

SOUTHERN VOICE

Miss Gay
Atlanta
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Vol. 1, No. 26

Taking Pride in Our Culture

February 16, 1989

Ga. Insurance Commission Forbids "Lifestyle" Questions

Atlanta — The Georgia Insurance Commission released a regulation on February 15 that prohibits insurance companies from asking questions about potential buyers' lifestyles, including sexual orientation, living arrangements, occupation, territorial classification and ZIP Code.

Deputy Insurance Commissioner Stan Miner said the regulation allows for medical background questioning, but questions regarding symptoms cannot go back more than 10 years. Also, the fact that a person seeks counseling for AIDS-related concerns cannot determine ineligibility for insurance coverage.

Another section of the regulation states that all questions the insurance companies ask must be phrased to elicit a clear, factual response. An insurance company cannot ask a person if he or she has been exposed to AIDS, since "exposed" is not defined in the question.

The regulation also prohibits insurance

companies from reducing policy benefits because an insured person is diagnosed with AIDS or ARC. No riders or policy amendments can be made as a result of the diagnosis.

As the result of a bill passed last year, a notice and consent form was developed for HIV antibody testing. The form explains the HIV testing procedure, states the right of the insured to receive a copy of the test results and correct any mistakes that may appear. Confidentiality is addressed in the form as well. It states that a medical laboratory will be responsible for the testing. The results are sent directly to the insurance company, and possibly its affiliates, as well as the medical information bureau. However, if test results are positive, the medical information bureau receives a generic code indicating a nonspecific blood test abnormality.

— Wendy Morse

ABA Resolution Calls For Civil Rights Protections for Gays

Denver, Col.—The policy-making body of the American Bar Association (ABA) approved a wide-ranging resolution urging its members to support anti-discrimination legislation for gays and lesbians.

The resolution passed the 400-member House of Delegates on February 6 by more than a 2-to-1 margin after several hours of debate, which one delegate called "an education process".

"People shouldn't be discriminated against arbitrarily. The purpose of the resolution was to protect a class of citizens, not force their sexual orientation upon others."

—William Ide

The ABA is the largest association of lawyers in the world, according to spokeswoman Dianne Banis. Although members are not obligated to follow the resolution, she said it will have "a great impact".

The resolution urges members to push for legislation protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination in housing,

employment and public accommodations on the federal, state and local levels.

William Ide, an Atlanta attorney and member of the ruling Board of Governors, said many of the delegates were fearful that "they would be forced to accept a sexual orientation that they wouldn't approve of."

"There was a need for education," Ide said. "People shouldn't be discriminated against arbitrarily. The purpose of the resolution was to protect a class of citizens, not force their sexual orientation upon others."

Ide said that the Board of Governors refused to recommend the resolution to the full House of Delegates on a 12-to-14 vote. The Board of Governors can only make recommendations to the House of Delegates, according to Ide, but he said the House normally goes along with the Board. He said that he was surprised, therefore, at the final vote, and said he had "thought it would be much closer".

Ide was a leader in speaking for the resolution. He did not know how the rest of the Georgia delegation had voted on the measure.

— Chris Duncan

Kowalski to Thompson: "I Love You"



Sharon Kowalski was reunited with her lover, Karen Thompson, after four years of separation forced on them by Kowalski's father after her automobile accident.

Sharon Kowalski saw her lover, Karen Thompson, on February 2 for the first time since August, 1985. Kowalski, who did not know why her partner had not been to see her previously, typed out "I Love You" on her alphabet board just prior to the end of their visit.

The couple spent the next day together, and Thompson attended all of Kowalski's therapy sessions. Thompson said that Kowalski was extremely responsive to all her exercises, laughed a lot, and was consistently alert.

"She did as well as I ever hoped she would do," said Thompson.

Kowalski and Thompson have been kept apart since Kowalski's father Donald learned of the couple's lesbian relationship shortly after the automobile accident that disabled Kowalski.

Thompson has led a nationwide fight since 1984 to obtain proper rehabilitative care for Kowalski and to regain visitation rights with her.

Dr. Dorothy Rappel, a psychologist working with Kowalski, reportedly told Thompson that she had discussed the couple's long separation just prior to Thompson's visit. In reply to a question as to why she thought Thompson had not been to see her recently, Kowalski is said to have responded "Too far?" She uses an alphabet board to communicate since she has lost her ability to speak.

Kowalski learned the truth of their separation from Dr. Rappel, and "got tears in her eyes" when she saw Thompson for the first time.

Thompson said that the tendons in Kowalski's feet had become so tight that she doubted even surgery could return them to their proper 90 degree angle. "I can't believe that anyone could let her get like that," she said. "She may not ever be able to stand again. It was not necessary."

Thompson brought a large birthday card from "many dozens" of well-wishers in Colorado with her to the hospital. The card, which had been circulated and signed as part of National Free Sharon Kowalski Day, seemed to confuse Kowalski, who was unaware of the pressure brought to bear on her behalf.

"She doesn't understand yet why all of these people from faraway places are saying these wonderful things, but she's very excited by it."

Kowalski's doctors will provide the judge in the case with a report within 60 days. Ultimately, the judge will decide what the next step for Kowalski will be.

"My goal is for Sharon to be moved from here to a place that's transitional to independent living," Thompson said. "I see no reason why Sharon has to spend the rest of her life in an institution."

—Chris Duncan

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gay Editor Found Stabbed to Death

Washington, D.C. — An openly gay editor for The Washington Post was found murdered in his apartment late last month. Paul Berg, 30, an assistant editor of the Post's health section, had been stabbed more than 15 times according to District of Police homicide detectives.

Police said there was no evidence of a forced entry into Berg's apartment. Two witnesses reported seeing an unknown young male with blood on his hands, face, and shoes riding Berg's bicycle in a parking lot adjacent to the apartment building shortly before Berg's body was discovered.

The young man, now a prime police suspect in the case, reportedly was then observed carrying Berg's bike bag into his apartment, using a key to enter.

— from The Washington Blade

Jazz Player's Secret Found: "He" a She

Spokane, WA—Billy Tipton, a jazz musician died on February 1 at the age of 74. His autopsy revealed the secret Tipton held from most of the world and from his three adopted sons—he was a woman.

Kitty Oakes, who supposedly married Tipton in 1960, was aware of Tipton's secret but refused to talk further to *The Spokane Spokesman-Review* stating that Tipton died with the secret, and that should be respected. Oakes separated from Tipton ten years ago.

The newspaper said Tipton began appearing as a man to break through the strong barriers which keep women from succeeding in the field of jazz.

Tipton was a saxophone and piano player reared in Kansas City, MO. She formed the Billy Tipton Trio in the 1950's and played in nightclubs throughout the West.

Dick O'Neil, drummer for the trio for 10 years, stated some people joked that Tipton's baby face and high voice looked too feminine to be a man. O'Neil said, "I never suspected a thing."

Scott Miller, 27, Tipton's oldest adopted son stated he could not get his father to go to a doctor, "He had so much to protect and I think he was just tired of keeping the secret."

Tipton died from complications from an ulcer. His sons reported their father died tired and with no money.

NCBLG to Recognize Beam on Feb. 26

Detroit — The recent death of the prominent black writer Joseph Beam, has prompted the board of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG) to declare Feb. 26 a day of recognition for Beam, who died of an apparent heart attack brought on by AIDS complications. Beam died on Dec. 27 at age 33.

Black Psychologists Receive CDC Grant for AIDS Education

Washington, D.C. — The Association of Black Psychologists, announced last month that it will develop and deliver AIDS education seminars aimed at the nation's black community, to be funded by a \$201,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control.

The association will train approximately 60 black psychologists in 20 cities to help carry out its AIDS education and assistance programs.

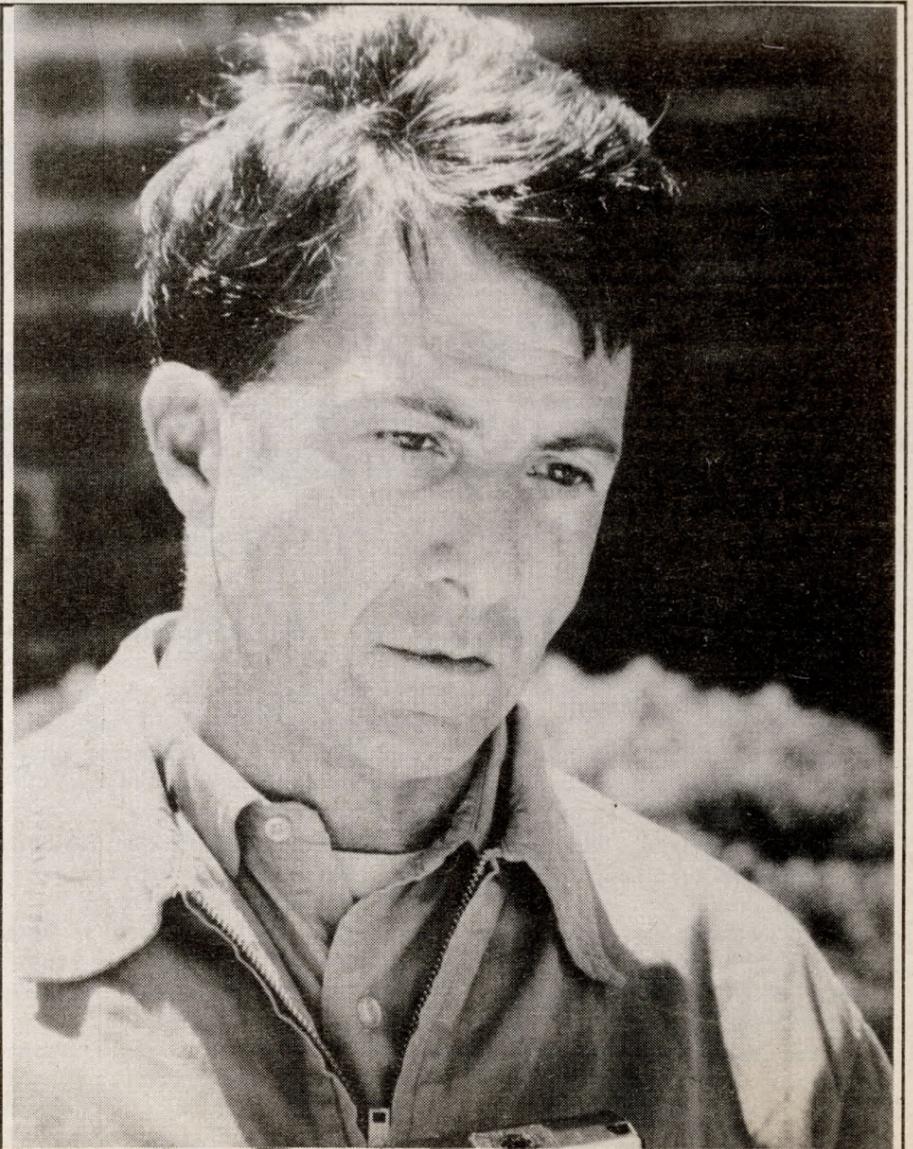
Gay Man Who Saved Pres. Ford Dead at 47

San Francisco—Oliver W. Sipple, the ex-Marine who foiled an assassination attempt against President Gerald Ford on Sept. 22, 1975, died last week at the age of 47. He apparently died of natural causes.

Sipple phoned news outlets after his heroic gesture and begged them not to mention his name, his address or anything about him. But reports about Sipple, including his homosexuality, were published anyway.

He filed a \$15 million invasion-of-privacy lawsuit against several papers, saying his brothers and sisters abandoned him after learning of his sexual orientation. He lost the five-year court battle when the suit was dismissed by Superior Court Judge Ira Brown.

San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen first hinted Sipple was gay, noting that the White House had not thanked him for his actions. Ford did eventually convey his gratitude to Sipple. The framed letter hung on a wall in Sipple's apartment where he was found dead by a friend. Sipple had a pacemaker and a history of high blood pressure and heart problems.



FAMOUS FACES

The Real Rain Man Talks

The person who inspired Dustin Hoffman's brilliant portrayal of an autistic man spoke to the Utah State Legislature, requesting more funding for handicapped programs. 37-year-old Kim, whose real name remains undisclosed, appeared at House chambers in Salt Lake City on the occasion of a House resolution honoring him for his help in educating the public about the handicapped. Hoffman worked with Kim to develop his character.

Here She Comes. Ex-Miss America

Dethroned Miss America Vanessa Williams continues to shock puritans as she walks the aisle of controversial success. In 1984, Miss America officials took away her title saying she could not stand as a role model, after Penthouse Magazine published nude photos of her explicitly sharing her sensuous talents with another woman. Now the controversy centers on a made-for-T.V. movie. On NBC's "The Sex Tapes" she played a hooker surrounded by sadomasochism. Williams expressed surprise at all the publicity, saying she had no problem with playing the kinky role.

K.O. K-Mart Over Shoe Polish

Muhammad Ali says K-Mart's did him wrong and he wants them to pay for it. Ali filed suit against the retailer charging K-Mart didn't live up to a contract to distribute his own Muhammad Ali Champion Brand shoe polish in 500 stores. The former champ wants K-Mart to pay him \$550 million in damages and attorney's fees for what he calls a breach of contract. Distribution of the polish was limited to 60 stores, according to Ali's daring spokesman—Evel Knievel. —F.G.



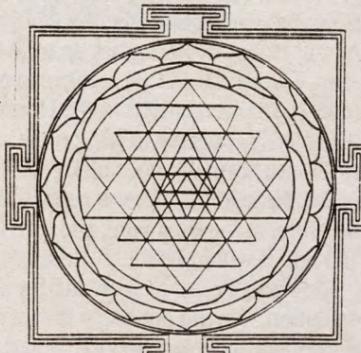
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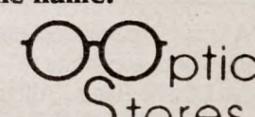
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Lesbian and Gay Bill Reintroduced Into Congress

Washington, D.C.—The Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill was reintroduced into the U.S. Senate on January 25 by Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and into the U.S. House of Representatives by Members of Congress Ted Weiss (D-N.Y./17) and Henry Waxman (D-Calif./24).

Sixty-three Representatives signed up as original cosponsors of the bill, officially called the Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1989 (H.R. 655). Eight Senators have signed on to the companion bill. Gay rights lobbyists from the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) are confident more will sign on in the upcoming months of the 101st Congress.

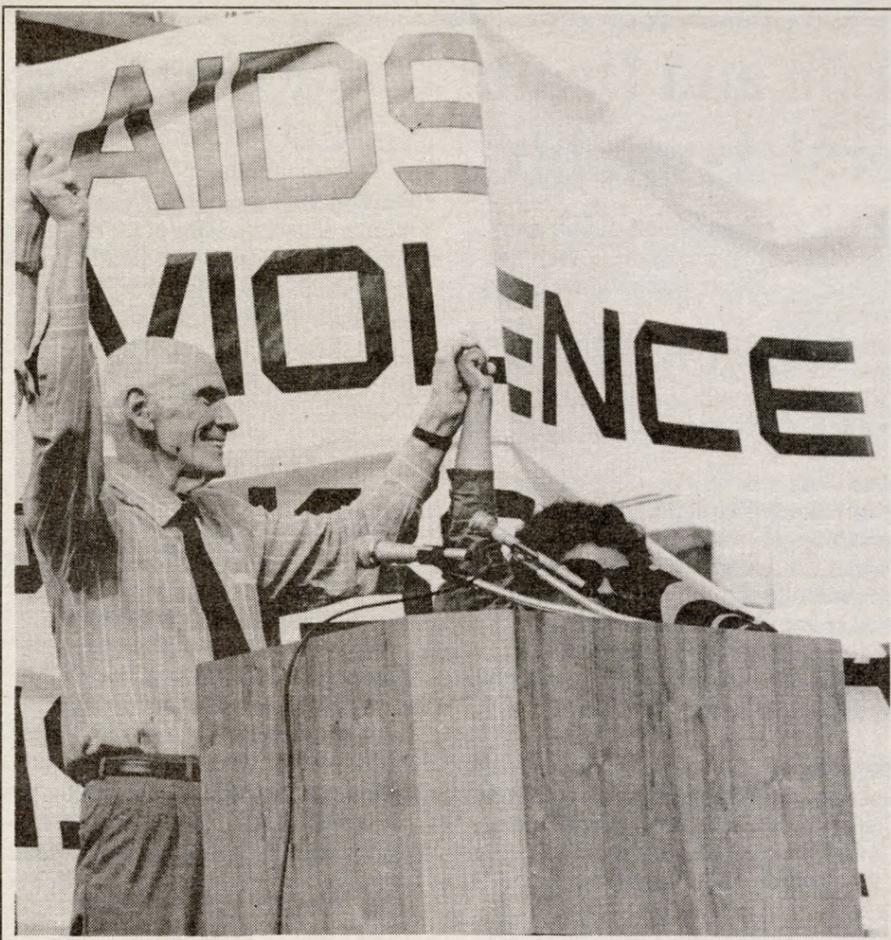
The bill would amend existing federal civil rights statutes to protect people on the basis of "affectional or sexual orientation" from discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and credit, government-assisted opportunities and public accommodations. The bill would outlaw discrimination in stores, restaurants, hotels and other places selling services or goods.

"Affectional or sexual orientation" is defined to mean "male or female homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality by orientation or practice, by and between consenting adults."

"Discrimination in any form, against any class of persons, should be abhorrent to all those who live in a civilized society," said Weiss in his remarks introducing the bill.

"Gay men and lesbians are in every occupation and institution in our nation, be they doctors or nurses, lawyers or clerks, writers, union members, and managers," said Weiss. They are rich and poor, black and white, rural and urban, and number perhaps 20 million of the hard-working, law-abiding citizens among us. But this minority is different from others in that they do not now have legal recourse when they encounter discrimination."

The bill has been introduced into Congress since the mid-Seventies and has gained support over time. Hearings were held on the bill in 1980 and 1981. At the end of the last Congress, 73 Representatives and 10 Senators were cosponsors.



Pamela J. Cole

Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA), pictured here at the LEGAL rally prior to the 1989 Democratic National Convention, reintroduced the Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1989 to the U.S. Senate.

Senator John Chafee (R-R.I.) is the only returning Republican to become an original cosponsor. Because of his long-standing record of support, Chafee received the maximum \$10,000 contribution from HRCF in his race last year. Four Republicans are original cosponsors in the House. HRCF lobbyists have targeted several other Republican Senators and Representatives as potential cosponsors.

The bill also has significant backing from members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Thirteen of the 24 members of the Caucus are cosponsors of the bill. Several other Caucus members are expected to sign on soon.

Senators can be reached at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Representatives can be reached at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Call both at (202) 224-3121.

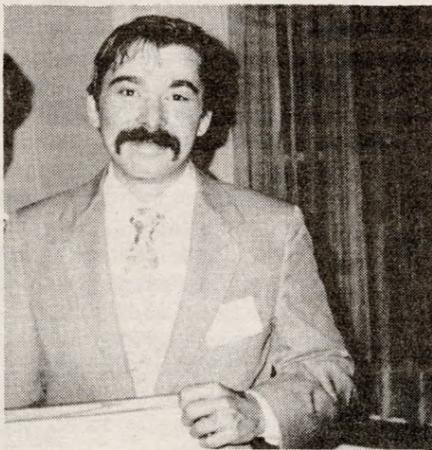
Individuals may also send an HRCF mailgram to members of Congress by calling the "Action Hotline" at (800) 325-6000, operator 9188. Tell the operator you want to send a public opinion mailgram on the bill. If you don't know your legislator's name, the operator will. The cost of this pre-prepared message urging co-sponsorship is \$4.50 per mailgram, which will be charged to your telephone bill.

CDC and FDA Agree to Work with NAPWA

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) agreed in Atlanta last month at a conference of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) to establish an advisory committee that will include HIV-infected members. 35 NAPWA board of directors members from across the United States charged that CDC resources were not meeting the needs of individuals affected by the AIDS crisis. According to David Bray, secretary-designate of the Atlanta NAPWA chapter, many conferees felt that the \$300 million in annual CDC grants earmarked for local AIDS groups was not always spent on purposes for which the money is intended. Dr. Gary Noble, CDC deputy director for AIDS, responded that, "When we can barely do what's needed to get the money out, we hate to divert resources for program evaluation."

"CDC agreed that they need to do some follow-up to track their grant money to local organizations," Bray said. The CDC's initiative to form the advisory group dispelled most of the board members' anger, he said. "They were happy with the result."

Also present were representatives of the



Kurt Rahn, executive director of NAPWA Atlanta.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) who agreed to work with NAPWA to establish an AIDS network data bank. The data bank would provide early information on the status of drugs being tested to combat AIDS.

Kurt Rahn, executive director of NAPWA/Atlanta stated that, "The FDA will also work with us on a brochure aimed at the layman on how to get information on

drug research protocols." Rahn stated that the brochure would "help clear up a lot of confusion about how AIDS patients can get into drug research programs."

Also appearing at the meeting were executives from the Washington, D.C. public relations firm who prepared the U.S. Surgeon General's nationwide mailing on AIDS last year. According to Rahn, the firm offered information on ways AIDS groups can more effectively work with the media. "It's important for us to (work with the media) because of all the misconceptions about AIDS," he said.

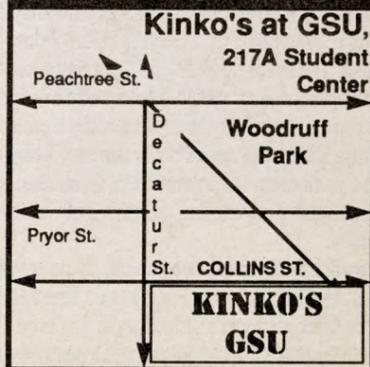
Board members also discussed future use of a \$90,000 grant from Robert W. Johnson Foundation awarded to NAPWA last month. Plans call for the hiring of two persons to provide technical assistance to seven selected regional NAPWA chapters. There are close to 90 NAPWA chapters throughout the country.

— Matt Moline

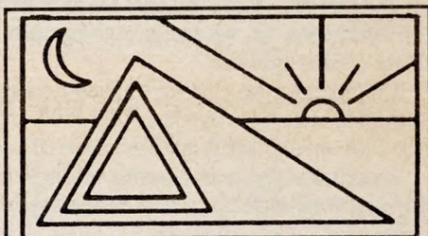
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It's a Matter of Life and Death in the 1989 General Assembly

The Georgia General Assembly is back in session, and, so far, no one has mentioned rounding up the queers to see if they've got AIDS. Gil Robison, lobbyist for the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition, has actually been able to work on some proactive legislation this session without constantly watching his back. Unfortunately, however, now is not the time to go home and relax.

There are four major areas of direct concern to gays and lesbians in Georgia that are languishing in the General Assembly for lack of constituent input and pressure. (See related story, Page 13.) Legislators listen to what the voters in their district have to say, and as long as the only people being heard at the Statehouse are Baptist ministers screaming about a potential lottery, that is the issue to which law makers are going to devote their time and energies.

Medicaid for the Medically Needy Blind and Disabled should be the top priority for gay/lesbian and AIDS activists right now, because it promises to directly and positively affect the lives of uninsured people with AIDS. Georgia is one of only 14 states in the nation not to have this program available for its citizens. This joint state and federal Medicaid program would, if funded, cover almost all of the medical expenses of PWAs. Most importantly, this program would pick up the cost of AZT after the current federal funds run out.

Although oddsmakers at the Statehouse have said this bill is dead, Robison thinks that the program could be saved with enough voter input. The bill would cover all Georgians, not just PWAs, and is relatively inexpensive when compared with other state and federal programs. It could save close to two hundred PWA lives this year by getting them proper medical care. It isn't always AIDS that kills people with AIDS, sometimes it's just plain neglect.

The **Department of Human Resources (DHR) budget request for \$3.5 million for AIDS prevention and education** has been slashed to \$660,000, only 19% of what the leading state health authority considers mandatory for stopping the epidemic before it does to Georgia what it has already done to New York and California. The anger the people of Georgia should feel at this threat to the public health is nothing compared to the compassion they should feel for people outside of the Atlanta area, who still do not really know how AIDS is spread or how to deal with it when it enters your life.

A **High Risk Insurance Pool** is currently being drafted by the House Insurance Committee. Although there is a lot of room for improvement in the ideas currently being circulated within the committee, the idea to provide insurance coverage to the chronically uninsurable deserves a lot of attention and input from our community.

Insurance Reform has become one of the hot topics in this year's session, if not one of its most visible. State Senator Bud Stumbaugh introduced a package of bills this year that will truly regulate the state Insurance Commissioner's office for the first time. This package will make sweeping changes in the current good old boy politics of the Insurance Department, and make the industry accountable to the public it serves - if it passes.

There are many people waiting to line up in opposition to the first of these issues that seriously challenges the current status quo. We must give our legislators the courage to stand up to our enemies and pass proactive health-oriented legislation.

It is imperative that when you get through reading this editorial you call your state senator and representative(s). If you don't know their names or phone numbers, you can reach the Clerk of the Senate at 656-0028 and the Clerk of the House at 656-5082.

These issues affect every Georgian, not just people with AIDS and gays and lesbians. We will have to be the people who insure their passage and funding, however. It isn't hysterical to say that these are life and death issues.

- Chris Duncan

United Front Needed in Battle Against AIDS

To the editor:

Your editorial under "Viewpoints" in the February 2nd issue reveals a depth and breadth of understanding of the challenges we all face in dealing with the AIDS crisis that, quite frankly, I did not expect, but am more than pleased to acknowledge. Everywhere this past year it has been those AIDS agencies with the longest track records that have most often served as scapegoats in public print for the frustrations and the anger we all feel at our national inability to gain the upper hand over an epidemic that continues to outpace our inadequate resources. AID Atlanta has been no exception.

It is reassuring that the editor of *Southern Voice* is willing to speak out now in favor of a united front against AIDS, rather than fanning the flames of petty factionalism that sensationalized so much media coverage of AIDS, and of AID Atlanta, during 1988. If others follow your constructive lead, 1989 can be a year of much greater positive gains for the clients whose best interests are surely as much our

concern as they are yours. We are working with consultants in several areas to resolve some acknowledged inadequacies within our own operations, and will also be quick to recognize and to encourage outside operations likely to advance our common cause.

Let there be no doubt: AID Atlanta is not in competition with anyone, nor do we see any conflict of interest with any other organization honestly and effectively committed to meeting specific needs of any and all people with AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex, whether or not they are our own clients. Let them help our clients, and let us help theirs - but always, let the clients, not the organization, not the public or the media, but the clients, retain the power of accepting or refusing any available service, of controlling their own lives to the greatest possible extent.

Sincerely,
Buren W. Batson, Jr.
Executive Director
AID Atlanta

"Concrete Change" Needed for Accessibility

To the editor:

The same weekend that eight white supremacists marched in Atlanta to the theme of divisiveness and group privilege, three people demonstrated here for inclusiveness and equal treatment.

On Sunday, January 22, disability rights activists, one of whom is also active in the local lesbian community, demonstrated at the national Home Builders Show. The quiet action contrasted sharply to Saturday's "media event."

The home builders convention at the World Congress Center drew 60,000 participants, including some wheelchair users. These people found that the demonstration house built on the premises, an exhibit called the Smart House because of its technological devices, was not accessible. Four steps led to the front door and no ramp was available at any other entrance.

The disability rights activists from the local group Concrete Change unfurled a banner that read "Smart Houses Do Not Limit Access." They handed out leaflets to the crowd which explained that houses built "minimally accessible" from the beginning do not have significantly higher construction costs. "Minimal accessibility" they define as having one stepless entrance and all interior doors 32" wide or wider.

The demonstrators drew a lot of interest from the crowd. A spokesperson from the convention offered to have the wheelchair-users lifted into the "Smart House." The demonstrators replied that most people in wheelchairs prefer not to be carried up steps because of the danger and awkwardness. They further stressed that as a prototype for future homes, this inaccessible house was sending the wrong message. The spokesperson promised the group that next year's exhibit would be accessible.

Concrete Change is a local group of a national movement that is working to decrease the architectural barriers which now limit opportunities for people with disabilities and curtail their participation in the community. Those of us who are currently able-bodied should fully support this movement. Accessibility works both ways. Equal access is important to disabled people. And if they are shut out of the community, the rest of us are denied access to them as people, friends, and colleagues.

Sincerely,
Barbara R. Harvey

Kudos for Motter

To the editor:

On Saturday, January 28, my lover and I attended the benefit at Agnes Scott College for the Womens Resource Center, which aids and shelters battered women and their children.

The benefit concert featured the Indigo Girls with special guests Caroline Akin and Angela Motter.

While all the performers deserve a special thanks for donating their time to such a wonderful cause, I would like to note that Angela Motter was a particularly bright spot in the evening. This singer/musician/songwriter belted out clear, strong and meaningful lyrics with a sexy smoothness, never forgetting the value of just plain good entertainment.

Saturday evening was our first time seeing Ms. Motter - it won't be the last.

Sincerely,
J. P.
Decatur, Ga.

Southern Voice is moving to
1179 Virginia Avenue, NE.
Our new phone number is
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Viewpoints is part of a continuing effort to provide a forum for our community. We invite your ideas, comments and feelings and your responses to ideas expressed in this space.

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of **Southern Voice**. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than four pages.

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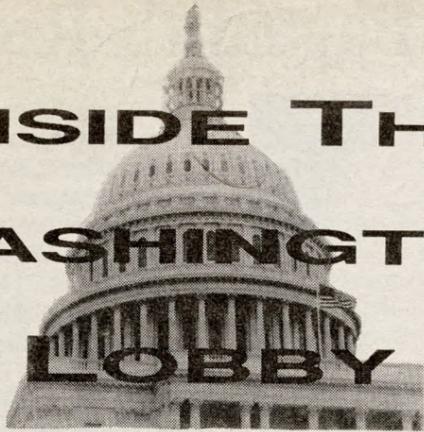
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INSIDE THE WASHINGTON LOBBY



Southern Voice is proud to introduce "Inside the Washington Lobby" to our readers. This informative and exciting column is written by Chai Feldblum, an attorney and lobbyist for the ACLU AIDS Project, and Laura Markowitz, an editor of a national magazine and a lesbian activist.

Lesbians and gays need to stay informed. But keeping track of different bills and amendments as they bounce back and forth in committees, the House and the Senate can be dry reading. "Inside the Washington Lobby" will take you inside the Washington lobby and introduce you to the AIDS and gay rights legislation that will be voted on in 1989, tell you who the key players are – our allies and our obstacles to freedom and security under the law. For instance, few realize that many of the AIDS lobbyists are lesbians, or that the watchdog of our civil rights protection has been the disability community. The first column will give a brief recap of the 100th Congress and a preview of the upcoming one. Subsequent columns will have the insiders' report on the status of the AIDS and gay rights legislation—the ins and outs not covered by the mainstream press.

AIDS Education and the Helms Amendment

No funds may be used to provide AIDS educational materials that "promote or encourage homosexual sexual activities and all such materials must emphasize abstinence from homosexual sexual activities," read the infamous Helms Amendment that became law under the Fiscal Year 1988 (FY88) Appropriations Bill – a yearly enactment that governs how the federal government spends money in that particular fiscal year. It was a short-term victory for Helms, and the Senator began working on ways to make it a permanent law of the United States.

In April, 1988 it looked as if Helms would succeed. The Senate passed the Helms Amendment as part of S.1220, the AIDS Research and Education Bill, championed by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA). Although Kennedy succeeded in getting an additional provision added that somewhat reduced the impact of the Helms amendment, the entire Helms language was in the legislation – a three year authorization bill.

But then the tides turned. Debate on the FY89 Appropriations Bill came around in the Senate while the counterpart to S.1220 was still being argued in the House committee (bills must be approved in committee before they go "to the floor" for a general vote). Helms was poised on the Senate floor, ready to offer the same amendment that the Senate had now passed for him twice before. But something was different. During the previous week, lobbyists had been talking to Kennedy and Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA), urging them to make a "pre-emptive strike" and offer a non-homophobic amendment before Helms could offer his.

"AIDS educational programs...shall not be designed to promote or encourage, directly sexual activity, homosexual or heterosexual...but shall be designed to reduce transmission of [HIV]," read the alternate amendment, drafted by lobbyists from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), AIDS Action Council, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). It was hoped that once this amendment was passed, the original Helms amendment could actually be defeated, even if it were offered once again.

Negotiations for this strategy were completed moments before the FY89 Appropriations Bill came to the floor. Then, for the first order of business when the bill was called up, Cranston and Kennedy offered the amendment. Helms sputtered about their use of procedure to defeat him but there was nothing he could do. The amendment passed – after extensive discussion on the need for effective AIDS educational materials.

And the second part of the strategy worked too. Three times that afternoon Helms tried to strike the Cranston-Kennedy language and insert his own language. Each time he failed. Those who were observing Helms that day report that he was so furious he seemed to turn lavender.

AIDS Treatment and Research

The federal government has been appropriating money for AIDS treatment, research and education since the AIDS epidemic came to the attention of Congress in 1981. This is somewhat unusual since ordinarily money is appropriated to a program after a bill to create the program has been passed. While general institutions, such as the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control have been authorized for years, specific AIDS programs within those institutions had never received separate authorizations. Although money for treatment and research had not been challenged because of that lack of authorization, lobbyists did not want to count on Congressional or Administration goodwill in the future. Senate bill 2889 was passed and authorized a series of AIDS research and education programs, through the leadership of Senator Kennedy and Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA). It is a major victory that the bill includes the non-homophobic wording of the Cranston-Kennedy provision of the FY89 Appropriations Bill, and offers some assurance of future funding.

Each year Congress increases the spending budget for AIDS treatment and research. This year it stands at nearly \$1.6 billion, but in the forecast Bush administration budget cuts, there may be a fight to maintain that budget.

Civil Rights

There are currently two federal laws in effect that protect the rights of people with AIDS and HIV infection. The major one is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 only covers entities ("programs and activities") that receive federal funds, and offers no protection in the private sector for people with disabilities or AIDS. Last year Congress was considering the Civil Rights Restoration Act – a bill to overturn the Supreme Court decision that gave a restrictive definition to the term "program" or "activity" – and Section 504 was brought out into the open. Homophobic members of Congress like Senators Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) and William Armstrong (R-COL) proposed a provision to exclude people with AIDS and HIV infection from Section 504. Fortunately, the disability community was monitoring civil rights legislation.

With the help of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) and a coalition of disability rights groups called the Consortium of Citizens With Developmental Disabilities, a counter-provision that affirmed protection for people who posed no health threat to others was



drafted. People with AIDS or HIV infection pose no health threat to others, according to current medical evidence, and therefore remain included under the provision. The amendment passed as part of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, and even served as a basis for a memo from the Department of Justice asserting that people with AIDS and HIV infection are protected under Section 504.

But Section 504 only protects AIDS and HIV carriers and people with disabilities in the public sector. The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 was the first bill that extended non-discrimination protection to these groups in the private sector – prohibiting discrimination on the part of those that rent or sell private dwellings. This bill also protects those who associate with people with AIDS, HIV infection or other disabilities so that landlords and owners also cannot discriminate against a person because her or his lover or friends have AIDS or HIV infection – and its passage was a considerable victory in the last Congress.

When the bill was being considered by the House Judiciary Committee last April, Congressman Bill Dannemeyer (R-CA) tried to get in an amendment that would exclude people with AIDS and HIV infection. DREDF, the ACLU and AIDS Action Council formulated a counter-amendment that Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) offered. It passed in the committee by a vote of 22 to 13 and then served as the basis for defeating similar efforts on the House floor. Intense negotiations beforehand ensured that no AIDS amendment was even offered in the Senate.

The Fair House Amendments Act of 1988 will become effective March 12, 1989. While this is a major victory for people with AIDS, HIV infection and their loved ones, we still face opposition to gay and lesbian civil rights protection.

Legislation for 1989

We consistently win when we work in coalition with the disability community because the opposition is then forced to take an affirmative step to exclude people with AIDS and HIV infection from other people with disabilities, and such attempts are easier to defeat. The lobbying efforts will join forces again this year to push for the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act that calls for protection of people with disabilities, including people with AIDS and HIV infection in employment, transportation, communication, local and state government activities and public accommodations.

Confidentiality is another vital issue that Congress will decide policy on this year. Lobbyists are once again developing a bill providing that HIV test results may not be disclosed to outsiders by those who administer the test, or by health care providers who are informed by the infected person. A major concern is that such a bill should add to, and not supplant, the protections that currently exist in some states.

A financing package that will finally address private insurance coverage and government programs, and that will create a system to provide treatment and health care to people with AIDS and HIV infections is another priority for this year's AIDS lobby.

– Chai Feldblum and
Laura Markowitz

Lisa King Will Crown New Queen in Pageant's Revival

There is a kind of beauty and sincerity about Lisa King that goes beneath the make-up and sequins to the heart of a talented and dedicated performing artist.

Beyond the voluptuous smile and high-fashion wardrobe securely lies a seasoned, professional entertainer who knows where "she's" coming from and where "she's" going.

The nationally popular female impersonator had the knowledge over a decade ago on departing his Jacksonville, Florida hometown in search of a career on stage in a dress.

Like most cross-sexual impressionists, "the first time I entered a contest was on a dare from friends," Lisa concedes. "The only difference is that I won." Within a year, the first job offer came from Atlanta's then thriving showplace, Sweet Gum Head.

Another year's passing brought "the one big push I needed to launch my career," she said. "Being named Miss Gay Atlanta during the bicentennial year (1976) was when it all really began for me... when I started traveling and getting my name out."

From that first bar gig in Atlanta where Lisa gave three performances per night for five nights a week, to her current schedule averaging four appearances per month in major U.S. cities, Lisa King has evolved into a major figure among female impersonators nationwide.

It seems only appropriate, then, that she would be selected to direct the resurrection of the Miss Gay Atlanta Pageant following a seven-year hiatus. To be hosted by Liptix (formerly Lavita's) at 10 p.m. on Sunday, February 26, "this pageant was the biggest such competition to come through Atlanta,"



Lisa King, Miss Gay Atlanta 1976, will host the revived pageant on Feb. 26.

Lisa recalls. "I am sincerely involved because it remains an important part of my life... I wouldn't be the Lisa King I am today if not for this pageant."

Although she holds sixteen contest titles, Lisa denotes the Miss Gay Atlanta crown as her most coveted. "I hope to help restore Atlanta as a contributing city in the fostering of female impersonation."

Produced by Varsity Entertainment, Inc., the pageant will feature former Miss Gay Atlanta title bearers, including the last official winner, Tina Devore, from 1982.

Detained in litigation for almost a decade, pageant rights were recently secured by the present production company. Co-hosting the event with Pageant Director King will be Mickey Day, joined by other local performing personalities including Taisha Wallis, Amber Richards, Charlie Brown and Satyn Deville.

Tickets priced at \$6 help defray mounting costs and provide close to \$1,000 in cash prizes for contestants. First presented in 1970, the pageant's original location was Miss P's, a long-standing showbar favorite operated on the exact site now housing 551 Downstairs at Ponce de Leon Avenue in Midtown.

Contestant inquiries should be directed to Lisa King through Varsity Entertainment, Inc., 1579-F Monroe Drive, Suite 153, Atlanta, GA 30324.

-John Blizzard

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Perverts Come Out On Stage

'And there's nothing wrong with that.'



Review

Melissa Etheridge
Melissa Etheridge
Island Records

Listening to her hard-edged voice and passionate, visceral lyrics it's difficult to imagine Melissa Etheridge once sought a Christian music record deal. The only remaining vestige of that former life in her debut album *Melissa Etheridge* is her trademark 12-string guitar. Kum-ba-yah, man.

Melissa Etheridge is a rock n' roll singer's singer. The band is clearly driven by her powerful vocals, not vice-versa. Thankfully, Chris Blackwell (Island records prez) allowed Etheridge and her band to arrange and produce the album. The result is clean and direct; the production never covers over or complicates what is essentially mostly acoustic-driven rock n' roll. Guitar ringers Waddy Wachtel and Johnny Lee Schell, known for their work with many top-notch female vocalists, are added only to support and enhance the music. Their tastefulness shines here as always.

I've often thought song lyrics fall into a category somewhere between real poetry

and greeting card verse. Etheridge turns the usual rock fodder into emotional poetry by singing with conviction and abandon. In "Bring Me Some Water," the familiar cruncher being played on many rock stations, the cliched beginning "Tonight I feel so weak/but all in love is fair" can't destroy the passion that builds up to the clincher at the end of the verse—"But tonite while I'm making excuses, some other woman is making love to you." Suddenly every jealous feeling I've ever had I feel right in the pit of my stomach. The chorus then seems inevitable. "Somebody bring me some water, can't you see I'm burning alive?/Can't you see my baby's got another lover?/I don't know how I'm gonna survive."

"I Want You" describes lust at first sight better than Prince ever did.

"Well it was no fantasy the passion burned. You touched me the evening turned to midnight.

I can't forget the naked trust,
One quenchless night of shaking lust and fire."

This tune is best played loud, preferably on the way to pick up a hot date.

Contrasting the straight-ahead cookers "Like the Way I Do," "Bring Me Some Water" and "I Want You" are "Precious Pain" and "Don't You Need." Both begin simply with voice and acoustic guitar. Other instruments are layered in progressively to build interest and intensity. I would wager the gentle guitar solo in "Precious Pain" is Wachtel's (no credits are given).

Etheridge's funky bass player Kevin McCormick slaps and pops in perfectly placed fills in tunes like "Chrome-plated Heart" and "Don't You Need," but his string bass solo in "The Late September Dogs" is probably the most memorable solo on the album.

Finally, the sarcastic "Occasionally" features only Etheridge and her guitar-played-like-bongos accompaniment.

There's not a bad song on this album. If anything it will probably leave you wanting more. Hopefully Etheridge won't smooth the edges with her next release, and it will be as intense, honest and passionate as her debut.

—Tina Turner

There's a play in town—a smash hit that's been touring the country to rave reviews, etc., etc. Oh, you knew? You've already got tickets? To *Dos Lesbos*? No?

That's right. *Dos Lesbos* (written by Terry Baum and Carolyn Meyers) is in town, and those reviews you probably haven't read are absolutely true. Starring Kelley Edwards (Gracie) and Lea DeLaria (Peg), the show is an, mmm, intimate look at the lives of two Lesbians.

Not just any two Lesbians, mind you, or even two Universal Typical Lesbians, but Peg and Gracie. Perhaps you know them. Gracie sells her fingers to the highest bidder...at an office. She types. At home she writes bad, very bad, poetry about her experiences (*I float in the placenta of sisterhood/under fluorescent lights*—delivered with exactly the cadence and rhythm we've come to expect from bad poets). Peg is her lover. She listens behind newspapers touting the latest in Elvis sightings (was she really looking for employment *in there*?) as Gracie recites, and the two of them lead an uproarious romp through Coming Out to Parents, Depression (but "Homosexuality is an Equal Opportunity Oppression"), Meeting the Parents, and Sex.

About Coming Out to Parents: Peg and Gracie role play the scenes, doing a coming out restoration comedy, Bergman film, horror movie, and Greek tragedy—DeLaria and Edwards shine here, displaying considerable talent in rendering perfectly those stylized genres. Oh yes, and the whole thing is a musical comedy. The New Version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (you'll want a copy of this for your own use!) is worth the price of admission alone.

On the production end, SAME is continuing a recent trend of providing its performers with slack, haphazard technical support. While the lighting design worked rather well (particularly the green Bergman piece), some cues were missed or slow. The sound was inconsistent at best: the taped music in the first act was barely audible, and entirely too loud in the second, leaving Ms. Edwards and Ms. DeLaria to practically shout the lyrics to their songs. This was a disservice: songs like "Twelve Days" and "Misery Loves Company" deserve to be heard.

OK. I'll bet you saw the ads, the posters—*Dos Lesbos—A Musical Comedy By, For and About Perverts*. Whoa, *perverts*? Oh, no. Not me. I'm no pervert, you may have said. Come on. Don't be so serious. Sure you are. *And there's nothing wrong with that*. Not a thing. Want some proof? OK, but first you have to swallow that fear of being associated with the likes of *them*. And see *Dos Lesbos*.

—KC Wildmoon

"Dos Lesbos—A Musical Comedy By, For and About Perverts" is being produced by SAME at Nexus Theatre, 608 Ralph McGill Boulevard, Thursday-Saturday 8 pm and Sunday 5 pm through February 26. For reservations call 584-2104.

Brenda L. Hawkins

ED. D., Licensed Psychologist

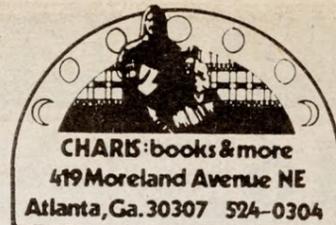
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SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

•**Maya Angelou** – February 17th. One of the great voices of contemporary literature, Angelou will address the topics of education and literature for the 21st century in a lecture sponsored by the Atlanta Historical Society. Angelou – a true Renaissance woman – is a poet, educator, civil rights activist, actor, playwright and producer. A book signing reception will be held at the Atlanta Historical Society Downtown, 140 Peachtree Street, immediately following the lecture. Noon. Free and open to the public. Georgia-Pacific Auditorium. 261-1837.

•**Serious Money** – February 17 through March 11. A fast-paced and very funny romp through the world of high finance by famed British author Caryl Churchill. Financial buccaneers on both sides of the Atlantic double and triple cross each other in this stinging satire. Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Avenue. Thursday-Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 5:00 & 8:30 p.m., and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. \$10 Thursday, Saturday (5:00) and Sunday. \$12 Friday and Saturday (8:30). \$7 for students and senior citizens. 584-7450 for tickets and information.

•**Spaghetti Dinner Benefit** – February 19. Come and turn "carbohydrates into dollars" for Project Open Hand and *Southern Voice*. Enjoy a spaghetti dinner in a romantic Italian atmosphere complete with red-checked table cloths and Chianti bottles! Reserved seatings at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. Your ticket also entitles you to one free drink of your choice. Cash bar is also available. Inman Park Trolley Barn, 963 Edgewood Avenue (1 block from the Inman Park MARTA station). Tickets are \$10 and available at Charis Books and More and The Boy Next Door. Call 377-8312 for more information. A Sister Sister Production.

•**"Chasing A Rainbow: The Life of Josephine Baker"** – February 20. Baker – actress, "banana dance" creator and French Resistance heroine – triumphed over a life of poverty to become "LaBakaire", the sensation of Paris. Lost in the crush of black entertainers in America, the little girl from Saint Louis rose to fame in the 1920s in France where she was the toast of the grandest music hall in Paris. "Chasing A Rainbow" consists entirely of authentic film, photographs and music which tracks Baker's exhaustive career. Despite deteriorating health, Baker made a triumphant comeback at age 68 and died in 1975 as big a star as ever. 9:00 p.m. Channel 8-WGTV.



THURSDAY

16 "Mating Calls" – Feb. 19. Just Us Theatre presents Pearl Cleage and Zaron Burnett, Jr. in a multi-media performance. Civic Center. 395 Piedmont Ave., Room

104.
8:30 p.m. \$5. 876-2350.

"Dos Lesbos" thru Feb. 26th. The musical comedy for, by, and about perverts continues! Call 584-2104 for tix info & reservations, times. NEXUS Theatre. 608 Ralph McGill Boulevard.



17 *Serious Money* – thru March 11th. Horizon Theatre. 584-7450.
Maya Angelou – Discusses literature and education for the 21st century. A reception follows at Atlanta Historical Society Downtown, 140 Peachtree Street. Lecture: Georgia-Pacific Center Auditorium. Noon. Free and open to the public. For more information, call Atlanta Historical Society at 261-1837. Photo at left.

SATURDAY

18 *The Good Woman of Setzuan* – thru Feb. 19th. Thursday-Saturday, 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m. \$10.00. Dorsey Studio Theatre. 634-3602.

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus presents "Heart Theme: A Musical Celebration of Love" for its winter concert. Walter C. Hill Auditorium, High Museum of Art. 8:00 p.m. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Tickets available at Charis Books and More, The Boy Next Door and Video Library. Photo at right.



SUNDAY

19 *Les Miserables* musical based on the novel by Victor Hugo. FOX Theatre. 873-4300 for Georgia State University with M Recital

Spaghe Project Southe Trolley seating Tickets Books Next D

23 Angela Motter and Jerry Peek in concert. Little 5 Points Pub. 10:00 p.m. \$3.00. 577-7767.

This Way Out: Lesbian-Gay Radio every Thursday. 6:00 p.m. WRFG 89.3 FM.

24 *Crimes of the Heart* – thru March 18. Neighborhood Playhouse. 373-5311. Photo below.

Indigo Girls. Cotton Club, 1020 Peachtree Street, Midtown, 7:00 p.m. \$7.00. 874-2523.



25 "The ABCs of C.D." A teach-in on non-violent civil disobedience. Midtown YWCA (Hudson & Highland). 1-3 p.m. For more information, call 386-6247.

The Bazooka Ants – The hottest contemporary acoustic jazz group returns! Picasso's Performance Cafe. 515 North McDonough Street. 9:00 p.m. \$4.00.

18th Annual Children's Festival. Woodruff Arts Center. 1280 Peachtree Street. 892-3600. 10:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m. ALL EVENTS FREE.

Don't miss West 57th Street tonight at 10 p.m.! They are going to air the Sharon Kowalski/Karen Thompson story.

26 Record Party! recording will be Mo' Time. 4:00 874-0980. Photo

Dos Lesbos. Last Day! Performance is at 5:00 p.m. and only \$7.50. Nexus Theatre. 608 Ralph McGill Boulevard. Call 584-2104.

DOC WATSON CONCERT POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 26 DUE TO ILLNESS

February 16 – March 1

Next Week's Highlights



•**Taming of the Shrew** – through April 1. Devoid of 20th century conceptualizations that are often applied to Shakespeare's plays, *Taming of the Shrew* is presented in a style the bard himself would have recognized. Presented by The Atlanta Shakespeare Company, this version of *Shrew* (at Manuel's Tavern) is Shakespeare stripped to its bare essentials, allowing the lightning verse to fly as it should. This is ASC's sixth Shakespeare presentation at Manuel's Tavern, 602 North Highland Avenue. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sundays at 7:30 p.m. \$11 weeknights and Sundays. \$14 on Saturdays. 875-8161 for reservations.

•**Crimes of the Heart** – February 24 thru March 18. This hilarious Southern gothic comedy is a Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle Award winner. Three sisters return home trying to regain control of their futures, but are unable to break the patterns of the past. As they fight, cry and laugh, they learn the only way to seize the future is to release the past. The Neighborhood Playhouse, Decatur. 430 West Trinity Place. Thursday-Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 2:00 p.m. \$8.00. 373-5311.

•**Lisa Busler's Album Release Party** – February 26. Busler, born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, has opened for the likes of Hank Williams, Jr. and The Earl Scruggs Revue. She recorded three albums with The Lower Forty Grass before going on her own. "Take Me On", her second album, is a beautiful mix of original songs and traditional tunes which Busler conceived, arranged and co-produced. 4:00 p.m. Deana's One Mo' Time, 1890 Cheshire Bridge Road. 874-0980 for more information.

•**Masterworks of Ming and Qing Painting From the Forbidden City** – February 28 – April 2. This is the first exhibition devoted to Chinese painting to come to the U.S. from the Palace Museum in the Forbidden City in Beijing. Where the emperors of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties ruled China from the "dragon throne". The exhibition includes the works on paper and silk and introduces the elegant and powerful beauty of Chinese painting. High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree Street. Tuesday thru Sunday, 10:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m. Open until 9:00 p.m. every Wednesday. Sunday, noon-5:00 p.m. General admission is \$4. 892-HIGH. Pictured at left are: "Travellers Through Mountain Passes" by Dai Jin (1388-1462); "Lofty Mountains and Flowing Stream" by Mei Qing (1623-1697); and "Plucking Chrysanthemums" by Shi Taro (born ca. 1638-41; died before 1720).

MONDAY

20 Chasing A Rainbow: The Story of Josephine Baker. – "La Bakaire", American-born black woman who made it BIG in 1920s Paris. GPTV-Channel 8. 9:00 p.m.

Pride of Peachtree-Atlanta's Gay & Lesbian Marching Band. 7:30 p.m. 1st MCC, 800 North Highland Avenue. 434-7826 or 951-1591.

27 Moral Hazard in concert. Funded in part by the Bureau of Cultural Affairs, this concert features more than rock music. NEXUS Theatre.

8:00 p.m. \$5.00. Photo at right.

Atlanta Venture Sports (AVS) Bowling Night! Even if you don't bowl, it's a great place to meet! Express Lanes. 8:30 p.m. Call 242-4899, the AVS Hotline for more information on this group.



TUESDAY

21 Atlanta Lambda Chorale. 1st MCC, 800 North Highland Avenue, 7:30 p.m. 874-1622.

Nova: "God, Darwin and Dinosaurs". Evolutionists vs. Creationists. Channel 8. 8:00 p.m.

1980: *Gentle Waves, an organization of black lesbians, was created in Chicago.*

28 "Masterworks of Ming and Qing Paintings from the Forbidden City" in Beijing – thru April 2. High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree Street. Call 892-3600 for details.

4th Tuesday. For info, call 662-4353.

B. B. King - The great blues master at Glenn Memorial Auditorium at Emory University. 8:00 p.m. Only 200 tickets available to

public. Angela Motter Band opens. Call 727-TICK

WEDNESDAY

22

"Lifestyles Update: Coast to Coast" Weekly. A gay cable-TV program for, by and about "those people". Channel 12 in Fulton and DeKalb, 1:30 p.m. (It repeats at 9:30 p.m. Fridays in Fulton only.) For more information, call 584-2104.

1

Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization (ELGO). 7:00 p.m. Dobbs University Center, Room 363E. 377-7421.

On this date in 1951, Marcia Pally—founding member of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—was born.

es – The award-winning... on Victor Hugo's novel... thru February 26th. Call information.

Jazz Band Concert... arvin Stamm. GSU Hall. 8:00 p.m. \$5.00.

etti Dinner Benefit for... Open Hand and... n Voice – Inman Park Barn. \$10.00. Reserved at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. available at Charis and More and The Boy door.

Lisa Busler's newest... be celebrated. Deana's One... 0 p.m. 834-7315 or... o at below.



KE ME ON
Busler

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. PO Box 50374, Atlanta, Ga., 30302. 691-5921 or 297-8815.

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. A non-political, non-religious, social organization whose purpose is to support the positive aspects of gay and lesbian relationships. Events and meetings vary. Info: A.C.T. Voice Mailbox, 365-2455, or write PO Box 723291, Atlanta, Ga., 30339.

ACT UP/Atlanta-AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power. Direct action group with the purpose of fighting homophobia, AIDS, sexism and racism. Meetings held every Tuesday. 24-hr. info line - 286-6247. Outside Atlanta, call 800-342-7038 ext. 6247.

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. 378-9676.

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. 2nd Thursday of each month. 7:30 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church. Needs volunteers to coordinate this year's lesbian and gay pride March to insure its success.

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

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

AID Atlanta- A community-based, non-profit agency providing multiple services to all people with AIDS, their families and friends, and education to everyone regarding the disease and its prevention. 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 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: 662-4202.

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

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

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

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

CODA- Codependents Anonymous - Lambda. A 12-step program of recovery from codependency for gays and lesbians. Meetings Tues. & Wed. at 8:00 PM. For info and locations call: 239-1657.

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.

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, 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 proclaiming 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 held during the year to learn and practice new techniques. Call 875-0700 for info.

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.

LAMP- The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project. Second Monday of every month. 7:30 PM. N. Highland Branch Library. For info: 874-3107 or 872-7568. Address correspondence to: LAMP, PO Box 301, 1579 F Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30324.

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. 289-6358.

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.

Lutherans Concerned/South Carolina- A society of gay, lesbian and non-gay Christians. All denominations welcome. We work to foster a climate of understanding, justice and reconciliation among all people. 3rd Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. 728 Pickens St., Columbia, SC. Contact: PO Box 90537, Columbia, SC, 29290. (803) 732-0838.

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 Southside- Serving the southside with positive Christian support for lesbians and gay men. 5:00 PM every Sunday. 575 Boulevard, SE. Office hours: Mon-Thurs. 10AM-Noon, and 1PM-4PM. 622-1154.

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.

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

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.

Palmetto Gay/Lesbian Association- A support, education and civil rights organization in S. Carolina. PO Box 10022, Federal Station, Greenville, S.C., 29603. 24-hr. switchboard - (803) 271-4207.

Pride of Peachtree- Atlanta's Lesbian & Gay Marching Band. Every Monday night 7:30 PM-9:00 PM at First MCC, 800 N. Highland Ave. Instrumentalists and colorguard still needed. For info call David at 434-7826 or Susan at 951-1591.

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

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

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

WOW- Women of Wisdom. Usually every 3rd Monday of each month. 7:30 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. 984-9929.

Plans Underway For Nat'l Lesbian Conference

Atlanta - More than 100 women from eight southeastern states gathered last month at Emory University for a planning meeting for the National Lesbian Agenda Conference. About two-thirds of the women came from outside of Georgia. Lesbians in nine regions of the country held meetings throughout the months of December and January. The full conference is scheduled for late 1989 or early 1990, and its intention is to provide a platform to address issues of concern to lesbians on both political and personal levels.

The purpose of the regional caucuses is to establish regional agendas and goals to bring to the national level. Topics discussed in Atlanta included major civil rights issues, matters of legal concern, parenting and family issues, and practical concerns for the conference. Also discussed were sodomy laws - as they effect both lesbians and gay men - and the highly-charged topic of discrimination within the lesbian community. The persistent problem of the lack of presence and input from women of color was marked by the whiteness of the Southeastern and other regional meetings.

The process-oriented discussions which marked the Atlanta meeting proved to be both stimulating and frustrating to many conferees. Northeast planners experienced

the same problems. Michelle Crone, who helped organize the New York meeting, explained, "We need to give ourselves the space to see who we are. We purposely left the agenda open to be as inclusive as possible. Of course, this non-structure can be a little frustrating."

Cathy Woolard, one of the participants at Atlanta's planning meeting, echoed Crone's feelings. "It's good (feminist process) because it allows everyone to speak - and it helps us learn to listen to one another. At the same time, it is incredibly slow, which is exactly how it was in the beginning stages of planning for the National March. But that turned out to be a very successful event, and I think the same will happen for the Lesbian Conference."

The idea for a National Lesbian Conference was born out of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and it appears that the process involved in putting together that event is being loosely followed for the Lesbian Conference. Regional representatives will be chosen who will attend the national conference. Southeastern representatives were not chosen in Atlanta last month, but are expected to be designated in March at a final planning session.

The Lesbian Conference received \$5,000 in start-up funds from surplus money raised during the National March. A total budget of \$100,000 is not unlikely for the conference, which is expected to draw 5,000 lesbians together from across the country.

A final planning session is scheduled for March 4-5 in Durham, N.C. Here the exact dates, location and organizing details will be hammered out. Poet Adrienne Rich will be the keynote speaker. The meeting is open to all lesbians and participation is encouraged.

- F.G.

For more information on the National Lesbian Conference contact the national office at: PO Box 3057, Albany, NY 12203 or call (518) 463-1051.

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Cardina Isn't 'Playing' in *Mud*

"We live in a city where artists are not validated," says theatre arts generalist Carmella Cardina. "Our contributions are seen as play...as frivolous endeavors by the 'real' world."

"This seems ironic," she continued, "because the corporate and arts worlds are the only places where people work 70 to 80 hours per week due to commitment."

Regardless of this seeming lack of respect for her chosen profession, Cardina is seriously considering a return to her native city of Atlanta to continue efforts at changing the prevailing attitudes toward performing artists.

Her first project here in over three years could not have been a more serious endeavor—as assistant director with Eddie Lee of Seven Stages' production of Athol Fugard's *A Place With The Pigs*.

When the petite but dynamic Cardina graduated from Catawba College in North Carolina, she came back to Atlanta at the time when our most successful alternative theatres—Seven Stages and Southern Theatre Conspiracy—were just getting a strong foothold in the city's emerging theatre scene.

"Working with STC's Eddie Lee and Rebecca Wackler provided an enlightening beginning for me," Cardina said, recalling roles in *Outlaws* and *Tooth and Crime* on the Little Five Points stages some ten years ago.

From those beginnings, Cardina began to make her own impressions on the growth of theatre arts in Atlanta. Along with Janet Metzger, she co-founded the often

controversial Other Voices performance group,

dedicated to the production of works by and about women.

Originally a performing musician, Cardina was seen on the local nightclub circuit with Phillip DePoy's *Urban Guerrillas* and Kodac Harrison's *Shades*. "My first professional desires were to be a singer," Cardina admits, "but even after voice lessons, I was told I had a small, shy voice."

On hearing her views about theatre, one would call the voice of Cardina anything but shy. In addition to her work on the current Seven Stages show, Cardina has been chosen as one of the theatre generalists—multifaceted artists—to participate in Seven Stages' new Workshop Series. She will direct Irene Fornes' one-act play, *Mud*, to be presented in tandem with Amiri Baraka's *Dutchman* in March. Previews are set for March 5-6, with two performance weekends following at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday in Seven Stages' Backdoor Theatre.

"It is exciting for me to direct a play very dear to me, in a theatre very dear to me, in my hometown," Cardina said, indicating her growing interest in relocating here. "I directed Fornes' work during my graduate study at

Tallahassee, Florida, over the past three years and I am glad to have the opportunity to introduce the playwright here in Atlanta."

"Seven Stages has always been committed to presenting black playwrights in the Southeast," the director explained, "and I want to expand this concept to include Hispanic and Asian writers." Irene Fornes is a native Cuban.

"*Mud* is the story of three people struggling, as if they're stuck in the mud," she said. The three-character play concerns May and Lloyd, raised like brother and sister and now lovers. "May is striving to live and die with dignity, represented by her unrelenting desire to learn to read and write. The illiterate Lloyd is happy with life's goals being limited to eating, sleeping and fucking."

"It is not surprising that Henry, the play's conflict character, sweeps May off her feet with his acquired second-grade education," Cardina said.

"May's intense desire to learn is a universal struggle for women of all cultures," Cardina explained. "Fornes sees this as a basic human condition, simply set in a living space

somewhere." It is not surprising that Lloyd's need to stop May from leaving him results in tragedy. "We all seek to live, and to die, with dignity from our own perspective."

Mud represents the nature of new works Seven Stages plans to present in their Workshop Series. With a cast of Mary Anne Alderson, Bobby Box and Joseph Noah, Cardina described the ensemble as a group of

theatre generalists—directors, actors, designers—who work as a team to create and produce theatre. "This kind of cooperative is the purpose of the workshop program."

Ultimately, Cardina would like to have some of her own work produced here in Atlanta. "I have valued from a variety of different experiences over the past ten years—from film production to cleaning for a living—and I hope some day to be able to turn those experiences into positive contributions," she said.

Although she has been writing, too, "I have created more abstract works than fits into the normal play structure. I lean toward the multi-media approach, incorporating video, music, theatre and dance," Cardina said. "However, I would love it if Southern Theatre Conspiracy revived *Outlaws*. I would love to act with Eddie Lee again."

Until then, catch the work of Carmella Cardina at the Backdoor Theatre during the first three weekends of March. *Mud* is the first production in the Workshop Series sponsored by Seven Stages.

- John Blizzard

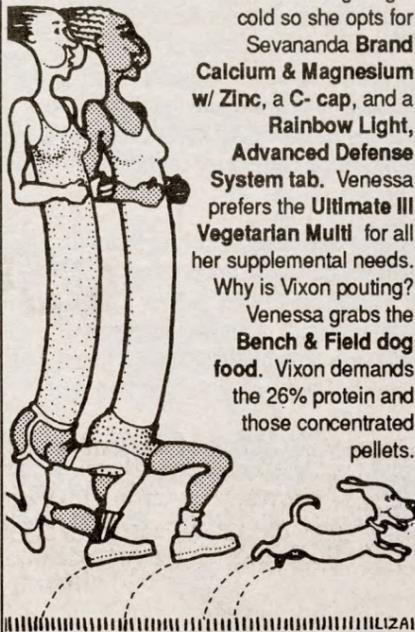


JO GIRAUDO

Carmella Cardina, a 'theatre arts generalist,' will be directing Irene Fornes' *Mud* as part of Seven Stages Theatre's new Workshop Theatre.

Vim & Vigor with Viv, Venessa and Vixon

The alarm rings at 6 a.m. and it's Venessa's turn to fix the tea: **San Francisco Good Morning Tea** for her, **Traditional Medicinal's Smoker's Tea** for Viv - it's been 6 1/2 weeks now. Spring-time in February and it's a quick 2 miles with Vixon in the lead. Back home, and Viv mixes the **Electrolyte Replacement Powder** while Venessa pours **Crystal Springs Pure Water** for Vixon - nothing but!



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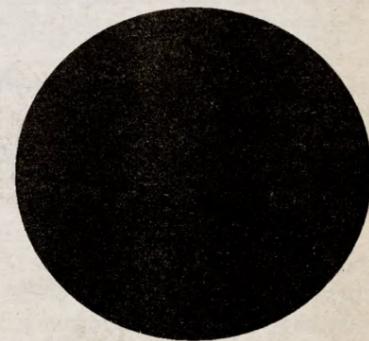
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AIDS Drugs by Mail

Kim Richardson, R.Ph., knows a lot about fielding questions from the public. As vice president of Family Pharmaceuticals of America, Inc. (FPA), his company is a new breed of pharmacy designed to offer patients, physicians, and insurance companies substantial savings on both generics and name-brand medications. FPA's prices on both generic and name-brand drugs in its Catastrophic Medication Program are so low, most patients cannot believe it. "What's the catch?" is perhaps the most frequently asked question regarding our Catastrophic Medication Program," says Richardson. "The fact is, there is no catch."

The company's experience with other drug programs led them to offer Retrovir® as part of the program. "As a practicing family physician, I was disturbed to learn of the prices people were being charged for Retrovir," recalls Rick Richards, M.D., president of FPA. "After consultation with numerous physicians and others who provide care to individuals with AIDS and ARC, we designed a program to make this and other AIDS/ARC-related medication available at a very reasonable price with the utmost respect for confidentiality."

Wide Fluctuations in Price

Various surveys have found pharmacies vary widely in their retail prices for Retrovir. In a late 1987 survey (when the wholesale price was \$220 per hundred), prices of up to \$3384 per month were not unheard of in certain Greenwich Village drug stores in New York City; \$2400 per month on the city's Upper East Side was also reported. A similar survey in Washington, D.C., had Retrovir going for a low of \$800 to a high of \$928.94 for a month's supply. One New York pharmacist testified that \$991 was a "fair" price for 400 Retrovir capsules.

FPA's Catastrophic Medication Program has developed a new definition of what is fair when it comes to Retrovir. The current average wholesale price for Retrovir is \$180.29 per hundred. FPA's current retail price is \$169.75 per hundred—even lower in larger quantities—and that includes handling and shipping charges. The Catastrophic Medication Program represents a savings of nearly \$2000 per year over the New York pharmacist's "fair" price. Where states charge sales tax on prescription drugs, usually anywhere from four to seven percent, the program saves an additional \$356 to \$832 per year just on Retrovir.

Part of the company's philosophy on pricing for AIDS drugs is simply commitment to AIDS patients, says Richardson. "Family is supplying the medications at these prices because we feel people with AIDS need and require consideration. Family is a state and federally regulated, national mail service pharmacy and our large volume enables us to purchase Retrovir below wholesale. Family's price will remain so as long as Burroughs Wellcome does not change their prices. In that event, the price will remain approximately ten percent below wholesale."

Retrovir is not the only drug available from Family that is frequently used by AIDS patients. "We also offer the anti-fungal agents, and antibiotics such as sulfas and pentamidine," states Richardson. "For many of the medications generics are available at even more substantial savings."

Rural AIDS Patients Benefit

"With Retrovir, the problem goes beyond price—which is considerable—to include availability and confidentiality," Richardson points out when discussing the program. "People with AIDS face not only the problem of the high cost of medications and the chance of breach of confidentiality, but also the inconvenience of special trips to purchase their medications. In many areas, the nearest pharmacy may be miles away, further adding to medication compliance difficulties often associated with chronic therapy," he explains. "Moreover, in some remote areas, pharmacies may be reluctant to stock high-priced medications such as Retrovir. For those PWAs who are situated in rural areas or who are homebound, our service has been a blessing, not only to the patients, but also to the health care team that coordinates their care."

The Catastrophic Medication Program offers free home delivery service of Retrovir and other medications using United Parcel Service. To assure only the person who ordered the medication receives it, return receipt and signature are required. With 24-hour processing guaranteed, PWAs in the program usually receive their medication less than a week from the time they mail the prescriptions to FPA. Patients, if they prefer, can also request that their medication be sent to their physician. If someone is visiting another state, FPA will ship his or her medications to that destination as well. All the participant has to do is call FPA's toll-free number.

Confidentiality a High Priority

A recent letter that appeared in Ann Landers' column exposed the lack of consideration and confidentiality some pharmacies are displaying to those who use Retrovir. The writer, an HIV positive man on preventative Retrovir therapy, changed pharmacies four times after clerks at each made loud remarks about the drug when ringing up the sale. This attention to the man's condition took away his confidence in being treated in a confidential manner.

FPA uses that story to emphasize the importance of trust and the way they protect the privacy of PWAs who deal with their company. The company ships medications in heat-sealed packages with no indication on the outside of the contents inside. "Family never reveals the names of any of our patients," Richardson states emphatically. "Confidentiality is sacred with all of our patients. We do not sell or give out our names and addresses to anyone or any company. Further, we do not use our patient files to promote the sale of nonprescription items."

Along with their respect for the confidentiality of PWAs and others enrolled in their programs, FPA is also aware of security measures when it comes to handling prescription drugs. All medications are stored under the protection of their 24-hour security alarm system. "No one is allowed in the area unless they are under the direct supervision of our pharmacists," says Richardson. Once the prescriptions are filled and packaged in heat-

sealed containers for shipping, any tampering with the package or bottles within will be quite evident. The return receipt and signature for packages offer additional measures of security.

Enrollment Made Easy

A call to the toll-free number (800-922-3444) gets people hooked up to the program. An enrollment form is sent to the individual. This form is completed and returned by the patient along with his or her physician's original prescriptions and payment for the order by Mastercard, VISA, money order, or cashier's check. Once the enrollment form is received, a patient profile is established in FPA's computer, noting allergies and medical conditions. Once the prescriptions are screened by the pharmacists and entered into the computerized system, they are filled and packed for shipping.

When the patient receives the package, he or she also receives a medical identification card, an itemized invoice, and a refill card. It is the refill card, containing a copy of the prescription label and the date due for refill, which simply needs to be mailed to FPA to repeat the process. The wallet-size ID card has room for valuable information useful in emergency situations. It also has space to list the patient's medical problems and current medications to assist health care providers during routine or emergency care.

As an alternative, patients can have their physicians call in their prescriptions to FPA directly on the toll-free line. The physician's or patient's charge card can be billed and the prescription can be sent to either the physician or patient. Invoices contain summaries of purchases and are designed to facilitate reimbursement from insurance companies. "The program is ideal for people whose medications are only partially covered by insurance," states Richardson.

Physicians Offered Special Programs

In addition to AIDS patients, physicians can also obtain medications through FPA's Catastrophic Medication Program. Physicians can receive medications prepacked in the common units of use, pre-labeled with the physician's instructions for use, and supplied at less than the wholesale price. The physician can then dispense them directly to the patients at the time of their visits. "Many physicians are adding \$3 to \$5 to recover their storage and dispensing costs, while others are making the medication available at their cost," explains Richardson. "In either event, the price patients pay is usually considerably less than what local drugstores are charging. The program also has the distinct advantage of allowing the physician the opportunity to physically hand the medication to the patients. This increases the opportunity for discussions regarding their medications which increases compliance. Plus it adds an additional assurance of confidentiality."

Judging by the backgrounds of the founders of FPA, care and cost are the two bywords behind the Catastrophic Medication Program and all the programs they oversee. In addition to Dr. Richardson, the company's board of directors includes three physicians, two pharmacists, a business administrator, and a publisher. Says Richardson, "We started the company because we were concerned about the cost and quality of health care." The success of the Catastrophic Medication Program is an example of his initial vision coupled with some good, old-fashioned Southern hospitality. It is a company that calls South Carolina its home and where every patient is part of the "family."

— Kevin D. Blanchet

This article is reprinted with permission from *AIDS Patient Care* (December 1988) in which it first appeared.

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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.

Homophobia: The #1 Threat to Our Relationships

Valentine's Day is upon us, and I can't help but ponder the state of our romantic relationships. We identify ourselves as lesbians and gays because our deepest emotional and sexual longings are directed to members of the same sex, but, more often than not, it seems these relationships are troubled, painful, and short-lived. What's wrong?

Some of what's wrong is not unique to lesbians and gays. Straight relationships are also troubled. Prior to this century marriages lasted because of economic necessity and custom. Now that economic survival is no longer a major focus for most of us, people are looking to their relationships for fulfillment, growth, nurturance, and the expression of their highest selves. The quality of the relationship becomes the primary focus. This new focus offers us wonderful opportunities for developing new models of relating, but we are in a very painful transition as we are just beginning to understand what is involved in healthy, satisfying relationships that also foster individual growth.



Ann McAllister

All relationships today have to struggle with issues inherited from the partners' families of origin, and with issues of independence-dependence, power dynamics, and gender. Further, all of us have been raised in a shame-based society which makes it very difficult for us to love and trust ourselves. And it makes it just as difficult to relate to our partners in truly loving, respectful, and growth-enhancing ways. We are more likely to attempt to control our partners than to let them be who they are. We do this because we cannot accept who we are, and we look to our partners to fix us.

So everybody is having difficulties with romantic relationships, but same-sex pairings present additional challenges. For one, gender issues get exaggerated. Women who have been trained to be caretakers, accommodators, putting the relationship above all else, will tend to "fuse" in a romantic relationship. They become a world unto themselves stifling individual growth.

Men—on the other hand—trained to be independent,

strong and task-oriented can have difficulty expressing feelings and forming intimate bonds.

But by and far the most insidious and damaging issue we have to face in our relationships is society's and our own homophobia. It is very difficult to nurture and honor our relationships when we are told—and often deep down believe—our way of loving is sick and evil.

We may not consciously see our love that way, but society's hatred of us has a profound impact on our psyches. Homophobia can be subtly, or not so subtly, damaging to our romantic relationships.

An interesting example I ran across recently is that of a gay father whose 25 year old daughter is marrying. He is out to both his daughter and her fiance. Both are "accepting" of his being gay, but neither want the fiance's parents to find out. Thus, the father's lover of six years is not invited to the wedding festivities. The father is upset by this; he wants to honor his daughter's wishes but he also wants to honor his relationship with his lover. His lover is accepting about not going to the wedding, but how much of his acceptance is wanting to make things easy for the father, and how much is his own homophobia? No matter what decisions are made, the stress of this situation will probably be damaging to the relationship.

Even in our mundane lives where a significant event is not occurring or our economic livelihood is not threatened by being out, how often do we dishonor our relationships because of homophobia? Why do so few of us celebrate our commitment to each other with a ceremony? Why do so many of us even after being together for years keep our money and possessions separate? Why do so many of us pretend to our families that our lovers are our roommates and allow our families to discount the importance of the relationship? Unfortunately, the list could go on and on.

But lesbians and gay men are a very courageous people. It takes tremendous courage to follow our hearts and risk the condemnation of our families and society. We must celebrate our courage and take responsibility for rooting out, even in small ways, the homophobia in ourselves, our relationships and society. As we do so we will be a healing force for both our lesbian and gay community and the community at large.

— Ann McAllister

Ann McAllister, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist in private practice. She can be reached at 231-0751.

Ga. AIDS Coalition Takes Progressive Agenda to 1989 General Assembly

Atlanta—The Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition is targeting Medicaid, insurance reform and budgetary issues during the 1989 Georgia General Assembly session.

"For three years, we have been faced with basically regressive bills that we have had to try and kill or amend," said Coalition lobbyist Gil Robison. "This is the first year that we have gotten to the (General Assembly) session with a more progressive agenda."

Medicaid for the Medically Needy, Blind and Disabled would have the most positive impact on the lives of people with AIDS (PWAs) according to Robison, but is the least likely to be passed in this session.

Georgia is one of only 14 states that does not have this Medicaid option, which would cover most health care expenses, including AZT, for eligible PWAs. Robison urged people to contact their legislators about this program, which he said could still be passed this year.

A package of bills introduced by Senator Bud Stumbaugh would strongly regulate the Insurance Commissioner's office for the first time. Among the most progressive provisions of Stumbaugh's bills is a requirement that the Commissioner release a list of "valid complaints" against insurers to the public.

The only frontal assault against the AIDS effort so far this session has been the attack on the Department of Human Resources' (DHR) AIDS budget for 1990. Governor Joe Frank Harris recommended that DHR's budget be slashed by 60% of their request. After the House dumped Harris' proposed 6% gasoline tax, they further cut DHR's



Gil Robison, General Assembly lobbyist for the Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition.

budget by another 23% to last year's figure of \$660,000.

DHR's budget may still be upgraded in some fashion, according to Robison, but the issue is on hold until the General Assembly works out the various tax options for 1990.

"Many worthwhile and much needed programs are in danger of being cut or not being expanded," said Robison, "unless there is a lot of feedback and input from the public."

—Chris Duncan

To find out who your state legislator is, call the Senate at 656-0028, or the House of Representatives at 656-5082.

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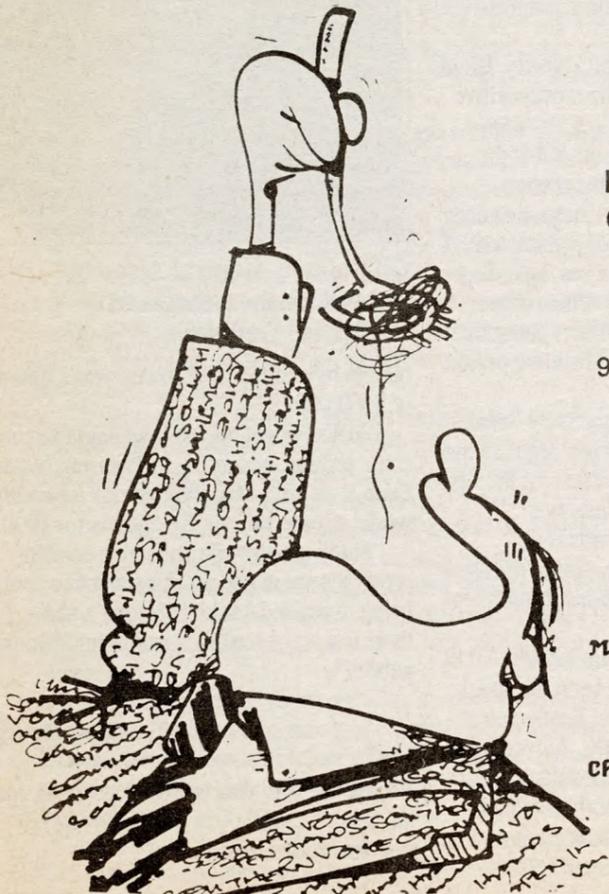
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Ruling Planets

by Mary Bailey-Rule
February 16-March 1, 1989

On February 16 at 4:38 AM, Pluto goes retrograde (an apparent motion) in Scorpio which means transformative energies are at work! On Saturday, February 18, Vanna White's birthday, the Sun enters sensitive and emotional Pisces. A busy two weeks ahead.

ARIES Mars, ruling planet of Aries, is now in Taurus, an earth sign, making this a good time to stabilize finances and finish projects at home. Vent frustrations through physical exercise, and above all, be patient. Spring is just around the corner.

TAURUS Mars and Jupiter in Taurus provide energy for new projects and expansion. Resolve emotional issues at home and try not to spin out over financial security. Be sure to plan a fun evening or two with friends.

GEMINI Your ruling planet, Mercury, now in Aquarius provides opportunities for networking and renewing old contacts. Plan your daily activities and take a short trip if you feel restless.

CANCER Take care of yourself during this changeable weather, with plenty of rest and good food. Try not to over-do for friends in turmoil. Hibernate if you are tired or have friends over for a fun evening.

LEO Personal relationships may be demanding or frustrating, so be calm, stay centered and rely on your better instincts. Sports or an evening's entertainment will help ease stress.

VIRGO The full moon/lunar eclipse in your sun sign begins a new cycle. Be aware of your visions and dreams, and don't get bogged down in details or self-criticism. This is an inspiring time.

LIBRA Venus, your ruling planet, is well-aspected giving you energy and a positive outlook. Appreciate the good people in your life and plan social events around art, music or theatre.

SCORPIO Pluto, your ruling planet, is retrograde in your sun sign, activating your unconscious, so pay attention to your intuition and dreams. Time to relax, and trust your own process.

SAGITTARIUS Use the winter weather to plan for spring activities. Stay in shape and don't over-indulge in food or drink. Use this time to do taxes, read a good book or contact old friends.

CAPRICORN Uranus, Saturn and Neptune are in your sun sign, so go with the flow and don't push yourself. Keep a balance between work and home. Your dry sense of humor will handle tense situations.

AQUARIUS The Sun is in your sign till the 18th, so go ahead and shine. Appreciate your gifts and talents, and celebrate with friends and loved ones.

PISCES The Sun is in your sign beginning February 18, so soak up the warmth and nurture yourself. Your are in a new cycle, so plan ahead for the next year. Be as specific as possible and act on it.

Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer living in Atlanta. For information about chart interpretation, call 261-9343.

Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TENNIS INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE. Now you no longer have to go outside the community for tennis lessons. Help the community by keeping the funds in our circulation and I'll help you improve your game. Call Paula Gore at 659-2301. (V1#26)

The Women's Resource Center of DeKalb County, a shelter for battered women, is currently recruiting new board members. This volunteer position requires a commitment to ending violence against women and children, and supporting the Center's philosophy. Training required. Women of color and formerly battered women are encouraged to apply. Call 688-9436 to request application. (V2#2)

*EMPLOYMENT

Nursing assistants/sitters. Experienced, loving people to work exclusively with AIDS patients on an as needed basis. \$6-7/hour. Call Dean at Alliance Against AIDS at 261-6210. (V2#2)

Looking for apprentice in circus arts - clowning, magic, balancing. No experience necessary. Seek male with boyish looks, 18-25. Traveling in future, paid position - full or part time. Call 451-9212. Leave message for Marvin. (V2#2)

Little Five Points Bazaar looking for arts and creative handcrafted items from local artists. Store open Feb. Please call Kelly or Reza at 688-8903 or 577-8490. (V2#1)

FOR RENT

Candler Park. 1 bedroom duplex. \$375/month. \$100 deposit. Near MARTA. Pets & kids okay. 312 Ferguson St. Call 523-1341. (V2#1)

Decatur. 3 BR house with F/P, screened porch and fenced back yard. D/W, Washer/dryer, garage, hardwood floors. Quiet street near Agnes Scott College. \$800/month. Call Jeri at 373-7629. (V2#2)

Spacious efficiency apartment in private home. Separate entrance, carpet, microwave, extra large bath. \$365/month plus deposit. Includes cable/HBO and utilities. Call 252-4325 between 6-10PM. (V1#26)

Beautiful large, sunny 2-bedroom upstairs apartment. Hardwood floors, A/C, deck. Candler Park area. Excellent access to MARTA. \$600/month plus utilities. Call 584-6249 for further information. Available March 1. (V2#1)

Space available March 1 in women's household. Little 5 Points. \$283/month+utilities. 521-2502. (V2#1)

Share 3,000 sq. ft. home on 16 acres with horse barn. 1 mile from golf & swimming. You'd have 2 rooms with separate deck and bath. Pets okay. Central heat & air. \$325/month + half utilities. Call Pat at (404) 464-3713. (V1#26)

LITTLE FIVE POINTS - 1 Br. duplex apt., high ceilings, hdwd floors, dishwasher, central heat, LR, DR, lg. deck, front porch, off st. parking. \$400 includes heat, water & cooking gas. \$300 deposit. No pets, non-smoker. 474-5655, 584-8622 evenings. (V1#26)

Provincetown - Wonderful P'town apt. on water. 5 rooms, fully furnished, warm, plants, sun. Get away now! Utilities included. Winter or year-round. \$425. Bargain! Only \$300 to share when I return. Call Gail at (404) 633-5781. (V1#26)

FOR SALE

GAY AND LESBIAN T-SHIRTS. High quality gay, lesbian and humorous t-shirts. Send for FREE catalog to: Flying Fish, PO Box 1351, Decatur, Ga. 30031-1351. (V2#2)

FOR SALE

New sandwich shop. High visibility. Turn key operation. Seats 40. 30K. Serious inquiries write: 1579 Monroe Dr., Box 344, Atlanta, Ga. 30324. (V2#2)

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FITNESS AND NUTRITION COUNSELING. Personalized trainer for weight training, diet consulting, injury rehabilitation, and body shaping. Weekly, monthly rates. Phone K. Lewis at 493-4711. (V1#1)

You are what you eat! Sevananda offers organic fruits and vegetables, herbs and natural foods to help rebuild your immunity. Be all that you can be in '89. Little 5 Points. 681-2831.

MISCELLANEOUS

Hawkwind Earth Renewal Cooperative is an 80-acre primitive retreat located 115 miles north of Atlanta in the Alabama mountains. Community living and ongoing classes are available on a wide range of subjects from Native American to Earth traditions, and healing systems from around the world. Facilities are rented to private organizations upon request. Gatherings and teachers are scheduled throughout the month. Details at (404) 634-9163. (V2#1)

*ORGANIZATIONS

The Atlanta AIDS Research Consortium, a non-profit organization, is in need of the following office furnishings and equipment: sofa, coffee table, desks, tables, chairs, computer/printer, desk and floor lamps, electric stapler, rugs, artwork, conference table, microwave, refrigerator, FAX, postage meter, and various office supplies. Your donation is tax deductible and greatly appreciated. Contact Jim or Maria at 876-2317. (V2#1)

The NE Intown YWCA will offer a series of structured conversations between lesbian and heterosexual women. This is 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. This series will be co-lead by a lesbian and a heterosexual woman. Class meets on Thursdays March 2-23. 6:30PM-7:45PM. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. (V2#1)

Project Open Hand is looking for drivers to deliver hot meals with love to Atlanta PWAs. Call 248-1788 for information. (V1#26)

PERSONALS

GWM, 35, new to Atlanta, seeks tennis players in Vinings (or close proximity) to play evenings and weekends. Also seek relationship-minded men to date. Respond to SV Box #2250. (V2#2)

GWF, 32, feminine, well-educated, professional seeks same for dining, dancing, conversation. casual dating? New to Ga. Enjoy dining out, intelligent conversation, fine wine, good food, long walks, movies, the arts, the beach, travel, and music. Don't know a soul here - want to meet others for friendship and/or more. Reply to SV Box # 2242. (V1#26)

Attractive GWM, PWA, 34, 5'11", 180 lbs., brown hair, hazel eyes, currently healthy, employed fulltime, seeks similar GWM for close friendship and possible relationship. I like movies, dining out and intimate conversations. Please send letter and phone # to SV Box #2248. Photo appreciated but not required. (V2#1)

Young, sexy female seeks wealthy, very generous, sensitive, attractive, mature, feminine woman who will take me on trips, lavish me with gifts and introduce me to the pleasures of another woman. I am witty, educated, well-traveled (w/valid passport), bilingual

PERSONALS

(French), and discreet. You are a sensual romantic who appreciates the finer things life has to offer. Drop a note detailing our very romantic first date to 2740 Greenbriar Pkwy, (A-3214) Atlanta, Ga. 30310. (V2#1)

GWF, 28 wants to meet an independent, adventurous, self-assured woman. Age is not an issue. I am attractive, androgynous, intelligent, funny and much more. Would like to meet other women for friendship. Reply to SV Box #2246. (V2#1)

Beautiful, blonde, blue eyes, sexy, bi-female desires to meet other bi or gay females of any race. Desire to start bi-female club. Send photo, phone and address for newsletter. Please include self-addressed stamped envelope. Reply to SV Box # 2252. (V2#1)

BiWM seeks BiWF for voluptuous friendship. We both are professional/career oriented, understanding, good looking, late 20's, and want long-term relation, possible children. Reply to SV Box #2254. (V2#1)

ROOMMATES

Liberal professional female seeks same to find/share 2BR/2Bath apt. for \$200-\$250/month. If you are 25+, B/W, gay/straight/bi, not promiscuous, semi-neat, responsible and professionally employed, call 344-6010. (V2#1)

Grant Park - Lesbian professional seeks same to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath house. Pets welcome. \$375/month and half utilities. Call 921-2103. (V1#26)

Two lesbians looking for third to share Va./High house. We are non-smoking, non-drinking vegetarians but don't mind if you're not (within moderation). There are several cats and one dog. Central heat and air. Nice house! \$300 month includes utilities, non-food supplies. 874-6765. (V1#26)

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Make a difference in '89! Spiritual and/or nutritional counseling available for individuals. Call Jeff Shin at 636-3222 for appt. and/or info. (V2#2)

*VOLUNTEERS

3 volunteers are needed to help prepare food for the Project Open Hand/Southern Voice spaghetti dinner scheduled for Sun., Feb. 19 at the Inman Park Trolley Barn. Any interested persons need to be available at 1:00 on Feb. 19 to cook in the Project Open Hand kitchen at St. Bartholomew's at 1790 LaVista Rd. Call Cathy Woolard at 377-8312 to volunteer or ask questions. Volunteer yourself and your friends for a good time and good community work! (V1#26)

Southern Voice needs experienced volunteer photographers. Darkroom and daytime availability preferred, but not required. Call 321-9234 and leave message. (V2#2)

Camp Breathe Easy, the state's only camp for children with asthma, needs volunteers to serve as counselors June 10-16. This summer camping program is designed for children, aged 8-16, with moderate to severe asthma. Activities include swimming, hiking, canoeing, and team sports. Camp Breathe Easy is held in the beautiful N. Ga. mountains in Cleveland, Ga. Training is provided. For more info call The American Lung Association of Atlanta at 872-9653. (V2#1)

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Sevananda, 1111 Euclid Ave., 681-2831

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Animal Doctors, 736-A Ponce De Leon, 872-2423
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Atlantis Connection Books, 1402 N. Highland Ave., 881-6511

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Deborah E. Keefe, 1535 La Vista Rd., 634-3835
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The Optical Stores, 2441 Cheshire Br. Rd., 636-9727 or 636-9811

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Put your reply in a stamped, sealed envelope and write the box number on the lower left corner. Mail your reply envelope in a separate envelope to *Southern Voice*, PO Box 54719, Atlanta, Ga., 30308. We will forward your reply to the appropriate party.
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Southern Voice reserves the right to refuse or edit all classifieds. Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

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TICKETS—5-day Thurs.-Mon.; 4-day Fri.-Mon.; 3-day Sat. noon-Mon.

CABINS—350 spaces available (showers & toilets in cabins). Cabins hold 12-24 women (bunk beds).
RV's—Only one woman per RV is required to purchase an RV ticket. The other women in the RV purchase camping tickets. RV's have no hookups.

CHILDREN 3-9 \$20; 9-16 \$30 to help defray food costs. All children must be pre-registered by April 20th.

PAYMENT: U.S. currency only. NO PERSONAL CHECKS AFTER APRIL 20th. Money order, certified check or cash only. For tickets send self-addressed, legal size, stamped envelope to **SWMCF, 15842 CHASE STREET, SEPULVEDA, CA 91343 (818) 893-4075.** (Sliding Scale: if working, please pay top of scale.)

PRICE INCLUDES: Music, comedy, crafts, sports, dancing, workshops, camping, food & fun! Showers & portable toilets provided. Everything within walking distance. A dance every night. (*** Special Saturday Night SOCK HOP! Bring 50's costumes!)

Accessible to disabled women. Concerts interpreted for hearing impaired. Food and childcare provided (NO OVERNIGHT childcare. 'POTTY-TRAINED' only). Boys under 10 welcome. There will be some Women-Only space. No dogs permitted, except seeing eye or hearing impaired (must be registered).

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We encourage women to do workshops. Share professional skills, different cultures, interests, etc.

If you wish to be listed in the program send a short description of your workshop or if you wish to play on the day stage send a tape. Send these along with your ticket order by April 20th. Festival ENDS Monday, 3 P.M.

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\$165 - 5 day RV (no hookups, includes 1 ticket) \$ _____

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\$25 additional workshift substitution \$ _____

\$20 per 3-9 yr. old child \$ _____

\$25 per 9-16 yr. old woman (and 9-10 boy) \$ _____

\$100 - \$110 very limited Sat. noon to Mon. passes (camping only) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

How many children (12 and under, boys 10 and under)

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