

SOUTHERN VOICE

Don't Forget
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
October 11

Vol. 1, No. 16

Taking Pride in Our Culture

September 29, 1988

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS NAMES Project Washington, D.C.

Sept. 29 - Oct. 9

"More Than Names," a new play based on the experiences of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, will premier at New Playwrights' Theatre (1742 Church Street, N.W.). Tuesdays - Thursdays at 8:00 p.m., Fridays at 9:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. For tickets, call (202) 232-1122 or 1-800-448-9009.

Oct. 6 - 7

"National Lobby Days for Gay/Lesbian Rights" sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, will include a briefing at the Rayburn House Office Building, with lobbying to follow. Meet at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Peri Jude Radevic at (202) 332-6483.

Oct. 6

A photo exhibit reception for "Until That Last Breath: Women With Aids," photos by Ann Meredith. Collector Gallery & Restaurant (1630 U St. NW). 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. For more information, (202) 332-6483.

Oct. 7

Quilt setup and volunteer training will be held at the Ellipse at 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

12 different films from Oct. 7 - 9. The opening reception will be held at the Biograph Theatre (2819 M St. NW) at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. For more information, call (202) 332-6483.

Lesbian/Gay Community Concert to benefit the NAMES Project, featuring Pati Larkin, Cathy Fink, Washington D.C. Gay & Lesbian Chorus and The Flirtations. Lisner Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. For tickets, call 1-800-448-9009.

Oct. 8

AIDS Memorial Quilt will be unfolded at the Ellipse, followed by the reading of names, at 7:10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

"Town Hall" Meeting on the gay and lesbian political movement, with Barney Frank (D-MA), Bill Green (R-NY) and Ann Lewis. Gold Room, 2188 Rayburn House Office Building (Independence Ave.). 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (202) 628-4160.

Candlelight March from the Ellipse to the Lincoln Memorial (Bring Candles!) 7:00 p.m., followed by a program at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call (415) 863-5511.

Oct. 9

AIDS Memorial Quilt unfolding and display at the Ellipse at 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, call (415) 863-5511.

National Meeting of AIDS Activists, sponsored by ACT UP. Hine Junior High School (8th St. and Pennsylvania SE). 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (415) 821-9087.

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The NAMES Project Quilt, shown here during its Atlanta stop over Memorial Day weekend, returns to Washington, D.C. October 8 - 9. "This (the Quilt) is the only time I have ever seen Lily Tomlin speechless", Atlanta NAMES Project volunteer Pamela J. Cole wrote in her journal after seeing Tomlin on video at the San Francisco showing. Turn to page 16 for Pam's account of her days with the Quilt and the people drawn to it.

AID Atlanta Denies Latest Allegations

Helping Hands of Atlanta, Inc., a fundraising group, issued a report September 12 that attacked the administration of AID Atlanta executive director Buren Batson and urged the Board of Directors to resign for the good of the agency. The group also announced that they were pulling all funding from the AIDS agency until perceived problems were resolved.

The report, titled "A Study of Service Delivery and Community Perception of AID Atlanta," called for a blue-ribbon nominating committee to draw from a wider section of Atlanta's AIDS-affected population in the formation of the new board.

"The new Board's first task (after employing a competent executive director...) should be to decide on the achievable objectives of the agency..." the report said.

Batson called the report "rife with misinformation" and charged that the report was being circulated in a manner that was "calculated to be destructive."

Bruce Garner, president of AID Atlanta's Board of Directors, agreed with Batson, and said, "By its very inaccuracies, you can see that it is biased."

Helping Hands' Allen Jones, who chaired the special committee that prepared the report, stood behind the group's allegations in spite of the criticisms, and stated, "The report speaks for itself."

In a related matter, the Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation has received a positive recommendation from AIDS Health Services Program (AHSP) director Dr. Mervyn Silverman to fund the second phase of AID Atlanta's \$1.6 million grant. Silverman's past criticisms of Batson and the agency are seen by many as the catalyst of the recent public outcry.

Batson stated Friday that it was not the criticisms that bothered him, but the way in which they have been presented.

"I am hurt by the charge that I am uncaring and insensitive," he said. "Because I know just the opposite."

The Helping Hands report characterizes Batson somewhat differently. He is charged with leading an autocratic administration which has substituted bureaucracy for leadership. The Board of Directors is labeled as ineffectual and lacking in financial responsibility by the report.

The issuance of the report followed the resignations of board members Barbara Chamness and Russ Richardson, who tried unsuccessfully to delay board elections while the Helping Hands offer was being considered. Both said afterwards that the negative energy necessary to sustain the fight were finally too much for them to take.

Garner, who along with the rest of the board, is Batson's employer, has continuously defended Batson against outside criticisms. "He is straightforward. I think he's done a

good job with it."

Batson noted on Friday that his contract had been automatically renewed when the board did not complete his personnel review by the August 1 deadline. Some board members complained that they were unaware of the deadline, and were now blocked from canceling his contract without the additional expense of buying out his contract.

"There are those past board members who probably think that I should waive my rights because the board inadvertently, or purposefully, failed to exercise its rights (and reconsider the contract)," he said. "I am unwilling to release this agency from the obligations it has accepted."

Speaking to charges that he had threatened members of the board with legal action for discussing his future at the agency, Batson said that he had only told the board when they were on shaky legal ground. He added, "I don't threaten. I act."

"My first priority for caring and sensitivity is for the needs of our clients," Batson said. He continued, "This is a human service delivery agency. And it is our role to provide services and support advocacy of our clients."

Batson admonished Helping Hands for their report, and said "They ought to be here cooperating rather than attempting to undermine our efforts." He added, "I've been through bureaucratic wars that would make this look like an afternoon in the park."

-Chris Duncan

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dukakis Loses In Effort To Keep State Memos Secret

The Massachusetts Supreme Court denied Presidential hopeful Michael Dukakis the use of executive privilege to keep secret memos in which he formulated state policies, including his state's controversial foster care policy.

The policy places gay and lesbian couples and single people at the bottom of the list for consideration as foster parents. Gay and lesbian activist organizations say the policy is homophobic.

Anti-gay factions in Massachusetts criticized the policy because it would allow gay and lesbian couples to house foster children under very extreme circumstances.

In the 40 pages of memos, Dukakis attempted to balance the concerns of the lesbian/gay community and those of the anti-gay factions, news reports indicated.

Democrats: "The Party of Homosexuals?"

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) did not retract his statement that the Democratic Party is the "party of homosexuals," his campaign manager said on Sept. 1.

Hatch made the statement in St. George, Utah, and later denied it until a tape of the speech was replayed for him. "I would never say that deliberately. Let's put it that way," he later said at a new conference. "If that was said, that was a mistake."

Bud Scruggs, Hatch's campaign manager, felt differently. "He said it. It's true. And it's important that the public know that Michael Dukakis, as governor, showed himself to be very responsive to the gay rights lobby," said Scruggs.

Hatch also called the Democratic Party "the Party of abortion." "They are the Party that has basically, I think, denigrated a lot of the values that have made this country the greatest country in the world.

"I don't think gays are bad and I certainly don't mean to criticize gays. I'm criticizing the radical Left and in some ways the (National) Gay and Lesbian Task Force," he said.

Oregon Gays Rally Against Far-right

Oregon voters will face a ballot measure in November that would nullify an executive order forbidding state agencies to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The executive order forbids discrimination in the provision of state services as well as in the hiring and treatment of state employees. The order defines sexual orientation to include homosexuality, bisexuality and heterosexuality, and it explicitly rules out affirmative action based on sexual orientation.

The right-wing Oregon Citizens Alliance and the "No Special Rights" Committee delivered 118,000 petition signatures to the state capitol on July 8, calling for a statewide referendum to nullify the order, which was issued by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt last October.

Oregonians For Fairness (OFF), an organization formed to keep the anti-gay measure off the ballot and keep the executive order alive, held a rally that same day to kick off its campaign.

OFF member Cathy Siemens said she watched the right-wing activists deliver "boxes and boxes" of anti-gay petitions to the Statehouse. "They were waving flags and thumping Bibles. It was really scary," said Siemens. "Then," Siemens told rallygoers, "the sky opened and I heard the voice of God, and She said, 'I want you to stop those guys.'"

Sponsors of the ballot measure gathered signatures under banners proclaiming "No Special Rights For Homosexuals." Mike Wiley, a chief sponsor of the measure, said the executive order "has the effect of giving the homosexual state employee an advantage over his or her heterosexual counterpart."

Campaign manager Liz Kaufman said that OFF intends to "soundly defeat the religious right," which she claims is working hard to block progress on civil rights issues in the state.

"Those are the very people who come after women, single women, the poor, blacks. They are fundamentalist, right-wing crazies," she said.



FAMOUS FACES

Whoopi Goes To Space

Guess who's going "where no man has gone before"? Whoopi Goldberg will play an "alien humanoid hostess" in the series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Her work on the starship "Enterprise" will keep her in the ship's lounge where the space travelers relax during their off-duty hours. She will appear in several episodes in the upcoming season.

Michael Jackson Makes a Killing

The highest paid entertainer in the galaxy last year was moonwalker Michael Jackson. Jackson was ranked first by Forbes Magazine, overtaking Bill Cosby with estimated earnings of \$97 million. Cosby, who topped the list last year, finished a close second followed by Steven Spielberg and Sylvester Stallone.

Sigourney-Watching in L.A.

Sigourney Weaver captured the attention of celebrities in Universal City, California at a gala premiere for her new film *Gorillas in the Mist*. Ms. Weaver, who made many a lesbian heart flutter with her brilliant performance in the movie *Aliens*, welcomed a host of animal lovers to the gala which helped raise money for the Los Angeles Zoo and the Digit Fund. The fund was created to continue the work for the survival of the mountain gorillas started by anthropologist Dianne Fossey.

Sigourney Weaver, who plays the role of Dianne Fossey in the movie, was escorted to the event by her father.

- F. G.

Anti-gay Congressman's Brother-in-Law Has AIDS

Los Angeles—Moments after his wife yelled "Shut up, fag" to one of his constituents, conservative California Representative Robert Dorman discovered that his gay brother-in-law has AIDS.

The incident occurred when Dorman, a Republican seeking re-election, was holding a town meeting in a high school south of Los Angeles. A group of gay protesters attended the meeting and challenged the representative on his anti-gay stance.

During a heated exchange between Dorman and Jeff LeTourneau of the Orange County Gay Visibility League, Sallie Dorman screamed the insult at the gay activist. Dorman had Letourneau and about 30 other protesters taken out of the hall by police. Letourneau was allowed to return and he demanded an apology. That's when Mrs. Dorman said she was sorry, explaining she's in pain because her brother who has AIDS is dying.

Later Rep. Dorman asked his wife why she hadn't told him. She said, "I didn't want to hurt you."

- F. G.



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City Council Member Blasts Gay Center's Tactics in Zoning Case

Atlanta—Accusations continue to fly in the wake of the Atlanta Gay Center's request for a permit to move its facility to the predominantly black Bedford-Pine neighborhood.

City council member Bill Campbell termed the approach taken by the Gay Center and by its representative Bill Gripp "unbelievably nasty and counter-productive." Campbell charged that Gripp was "antagonistic towards everyone who stood against the permit and was insulting towards everyone."

The council member, whose district includes Bedford-Pine, was referring to a neighborhood meeting he called to discuss the Gay Center's request for a Special Use Permit. The permit would allow the center to move to a house on 525 Parkway Dr., an area zoned for residential use.

The house belongs to Lonnie and Mercedes King who invited the Gay Center to move after two of their sons were diagnosed with AIDS. The Gay Center offers, among other services, HIV testing and counseling.

The city's Zoning Review Board has voted against granting the permit, as did the neigh-



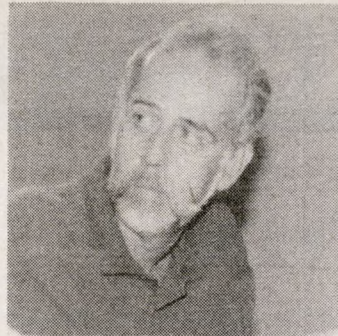
Council Member Bill Campbell

bors during the meeting called by Campbell.

Campbell and the Zoning Board say the reasons for the refusal center on zoning concerns. Gripp and the Gay Center, on the other hand, have maintained that homophobia played a major role.

It was that position that bothered Campbell, who says the Gay Center accused anyone who opposed the move of being anti-gay. "I have a strong record, if not the strongest, of supporting gay rights in the City Council," noted the council member who co-sponsored the city's Gay Rights Ordinance which bans discrimination against gays and lesbians by the city.

Gripp concedes it is possible that the politicians who attended, including Campbell, believe the matter is one of zoning. But he objects strongly to their



AGC Board Member Bill Gripp

silence when neighbors made homophobic statements.

"They can't coast on the Gay Rights Ordinance forever," said Gripp, "and then pretend not to notice when people make disparaging remarks." Campbell claims that the tone of the meeting was not particularly homophobic.

State Representative Nan Orrock also attended the meeting and stood against the permit. She noticed the homophobia, and agrees that there were "some unfortunate remarks made."

Ms. Orrock, another legislator with a good record on gay and AIDS issues, maintains that zoning was the principal consideration. She points to a number of zoning matters that have recently been opposed by the neighbors in an effort to preserve the residential character of the area. "If the neighbors had welcomed everything before," she reasons, "we could say this is a reaction to the Gay Center rather than a zoning issue."

Southern Voice's informal survey in the intown neighborhood points in a different direction. Residents, apparently unfamiliar with the paper, spoke their mind candidly revealing fear and dislike of gays as the

reason for their opposition to the move.

Mrs. Tinnie Garrilson who lives across the street from 525 Parkway Dr. admitted "I wouldn't mind a center there if it weren't for the gays and AIDS." Another neighbor, Willie Doris McQueen noted the move would be dangerous for the kids. "I'm afraid of the whole crew," she said, "the gays, the lesbians and the AIDS. I know they wouldn't be keeping to themselves."

Similar concerns came up during the neighborhood meeting and, according to Jeffrey Laymon, the Gay Center failed to respond with solid facts. Gripp maintains that Gay Center people "went to a lot of meetings with the neighbors" and had a petition signed by "24 immediate neighbors, supporting the permit." Laymon, who is Executive Secretary of the Metro Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations (MACGLO), attended the meeting where he noted, in disagreement with Gripp, that the issue was one of zoning, although he acknowledges that homophobia played a part.

Laymon angrily denies the accusation, and says of the controversy "They destroyed a lot of the work we've done." That assessment is echoed by Bill Campbell who states "They hurt their cause with the very people who could help in the future."

When Gripp was questioned about contacting Campbell and Orrock prior to the Center's efforts to get the special use permit he replied, "No, we don't need their permission to do these things."

Meanwhile, the Atlanta Gay Center vows to continue working to move to the location where they say they will be best able to reach the black and the white community. The city council will vote on the request on Oct. 3.

—F.G.



Pictured (l to r) are DeKalb Democratic Party members Tad Gardocki, George Brenning, Daniel Gandy, Jeffrey Laymon, Hal Mobley, Stephen Sickler, Dick Rhodes, Joan Nadam, Scott Thomsa, Melinda Daniels.

10 Gays and Lesbians Take Seats in the DeKalb Democratic Party

Openly gay/lesbian candidates started political observers when they captured 10 of 48 open seats to the DeKalb County Democratic Committee at the Party's Sept. 10 caucus.

At the caucus, a coalition of "more liberal, progressive democrats," including the gay/lesbian group, won 36 of the 48 seats, said Linda Meredith, who organized the gay/lesbian group.

"Of the overall committee, 10 percent - a good percentage - are gay, which is the way it should have been in the past," said Meredith, who is a member of Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians (LEGAL).

DeKalb County Commissioner Sherry Sutton initiated recruitment of the progressive coalition as a result of the committee's 1986 election of 20 active Chamber of Commerce members.

"I just didn't feel good about having that very, very pro-business atmosphere in the Democratic Party," Sutton said.

Meredith said she was contacted prior to the Sept. 10 caucus about adding the gay/lesbian group with the progressive coalition.

Functions of the Committee include setting the party bylaws and platform, fundraising, voter registration, phone banking for candidates and choosing new Democratic candidates, according to Meredith.

On Sept. 19, the DeKalb Democratic Committee met to elect new officers who will

serve for two years.

Albert S. "Sid" Johnson, DeKalb County's attorney, defeated Dr. Douglas E. Henson by a 52 - 47 vote for Chair of the Committee.

Henson, a dentist and longtime party activist, was supported by the progressive coalition. He has done advisory work for the Georgia General Assembly on AIDS policy-making decisions and has worked on a task force with the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance to solicit funding for AZT, the only AIDS drug recognized by the government.

In a speech before the election, Johnson said he would take an organized, managerial approach to leading the party. The only goal of the committee should be electing Democrats to office, he said.

When asked how he would handle concerns of the gay/lesbian community in his new position, Johnson said, "I feel that people are people, citizens are citizens, and everybody is entitled to the same rights."

Johnson said he believes Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Dukakis' tactic of distancing himself from special interest groups is a positive one. "It represents an effort to address the concerns of our society as a whole rather than focusing on a fragment of society," he said.

—Wendy Morse

HEADACHES

Also called sick headaches, a typical migraine attack begins with a dull throbbing ache in one area of the head and progresses to a piercing pain. These torturous attacks may be preceded by a change in the field of vision — a flickering before the eyes, flashes of light or a partial blocking of the vision. They are sometimes accompanied by nausea or vomiting. They are seldom relieved by aspirin. Their duration is from 2 to 48 hours.



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VIEWPOINTS

Guest Editorial

Coming Out: A Parent's Viewpoint

In speaking as a mother of three, a son and two daughters, to profess authority in parenthood would be an exaggeration. Our family experiences as my children grew into adulthood were the same as any other family's. My son joined the Navy after graduation, my daughters attended college. Communication, apparently, was open between us.

Suddenly, my son left the Navy, went West and for no apparent reason, disappeared. Not knowing of his struggle I envisioned the worst of situations. A year passed and a letter arrived, a letter which I've kept and read over and over again. He explained he was gay and hoped I could still love him the way I always had. He had struggled with being gay and with the help of gay organizations and PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) had decided to come out to me. A range of emotions surfaced—shock, fear, failure and anxiety. I did still love him although I did not understand and called to tell him all this. We both became stronger people as a result and enjoyed a relationship which was open and honest. I know now the risk he took sharing this secret he had with me. With a lot of support from him, my daughters and friends, I realized he was the same person he had always been. I got books to read and began to educate myself.

A year later I found out that both my daughters are also gay. They did not tell me. In addition to the emotions of total failure, the lack of trust hurt more.

Their explanation for not telling me was not wanting to hurt me further which was legitimate, as they had supported me through a hard time with my son. However, they also realized the hurt they caused me from not trusting me with this part of their lives.

The ideal situation would be that each person could share being gay with those they love, but this is not reality. There is a great deal of risk involved in sharing personal matters with loved ones, a risk not everyone is prepared to take, nor is there an easy way. However, there is a responsibility on both sides of the relationship of honesty and trust. Parents need to be included in their children's lives and they cannot be with secretiveness being practiced. Remember, you may have known you are gay for a long time, but your parents have not. They need your support, understanding and patience. Communication is critical and the best healing force is a hug.

My children have now been out for five years and their mother has finally come out also. I have remarried and now have a gay stepson, all of which I am very proud.

There is an organization, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, which helps parents to understand and offers support through this painful discovery. It promotes acceptance and education. There are also excellent books on coming out available such as *Coming Out to Parents*, Mary Borhek, and *Know that You Know*, Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward.

—Lauretta Rouse

Lauretta Rouse is the President of P-FLAG Atlanta. PFLAG meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church. For further information call 961-6085.

SOUTHERN VOICE

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Recent Victories Give Hint of a National Community

The rallying cry went out like a flash of lightning—call Washington before it's too late. The NAMES Project Quilt was being kicked out of its allotted space by the National Park Service in a last minute move. The facts were simple—the only space left in Washington that could hold the 10,000 3' x 6' panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt had been quietly slipped to a group of Ukrainian Christians.

It took the Park Service one day to decide they had made a serious mistake. It only took them one more to fix it and move the Ukrainians.

Individual gay men and lesbians caused the change of heart. No secret back room meetings took place. No one deferred to negotiators.

We were angry, we were organized, and we won. For those of us who follow and watch the agonizingly slow progress of the fight for gay and lesbian rights, it was a sweet victory.

Congratulations are due to both the local chapters and the national NAMES Project core committee for their sweeping success.

The nine acre Quilt will be displayed at the Ellipse, President Ronald Reagan's front yard. Can you say "neighbor?"

But wait—there's more.

It was discovered in early August that the Circle K corporation was going to exclude people with AIDS, alcohol and drug addicts, and suicide survivors from coverage under their in-house insurance plan, ironically called KareChoice. The nation's second largest convenience-store chain took the lead as the gay and lesbian community's public enemy #1 overnight.

This time leaders in the gay/lesbian community surrounding Circle K's corporate headquarters in Phoenix tried negotiation first.

When that failed, local groups hit the streets. It took Circle K five weeks to decide that the money they might save on insurance had bought them a ticket on the public relations train to hell. They relented and destroyed the policy.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at its inaugural unfolding in Washington, D.C.

Victory through action. Not a drop of blood was shed, no one was thrown in jail. Although we suspect that a couple of careers may have been seriously damaged—at the Park Service and Circle K, that is.

The lessons of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights keep coming back and teaching us new things. The motto of the March was "For Love and For Life—We're Not Going Back." The individuals who protested the treatment of the Park Service and Circle K put that phrase into action.

We saw ourselves as a national community for the first time at the March. And it was at the March that we learned just how powerful we are, and in some areas, how weak.

If there was ever any doubt in your mind about the effectiveness of direct action groups, dispel it. Stopping work at the Park Service and Circle K by jamming their phone lines with protest calls worked. It caught their attention, and told them we weren't going to be treated like victims anymore. More than that, it told them we weren't afraid of them either.

The fight for gay and lesbian civil rights is not over, far from it. But we are two steps closer.



National Park Service Learns to Count

Concerned math educators around the country have breathed a collective sigh of relief, as their intensive efforts at the National Park Service have finally paid off. The Park Service has revised their estimate of the number of people at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to 650,000—the largest demonstration in the nation's history.

When the Park Service released their initial estimate of 200,000 people, national organizers were outraged. Their estimates ranged up to 750,000 using the Park Service's own formulae. Since that time, the mathematicians have been urging the Park Service to re-examine film footage of the event. Congrats people.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

One year after the historic National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the Experience Weekend and National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) are sponsoring National Coming Out Day October 11, 1988. Co-chairs Jean O'Leary, executive director of NGRA, and Rob Eichberg, founder of the Experience Weekend, hope to direct the "spirit and energy" that drew 650,000 gay men and lesbians to Washington, D.C. back into the local communities, as an estimated 20 million men and women "take their next step."

The goal of National Coming Out Day is to increase the visibility of the gay men and lesbians in this country. And because homophobia begins at home this day will also focus on ourselves. There is a "next step" in coming out for each of us.

Thousands of gay men and lesbians taking part in National Coming Out Day are committing to their "next step." The ranks of those who choose to live openly as gay men and lesbians are being strengthened. New talents and resources are flowing into the gay/lesbian movement and creating significant gains both in the emotional health and political clout of our community.

Why Come Out?

Our silence is killing us. Our silence is allowing society to make the rules for by defining who we are, and what we can hope to achieve in life. Our silence is allowing ignorance and intolerance to play decisive roles in such life threatening matters as AIDS funding, research and patient care. And with silence comes invisibility.

Our invisibility is the core of our oppression. We experience hate, fear and prejudice because people don't know who we are. But we know. We are their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers.

The truth is that we are everywhere. We are lawyers, doctors, mechanics, engineers, architects, teachers, bank tellers, secretaries, artists, and truckdrivers. We touch the lives of

millions of people whose negative view of homosexuality would change dramatically if they knew who we are.

Your coming out can help turn fear into acceptance. One-to-one contact with gay men and lesbians is our most powerful tool to bring about a major shift in society's attitudes. Coming out is the most powerful statement we can make—powerful in its political influence and personally powerful in releasing energy that is wasted in hiding the truth.

Coming out is a continuum, a series of steps that often take place over the course of months or even years. Your "next step" must be appropriate and comfortable for you; but be willing to push yourself a little.

Southern Voice urges you to take your "next step"—whatever that may be. We have listed at right some of the ideas that the National Coming Out Day staff have compiled, and hope you will choose one, or make up one of your own. Whatever you decide to do, we want to know about it. As a part of our National Coming Out Day coverage, we ask that you let us know what you did to celebrate our newest holiday. Check off the way you decided to take your "next step," and mail it back to us. Participants in this informal survey will also be able to purchase a one-year subscription to *Southern Voice* at the reduced rate of \$20. Who knows, getting *Southern Voice* through the mail each week may be your "next step."

NAMES Project Schedule

Cont'd from Page 1

Kennedy Center Gala Benefit for NAMES Project, featuring James Levine, conductor of the New York Metropolitan Opera, John Mauceri, conductor of the Washington Symphony Orchestra and Sandy Duncan, 4:00 p.m. For tickets, call 1-800-448-9009 or 1-800-424-8504.

Rally for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights with speakers and music will be held at Dupont Circle at 4:00 p.m. For more information, call (202) 524-5269.

AIDS Memorial Quilt refolded at the Ellipse at 5:00 p.m.

"For Love & For Life: A Multi-image Slide Presentation on March on Washington" by leading Lesbian photographer JEB (Jan E. Biren). Lisner Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call (202) 332-3522.

Oct. 10 National Parents Conference on AIDS, sponsored by the National Parents' Council on AIDS. Sheraton National Arlington, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (415) 863-5511.

ACT NOW non-violent civil disobedience training in preparation for FDA Action on Oct. 11. All Soul's Church (16th and Harvard St., NW). 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more information, call (202) 234-8801.

"National Lobby Days for Gay/Lesbian Rights" Rayburn House Office Building, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call 9202) 332-3522.

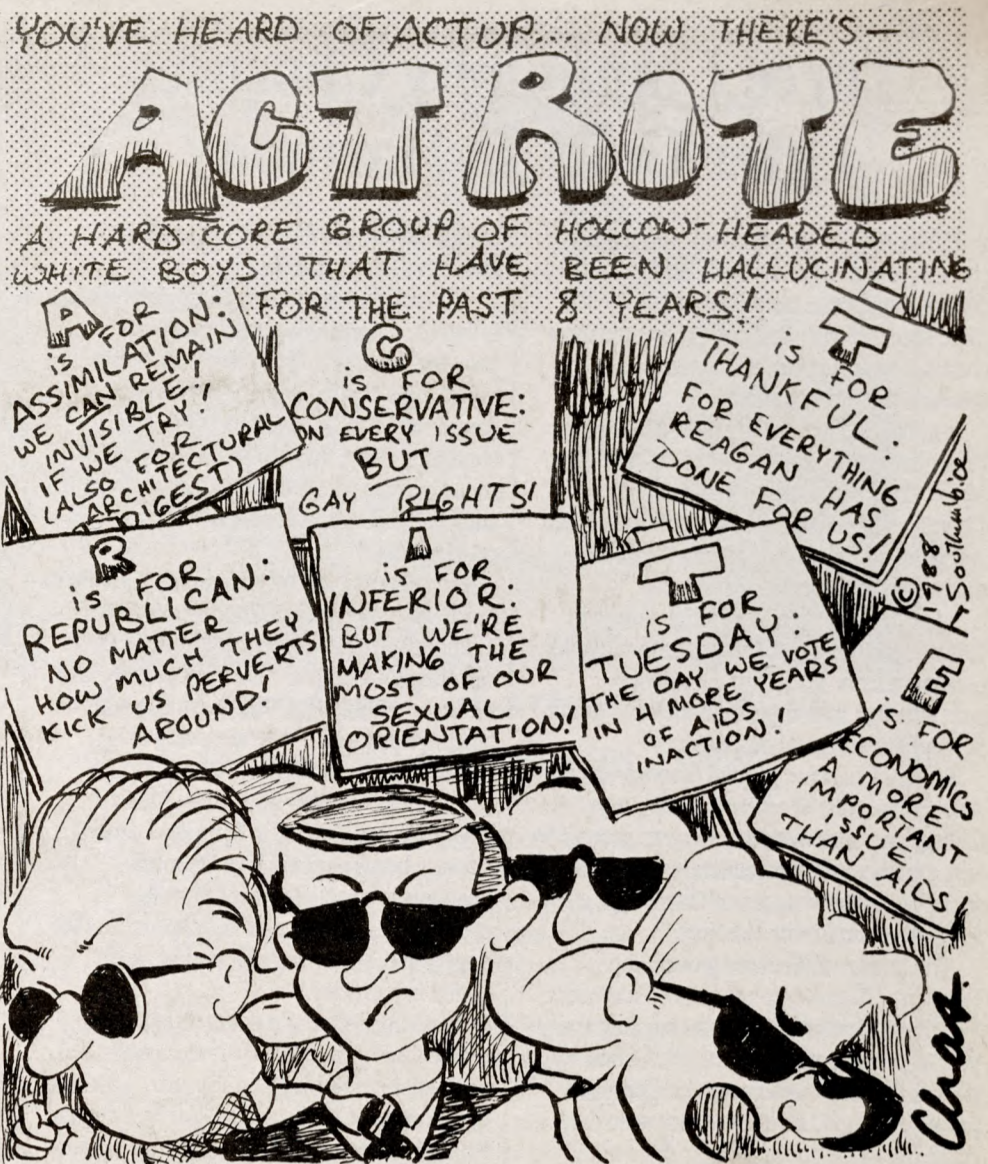
Demonstration at the Department of Health & Human Services to protest AIDS policies will be held at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. For more information, call (202) 234-8801.

Benefit Birthday Party for NAMES Project founder Cleve Jones will be held at the Collector Gallery & Restaurant (1630 U St., NW) at 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 to benefit National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and NAMES Project. For more information, call (202) 332-6483.

Oct. 11 Civil disobedience at the Food & Drug Administration (5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD), sponsored by ACT NOW, 7:00 a.m. For more information, contact Sue Hyde at (202) 332-6483.

National Coming Out Day, a nationwide mobilization to challenge the closet and discrimination and to raise Gay/Lesbian visibility, is supported by all national Gay/Lesbian organizations. For more information, call (213) 650-6200.

Bash at Badlands, a celebration to end a historic weekend of activism and pride, will be held at the Badlands disco (1415 22nd St., NW). Donations of \$1 will benefit HRCF and Fairness Fund.



What's Your Next Step?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a lover/partner home for the holidays | <input type="checkbox"/> Tell three people that you are gay or lesbian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Come out to your family—parents, brothers and/or sisters | <input type="checkbox"/> Read a gay/lesbian newspaper on the bus or in a restaurant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Put your lover's photo on your desk at work | <input type="checkbox"/> Be affectionate with your lover/partner or friends at the airport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stop lying to your fraternity brother about all of the women you've had | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a straight friend to a lesbian/gay event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Send flowers to someone special and don't use initials on the card | <input type="checkbox"/> Tell the truth when asked, "So, are you engaged yet?" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge that "those roses" are not from your mother | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper commenting on gay/lesbian coverage, or lack thereof |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wear an openly gay/lesbian symbol or button for an entire week | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold hands publicly | _____ |

Please Mail Responses to:
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- Yes! I want to celebrate National Coming Out Day by subscribing to *Southern Voice* at the special price of \$20/year.
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Three Community Choruses Offer Unity In Harmony

If ever there were goodwill ambassadors chosen for the Atlanta lesbian and gay community, prime candidates would be the more than 125 vocalists comprising the three choruses who support, encourage and entertain these constituents.

All founded in the early '80s, the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus, the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus and the Atlanta Lambda Chorale collectively serve a significant social and political function, although their roots might have been more self-serving.

Motivated by their individual desires to sing and the absence of an avocational outlet for their talents, leaders of each group conclude that their organizations have grown beyond their original purposes.

Shirley Chancey, general manager for the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus, says "the Chorus provides women a place to gather and sing together and, consequently, has created a social and support system. This is rare, even in the heterosexual community."

The largest of the three groups, the Women's Chorus currently has 85 members. "We have increased in size and quality every year since we organized in 1981," Chancey explains. "Like our singers, the Chorus is growing up, too. Over the years we have come out to the community."

The second in size and the second to be founded, the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus membership now numbers 23. "Our purpose is to be the best musically we can possibly be, and at the same time serve the gay

community," says the Chorus' general manager Jerry Garrison.

"One of the major reasons for involvement is that the Chorus is a positive way of showing what a gay person can do, while providing a positive image that the gay community can be proud of," Garrison continues. "We strive to provide a healthy social climate where our members and the audience can establish positive gay relationships."

Founded in 1984 by general manager Bob Grice, Atlanta Lambda Chorale has a mixed membership of both men and women currently totaling ten. "Our first priority is to serve the community," Grice corroborates the others' philosophy. "We are trying to be goodwill ambassadors for Atlanta."

A former member of the Gay Men's Chorus, Grice decided to form the Lambda Chorale because of his love for music. "Also, I had lots of encouragement from the community to create a mixed chorus, and the reception has been very favorable; we're united in harmony."

In addition to major concerts in Atlanta, each chorus performs for various public and support events throughout the year. Last year the Women's Chorus was featured during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and both the Gay Men's Chorus and the Lambda Chorale were among the performers at this year's Gay Pride celebration in Atlanta.

This season will find the Women's Chorus



Lambda Chorale members: (Front Row) Elena Rutter, Billie Mills, Wayne Morris, Reggie Wilson. (Back Row) Jason Byers, Director, Scot O. Nelson, Bob Bailey a, Bob Grice, President.

in concert at the city's Opportunities Industrial Center downtown on December 3. The Men's Chorus will present their winter concert on December 11, perhaps at the same location as their summer program, Inman Middle School on Virginia Avenue. Lambda Chorale also will perform at the Inman School when they stage their next full concert on a date yet to be announced in January or February.

It is unprecedented that three community choruses, all members of the national Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, would have such active programs in a single southern city. "Singing is an important part of both our members' and our community's lives," adds Garrison

- John Blizzard

Ranson Trusts Her Own Voice in *Secrets*

Rebecca Ranson's new play, *Secrets*, set to open Thursday, October 6 at Nexus Theater, will come as a change of pace to local audiences who have discovered the power of Ranson's dramatic vision of their community's voice. Her last works (*Higher Ground*, *For Love and For Life*) have reflected the current concerns or events in the gay and lesbian community, the action and characters vibrant with the ring of truth. Although *Secrets* is a departure from her usual style, it is still full of vitality and power.

Set in 1930 in the mill town of Carrboro, North Carolina, *Secrets* may appear to be a different sort of play for the respected playwright. The only real difference is that, instead of listening to other voices tell the stories of their loves and lives, Ranson listened to her own inner voice, a voice that told her a story that spans 39 years and brings the characters to the brink of the civil rights movement in the south.

Secrets follows the evolving relationship of two women, one black and one white, from 1930 to 1969. The play begins as Phoebe, with her brother's reluctant assistance, midwives the birth of a stranger's baby. The birth leads to a wary intimacy between the two women which gradually develops into an enduring devotion.

Rosetta and Phoebe embark on a life together which challenges the conventions of the rural south. Although brother Leland readily accepts the nature of their relationship, the tiny town of Carrboro is less charitable; the mill gossip that he hears reflects the community's response. Ranson weaves the strands of the three inter-dependent characters into a tapestry of rich texture and depth.

Ranson says that she wrote the play for several reasons: she wanted to create another "women's piece" (the most recent was *Desperadoes* six years ago). She was also interested in exploring an inter-racial relationship and the survival of women's relationships over a long period of time.

Ranson especially wanted to undertake a project that would "allow me to dream...I wrote this play in a meditative mood. Once I knew the character's names—I can't write a word until I know their names—then they start talking to me. You dream your characters and open yourself to them and they'll start talking to you and tell you a lot about themselves."

Once she knew who her characters were, she began, not with an outline of a plot, but with scene titles. This process demands that the playwright trust her inner voice. Ranson's trust in that voice has been well-placed; whereas she "just used to hear the words, I now see the scene, like a film-maker seeing 'what the shot is'." Indeed Ranson admits to a fascination with cinematic devices: shifts of focus, edits and close-ups and sees her plays not so much as literature but as films adapted for the stage.

Ranson is again directing her latest work, assisted by Jayne Pleasants. One of the challenges they face is the passage of so many years in the play: Fifteen years elapse during intermission and still another fifteen pass during the second act. Yet even that problem seems minor in comparison to the difficulty of "dreaming" a play. Ranson's loyal audiences, who have also found a voice to trust, will not be disappointed.

- Kathie deNobriga



Melanie Hammet and Debra Duke as Phoebe and Rosetta.

Secrets will run Oct.6-23, Thursday through Sunday at Nexus Theater. 8:00PM. \$10. Tickets are available in advance at Charis Books or reservations may be made by calling 688-2500. For group rates call 584-2104.

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"Next Generation Filmmakers" at the High Museum

Pedro Almodovar, the drop dead outrageous Spanish film director, makes comedies that are so hot they practically dare audiences to view them. Almodovar has been described as a dadaist clown whose movies have a disreputable sensuality that amounts to "an outburst of post-Franco hedonist spirit."

Almodovar's 1987 hit *Law of Desire*, dubbed the scandal of the foreign film circuit by *People* magazine, finally will receive its Atlanta premiere Friday, October 7 in the High Museum's Rich Auditorium.

Law of Desire is being shown as part of the High Museum's "Next Generation" film series which focuses on works by some of the most gifted new directors in world cinema, including the Israeli Renen Schorr (*Late Summer Blues*, 1987), The Palestinian Michel Khleifi (*Wedding in Galilee*, 1987), the highly acclaimed Juzo Itami of Japan (*The Funeral*, 1984), and the young Cantonese director Peter Mak (*The Loser, The Hero*, 1985). Other films include *Cane Toads: An Unnatural History* by Jane Campion and *The Strawman* by Wang Tung.

But it's *Law of Desire* that has stirred up the most excitement. Set among the nightbloom elegance of contemporary Madrid, *Desire* focuses on the fiery actress Tina, who invites street cleaners to hose her down after her nightly performance in Cocteau's electric monologue-play *The Human Voice*. Drenched and wriggling blissfully in her short skin-tight dress, she walks toward a cafe accompanied by her brother Pablo (who makes popular gay erotic films) and daughter Ada (left behind by Tina's lesbian lover who's hit the road).

Tina began life as Pablo's brother, till she "eloped" with their father and had a sex-change operation to please him. When he finally left her, she shunned men and began a lesbian relationship with little Ada's mother, an extraordinary beauty (played by a low-voiced male transvestite) who also eventually takes off.

The above only "begins" to describe the heated goings-on of Almodovar's swirling fantasist world. Probably no other director in



Pablo and his transsexual sister from Almodovar's comedy, *The Next Generation*.

movies today takes such obvious delight in the spectacle of his own creations, voluptuously spirited characters who carry even the day-to-day mundane to romantic extremes. No one under 18 will be admitted to *Law of Desire*.

Late Summer Blues is the sober account of high school students in Israel during their last weeks before induction into the army. Set in 1970 during the so-called War of Attrition on the Suez Canal, the film follows these kids as they fool and loaf around, observing the subtle and frank psychic effects on them of living in a country whose sense of peace seems always to hang riskily in balance.

And *Wedding in Galilee* concerns a Palestinian village elder's controversial decision to invite Israeli authorities to attend his son's wedding in order to gain permission

for the ceremony to last the day and night according to religious tradition. Director Khleifi's film, set in a riot torn occupied Palestinian village, has been described as "intoxicatingly sensual" and is the winner of the International Critics Award at the 1988 Cannes Film Festival.

The High's "Next Generation" film series represents perhaps the only opportunity for Atlantans to view these films. With the demise locally of repertory cinema and the growing reluctance of distributors to show subtitled films, the "Next Generation" series is one of the most important events in the arts this year in Atlanta.

— Terry Francis

For complete ticket and screening information for "The Next Generation" film series call 881-0452.

Unbroken Ties Lesbian Ex-Lovers

by Carol S. Becker
Alyson Publications, Inc.

A book has finally been written to help us understand what happens when lesbian lovers break up, how we recover from the wounds, and what we learn from these experiences. *Unbroken Ties* is Dr. Carol Becker's summary and analysis of her interviews with forty lesbians of different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds about the breakup of their partnerships. The book explores the diverse ways that women coped with the end of these relationships and the creative ways in which they rebuilt their lives.

Throughout *Unbroken Ties*, the women speak in their own voices about why their lover relationships ended, how they recovered from their breakups, and the process of building ex-lover relationships. In the first part of the book, the women tell us about their losses and disillusionments. I found myself reliving my own losses and was reminded of how hard we try to make our relationships succeed.

From the patterns that emerged in these interviews, Dr. Becker discerns five situations that lead to the breakups: polarized differences, traumatizing affairs, passive withdrawal by one partner, dissatisfaction with a chaotic relationship, and simply growing apart. Becker's comments on the issue of nonmonogamy are refreshing and insightful. She writes: Affairs don't always destroy lover relationships; sometimes they are used to enhance them. The effect of affairs depends on many factors: the resiliency of the relationship; the intention of each of the women; how traumatic the actual affair is to the couple's relationship; the extent to which the affair evokes old wounds. Affairs, then, are not automatically good or bad for relationships. They can be used to renew or sever the primary relationship. Irreparable trauma to a relationship is just one possible outcome within this complex matrix of issues and events.

Her description of dysfunctional, crisis-oriented relationships is clear-sighted and compassionate. Becker states,

By engaging in these dysfunctional relationships women make unconscious attempts to fix wounded aspects of them-selves by fixing their lovers. Roles and problems polarize, and crises provide the illusion of movement and change. Current relationship dramas repeat the unseen and unhealed wounds of each partner's past life.

The second half of the book brings us to the healing process. The women begin the task of rebuilding their lives by refocusing on their needs and priorities. They discover a new appreciation of themselves and describe the rebuilding of their social relationships—with friends, children, family members, new lovers, and ex-lovers. These chapters will be welcome and helpful reading for any woman in the process of recovering from a breakup.

The strength of *Unbroken Ties* is its focus on how we acquire greater empathy for our own needs and strengthen our self-esteem by grieving our losses. Dr. Becker has written an empowering book about a painful topic. This ground breaking work will be immensely helpful to therapists with lesbian and gay clients and will be a comfort to women experiencing the breakup of a lover relationship.

— Marcy Adelman, Ph.D.



Phoebe and Rosetta...

Their love story lasts 39 years



SECRETS

Rebecca Ranson's new play.

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October 6 - October 23

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Call 688-2500 for reservations or 584-2104 for groups and information.



**Southeastern
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THE SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

•**ATLANTA BALLET-GISELLE**-September 29th-October 2nd. This classic full-length ballet is the romantic supernatural story of a young maiden, Giselle, who falls in love with Albrecht, a duke from a nearby land. Albrecht disguises himself as a villager to win her love, then must follow Giselle after her death from a broken heart to a netherland. There he must risk his own life to be united with her. Thursday through Saturday. 8:00 PM. Weekend matinees at 2:00 PM. The Atlanta Civic Center. Tickets: \$30.25 to \$7.50 for evenings; \$22.25 to \$7.00 matinees. For more information, call 873-5811. Pictured at right: Nicholas Pacana as Albrecht. Photo by Terri Teague.

•**K.D.LANG AND THE RECLINES**-September 30th & October 1st. Canadian K.D. Lang is the newest sensation in music, truly gifted performer whose tunes are a successful blend of pop and country-western. She says she's a reincarnation of Patsy Cline and hearing her voice and style, one tends to listen to her claim. Center Stage. 9:00 PM. \$13.50. For more information or reservations, call 874-1511.

•**TIM MILLER-SOME GOLDEN STATES**-October 5th-9th and 13th-16th. Some golden boy, Miller (a performing artist) treats the theme of gay man losing his innocence with wit, style, mock heroics and mythic tragedy. Opening night, October 5th, is a benefit performance for SAME (Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc.). For opening night ticket reservations, please call 584-2104. Seven Stages Collective Theatre, 1105 Euclid Avenue in Little 5 Points. 8:30 PM. For more info, call 524-3399.

•**MACBETH**-October 5th-November 20th. In the ultimate Power Play by William Shakespeare, Macbeth, placed near the Scottish throne by King Duncan as a reward for suppressing a rebellion, decides he must become a king no matter what the cost. Or did his wife decide it for him? Seven Stages Collective Theatre. Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 PM. \$10.00. For more information, call 523-7647.

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>29 •Atlanta Women's Fall Tennis Classic-Through Oct. 2nd. FREE. A benefit for AID Atlanta. Piedmont Park. 659-2301.</p> <p>•The Atlanta Ballet-Giselle-Through Oct. 2nd. Civic Center. 892-3303.</p> <p>•Indigo Girls-Little 5 Points Pub. 9:00 PM. 577-7767.</p>	<p>30 •K.D. Lang & the Reclines-Tonight & tomorrow night. Center Stage. 9:00 PM. \$13.50. 874-1511.</p> <p>•Driving Miss Daisy-Alliance Studio. Wed.-Sat. 8:00 PM. Also Wed. at 1:00 PM and Sun. at 2:30 PM. 892-2414. Pictured Mary Nell Santacrocce & Michael Hodge. Photo by Jonathon Burnette.</p> <p>•Cass Kennedy Group-Trackside Tavern, Decatur. 9:30 PM. No cover.</p> 	<p>1 •Atlanta Symphony-Antonio Neneses, cello, with Louis Lane conducting. Symphony Hall. 8:00 PM. 892-2414.</p>	<p>2 •The Trial Schneider, Moreau. 3:00 PM. 892-2388.</p> <p>•I Have AIDS: A Teenager's Story-WGTV-Channel 8. Address the minds of children.</p>
<p>6 •Three Poets-Nicole Broadhurst, Leigh Kirkland and Trish Rucker read from their works. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM.</p>	<p>7 •Life and Limb-Through Oct. 29th. Horizon Theater. 8:00 PM. 584-7450.</p> <p>•The Laws of Desire-8:00 PM. High Museum. 892-HIGH.</p> 	<p>8 •Secrets-Through Oct. 23rd. Nexus Theater. Thursday-Sunday at 8:00 PM. \$10. 688-2500. Pictured: Melanie Hammet and Debra Duke</p> <p>•Hotlanta Invitational Volleyball Tournament-Today and Tomorrow. Grady High School. FREE. 8:00 AM-7:00 PM. 12 teams from 9 cities. For more info: 875-0700.</p> 	<p>9 •David LaRocca-Unitarian Church. 191 Cliff V. 8:00 PM.</p> <p>•P-FLAG-7:30 PM. U</p>

SOUTHERN VOICE

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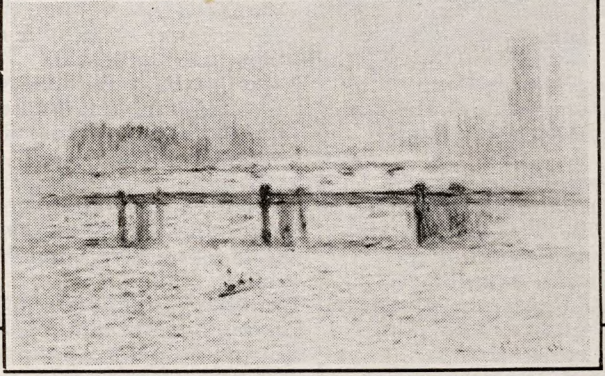
Next Week's Highlights

•**SECRETS**-October 6th-23rd. Rebecca Ranson's new play chronicles the lives of two independent Southern women, one black and the other white, from their first meeting in the Thirties to the Civil Rights movement of the Sixties. A three-character study in a three act play, it is indicative of the times, the characters in those times, and the postures people must sometimes effect in order to survive. Nexus Theater. Thursday through Sunday 8:00 PM. For tickets and reservations, call 688-2500. Group rates, call 584-2104.

•**THE LAWS OF DESIRE**-October 7th. Director Pedro Almodovar's story of Pablo, a gay director who falls into a bizarre affair with an obsessed man who then begins an affair with Pablo's transsexual sister. This 1987 movie is part of the High Museum's The Next Generation Series. In Spanish, with English subtitles. No one under 18 admitted. Rich Auditorium. 8:00 PM. For more information, call 892-HIGH.

•**LIFE AND LIMB**-October 7th-29th. Keith Reddin's satire focuses on greed and the power of love in the Eisenhower years by telling the story of Franklin, a disabled vet who returns home with hopes of peace and plenty. Instead, he and his young wife Effie find themselves fighting to keep their innocence and their love in an increasingly strange new world. Horizon Theatre. Thursday through Friday, 8:00 PM; Saturday, 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM; and some Sundays at 5:00 PM. For ticket information, group rates, or subscriptions, call 584-7450.

•**MONET IN LONDON**-October 9th, 1988-January 8th, 1989. The first separate exhibition of Claude Monet's London Series since the Impressionist's show in 1904 in Paris. The exhibit consists of 23 paintings, featuring "Waterloo Bridge", "Charing Cross Bridge", and "Houses of Parliament" and will show only in Atlanta. High Museum of Art. Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, until 9:00 PM Wednesday; Sunday, noon to 5:00 PM. General Admission to Museum, \$4.00; college students with IDs and senior citizens, \$2.00; children under 6 and Museum members, FREE. Please note: additional fee of \$2.00 for the exhibition "Monet in London." For more information, call 892-HIGH.


Y	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>1962)-Starring Romy Anthony Perkins and Jeanne... 10 PM. Rich Auditorium.</p> <p>er's Story-7:00 PM. eses many questions on the</p>	<p>3</p> <p>•Folklife Festival-Through Oct. 9th. Tillie Smith Farm at the Atlanta Historical Society. Mon.-Sat., 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM; Sunday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. 261-1837.</p> <p>•Dueling Dykes-A Benefit for the Southern Feminist Library and Archives. WOW, 4th Tuesday and ALFA in a challenge event at Nexus Theatre. Women only. 7:00 PM. \$3. 627-5619.</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Big Hair & Other Teases.</i> Ongoing. Upstairs at Gene & Gabe's. Tues - Sun. at 9PM. Late show on Sat. at 11PM. \$14.50. 892-2261.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>•<i>Macbeth</i>-Through Nov. 20th. Seven Stages Theater. Wed.-Sat. 8:00 PM; Sunday at 5:00 PM. \$10.00. 523-7647.</p> <p>•The Great American Mime Experiment-Through Oct. 8th. Upstage Cafe in Decatur. 8:00 PM. 377-7379.</p> <p>•Tim Miller: <i>Some Golden States</i>-Through Oct. 16th. Seven Stages Theater. 8:30 PM. A benefit for SAME. \$10. 584-2104.</p>
<p>z, New Age Pianist. 8:00 an Universalist Church, Valley Way. 874-2232.</p> <p>Unitarian Universalist Church, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. 961-6085.</p> <p>•Campaign: The Politics of Prosperity-A Front Line Election Special. 9:00 PM. WGTV-Channel 8.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>•Angela Motter-Little 5 Points Pub. 9:30 PM. No cover. 577-7767</p> <p>COLUMBUS DAY</p>	<p>11</p> <p>•Atlanta Business & Professional Guild Meeting. 872-1922.</p> <p>NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY</p>	<p>12</p> <p>•Monet in London-Through Jan. 8th. High Museum of Art. 1280 Peachtree St. Open until 9:00 PM on Wednesdays. 892-HIGH. Pictured: "Charing Cross Bridge."</p> 



S.A.M.E.
Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc.



Bittersweet
By Charles Haver
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ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGMC- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. A 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. Write PO Box 5502, Atlanta, Ga. 30307 for more information and to request newsletter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First MCC Atlanta- Metropolitan Community Church.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

GAPA Commentary

Show Up, And Put a Pecker In Your Pocket

Two quotes worth considering: Lyndon Baines Johnson, "I never trust a man unless I've got his pecker in my pocket". And Lily Tomlin, "98% of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy 2% that get all the publicity. But then—we elected them".

Yaasss, yaass. The other Saturday morning, I dragged myself bleary-eyed out of bed and attended the DeKalb County Democratic Party elections. LEGAL again proved its tenacity and drive, and turned out 30-40 people in the hope of accomplishing another coup la Caucuses. It worked...our folks, or those with whom we had formed a coalition, became part of The Committee.

But disturbingly, let us note the "Our People" section of the Party's local platform. Itemizing the diversity of minority groups for which the Democratic Party in DeKalb County will battle, we find about everyone included except—you guessed it—homosexuals. This was not challenged at the Committee level nor from the floor, in favor of a tactic of quietly placing our own people on the Committee that will create the next platform. Well, I can understand that, but it doesn't help my blood pressure.

Damn. Wouldn't you think that the splash effected at the caucuses by our community would demand at least a token nod from the Party? Or was it exactly that splash that caused some retrenchment? No doubt, the surprise showing effected by our community at the Caucuses raised the ire of the old guard. What this last gathering should prove to them is that the Caucuses were not a flash in the pan. We're here—and to stay.

That makes us more dangerous. Sooner or later, the parties are going to have to back off from a disregard of, or a bemused token glance at, our community's potential clout. And when that happens is when things will really start to cook.

Part of that process will take place on Tuesday, October 4th, when GAPAC hosts a Candidates' Forum at the Inman Middle School on the corner of Virginia Avenue and Park Drive. Emceed by Carolyn Mobley and starting at 7:45 p.m., incumbents and challengers will take the stage to tell us all about themselves in 2 minutes or less. But the most fun part is that after they do that, they have to stand there and field our questions.

This is so important. The last time we did this, the turnout on the part of the candidates was terrific. The community turnout was, in a word, abysmal. Lordy, what a lost opportunity. We just can't let that happen again.

To help everyone along, GAPAC will have the facts ready for you as you walk in the door. Hopefully, we'll have a little summary on each candidate. Look upon it as your "cheat sheet". This is some of the information that you need to ask the hard questions.

And we need to ask those questions. Even if we ask only little ones. Even, or maybe especially, if the questions are not about specifically gay issues. After all, we're hardly a one-dimensional community, though that is how we are perceived by the elite (if we are considered at all). That's understandable, for consider: when we work in neighborhood groups, for the homeless, for the aged, for any of the worthy causes that we support so strongly...we blend in. Only when we discuss our own issues do we stand out.

So a gathering like this is a golden opportunity that both LBJ and Lilly would appreciate. For one, putting these guys on the spot is one step toward putting their pecker in our collective pockets. And, therefore, to keep that 2% accountable to us, in all our concerns.

What counts, as LEGAL has proven, is that we SHOW UP. The politicians will pay attention only to those people who prove that they pay attention in return. I mean, really, why else should they? Because "it's the right thing to do"? Oh, please. Well, maybe. But I wouldn't bet on it.

So come and join us October 4th at 7:45 p.m. It's really important. And who knows? The fireworks could get going. It's up to you.

- Marie J. Murray

Marie J. Murray is the Chair of GAPAC (Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition).

The opinions expressed in this column are those of GAPAC and not necessarily those of Southern Voice.

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LITTLE 5 POINTS

Horizon Theatre Company Announces 5th Season of Premiere Plays

In celebration of its fifth season, Horizon Theatre Company in Little 5 Points is whipping up a five-star feast of Atlanta, Southeastern, and World Premieres of contemporary plays. The 1988-89 season of four plays promises everything from biting satire to heartwarming comedy to controversial drama. And this year, it includes a very special World Premiere by an outstanding Atlanta writer. According to co-artistic director Lisa Adler, "It's a year filled with hot new plays and playwrights and our usual fabulous ensemble acting. Audiences can expect scintillating language, a satiric wit and humor, provocative ideas, contemporary issues, and a bold sense of the theatrical."

Horizon's new season includes *Life and Limb* by Keith Reddin (October 7-29), the World Premier of *Shakin' The Mess Outta Misery* by Shay Youngblood (December 2-23), *Serious Money* by Caryl Churchill (February 17-March 11), and the World Premiere of *Blackie* by Y York (May 5-27).

Performances will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., and selected Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Horizon



Ray McKinnon and Mary Lou Newcott in *Life and Limb*.

opens its season October 7 with the crazy, satiric comedy *Life and Limb* by Keith Reddin, a vibrant young writer whose most recent play, *Big Time*, is currently receiving praises in its Off-Broadway run. Taking place in New Jersey and the Netherworld, *Life and Limb* is a hilarious fable of dark humor which follows the fortunes of Franklin, a young man who returns from the Korean War minus an arm with sweet dreams of peace, prosperity and owning a television set. Instead, he and his young wife Effie find themselves struggling to keep their innocence in a bizarrely outrageous world. As *The Chicago Tribune* described it, *Life and Limb* is "a tragicomic fantasy of the American dream gone nuttily askew." The play will be co-directed by Horizon ensemble members Rosemary Newcott and Sharon Brewer.

A World Premiere by an exciting, up-and-coming Atlanta writer is second on the season schedule when Horizon presents *Shakin' The Mess Outta Misery* by Shay Youngblood. This is the beautiful and hopeful story of a young girl's coming of age in the South in the 1960s and of all the women who fed, read, loved, and raised her. "This play is about my Big Mamas. I listened to the stories they told me and the stories they told each other when I wasn't supposed to be listening. One day I decided to give them a voice." *Shakin' The Mess Outta Misery* is a special celebration of love and family for the holiday season.

Fresh from its much-talked about

Broadway run last season, Horizon presents as its third production, *Serious Money*, a hysterically fun romp through the world of high finance by the famed British author of *Cloud 9* and *Top Girls*, Caryl Churchill. Financial buccaneers on both sides of the Atlantic double and triple cross each other in a high-stakes game, plotting to make incredible fortunes. Corporate take-over ware, covered-up cocaine deals, political corruption, and possible murder are all part of the intrigue in this stinging satire which will be co-directed by Horizon's co-artistic directors Lisa and Jeff Adler.

The final production of the season is yet another World Premiere, *Blackie* by Y York, a writer who was recently selected for membership in the prestigious playwright's group New Dramatists. In a future time of lab-concocted people and passion-controlling pills, Gene, a renegade geneticist, and his family must hide the secret of their uncod-

ed origin. When a creepy, snooty neighbor gives them *Blackie*, a programmed manservant, they take on the dangerous

task of restoring his personality and ultimately find themselves facing a decision that will effect the future of the whole human race. In this delightfully quick-witted, sci-fi tale, originality triumphs in an ultra-efficient world.

Individual and subscription tickets to the 4-play season are available by phone or by mail. Individual ticket prices are \$8.00 on Thursdays and Sundays, \$10.50 on Fridays and Saturdays, \$6.00 for students and senior citizens. The cost of a subscription is \$18.00 for the Bargain Preview series, \$24.00 for the Thursday or Sunday night series, \$31.50 for the Friday night or Saturday twilight series, \$37.00 for the Saturday night or Opening Night series. A Flex-Pass which allows you to pick the performances of your choice is available for \$37.00.

For more information, tickets, subscriptions, group rates, or a brochure, please call 584-7450

▲
The Little 5 Points section covers the news, events and people of this community, gay or straight—always different, always special.
▲



"Next Generation" of Artistic Directors Represented at Seven Stages Theater

The new face at Seven Stages is that of Elizabeth Bell-Haynes, a young black director from Los Angeles, California. Currently, assisting Del Hamilton on his production of *Macbeth*, Ms. Bell-Haynes is in Atlanta by way of a unique professional directing project sponsored by the Drama League of New York. This project is the only national program for emerging directors and is geared toward stimulating the next generation of artistic leadership in the American Theatre.

Ms. Bell-Haynes was the first black female to enter the professional theatre program in directing at California State University, Fullerton. Her directing credits include: Beckett's *Waiting For Godot*, Marsha Norman's *The Laundromat*, Pinter's *Betrayal*, and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Her acting credits include: Clarisse in *When Ya Comin Back Red Ryder*, Billie in *Nevis Mountain Dew*, and Mrs. Squemish in *The Country Wife*.

"As a first time visitor to Atlanta, I'm experiencing a variety in artistic expression I didn't know existed. My time at Seven Stages is proving both highly dynamic and intriguing. There are not many nationally recognized theatres that maintain truly viable community ties.

After her stint at Seven Stages, Elizabeth Bell-Haynes will go to New York to Second Stage Company working with a production of Lanford Wilson's *The Rimers OF Eldritch*. Then she will direct a one-act at New York's Circle Repertory Theatre Company.

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Living With AIDS

I cried because of AIDS for the first time reading Harvey Fierstein's *Safe Sex*. Miraculously protected from the destruction of this virus, I had had virtually no knowledge or conception of its scope. The play made me consider AIDS on a human level, one which I had avoided considering before.

My tears became anger as I read Randy Shilts' *And the Band Played On*. But my anger had no outlet; I desperately wanted to blame someone, something, for the inhumanities Shilts uncovered. I wanted to do something about it, but I felt so impotent against something many could only refer to as the "A" word.

Thus was born the idea to produce *Safe Sex* as a benefit for AID Atlanta, an idea that since has become a reality. With the support of director Gregory Blum, I negotiated the donation of the show's rights by the playwright; I borrowed the money necessary to get the show on a stage; I found a space (Seven Stages Back Door) for the three one-acts; I wrangled with Actors' Equity so that two particularly talented artists could participate in this event. And designer Greg

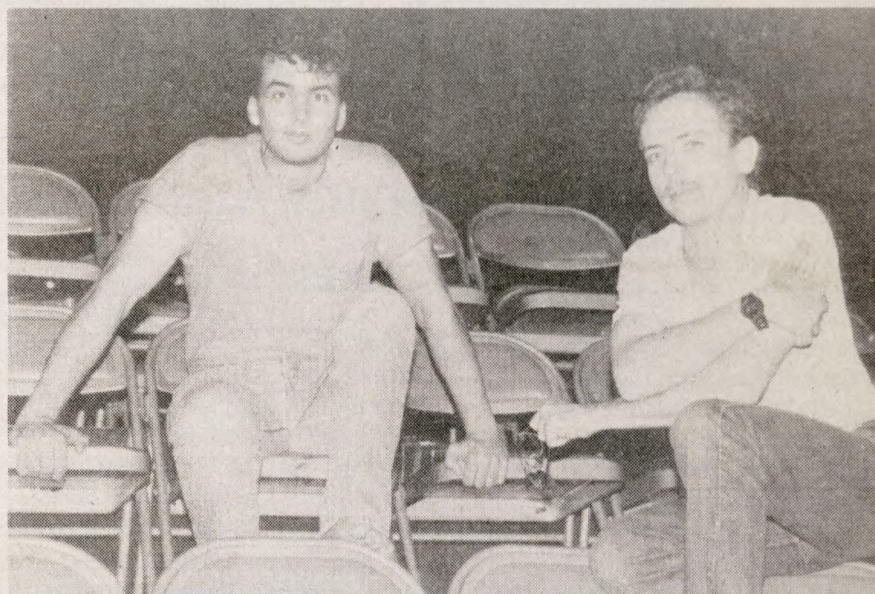
Brown found me, offering his talent to help unify the show's concepts.

Today the cashier's check for \$1,632.36 was cut and written out to AID Atlanta for use in their safe sex education and PWA home care projects. The amount may or may not be a lot of money, but that little piece of paper represents much, much more. *Safe Sex* moved and challenged its audiences, and that is our real gift to the community.

I want to recognize the artists involved, everyone of whom went above and beyond the call of duty, for their work: Gregg Blum, Greg Brown, Chris Coleman, Scott Sophos, Clayton Surratt, Jan Chafin-Zonder, Michael Ogletree, Tess Malis, John J. Owens, Susan Lanier Scarbrough, Eric Jennings, and Greg Bowles.

But it's not over yet: more money for AID Atlanta is forthcoming from Seven Stages for concession sales; The Actor's Group has become The Actor's Express, with the promise of more exciting theatre for years to come; and maybe, just maybe, one of those people who saw *Safe Sex* and cried about AIDS for the very first time, is now doing something about it.

You know, I have much more respect now for Rebecca Ranson and her work with



Chris Coleman and Harold Leaver, founders of The Actor's Express. Leaver co-directed *Safe Sex* in August which raised more than \$1,600 for AID Atlanta.

SAME. Here's a lady using her greatest talents to continually do work for a society with AIDS. I hope everyone with any skill, craft, or talent will find some inspiration in these types of projects, and take it upon themselves to do their share in the epidemic,

because we've just begun repairing the damage.

Thanks for your support, Atlanta, I look forward to seeing you.

- Harold M. Leaver

Updates

Bristol-Myers Signs License for AIDS Drug

Bristol-Myers Company signed a federal license on August 11 for exclusive rights to manufacture and market the drug Peptide-T, which is being tested as a treatment for AIDS. The license requires Bristol-Myers to charge "reasonable prices" for the drug if it is eventually approved by the FDA for commercial distribution, according to Peter Bridge, M.D. of the National Institute of Mental Health, the agency that has a patent pending on Peptide-T. Dr. Bridge said concerns about allegations of overcharging by Burroughs-Wellcome for the drug AZT, which is also federally licensed, led to the stipulation requiring reasonable pricing.

The drug is the first treatment specifically designed as a weapon against AIDS. It reportedly relieves several neurological and immunological symptoms of the disease. The drug was discovered by Candace Pert, a research pharmacologist who specializes in brain-immune system interaction at the NIMH.

The drug prevents the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its toxic byproduct gp120 from binding to cells, according to Frederick K. Goodwin, M.D. and Peter Bridge, M.D., the supervisors of the clinical testing program for NIMH.

"Bristol-Myers has developed the broadest portfolio of AIDS-related therapies and vaccines of any company in the U.S.," said Ronald Nordman, a research analyst for Payne Webber in New York. "There are close to a dozen compounds the company is looking at and Peptide-T will join that portfolio," he added.

The pharmaceutical giant's participation is expected to enhance the prospects for the drug in several ways. The firm will collaborate with NIMH in the design of clinical trials, refine production methods so that greater quantities of the drug can be produced, and

"take over financial responsibility for phase two trials and beyond," according to Dr. Bridge.

Peptide-T has been tested clinically in Sweden and the United States. Data from early U.S. tests on six patients show "no evidence of any toxicity whatever," said Dr. Bridge. NIMH testing has focused on detecting toxic effects and determining a suitable dose for later trials, which will test the drug's effectiveness. U.S. clinical research began in November, 1987 at U.S.C. Last month, NIMH began expanded phase one trials of the drug involving 36 patients at the University of Southern California Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Dr. Bridge said patients experienced improved neurological functions, weight gain and increased T8 cell counts while taking the drug for a month. "Some immunologists think T8 increases may presage T4 increases," said Dr. Bridge, who added that the symptoms reappeared after the patients stopped taking the drug. Dr. Bridge cautioned that the tests at U.S.C. were open trials in which patients knew they were receiving the drug. "A double-blind placebo controlled study is what it takes to make a claim about efficacy," Dr. Bridge asserted. The first tests of Peptide-T were delayed for months because the AIDS drug evaluation unit at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland was not open, according to Dr. Bridge.

Dr. Lennart Wetterberg, professor of psychiatry at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, said patients in a small double-blind placebo controlled study at the institute showed significant decreases in HIV activity, improved lymphocyte counts and improved brain functions. The institute has suspended the trials pending the outcome of negotiations with Bristol-Myers on the issues of access to the drug and funding for the trials.

The study at U.S.C. still needs volunteers. Contact Charles Hovis at (213) 226-4643.

- David Smyth

LAMP Project Hopes To Locate In John Howell Park

The Living AIDS Memorial Park (LAMP) Project, Inc. received endorsement from a Virginia-Highlands, Morningside-area neighborhood planning unit following an introductory slide presentation to the group on September 19, said LAMP Project president Julie Hamilton.

The same presentation was made at the Virginia-Highland Civic Association's September 7 meeting, but the issue was not discussed at that time, said Hamilton.

"They (Virginia-Highlands Civic Association) have not officially said how they feel, and there have been no proposals made," she said.

The LAMP Project plans to construct a "beautifully landscaped park for anyone who has been affected by AIDS" and give it to the city of Atlanta, Hamilton said. The group hopes to use a Virginia-Highlands park recently renamed in honor of John Howell, a long-time Atlanta gay activist who died this summer due to complications of AIDS, but is looking at other sites as well.

"It's not really a memorial park, per se. It's gone far beyond that. We want it to be a positive statement - built out of love - for people who are living with AIDS and everyone else in the community," Hamilton said.

The LAMP Project has not decided specifically how the park will honor people who have died from AIDS, but Hamilton stressed the group's efforts to create an atmosphere that will appeal to the entire community.

"There's not going to be a neon sign saying 'AIDS Memorial Park,'" she said.

Plans for the design of the park include benches, flowers, a water feature and a gazebo, said Hamilton.

Funding for the \$500,000 to \$1 million project will be primarily through corporate sponsorship, but the group has not yet pursued anything on this level, she said. The LAMP Project has collected approximately \$5,000 in donations so far in their fundraising efforts.

-Wendy Morse

Current CDC Report Supports That U.S. AIDS Patients Are Disproportionately Black

The latest report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) supports previous findings that AIDS patients are disproportionately black and Hispanic in relation to the general population and that the proportion of intravenous-drug-associated AIDS cases is substantially greater in U.S. blacks and Hispanics than in U.S. whites.

Of the 66,464 cases of AIDS reported to the CDC from June 1, 1981 to July 4, 1988, 60 percent occurred among non-Hispanic whites. However, blacks and Hispanics accounted for 70 percent of the cases in heterosexual men, 70 percent of those in women and 75 percent of those in children.

A disproportionate number of blacks and Hispanics surveyed was treated for heroin abuse, suggesting that they may have a higher prevalence of intravenous-drug abuse than whites.

"Black and Hispanic communities in the United States and Puerto Rico should be especially targeted for measures to prevent HIV transmission by treating drug abusers and by counseling drug abusers and their sex partners on the risk of HIV infection," the report stated. Patients Allowed to Refuse Treatment From HIV-Positive Workers

Chicago—Patients at Cook County Hospital will be allowed to refuse treatment from workers carrying the AIDS virus following a vote by the county board.

The Cook County Board, which also operates as a Board of Directors for the hospital, adopted the rule by a 15-to-2 vote, but still has no idea how to implement it.

Officials of the American Medical Association attacked the plan, the first of its kind in the country, saying no one has contracted AIDS from a health-care worker.

Health and Healing

The gay and lesbian community is challenged to find and improve ways of maintaining our health and healing our hearts and our bodies. This column will offer insights and advice by various writers with a range of viewpoints and expertise. To submit an article or request a topic, contact Franklin Abbott in care of Southern Voice, P.O. Box 54719, Atlanta, GA 30308.

Reflections on Relationships

Working in my office this week, I heard the lyrics of a country music song playing quietly on my radio: "If it don't come easy, you better let it go. When it don't come easy, there's just no natural flow. Don't make it hard on your heart—just let it alone."

Upon hearing those words, I knew that I had the beginning of my article for *Southern Voice*. The lyrics set off a flow of memories and thoughts—both personal and professional—on the subject of loving. I knew also that those lyrics, so typical of love songs, supplied an almost certain prescription for failure in love.

For a long while, I believed that feelings, chemistry or some other mysterious force brought about success or failure in relationships. It took the experience of psychotherapy and the passage of many years to move toward a new perspective. This new perspective is entirely different from the country music message. I have found that loving can be, and usually must be, learned. Success in relationships is like success in school, in career, in parenting. It requires information and skills, study and practice. Successful loving, I discovered, requires effort.

For many couples, this effort occurs on a trial-and-error basis and is hardly conscious. Separation often results. For those who make it, some can articulate what they have learned and others cannot. "Making it" may mean happiness in loving or it may mean only survival together.

I consider myself fortunate, at the age of 47, to have acquired a level of consciousness about relationships. This has come about through experience and observation, through my own individual and couples counseling, through academic study and through professional experience as a psychotherapist. My present perspective on the components of a successful relationship is very different from my view of 20 years past.

And what do I see now that is worth sharing? I see now that learning to love involves a fundamental shift in perspective: a shift from pretending that I do not fully exist to acknowledging that I do. From the beginnings of chronic conflict to the final stages of separation or mutual resignation, a relationship in trouble is characterized by attitudes of passivity and blame. Each partner views the other as both demon and saviour. Each partner focuses on how the other is destroying the relationship. Each partner waits, passively and resentfully, for the other to make it right. Looked at closely, this scenario reveals a relationship of ghosts, a painful dynamic between two persons who are enacting a drama of impotence and blame.

I also see now that it is possible to address this drama through a central change in focus. It is possible to move away from passivity, blame and waiting. It is possible to move toward initiative, self-reflection and action. Initiative which admits that I do fully exist and that I do make a difference. Self-reflection which is honest and accepts responsibility. Action which contains respect for myself and my partner. Such a shift in perspective involves powerful change: a departure from waiting-for-love and a step toward seeking-to-love.

For many of us, this change from resentful child to responsible adult can be difficult and the temptation to slip into passivity and blame can be strong. Old habits and patterns must be handled with patience, patience toward oneself and patience toward one's partner. Support can be extremely useful during this initial transition, support from a caring friend or support from a skillful counselor. A key to selecting an effective helper is that he or she does not encourage patterns of invisibility and blame.

The fiction of invisibility also involves the issue of impact. When we act our invisibility and impotence, we pretend that our behaviors—both verbal and non-verbal—do not fully exist. We behave in ways that do damage and then we deny the results. How often we say "I don't know why you're upset" or "I didn't mean anything." In doing so, we pretend that our actions have no impact. In reality, of course, every word we speak and every behavior we manifest has an effect and makes a difference in our world.

We also reverse our denial of impact in pretending that others have no effect on us. This can be called denial of vulnerability and is another form of pretending invisibility. We feel scared and deny it; we feel angry and deny it; we feel loving and deny it. Is there any wonder—as we pretend that we have no effect on others and they have none on us—that we come to believe we are invisible and therefore helpless? Is there any wonder that we become estranged from, and resentful toward, our partners and our larger human environment?

According to the country music lyrics, a relationship is easy or it is not worth pursuing. I have personally seen no close relationships which could be called consistently easy. I do not think anyone has found happiness by letting all relationships go. I cannot, therefore, agree with the song. My own message is that intimacy can be learned and that attitudes and skills for a successful partnership are available to those who desire them. There is, of course, more involved in a successful relationship than I have mentioned here. There is information and there are practical skills which encourage a deeper and richer union. I have found, however, that a shift of focus provides the framework for learning to love. Once this is accomplished, the possibilities of loving become visible.

— Diane Dickson

Diane Dickson is a psychotherapist with Community Counseling Center in Atlanta. She provides individual and couples counseling as well as vocational development.



Diane Dickson

Emory Policy Protects Gays & Lesbians

Emory University issued a policy statement to cover discriminatory harassment against gays and lesbians after its Board of Trustees rejected a proposal to add sexual orientation to the University's Equal Opportunity Statement.

Both proposals were initiated by the Emory Lesbian/Gay Organization (ELGO) and supported by Emory's president, James T. Laney.

Lyn Stoesen, president of ELGO, said the board refused to change the Equal Opportunity Statement because it is in line with federal law and no such change has been made by any Southern U.S. university.

"I wish it was an Equal Opportunity Statement. That seems more permanent and powerful than this does, but it is a victory toward what we want ultimately - university-wide protection," Stoesen said.

Stoesen said ELGO began a drive for the change in April of 1987 when the group was asked not to attend a Student Government Association (SGA) activities fair for high

school seniors, although ELGO is a SGA-charted organization.

"There was a prevailing feeling that something needed to be done. The SGA was pretty uneducated on this (lesbian/gay) issue. They thought high school seniors would be bothered by it," she said.

The policy states that "harassment of any person or group of persons on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, handicap, or veteran's status is a form of discrimination specifically prohibited in the Emory University community."

Violations in the policy will result in disciplinary action "up to and including permanent exclusion from the University," it states.

According to Stoesen, ELGO will not presently take further action to amend Emory's Equal Opportunity Statement. "I don't think there's anything we can do right now," she said.

—Wendy Morse

Marquis Walker To Be Honored At AALGA Awards Dinner

The African-American Lesbian Gay Alliance (AALGA) will honor Marquis Walker, a founder of the organization, who died Oct. 30, 1987 due to complications from AIDS, with a memorial humanitarian awards dinner.

Along with Carolyn Mobley, Walker led the group through its organizational struggles and built the foundations upon which AALGA has grown.

In addition, Walker served as the first Person With AIDS (PWA) on the AID Atlanta Board of Directors. At that time, he said, "I hope that my active involvement will inspire other PWA's to become more involved. When I'm speaking to various groups I try to present the image of a happy, healthy, black gay male."

Upon resigning from AID Atlanta's Board, Walker founded Lifeboat, a group devoted to serving people of color with AIDS through fundraising and other practical assistance.

Walker's achievements are commemorated

at Spellman College, where a financial aid foundation exists in his name. He served as an administrator there for 12 years. Walker graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. in Political Science in 1973.

The dinner, to be held October 30, will be a fundraiser for AALGA to celebrate the achievements of Walker and recognize the contributions of its members as well as the community at large.

FIRST ANNUAL MARQUIS WALKER MEMORIAL Humanitarian Awards Dinner/Fundraiser
\$20.00 Per Person. Tickets are available at Charis Books.
Sunday, October 30, 1988
5:00 p.m.
Paschals (830 MLK Dr., SW)
Attire: formal, costume, or optional

For more information, call 691-5921 or 289-8815.

ANNOUNCING A CLASS AT THE MIDTOWN YWCA

YOUR WORLD AND MINE LESBIAN AND HETEROSEXUAL DIALOGUE

A series of structured conversations between lesbian and heterosexual women. An opportunity for dialogue in which both groups can begin to communicate with the hope of creating greater awareness and a broader community for all women.

Dates: Mondays, October 17 - November 14

Time: 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

Fee: Members: \$20

Nonmembers: \$25

Facilitators: The series will be co-led by a lesbian and a heterosexual woman.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE MIDTOWN YWCA AT 892-3476

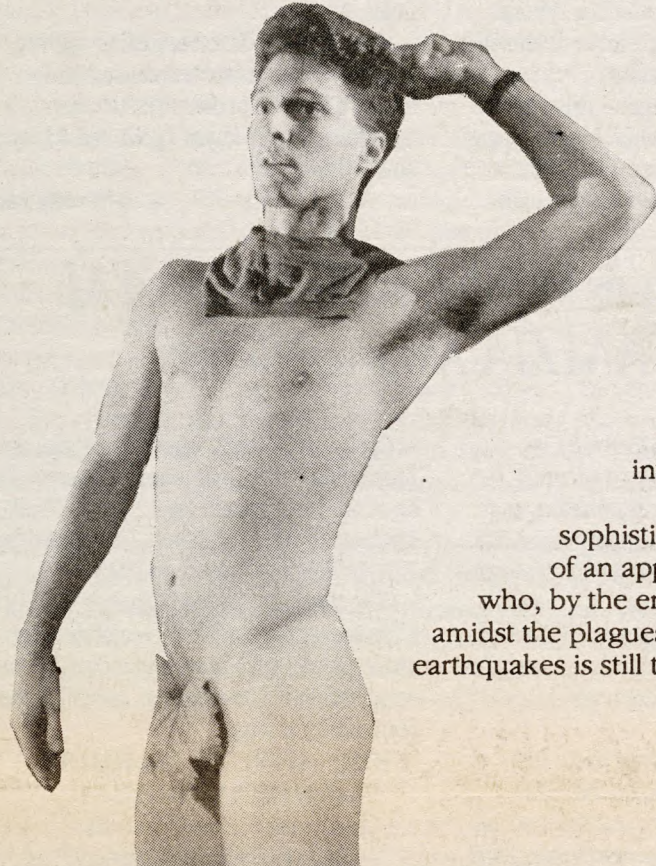
KEEP REFRIGERATED

Tim Miller SOME GOLDEN STATES

"...like a cross between Pee Wee Herman and a game show contestant...
Other times he vamps like an erotic stripteaser."

**A Benefit Performance and Reception for the
Southeastern Arts Media and Education Project, Inc.**

Wednesday, October 5, 8:30pm
Seven Stages/Collective Theater, 1105 Euclid Avenue
\$10.00
Reservations and information, call SAME 584-2104



"Gifted with an acutely goofy intelligence, Miller has fashioned a sophisticated, ironic tale of an appealing innocent who, by the end of his journey amidst the plagues, pestilence and earthquakes is still trying to connect with the earth."

Star Gays

by Martia Proba
September 29–October 12

Oh, no! Mercury turns retrograde on the 28th and stays that way until October 21st. Gemini and Virgo—forget communicating anything to anybody.

LIBRA Jupiter in your 9th house suggests you place the full force of your personality toward travel and legal matters. If your partner is a Libra, arguments are guaranteed on the 9th.

SCORPIO If you want to have an out of body experience, the 4th is the day to do it. Be sure you have a will first. The Sun in your 12th house turns your mind inward for self-analysis.

SAGITTARIUS Act out with an Aries on the 29th, but on the 30th, cool out with a Leo. The Sun in your 11th house urges you to lay the groundwork for a new relationship on the 10th.

CAPRICORN Secrets in your life are important now, but go full out on your job. The Sun brightens the workplace. Avoid Libras on the 28th.

AQUARIUS Breaking up is hard to do on the 9th, especially with a Virgo. Uranus your ruler helps you have a good time on the 6th. Travel with an Aries can be rewarding.

PISCES Just to make sure your emotions don't get out of control on the 30th, spend time with a Gemini and discuss being on time. Do not buy your lover an expensive present on the 9th.

ARIES This is the time for you to look for a life partner. Try an energetic Scorpio on the 2nd; a dreamy Pisces on the 27th and a warm Cancer (at home) on the 1st.

TAURUS You get to take care of your health now. Work out with a Libra on the 1st. Venus encourages you to be domestic—find a Virgo and have tea on the 8th.

GEMINI Romance and pleasure is favored by the Sun in your 5th house. Financial outlook is good. Be benevolent with a Sagittarius on the 4th.

CANCER Jupiter in your 12th house will send you positive energy from a behind-the-scenes source on the 28th. Don't go near any Scorpios on the job on the 5th.

LEO If ever you had an urge to write, now is the time. But don't try to publish anything until Mercury turns direct. Friends should be knocking down your doors, especially on the 28th.

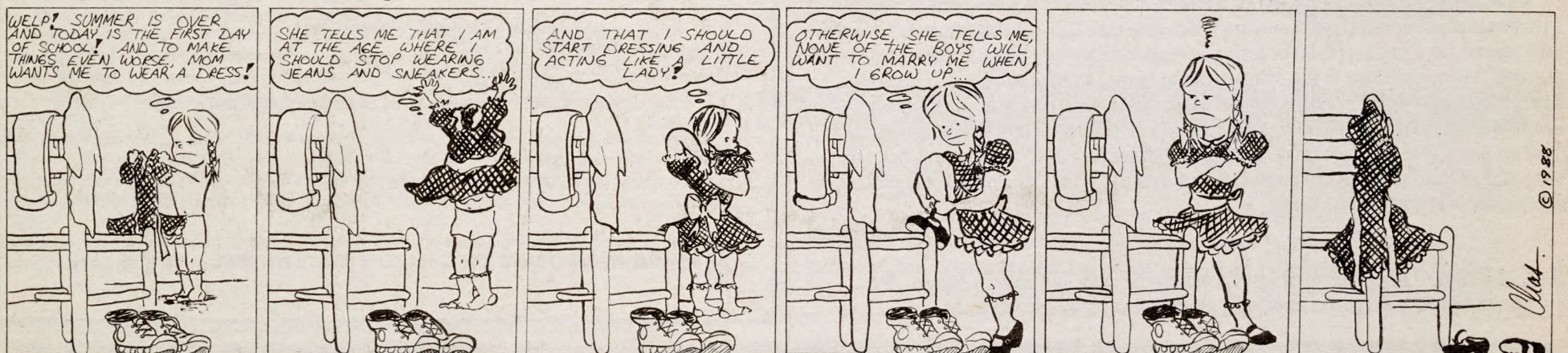
VIRGO Find a Taurus on the 4th and spend some money on this stubborn person. If you need tender loving care on the 3rd, ask a Cancer.

Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Lesbian and Gay Acting Workshops, leading to a December, 1988 community production of *For Love & For Life II*. Five weekends beginning Saturday Oct. 1, 11AM-2PM at the Little 5 Points Community Center. \$10 fee, but no one will be excluded for lack of funds. Limited to 25 participants. Call 584-2104 to register. (V1#16)

Service for Healing of AIDS. Join us in a celebration of life in the liberal religious tradition as we seek healing of mind, spirit and body. Sunday, October 9 at 4:00PM. Unitarian Universalist Metro Ministry. 1911 Cliff Valley Way. (V1#16)

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

Writers needed by Southern Voice to cover news and entertainment. Feature writers also needed. Experience preferred, but will train. Join Atlanta's fastest growing alternative paper. 827-9678.

EMPLOYMENT

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

Part-time bookkeeper needed for small data processing consulting firm. Would like to hire a PWA or PWARC. Call J. Tyler at 355-0376. (V1#16)

Counter Sales Help Wanted at Atlanta's premier take-out gourmet shop. 20-30 hours per week, mainly afternoons and evenings. If you have an interest in food and fun, let's talk! Above average salary for right person. Call George NeSmith or Gail Lineback at 262-9944. (V1#16)

EMPLOYMENT

Tired of politics as usual? ACORN, national grassroots organization, has positions available for socially conscious men and women. Must have commitment to people's politics. Open and supportive atmosphere. Call 875-6903, 9AM - Noon, Monday - Thursday. (V1#16).

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

FOR SALE

Airline ticket to Washington, D.C. for Quilt showing. Leave Oct. 7 return Oct. 9. Will sell for \$125. 373-0278. (V1#16)

QUARRENDEN Crispin Apples now tree ripe. Ready picked available at farm gate @ 48¢/lb, plus 2¢/lb tax. Or pick your own in orchard while supplies last for 24¢/lb plus 1¢ tax. Located on Eppinger Bridge Road (College St.) Concord/Molena. Open Noon to 6 PM every day. 1-495-5488. (V1#16)

HEALTH

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

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

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

APARTMENTS

WOMEN ONLY. PRIVATE, ONE BEDROOM GARAGE APT. IN QUIET EAST POINT NEIGHBORHOOD. PLENTY OF STORAGE SPACE. WASHER/DRYER CONNECTIONS. 5 BLOCKS FROM MARTA STATION. DEPOSIT, PLEASE, REFERENCES. 768-8412. (V1#16)

House for Rent - Grant Park - Deluxe renovated Victorian on quiet street. 2BR/2BA, formal living & dining + den.

APARTMENTS

Central Heat/Air. Private deck, fenced yard, pets OK. \$775+utilities. 577-8128 (V1#16)

PERSONALS

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

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

Bi/GWF sought by BiWM to understand each other when others can't. We both have gd. looks, careers, supportive, interest in children and being life-long friends. P. O. Box 13694, Atlanta 30324. (V1#16)

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

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

ROOMMATES

GM or GF Nice house, nice yard, nice folks seek mature nonsmoker. \$240/month and utilities. 681-0385. (V1#16)

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

SERVICES

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

TRANSPERSONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY Meditation Instruction • Massage. Patrick de Sercey. 237-4658.

CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTIONS

1. **Print** your classified on a separate piece of paper and enclose order form. We must have your phone number to verify the ad.

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

Style Information?

You have 4 options to make your classified more eye-catching! *Southern Voice* will make the first five words **Bold**, *italicized*, or all CAPS, for \$1.00 per style, per issue, or **ALL THREE FOR \$3.00 per issue.**

So...you want to stay anonymous? *Southern Voice* will assign a box number, and forward all responses to the address of your choice. Check the Forwarding box on the order form and *add \$1.00 per issue to your total.*

So...you want to stay anonymous PART II

It is just so easy to respond to a *Southern Voice* Box. Simply put your response in a sealed envelope, with the box number on the lower left corner of the envelope and we will forward your response to the appropriate party.

Southern Voice reserves the right to refuse or edit all classifieds. Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

Subscription Coupon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

I would like to send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

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State _____

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1 Year (26 issues) \$28 \$ _____

PWA FREE

Please make checks payable to:

SOUTHERN VOICE

P.O. Box 54719, Atlanta, GA 30308

CHEAP? These Personals are cheap!

Regular Classifieds are \$7.00 per 40 words, .25 per word after 40 words.
(Minimum charge \$7.00)

Deadline for next issue: Thursday August 11, 1988.

Regular Classifieds:

40 words. (\$7.00)

Over 40 words

How many?

X .25 per word = \$ _____

x _____ Weeks = \$ _____

Personals

STILL only \$3.00 for 30

words for 3 issues!

\$3.00 (Minimum charge)

Over 30 words

How many?

x .25 per word = \$ _____

x _____ Weeks = \$ _____

Bold (\$1.00 per issue)

CAPS (\$1.00 per issue)

Italics (\$1.00 per issue)

Forwarding box (\$1.00 per issue)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$ _____

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Southern Voice reserves the right to refuse or edit all classifieds. Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

(For phone verification)

The NAMES Project: Diary Of A Volunteer

The following are journal excerpts of Pamela J. Cole, who served as a volunteer during the NAMES Project Quilt Display in Atlanta over Memorial Day Weekend. The Quilt ends its 20-city tour in Washington, DC on October 8&9. There will be over 10,000 panels in the Quilt by that time.

Over 4,000 volunteers are needed for the Washington, DC display to staff five-hour shifts. In addition, volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday, October 7th and to clean up on Sunday evening, October 9th.

To register as a volunteer, call (800) USA-NAME and ask for a volunteer registration package.

Sunday, May 14, 1988
4:00 p.m.

For some reason, I attend the "What's in a Name" benefit for the NAMES Project/Atlanta at Club Rio. I haven't seen the Paper Dolls or the Indigo Girls for a while, and I've never been to Club Rio, so I go. I have no idea what I'm in for.

At the benefit, I watch a video documentary of the Inaugural Display of the "Quilt" at Washington, DC. The Quilt is the product of the NAMES Project. It is thousands of quilted panels, each representing someone who has died of AIDS. After the video, I speak to a beautiful female volunteer at the NAMES Project information table. She is selling buttons and T-shirts, and she tells me they need more volunteers. I am interested - in her and in volunteering to help with the Quilt. It will be in Atlanta on Memorial Day Weekend at the World Congress Center. She gives me the number to call at AID Atlanta. "Maybe I'll see you," I say. I have no idea what I'm in for.

Tuesday, May 16, 1988
12:12 p.m.

I call the AID Atlanta office to ask about volunteering for the NAMES Project. YES, they still need volunteers. I am told I must attend two training sessions, one of Friday and one on Sunday. I decide to do it. I'm beginning to get excited although I still have no idea what I'm in for. I think, maybe I'll meet some nice girls like the first volunteer I met.

Friday, May 20, 1988
7:20 p.m.

I've never been to AID Atlanta, but it's pretty easy to find and there's good parking right next door. I walk in and pick up a bunch of volunteer handouts; a Quilt fact sheet, a sign-up sheet, some xeroxed newspaper articles, and some other stuff. I sit down near the front of the room because it looks like we're going to see another video and I don't have my glasses. I don't want to miss anything important.

A woman with a small child comes in and sits next to me. She is very pregnant and I assume, straight. I am surprised. She recognizes a man sitting across from me and leans over me to talk to him. I am about to label her as pushy when I hear her tell the man, "I guess you didn't know, but my brother just died from AIDS." Her kid is climbing all over me, but I'm starting to like him. She paws through her purse and comes up with a handful of photographs. Again, she leans over me to hand the photos to the man. "This is a picture of my brother," she says. She smiles at me and gives me some photos to look at. Her brother is a very young, smiling man in the photographs.

The training session starts. Sure enough,

we see more videos including the same one I saw at the benefit. The woman sitting next to me starts to cry. It is obvious that her brother died very recently. The kid crawls up in her lap and she holds him tightly. I wish I could help her.

After the videos we get more information from Richard Davis, the Volunteer Training Coordinator. We will see more of Richard than anyone else.

As I leave the training room, the waiting room is full of people waiting for the next training session. I recognize some of them, stop to chat. I am suddenly very excited about doing this. So is everyone else.

Sunday, May 22, 1988
3:30 p.m.

Second training session, AID Atlanta. We are told to wear all white. We are told



Unfolding the Quilt in Atlanta.

GERALD JONES

everyone must attend another final training session at the Georgia Mental Health Institute. We watch more videos about Quilt volunteers, Buddies, and the San Francisco showing of the Quilt. This is the only time I have ever seen Lily Tomlin speechless, absolutely speechless, stuttering even. Good old Lily. More questions are asked and answered.

I am very excited. This night, I have trouble sleeping.

Tuesday, May 24, 1988

An article appeared in the newspaper about the NAMES Project. Richard Davis' picture appears. Good old Richard. I am proud to be associated with the project. I wish I could tell the people I work with, but that would not be wise. I begin telling all of my friends to come. I get angry with an ex-lover who says she has too many parties to attend Memorial Day Weekend to see the Quilt. I find I am disappointed in people who are going out of town. I try to remember that other people have a right to their own priorities. It is hard. The NAMES Project is no longer about people with AIDS to me; it's about people who love.

Friday, May 27, 1988
7:00 p.m.

I attend the final training session at GMHI. It is held in a big auditorium. The place is packed but strangely I don't recognize anyone. Who are all these people, all these different people who have come together for this purpose? Grandmothers, mothers, children, gays, nurses, yuppies, and PWAs. There seems to be no sector of humanity unaccounted for.

The national tour people are at this session. They give short informative talks about the Quilt, what it means, what is going to happen next. They try to prepare us for the emotions we will encounter. We are told we are all "emotional support". I am apprehensive but I know I have something to offer, I can do this.

That's why I am here.

Sunday, May 29, 1988
2:30 p.m.

Where is the World Congress Center anyway? I know it's down here somewhere. What a day to start my period. And all dressed in white. I have kleenex, tampons, money, chapstick, volunteer sheets, ink pens, and aspirin all crammed into my pockets. I look fat there is so much stuff in my pockets. But we were told there would be nowhere to store our stuff, and I don't want to carry a

the love and compassion that the Quilt represents. The Quilt is an active memorial created by thousands of caring, nurturing people. I feel honored to participate.

8:30 p.m.

I am now doing quilt monitor relief. I walk around and give monitors a chance to sit down or go to the bathroom. Most monitors don't want to leave, they just want to talk. The Quilt is a magnet, we are all very protective of it. This is the flag for our nation of mourners. A quilt monitor's main job is to keep people from getting too close to the panels, walking on them or damaging them. People just seem to want to get as close as possible. Grief is expressed in different ways. Faces look stunned, some people sit, some people fall out and are helped by grief counselors. Children look enchanted, delighting in the shapes and colors and textures. The children keep it real for me.

10:18 p.m.

I am done. All I can think of is getting off my feet. I wonder why I am not stronger. Carl says, "Honey, go home." I don't see him again.

Monday, May 30, 1988

I sleep late. I wake up tired. I eat lunch at Morrison's. I arrive at the World Congress Center early. There is something I need to do.

1:42 p.m.

I take my tissues and walk the Quilt. I am doing this for me. I have on my glasses. And it is so beautiful and fragile, like the fabric of humanity. I cry and sit and walk. I let myself be there.

3:00 p.m.

I am reporting for my shift when I see some friends. Friends who said they were too busy, friends who said they were going out of town. They have come to see the Quilt.

Today I do Donations. I like this job because I get to see everyone who visits the Quilt. I stand by the escalator, by the donation bin, and smile. It's not really soliciting, it's just drawing attention. It works.

All the money donated goes to help PWAs in Georgia. The exhibition has been paid for by other contributions. Every penny donated today will ease someone's pain. I am humbled by the generosity I witness. I try to look at each person and thank them. I realize I am thanking them for those who will receive the benefits. Often, I am moved to tears.

An old woman watches her daughter make a donation. The woman has trouble walking, moving, speaking; she is old, she has white hair. She watches her daughter and tugs on her sleeve. "Do you want your purse?" her daughter asks. The old woman takes her purse and slowly, painfully, over the course of several minutes, she opens it and takes out a battered leather billfold. With fingers too stiff to bend she opens the billfold, with arms too tired to raise she cradles the purse. But it is clear that she wants help from no one. There are just three bills in the billfold; two ones and a ten. She deliberately fans through the bills and pulls out the ten. She leans over and pushes the crisp ten-dollar bill into the bin. "Thank you so much," I say. She looks up at me in surprise as if she hadn't known I was there. She half-smiles, her blue eyes open wide. I hear her say, not clearly but surely, "I wish it was more."

- Pamela J. Cole