--don't leave on the 3rd or 4th.



SCORPIO Full Moon in your sign on the 1st warns you to expect emotionalism to interfere with your love interests since Venus is in your opposite sign. Geminis drive you crazy after the 5th.



SAGITTARIUS The Moon in your sign on the 3rd and 4th brings increased irritability--lighten up! Jupiter, your ruling planet, is making a fortunate transit through your 6th house, so your health should be glowing.



CAPRICORN Mercury moves into your 6th house after the 5th, so be quick about starting that exercise program. With Venus there also, working out could really work out, especially on the 14th with a young Taurus.



AQUARIUS Be careful about career matters on the Full Moon on the 1st. A Taurus can help you feel very secure on the evening of the 13th--might be a rich one, too. Money is an issue on the 10th.



PISCES The evening of the 9th should be a laid-back, dreamy time--spend it with a Gemini and try to elicit some emotional responses. If your neighbor is a problem, take care of business before the 5th.



ARIES Your tongue could get you in trouble on the 12th and it will be a real learning experience. Ask a Scorpio for money on the night of the 1st, but be prepared for a blank stare instead of a blank check.

Poets, Continued

Continued From Page 7

I will home only alone with confidence with stature without gift of casserole smiled.

conviction and resonance can be found in some of her other pieces. "Wedding Guest" is her strongest poem and gives an idea of her political awareness:

Their eyes tear you for a sign of enjoyment, Ready to pounce beady bullets into newly acclaimed whore.

Pearse refuses to deny the self-consciousness that those around her have over her mixed parentage. She makes it quite clear that she does not see herself at some sort of disadvantage. For instance, in "St. Helens, and St. Catherines School for Girls," she writes:

Decorous inspection of the new species Acceptance impossible, but: My shade is not stridently offensive, my features not uncomfortably "native," in accents of digression, disinfection proclaimed my Honorary White.

and in "Autobiography" she says:

My black my white dissolve.

A third language later I come in to the cold from calypso warmth to learn.

Pearse has conversations with her mother in two poems, "Turning Back is No Longer Possible," and "Mother." Here she confirms the ambiguity daughters sometimes feel toward their mothers as they mature into their own womanhood. From "Mother":

Vague wide voice as you look up from the paper stockings at angles shoes on sides. Real curiosity and pride looking at what you produced. Listening from a different culture looking on uncertain, disapproving, unrecognizing. I see the me of your eyes, wanting me to take flight?

A good feature in *A Dangerous Knowing* are the photographs and accompanying biographies of each poet. The publishers are obviously aware of the importance of our sharing our lives on a basic level, of making the poems more real to the reader by providing faces to go with the metaphors. *A Dangerous Knowing* belongs beside your

personal copy of *This Bridge Called My Back and Home Girls*.

Barbara Burford closes this circle with her words:

Woman guard well your mystery: Your own creative fruitfulness. It is a bloody, an ancient, and a dangerous knowing.

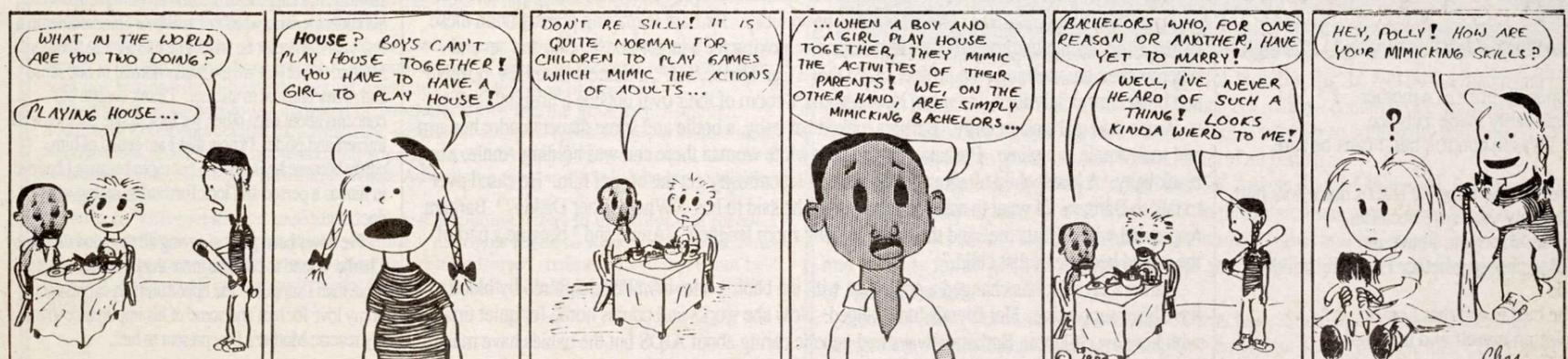
"Full of unhindered and startling imagery, it stands as a testimony to the depth of Black feeling and the complex power inherent in Black love."

Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring AIDS Action '88 needs you! Coordinators & volunteers for events. Spring Aids Action '88 needs your body to be a part of the 24 hour rally at the capitol!! This is your chance to tell Joe Frank to get off the pot! 377-8312. (I)

Atlanta Alternatives-Buyers Club, a group plan for obtaining bulk orders at reduced cost of certain alternative products of possible interest to PWAs, is being formed, and additional participants are welcome, according to Gregg Allison, club spokesman. Current products being considered are AL-721 and German enzymes, but others are also possible. For details, call 233-0083 and ask for Gregg. (V1#7)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IS NEEDED BY The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus. A degree in music or equivalent experience directing a chorus is required. For more information call Shirley Chancey at 355-8894. (V1#7)

A women's therapy group is forming to focus on issues arising from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse experienced during childhood. For additional information contact Shirley Chancey at 355-8894. (V1#7)

EMPLOYMENT

AIDS Help, Inc., in Key West Florida seeks an Executive Director. Qualifications required are a Bachelor's or master's degree in a related field, a proven record of communication skills, and a knowledge of grant writing, financial management, and public relations. Many benefits. Send resume by May 1st 1988 to Search Committee, AIDS Help Inc., P.O. box 4374, Key West Florida, 33041. ((V1#5)

SEE THE WORLD! START WITH ATLANTA! Advertising Reps needed for *Southern Voice*. You make the hours, you make the commission, how much is up to you! Experience is not important, drive and goals are what it takes in any job, and this may be the job to get you out of that rut. Most ad leads provided. Call Chris Cash or Joe Vindich for an appointment. 584-2104 (I)

PERSONALS

You've seen him at Good Old Days. Or Five Paces. You've wondered, "Could he be...? No. No way." Well he is. And he's been looking for you for a long time. Young professional WM, 24, successful, fun-loving, sincere, seeks GWM for ultimate friendship. If you understand how it feels to be caught between two worlds, not quite fitting in either one, please write. S.V. Box 2200 (V1 #8)

GWM Young professional, handsome, tastes range from 96 Rock to Hank Jr. Have jeep, but not a redneck. At ease with both straight and gay. Really just looking for a good buddy, someone to have good times with, socially, and possibly a relationship. S.V. Box 2202 (V1 #8)

Saturday, March 26, 1988. Bulldogs. You: young, jeans, tee shirt, black hair, firey blue eyes, tech student. Me: 501's, 30, blonde hair, button down, and into the same things. My lover and I have since broke up, and I think we could make it. Respond through a personal ad if you want to give it a try. My name is Brian, and I really want to get to know you. Please respond. (V1#5)

Brian-You were rude, insulting, and too sure of yourself at Bulldogs. You seem to have possibilities, but then again, how do I know you won't do the same thing to me as you did to your ex? By the way, I never did believe you about your "understanding" with your ex, and I sure would never put up with that treatment! Respond if you have enough nerve. Just call me Sir, for now. (V1#6)

I REALLY DON'T GIVE ATTITUDE! Maybe I'm really shy, or afraid to get hurt. Maybe I am sarcastic for a very good reason, or just misunderstood. But you won't know unless you answer this ad! Semi-blonde, 5'9" young, handsome, friendly, but reserved GWM into many things, some kinky, looking for someone who is FUN for friendship, maybe a relationship, or just something. S.V. Box 2204 (V1#6)

Sweetheart, your new young lover is just using you, and I've got proof! But why should I care? You're the one who walked out on 12 years! I guess I must still love you, so let's save what we have left, before the tramp breaks you and your heart. All my love, Albert (V1#5)

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MISCELLANEOUS

GAY VIOLIN INSTRUCTOR WANTED TO HELP lesbian with 5 years experience get started again after 10 year break. 974-0468 --or digital beeper 999-3442--P.O. Box 671582, Marietta, GA 30067 (V1#7)

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Betelgeuse a.k.a. 'Beetlejuice': All That Glitters Is Not Ghostly

Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice* is a farce that's blessedly lunatic. It comes as a reprieve from the whirling disorder lately so characteristic of our nightly television newscasts. The film's particular balm lies in its own sneaky subversiveness. As a director, Burton is a gagster-artist who goes reality a quantum-leap further. He creates characters and images so depraved that they take on a hallucinatory otherworldliness all their own.

The plot centers on a delicately eccentric young couple, Barbara (Geena Davis, enchanting) and her husband Adam (Alec Baldwin, appealingly self-absorbed), who are being lobbied hard by a local realtor to sell their beloved house, a merry slip of architectural good sense. The realtor can get them hundreds of thousands for the house, but their fondest hope lies elsewhere: they wish to have a child, a feat for which they've so far had no luck. But even childless you sense they'll get on. There's unmistakable sweetness in the way the film handles this subject. It's no more than a tacit glance between them, a silence that registers the fine rapport of their minds.

Driving home from town after buying some supplies, the couple nearly runs down a stray dog beneath a covered bridge, leaving their car dangling perilously off the road above water. Their fate lies with the dog, who stands idly on a wooden plank that steadies them like the pole a tightrope artist

carries when performing without a net. The dog coolly takes in the scene, then loses interest and blithely steps off the plank, plunging the couple into the water, where they awaken in the next world to considerable confusion.

Transformed into ghosts, Adam and Barbara are sent back to their much sought-after home where they must stand by and watch the panged but

inhabitants crazy until they move.

They wait till the Deetz's give a socially important dinner party, which they sabotage by possessing the cooler-than-thou guests. Gathered round the dinner table, everyone suddenly begins to sing and dance to the calypso song Day-O in a spirit to make even the most musically confident West Indian gaze with envy.

in a streetcorner pimp's \$500 Armani slacks. It turns out to be no surprise that he believes himself debonair and is lecherously after the Deetz's sympathetic daughter.

Beetlejuice is a comedy whose parts hang in glittering disarray. Burton probably has a finer sense of structure than we can guess at in this film, because he only partly succeeds in piecing together the MENSA-like puzzle of sequences. He unquestionably knows how to get the very best possible out of his actors, who bring the eccentricities of their characters to full bloom.

Even in his interiors Burton shows a keen eye for composition, and his darkling imagination is a breeding ground for the witty grotesque. He also has the nerve distinctive to artists: he dares to plumb his imagination to its lowest depths, determined either to get his feet stuck in the mud or smash his fist through the water's surface, flinging jewels that spark in the sunlight. In *Beetlejuice*, a lot of those jewels turn out to be set in paste, but much of the satire is diamond shape, and Burton's creations have a boldness and humor like nobody else's. This loused-up piece of moviemaking is an authentic work of eccentric American art.

- Terry Francis



JEFFERY JONES as Charles Deetz; CATHERINE O'HARA as Delia Deetz; GLENN SHADIX as Otho and WINONA RYDER as Lydia Deetz, star in "Beetlejuice," a stylish new comedy with a supernatural twist. Photo ©1988 the Geffen Film Company (All Rights Reserved)

zealous realtor finally fulfill her dream: the sale of their house at an immense profit to a neurotically upscale family from New York called the Deetz's, Delia (Catherine O'Hara), Charles (Jeffrey Jones), and their black-veiled daughter Lydia (Winona Ryder). Stunned into action by Delia and her dismissive decorator chum's plans for redecorating the house—examples of investment art sensibilities run trendily amok—they plot to haunt the new

But the Deetz's and their guests are delighted. Adam and Barbara are left with no choice but their dreaded last resort. They hire a hipster spirit called Beetlejuice who talks like the sort of used-car con who'd sell his grandmother if he could get away with it. Played with titan energy and aplomb by Michael Keaton, Beetlejuice is one of the most repulsively alluring creations I can recall in film, a sly hustler whose talk jangles like the loose-change

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