

SOUTHERN VOICE

What to Do
When
Shit Happens

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Vol. 2, No. 2

Taking Pride in Our Culture

March 16, 1989

Anti-Abortion Groups Try New Tack Billboards Seek to Spawn Lawsuits

Atlanta—Pro-Choice forces in the city face a new threat from anti-abortion groups, as a well-funded organization is dotting the city with billboards asking women if they are "Hurting after an abortion" and offering a toll-free number to call for help.

The billboards, according to abortion

answering service in Chattanooga.

ARC has sought and received funding from local churches, most notably the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, and Mt. Vernon Baptist. In Atlanta, a steering committee made up of seven businessmen whose names have not been released, heads the



JO GIRAUDO

rights activists, are part of an effort to bring lawsuits against the clinics and force them to close. The 60 billboards that have appeared since last November are rented by the Tennessee-based American Rights Coalition, an organization with close ties to right-wing evangelists, working for an end to abortion. The 800 number reaches an

effort.

According to Melanie Vencion, assistant to the president of ARC, Charlie Wysong, the billboards are going up in several cities, although Atlanta is the main target of the campaign.

When women call the number, says

Cont'd Page 6

Hate Crimes Bill Goes to Congress; Local Police Await "Instructions"

A "hate crimes" bill, which would require the Justice Department to collect comprehensive national data on crimes of prejudice committed because of race, religion, sexual orientation, and ethnicity, was reintroduced last month in the U.S. Congress.

The legislation, known as the Hate Crimes Statistics Bill, was overwhelmingly approved in the House during last year's congressional session. However, it was stalled in the Senate because of threats made by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) to attach anti-homosexual amendments, despite unanimous approval for the measure by the Senate's judiciary committee.

If enacted, the bill would require state and local law enforcement jurisdictions to forward bias-related crime data to the Justice Department.

The Atlanta police department is apparently awaiting passage of the bill before they are willing to absorb the cost of updating report forms and computer information-gathering

programs. A spokesperson said that the department cannot justify the cost—estimated at several hundreds of thousands of dollars—of changing existing crime reporting systems now, if these systems will have to be changed later to comply with provisions of any new legislation.

The Atlanta Gay Center, in response to what it believes is a growing number of crimes committed because of anti-gay bias, announced March 1 that it will undertake its own survey of hate-related crimes against gays and lesbians in metro Atlanta. "The police say they have no statistics on the number of attacks against gays," said AGC Anti-Gay Violence Task Force chair, William Gripp, "because their reports don't have any space for listing the cause of the attack." The results of the survey are expected to require as much as a year to compile.

"We have people driving to the Midtown area for the express purpose of attacking gays," Gripp said, referring to the arrest of two Douglas County men for the murder of a Tucker woman February 7 in the Buckhead district. Police said that the men drove into Atlanta to beat and rob homosexuals.

Meanwhile, Police Chief Morris Redding has directed police intelligence units to begin submitting monthly analysis reports of hate-related crimes, in an attempt to provide data that could reveal the extent of crimes of prejudice committed in Atlanta.

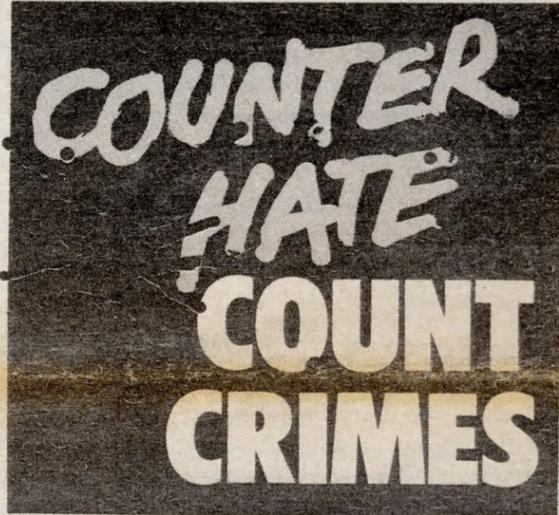
Public Safety Commissioner George Napper initiated the action in late February, a spokesperson said. Redding's first report, due by mid-March, could reveal the extent of crimes of prejudice committed in the city, even though crime report forms officers currently use are not set up to determine if crimes are specifically prejudice-related.

"Both Commission Napper and Police Chief Redding are sensitive to this issue, particularly as it relates to the gay and lesbian community," the source said.

Last September the deputy chief of police for criminal investigations asked zone commanders to forward reports of suspected hate crimes to intelligence units for study.

Gay and lesbian groups predict floor votes on the Hate Statistics Bill in both the House and Senate within the next few months.

In 1987, 7,008 reported cases of verbal or physical abuse aimed at the gay and lesbian community could be documented from random surveys compiled nation-wide by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, up from 4,946 reported incidents in 1986.



THE HATE CRIMES STATISTICS ACT

Georgia General Assembly Update

The General Assembly was scrambling madly to finish its 40 days of work as *Southern Voice* went to press prior to the constitutionally mandated end of session. Funding for many projects of concern to the gay/lesbian and AIDS-affected communities appeared to be in better shape after the two Houses reached a compromise agreement on an increase in the sales tax.

- A housecleaning bill to provide **Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Purposes (HB 999)** as an addition to the current laws concerning durable power of attorney was introduced by Rep. Jim Martin (D-Fulton). The purpose of the medical power of attorney, according to Georgia AIDS Legislative Coalition lobbyist Gil Robison, is to specifically appoint one person to make all medical decisions for an individual in the event of incapacitation. Although it is unlikely that HB 999 will be passed this session, Robison said he thought it would have a "good chance" during next year's session.

- The "**Resaca Pest House Bill**" (HB 974) would allow county Boards of Health to regulate hospices and nursing homes that house terminally ill people with communicable diseases. The bill is, of course, AIDS motivated, and stems from a dispute between a landowner in the Northwest Georgia town of Resaca and the Monastery of the Glorious Ascension, which wants to care for people with AIDS. Grady Stanley, the landowner, reportedly feared contamination of the air, the ground, and the water with the AIDS virus, and induced Reps. Griffin and Foster (both Democrats from Whitfield) and Meadows (D-Meriwether) to introduce HB 974. Although the bill can not be passed as new legislation in this session, Robison and others are watching closely to see that it does not get attached to another bill as an amendment.

- The **Department of Human Resources (DHR) budget for FY 90** appears to be in good position to benefit from the new sales tax. A compromise on the DHR budget was reached before the sales tax was announced, in which the budget amount is doubled from last year's figure of \$660,000. DHR requested \$3.5 million at the beginning of the session, however, and many legislative watchers feel that they might receive something closer to that amount before the session is over.

— Matt Moline

NEWS IN BRIEF

New DNC Chair Says OK to Gays

Washington, D.C.—New Democratic National Committee Chairman, Ron Brown, told the National Press Club last month that he finds "no negative" in homosexuals playing a visible role in the Democratic party.

When asked at the meeting if he would appoint an openly gay person to the committee, Brown said he "certainly would not exclude someone because of their sexual preference."

According to *The Washington Blade*, a D.C. newspaper, there are currently four openly gay members of the Democratic National Committee.

Dukakis Appoints Gay Judge

Boston, MA—The first openly gay man to be appointed to a Massachusetts court was nominated last month by Gov. Michael Dukakis. Dermot J. Meagher was appointed to the Boston Municipal Court. Meagher is a founder of the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association.

— From the Boston Globe

Marines Continue Lesbian Hunt

Jacksonville, N.C.—U.S. Marine Corps authorities said last month they have brought charges against a female officer for alleged homosexual activity at Camp LeJeune, according to a Marine Corps press spokesman.

Capt. Judy Meade has been charged with three military code violations against fraternization, conduct unbecoming to an officer, and obstruction of justice.

Since October, 1987, when Marine Corps investigations of homosexuality among women in the corps began, at least 19 women here and at Parris Island, S.C., have been discharged.

Myrtle Beach Will Ban Gay Books

Myrtle Beach, S.C.—Public school district authorities here have ordered librarians to remove books dealing with the subject of homosexuality from school library shelves, acting under provisions of a 1988 state law that prohibits students from seeing materials that present homosexuality as a positive alternate lifestyle.

The law also requires that teachers are not refer to homosexual relationships, except when discussing sexually-transmitted diseases.



FAMOUS FACES

A Slice of Motown for Diana

Former Supreme Diana Ross injected a portion of her considerable wealth into the legendary record company, Motown. Miss Ross made the investment of undisclosed proportions in February, along with a deal to perform for the company she left almost nine years ago. Motown, once the best known black companies in the nation, and perhaps the most successful, was sold last year by founder Berry Gordy, Jr. for \$61 million to MCA and the investment company Boston Ventures. The two partners promised they would keep a 20 percent minority ownership of the organization. The agreement with Diana Ross means, among other things, that a new release by the woman who lead the Supremes to a dozen No. 1 hits is forthcoming. Diana is now concentrating on the album, "Working Overtime."

Romance and Exercise at the White House

George Bush has a lot to look forward to in the coming days. His much extended family is about to grow by about a half dozen any moment now. The Bush's dog Millie is expecting puppies sometime in March. Bush broke the news to the world press on the day after conception, with the immortal words "It happened yesterday—beautiful experience." Wife Barbara, meanwhile, has announced her exercising plans for this spring. Her recent trip to the Orient left her with a brand new Chinese "flying-pigeon" bicycle. The first lady told inquiring minds she will ride her bike on the White House lawn this spring. Prepare for pictures of the biking first lady chased by the first puppies in a matter of days.

Mistresses of the Dark Battle it Out in Court

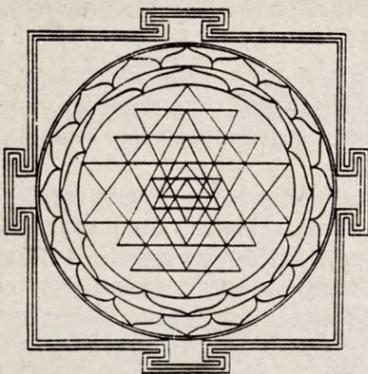
U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Byrne had heard many strange cases in his day, but none as horror-filled as the case of Vampira vs. Elvira. Maila Nurmi aka Vampira brought a \$10 million suit against Cassandra Peterson aka Elvira, charging she, Vampira, was scary first.

Vampira contended she created the bodaciously breasted, velvet clad and utterly macabre mystery late-night TV host in the 1950s. Judge Byrne ruled that Vampira, who was first to appear lounging on a Victorian sofa surrounded by cobwebs, skulls and lighted candelabras, can seek damages against the new mistress of the dark for unfair competition, but he dismissed the part of the suit that claimed Elvira violated Vampira's right to publicity. No trial date has been set.

— F.G.

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Arsonists Strike Dallas Gay Alliance, AIDS Resource Center

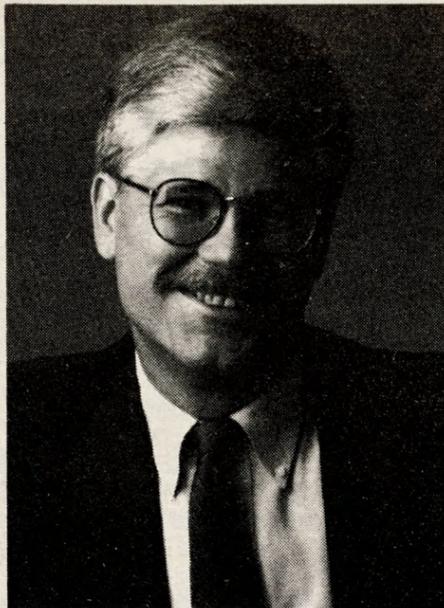
Dallas—Fire swept through the offices of the Dallas Gay Alliance (DGA) and the AIDS Resource Center March 22 after an unknown intruder rifled through files concerning lawsuits and other private material, investigators said.

According to a report in *The Weekly News*, damage to the offices and two adjacent businesses was estimated at \$750,000 by DGA officials, who agreed with Capt. Randy Sanders of the Dallas Fire Department's Arson Investigation Unit that the fire was set to destroy evidence of a burglary.

"Basically there's nothing left," said John Thomas of the AIDS Resource Center. "We lost every chair, every file cabinet, all our records. We'll have to start from scratch."

DGA's William Waybourn said that the intruders appeared to have tampered with computers and taken mostly files. Of particular interest to the suspects, Waybourn believes, were documents pertaining to a lawsuit DGA filed against Parkland General Hospital for their treatment of AIDS patients. He added, "I would say they were after files more than money or equipment."

Although the fire destroyed their offices, staffers at DGA and the Resource Center quickly organized a make-shift office one



John Thomas, Executive Director of AIDS Resource Center

block away from the old site. Some services were offered again the next day, with all services available within one week of the fire.

"We can handle fires; we handle AIDS for a living," Waybourn said. "That's the whole AIDS response. We respond to a crisis, that's what we do."

Harassment by NY Hospital Staff Draws Protests

New York—Officials at New York's Saint Vincent's Hospital met with leaders from gay/lesbian groups, according to the *Village Voice*, after two large protests at the hospital in response to charges of anti-gay/lesbian violence on the part of hospital employees.

Two couples have charged that hospital staffers verbally harassed and physically assaulted them in separate incidents that occurred in late 1988. The latest incident involved a gay male couple who were allegedly called "motherfucking faggots" and otherwise threatened when one of the men leaned against his lover after receiving a spinal tap.

The two women who first reported a problem with the St. Vincent's staff charged that they were kept apart while one received treatment after being raped. Joy DeVincenzo was allegedly forced to stay away from her lover, and told the *Voice* that two security guards ejected her from the hospital and beat and kicked her before the police arrived. The officer on the scene later arrested DeVincenzo on a misdemeanor assault charge.

Hospital officials agreed to activists' demands during a meeting on Feb. 3 to provide sensitivity training to hospital personnel and review employment, disciplinary action and visitation rights policies. They refused, however, to ask the district attorney to drop the assault charges against DeVincenzo.

Jeff Levi To Leave as NGLTF Director

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Executive Director Jeffrey Levi will leave the organization effective Aug. 1 after six years of service. He plans to stay actively involved in the gay and lesbian rights movement, and stated that his departure reflects a strong desire to work full time on the development and formulation of a national AIDS policy.

Founded in 1973, NGLTF's program includes full-time lobbying of Congress, the



TOM DIMARIA

Jeffrey Levi

White House and federal agencies; grass-roots organizing on the issues of anti-gay/lesbian violence; sodomy law repeal; recognition of gay and lesbian families, and passage of local and state gay rights ordinances. Levi managed the growth of NGLTF from a staff of five and a membership of 5,000 to its current staff of 10 and a national membership of over 15,000.

Persons interested in applying for the position of NGLTF Executive Director may write to the Executive Director Search Committee, NGLTF, 1517 U Street, Washington D.C. 20009.

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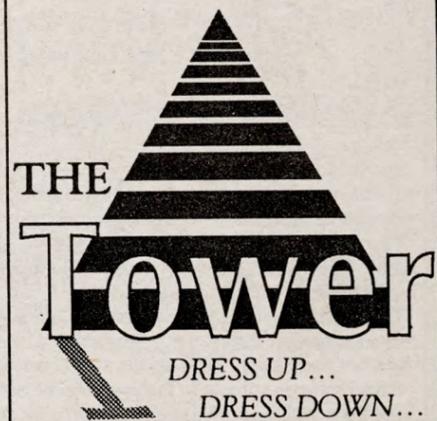
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Business Expo '89 – Flex Your Money Muscle

Newsweek magazine reported in 1984 that gays and lesbians control as much as 19% of this country's net disposable income, which translated into \$500 billion at that time. It can safely be assumed to be even more in 1989. But as a minority community, we have yet to realize the tremendous power that belongs to any group that controls one-fifth of a nation's spending.

We only have to look to the women's and black civil rights movements to see the importance economics plays in societal equality. Despite the fact that women and blacks are somewhat "protected" by anti-discrimination laws, women still only earn 70¢ for every dollar a man does, and more blacks live below the poverty level today than did before 1960. "Protection under the law" does not guarantee equality. There is an obvious lesson to be learned here: tapping and using our economic power should have the same importance to our community as civil rights legislation. One without the other will never be enough, in this society or in any other.

It is the greatest fear of our enemies that we will learn our own strength, not just in the voting booth, but at the cash register as well. With our economic clout in hand we could easily chart the course of financial success for gay and lesbian owned businesses. And if we make "straight" business owners aware of our financial power, they will be more likely to support us in society at large. Ask Lee Iaccoca – ancient scriptures and prejudices are one thing, money is quite another.

Fourth Tuesday, a women's business and

networking organization, has hit upon a superb means for our community and our businesses to come together. Business Expo '89, which they will present in cooperation with the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild, will feature over 50 different businesses and organizations from the Atlanta area. The long-term benefit of Business Expo '89 will manifest itself when more and more merchants and dealers – gay/lesbian as well as straight – begin to see the power of the "gay dollar."

Southern Voice wholeheartedly endorses and supports Fourth Tuesday and the Business Guild in this effort, and we sincerely hope that this will be the first of many Expo's to come. We believe that Fourth Tuesday has discovered the loose thread in the business fabric, and has begun the process of slowly unraveling not just societal, but monetary discrimination as well. We anticipate that what they begin this year with 50 exhibitors, will fill the floor of the Omni within the next ten years. It's more than possible – it's probable – if we band together and show that we all shop, we all spend money, and that we want to do it with businesses that support our right to full participation in society.

Fourth Tuesday will present Business Expo '89 in cooperation with the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild March 28 at the Holiday Inn – Downtown from 6 to 9 PM. Admission is \$7 and tickets are available at the door. Bring your business cards for the Networking Table.

Guest Editorial

Georgia's Flag: Symbol of the Times, Then and Now

By Cynthia McKinney

The Confederacy is alive and well in Georgia! Those of you who are newcomers to the area had better realize that while the Civil War might be over, the sentiments evoked during that period in our nation's history linger until today. For those of us who have always lived here, a good dose of history will help us to understand why change has been so slow to come under the Gold Dome. When I was asked to write an article on the Georgia Flag, I really didn't realize the scope of the simmering controversy. I have learned a great deal in the hours that I've spent researching the Georgia Flag issue. What I have learned is that a good understanding of Georgia's place as a truly "southern" state is necessary for the proper acclamation to Georgia politics.

Under Georgia's Gold Dome there are 45 flags, all representing some important fabric of this state's ties to its history. I've walked around that Capitol a hundred times, but it was not until I was given this assignment that I really SAW my State Capitol and new workplace.

Flags are very important symbols. George Bush had so much success with the visceral American voter because he literally identified himself with the American flag. The American people treat the American flag with reverence, Georgia treats what is known as "The Confederate Flag" with reverence. I walked the Capitol today and counted the memorials to the Confederate era that bedeck its walls. Of those 45 flags, 24 bear the St. Andrew's Cross (the Battle Flag of the Confederacy); 11 present the "Stars and Bars" or some variation thereof (the first official Flag of the Confederacy); 2 are saved as treasures (enclosed in two glass cases), the second national flag of the Confederacy, the "Whiteman's Flag", euphemistically called "The Stainless Banner" in the Capitol and in the *Georgia Flags* booklet that I obtained from the Secretary of State's office. There is one "State's Rights" flag. In short, 39 flags in the State Capitol tie us all to the Civil War era.

In 1956, Marvin Griffin was Governor of Georgia. His goal was to maintain segregation in Georgia in an era of Supreme Court decisions outlawing segregation. He vowed to never surrender. It was in this heat of passion that S.B. 98 was introduced. The caption read, "...so as to change the description of the flag of the State of Georgia..." Representative Denmark Groover was the Governor's Floor Leader at the time and marshaled the bill through the House. I have the pleasure of serving with that same Representative Groover today. He was asked, but declined to comment for me, on his role in putting the Saint Andrew's Cross, the Battle Flag of the Confederacy, on the Georgia State Flag. When asked, however, if he would describe himself as a racist, he answered honestly that he could not separate himself from his times. Those times were racist times, he intoned.

I asked Representative Groover if today we were seeing a different Mr. Groover than the one that Georgia saw in 1956. His response was an affirmative one. In fact, I double-checked with some of the leaders of the black efforts to unseat him in 1956 and was told that Representative Groover is "even considered in ally; he is much better."

Of those voting negative in 1956 was "Murphy of Haralson". The ayes were 107, the nays were 32. The cousin of Speaker Tom Murphy, Judge Harold Murphy of Rome, voted against the

prevailing sentiments of the day. I called him to ask him why he cast a nay vote. He thought that Georgia had "a beautiful and appropriate flag". His idea was that the St. Andrew's Cross had no place on the State Flag. And although he had no doubt that the bill was going to pass, he cast his "no" vote anyway. He knew that he held his position in vain.

That, in a nutshell, is how Georgia came to have the St. Andrew's Cross on its State Flag. The most recent attempt to have it removed from the State Flag was the effort by Representative Frank Redding in this year's Session. He introduced H.B. 24 which sought to reinstate the Georgia Flag of 1914-1956. This flag, too, has its



SHELTON BRYANT

roots in the Confederacy: it bears the Bars of the first Confederate flag with the State Seal on its left third. Redding's bill is languishing in committee after he almost came to blows with some of his colleagues over it.

In my opinion, if the Georgia flag is to be changed, the design of the original State Flag of 1799 should be adopted: "a flag of blue, emblematic of loyalty, with Georgia's Coat of Arms in the Center".

There have been many efforts to remove the Confederate Battle Flag from the State Flag. Solons like Judge Murphy of Haralson perhaps, were visionaries, statesmen in the wrong time. I see nothing wrong with having the St. Andrew's Cross on the State flag if that is an apt representation of the intellectual milieu of its leaders. If the Confederacy is alive and well in 1989, it's because a lot of people are keeping it that way. That a third of Georgia's population feel directly insulted by the State's flag means very little to those who would die to keep it. And there are many who would die to keep it. Having the Confederate Battle Flag unfurled as the symbol of this State reminds me that all is not well with Georgia—in the hearts of those with the power to change things.

I wandered into the Capitol late one night, and was shocked by the stark division of labor: everyone cleaning up was black, while those who placed the bills in our binders were not. That very Capitol, with all its souvenirs from that ignominious period in our history, is lovingly cleaned each night by scores of blacks who shine and polish and vacuum and wipe, and make our Capitol a pleasant place to vote "No" on minority participation on projects such as the domed stadium and to refuse to remove state funds from institutions doing business in South Africa.

No, it's not time to remove the symbols of the Confederacy from the flag of the Great State of Georgia. Not until we remove those sentiments from the hearts of its citizens and leaders.

Cynthia McKinney is a freshman member of the Georgia House of Representatives from the 40th district.

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INSIDE THE WASHINGTON LOBBY

The D.C. Human Rights Law: Can Congress be Stopped?

At times, AIDS votes and gay votes can seem different to members of Congress. Congress has passed some progressive bills on AIDS, often because representatives believe that people back home hear about AIDS. Gay votes can sometimes be more controversial. Perhaps because they often don't hear opposition from a wide range of their constituents when they vote for anti-gay legislation, representatives feel they can get away with an anti-gay vote. In fact, members of Congress always assume that there will be some political cost to them if they vote *with us* on a gay rights issue. This is part of the problem that created the Armstrong Amendment.

The District of Columbia has a Human Rights Law that prohibits discrimination against a range of groups including gays and lesbians. A gay student group sued Georgetown University on the grounds that the university had discriminated against it by refusing to treat it the same as other campus groups. Georgetown contested the suit, and a D.C. court ruled that, under the law, Georgetown did not have to publicly affirm or support the gay and lesbian group, but it did have to provide it with the same benefits and services that were available to other student groups. Georgetown University said it was willing to live with the court's ruling.

But Senator William Armstrong (R-CO) was not willing to live with this resolution. The issue, as Armstrong saw it, was one of religious freedom. Georgetown is affiliated with the Jesuits, although it does not define itself as a religious institution. In a sweeping repudiation of D.C.'s Human Rights Law, Armstrong proposed a provision to require D.C. to change its law so that any educational institution that is affiliated with or even "closely associated" with a religious institution could discriminate with respect to "any fund, facility, service, or benefit" — a phrase so broad it could include financial aid, admission to a gym or even medical treatment — against persons and groups who even "condone...any homosexual act, lifestyle, orientation or belief." This amendment passed in the Senate by a vote of 58-33 on July 8, 1988, and was accepted by the House of Representatives in a conference committee in September.

At this point you might ask, "But this is D.C.'s issue, not a federal one. Why is

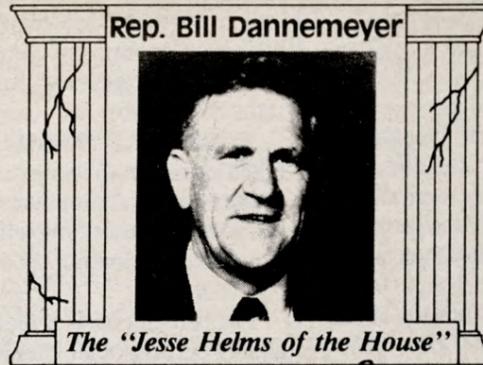
Senator Armstrong getting involved?" That is a good question. The federal government ordinarily does not overrule state human rights laws. But the District of Columbia is a different story.

Since Washington, D.C., has been denied statehood, it is treated in some ways like an administrative branch of the federal government rather than like a state. An act of Congress created the D.C. City Council, imposing certain limitations on areas where it may legislate. Every year Congress passes a "D.C. Appropriations Bill" which allocates money to the District for its operations. There are no comparable appropriations bills, for example, for the states of Arizona or Maine. 85 percent of D.C.'s 1989 budget, it should be noted, is made up of locally-raised funds.

The Armstrong Amendment was a last-minute rider on the FY89 D.C. Appropriations Act. It forced the Council either to adopt the Congressionally-mandated change in the District's Human Rights Act or to lose the city's entire fiscal year budget, including all of its locally-raised money. The Appropriations Act, with the Armstrong Amendment, became law in October, 1988, and Congress gave the Council until December 31, 1988, to change its law or lose its budget.

D.C.'s City Council responded by filing a lawsuit against Congress on the grounds that the amendment was unconstitutional. The Council members argued that the provision benefits religious groups that are intolerant of homosexuality and therefore favors such groups over other religious groups that accept homosexuality. They also argued that the amendment was too broad, and would allow any institution with religious affiliations to discriminate against homosexuals even in the absence of anti-homosexuality tenets. And, they argued, the amendment is a violation of the right to free speech, since it would allow for the punishment of speech promoting homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle. Furthermore, Council attorneys asserted that voting is a form of protected speech, so Congress cannot infringe upon the council members' right to free speech by forcing them to overturn the Human Rights Law unless the federal government has a compelling interest (which it didn't in this case).

The District Court ruled in favor of the Council on the basis of the First



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Amendment free speech rights of the Council members. The Court concluded that the Council members' votes were protected speech and that Congress had no compelling interest because it could have passed the provision directly if it had wanted to, without mandating that the Council members actually vote in favor of the change. The Department of Justice (which argues on behalf of the government) contested the ruling and the case will be heard in the D.C. Court of Appeals on April 20, 1989. Whichever side wins, the case may go to the Supreme Court. Advocates are ready for any eventuality.

The saga of the Armstrong Amendment signifies the fragility of gay and lesbian rights in Washington, D.C., but has farther reaching implications for gays and lesbians across the country. The Armstrong Amendment happened in D.C. because the District's budgets and laws go through a more careful scrutiny by Congress than those of the 50 states. But those members of Congress who are imposing their anti-gay attitudes on the District of Columbia clearly believe that they can cast such anti-gay votes and not hear any opposition or suffer consequences back home. When such opposition from constituents starts coming across more clearly, we should be able to see some significant changes in Congressional voting patterns.

— Laura Markowitz & Chai Feldblum

Laura Markowitz is an editor of a national magazine and a lesbian activist.

Chai Feldblum is an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union AIDS Project.

Correction & Amplification

A graphic representation of a prescription label for Zidovudine 100 MG from the Little 5 Points Pharmacy accompanied a story in Vol. 1, N^o 26, on mail-order drugs. The Little 5 Points Pharmacy has maintained good relations with the gay and lesbian community, and no slight was intended in running this graphic with a story that suggested using mail order as an alternative to a neighborhood pharmacy. Further, *Southern Voice* does not take an editorial position on ordering drugs through the mail as opposed to using a neighborhood pharmacy.

Also, two photographs in Volume 2, # 1 were not correctly credited. The photograph of LEGAL at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner and of Drs. Stosh Ostrow and Jackie Johnson, and Human Rights Campaign Fund board of directors co-chair Hillary Rosen at the HRCF cocktail party were taken by Jo Girardo.

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

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

Southern Voice/Viewpoints
PO Box 54719
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Billboards

Cont'd from Page 1

Vencion, they are referred to professionals. "We want to help the women any way we can," she notes, "spiritually, emotionally or mentally."

But the legal aspects of the project figure far more prominently than any other. "We work with Christian lawyers," she explains. Abortion rights activists in Atlanta say they know the specific purpose is to create litigation. Lynne Randall of the Feminist Women's Health Center (FWHC) calls ARC's work "Aggressive ambulance chasing."

The charge is backed by an article in the fundamentalist Christian publication *Love '86 Express* saying of the billboards, "If enough women respond, follow-up lawsuits are planned in an attempt to close the many abortion clinics in the area."

This new strategy by anti-abortion forces opens the door for those like First Baptist, who disagreed with the illegal, often violent tactics of Operation Rescue. Tactics involving the courts, observers say, are much more acceptable for churches and other more visible organizations. By some reports, First Baptist has already raised \$130,000 for the billboards.

ARC says some lawsuits are already under way, although they offered no details. The FWHC has not been sued, according to Randall, and Sally Tyler, executive director of the Georgia Abortion Rights Action League says there have been no lawsuits filed in Atlanta so far, as a result of the billboards.

Still, anonymous letters threatening the abortion clinics with legal action have arrived, and anti-abortion activists have been passing out cards to women in front of the clinics giving them the same 800 number.

The cards, says Randall, give misinformation to women, telling them an abortion can harm their future children and describing a list of symptoms to look out for after the procedure.

Randall emphasizes that between 98 and 99 percent of all abortions have absolutely no complications, and of the remaining 1 to 2 percent, most experience only minor problems.

Anti-abortion groups are publicizing something they call the "Post abortion syndrome," saying women suffer serious, even emotionally crippling repercussions from the procedure. But Jack Pelham of the Coalition Opposing Operation Rescue (COOR), which picketed First Baptist to protest its support of ARC, says abortions are no more emotionally difficult than giving up a child for adoption.

Abortion providers may face more financial challenges if the lawsuits materialize. As Sally Tyler of GARAL points out, "It doesn't take legitimate lawsuits to make malpractice insurance costs rise."

The misinformation given by ARC to promote the lawsuits, say providers, is hurting the women. According to Randall, "They are using women, exploiting their situation, and creating a lot of fear."

- F.G.

The Consolation of Sisterhood

AIDS: The Women

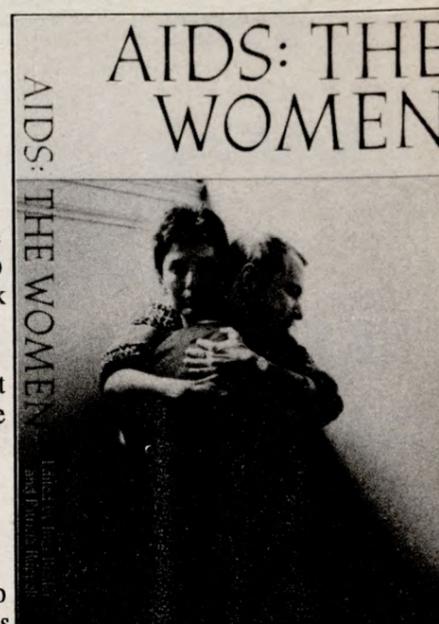
Edited by Ines Rieder and Patricia Ruppelt
Cleis Press, 1988
\$9.95 paper, 251pp.

"I have made sure that I don't hear anything about AIDS. I have had such a horrible experience with this disease, with the doctors, with the prejudice; everything was so bad that I don't have the slightest desire to talk to anyone about it. I'm tired of it."

But Margaret did talk about it. And her story about the death of her gay brother is part of this anthology which will probably become the classic source of information about women's involvement in the initial wave of AIDS. If you have ever felt like Margaret, you may have a difficult time reading this book. The first two sections are personal accounts of women who have lost someone to AIDS or who have AIDS. And for those of us who do not participate in community denial of this epidemic, for those of us who ARE the women involved with AIDS in one way or another, the pain described in these stories is often too real. Skip lightly over these parts. Do not think of reading this book straight through. If you must, begin at the end of the book, and read backwards. For at the end, this anthology has become hopeful, even humorous, definitely informative. (Did you know that there are lesbian vampires? And how many lesbians actually practice safe-sex, or know how?) This book even contains a glossary of AIDS-related terms for those unfamiliar with the vocabulary of the virus.

AIDS: The Women is a successful anthology because it chronicles practically every conceivable alliance of women and AIDS, nationally and internationally. (Six of the pieces have been translated from other languages into English.) And it tells us things about our battle against AIDS that we may have known, but were too caught up in the war to notice.

There are two pieces by Atlantans, prostitute rights activist "Sunny" Lynn Hampton, and a lesbian hooker named "Mistress Morgan". Hampton's account of her State-funded survey



Cont'd Page 7

National Women's March Supports Abortion Decision, ERA Passage

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is organizing a mass demonstration for abortion rights and passage for the Equal Rights Amendment. The March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 9.

NOW President Molly Yard said this could be the largest march for women's rights in U.S. history, due to anger and fear generated by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear a major case challenging legalized abortion.

"Clearly, people from every part of the country finally have realized just how real this threat is to a fundamental right of privacy - the right to decide to terminate an unwanted pregnancy - and they are responding to the march call in larger than ever numbers," Yard said.

Betty Grant, President of Georgia NOW, said that government officials in Washington do listen to public opinion and test the political climate in this country.

"We intend to demonstrate to all three branches of government that the majority of people are in support of maintaining abortion for people who want or need one," said Grant.

"We will not stop abortion. Women will not allow it," she said.

The original intent of the march was to demonstrate support of the Equal Rights Amendment, which now has the approval of 80 percent of the American people, according to public opinion polls. According to Grant, approximately the same approval rate exists in Congress.

"There's never been a greater approval rate for another piece of legislation. It's almost veto-proof," she said.

Grant said that no Georgia Congress members are sponsors of the Equal Rights

Amendment, and only one - Wyche Fowler - has supported the amendment as it appeared in the Senate.

Georgia NOW has scheduled an action every week prior to the national march, each targeting a different aspect of the pro-choice threat. On March 4, the group picketed Domino's Pizza in response to Domino's owner Tom Monaghan's financial support of anti-choice activity.

According to Grant, Monaghan contributed funds to defeat a November, 1987 referendum in Michigan that would have restored abortion as a Medicaid-paid procedure for poor women. Also, Monaghan has supported groups that oppose abortion, including Operation Rescue.

"It is our understanding that he has supported Operation Rescue, as he has supported the legal action with their defenses - including Randall Terry (founder of Operation Rescue)," she said.

This past Sunday, Georgia NOW picketed St. Jude's Church, a meeting place for Operation Rescue, which also holds weekly sessions for women experiencing post-abortion syndrome.

Other local organizations sponsoring the national march include the Georgia Abortion Rights Action League, the National Black Women's Health Project, the Feminist Women's Health Center, the YWCA and Planned Parenthood.

Grant said that between 1,500 and 2,000 Georgians will participate in the march itself. Also, in the Atlanta area alone, over \$1,000 has been contributed by people who can't attend the march to support others to go.

- Wendy Morse



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AIDS: The Women

Cont'd from Page 6

and AIDS-testing of Atlanta prostitutes provided a delightful picture of this city and some surprising results. According to Hampton's research "...prostitutes don't have AIDS-junkies do." In this story, Hampton asks one female junkie about hypodermic needles and the response is disturbing because it so clearly represents the junkie's position on AIDS:

"Do you share needles?"

"Honey, when I buy them, sometimes they're at right angles."

"You're not serious?"

"Hell yes, I'm serious. What do you think, I just walk into a drugstore and say, 'Excuse me sir, could I have some sterile points? And a half pound of pharmaceutical cocaine while you're at it?' Shit, I'm lucky to get needles at all. And you're telling me that I may get a disease that will kill me five years from now? Honey, I'm amazed I'm alive right now. If I'm alive two weeks from now, I'll be doubly amazed. I've got to come up with \$400 each and every day just to put in my arm. That doesn't include rent, food, and trips to Rome. Just to feed my veins. That's what I have to worry about. Not some disease that will kill me in five years. Get real."

(While less than one percent of female prostitutes tested positive for AIDS in Hampton's survey, she recently revealed that in a similar survey on male prostitutes in Atlanta, 32 percent tested positive. Most male prostitutes do not consider themselves to be gay, although they have sex with men.)

A Selfish Kind of Giving is a story by Deborah Stone that addresses a largely unspoken issue that some lesbians have about AIDS:

"Gay boys have done shit for lesbians, and now we're rushing to their bedsides. We're acting like nurses, like a bunch of mommies. Like women always do."

Stories by lesbians as caregivers and AIDS educators allow the individual to answer this challenge. The responses are fascinating, ringing with self-awareness. AIDS has changed the relationship between gay men and lesbians. There's no denying that this epidemic has created a bond between our once separate halves, and it is refreshing to read about other women coming to that realization.

"There are so many women working with AIDS. If you find one, you find them all," said co-editor Ines Rieder in Atlanta recently on the second stop of a national tour to promote the book.

"There were really three groups of people," she explained when asked about the contributors. "First, there were people who said, no absolutely not when we approached them. Then there were those who said, yes, but I have to protect my family and friends. Then there were the third group who said yes, this is my story and I will tell it."

"There were long negotiations with people, especially in the first two sections—what names we could use and how to identify cities. Sometimes I pushed

Cont'd Page 16

The Church of the Big Picture

Indigo Girls
indigo girls
Epic Records

The Indigo Girls' debut album on Epic Records begins with a bouncy acoustic guitar/mandolin intro, and Emily Saliers singing about heart, not mind:

I'm trying to tell you something about my life
Maybe give me some insight between black
and white

The best thing you've ever done for me
is to help me take my life less seriously, it's
only life after all.

These words from the playful "Closer to Fine" is a perfect choice to introduce the rest of the world to the Indigo Girls, Atlanta's not-so-well-kept secret.

Amy Ray's harmony kicks in and it's Chill Time. I can't help it, I'm a sucker for a good pop tune. You call it folk? Tomayto, tomahto. Either you like it or you don't. I like it. Well, mostly.

I've never been to Church camp, but after listening to this album I know how it must feel to sing 'til I'm hoarse around a huge campfire with a group of people I love more than anything—even though I just met them at the beginning of the week. This is the Church of the Big Picture and Emily Saliers and Amy Ray are it's traveling preachers set to save your musical soul by inviting you to turn your life over to the singer-songwriter. Their sermons range from foot-stomping revivals with hooky, singable choruses you'll learn the first time around and never forget ("Closer to Fine," "Prince of Darkness" and "Land of Canaan"), to poignant confessionals best listened to with lyric sheet in hand ("Blood and Fire," "Love's Recovery" and "History of Us"). Scott Litt's production faithfully captures, enhances and focuses the Spirit of Indigo Girls playing a Little Five Points Pub Revival at fever pitch: powerful, raw, yet naive. I like it. Well, mostly...

Kudos to Litt for not burying in the mix the Girls' trademark Everly-Brothers-like-in-sync rhythm guitars in Ray's "Land of Canaan." But why the bubble-gum production? I like the original Neil Diamond version better. (I swear the chorus sounds like a Neil Diamond melody.) And what about the unsatisfying ending of "Tried to be True"? Hit us with that chorus one more time, then fade 'er out. I'd also like to hear



Saliers' voice pitched a step or two higher on her own tunes. Her voice, the headier of the two, sometimes loses its flexibility and resonance in it's lowest registers. Small details though in a strong debut that, if promoted, should garner fans galore and maybe even a Grammy or two.

Of special note are guest appearances by Hothouse Flowers, R.E.M., Latin Percussionist Paulinho DaCosta and Atlanta's own DeDe Vogt. Emily plays all acoustic

guitar breaks including a nice electric solo on "Tried to be True." Each sings one solo tune; Ray's "Blood and Fire" and Saliers' "History of Us," both great songs, represent best their much talked about individual yin and yang. Combined, Ray and Saliers are perfect musical foils. This album will rock you steady and rock you like a baby. Perfect combination for a sucker for a great pop tune.

—Tina Turner

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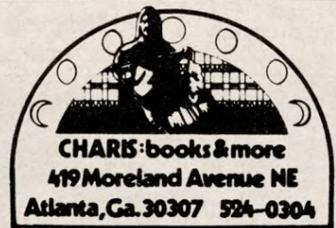
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SOUTHERN VOICE CALENDAR

This Week's Highlights

• **Noises Off** – March 16- April 15. One of the most hilarious comedies to hit Broadway, this regional serving introduces a motley crew of British actors touring England with their own horrible play – a sex farce called "Nothing On". Murphy's Law reigns supreme in this rag tag production. Alliance Mainstage. Tues. and Sun. at 7:30PM; Wed. and Sat. at 8:00PM; Sat. and Sun. matinees at 2:30PM. Tickets, \$12-\$26. 892-2414.

• **Lucie Blue Tremblay** – March 18. Tremblay's album was named among the top ten of 1987 by the *Boston Globe*. Here's why – her lyrics are poignant, her musicality is delicate and powerful, and she is the best whistler this side of Canada. Tremblay does it all, has it all. A must see for her fans, and for those who have yet to be touched by her talent. Unitarian Universalist Church, Cliff Valley Way. \$10 in advance at Charis Books, \$12.50 at the door. To charge call 1-800-444-3821. Wheelchair accessible and interpreted for the hearing impaired. Pictured at right. Photo by Irene Young.

• **Maynard Jackson Meets LEGAL** – March 20. Mayoral candidate Jackson will speak at the monthly meeting of LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians). This is your opportunity to hear his position on gay and lesbian issues, making you a more informed voter in this important election. 7:00PM. Peachtree Branch Library. 289-6358.

• **GARAL** – March 21. The Georgia Abortion Rights Action League holds its monthly meeting this date, covering some very hot issues, including the April 9th March for Women's Equality, and GARAL's mobilization/signature campaign. 377-2181.



THURSDAY

16 • **NAPWA**. A socio-political/educational organization confronting the AIDS issue. 2nd & 3rd Thursdays, monthly. 874-7926.

• **Emmy Lou Harris & The Hot Band** Center Stage Theatre. 8:00 p.m.x... \$17.50. All SEATS locations or 873-2500.

23 • **Maundy Thursday**. Holy Week ceremonies include a joint Seder hosted by All Saints MCC and First MCC. 575 Boulevard. 7:30 p.m. 622-1154.

• **"Within The Plantation Household: Black & White Women of the Old South."** Powerhouse of a political/personal program by author Betsey-Fox Genovese. Charis Books & More. 419 Moreland Avenue. 7:30 p.m. 524-0304.

• **This Way Out** - The international lesbian/gay radio magazine. Every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. on WRFG 89.3FM.

FRIDAY

17 • **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**. Celti Ceili, Atlanta's traditional Irish band, performs. Picasso's Performance Café. 515-B North

McDonough Street, Decatur. \$5.00. 9:00 pm 378-7763. Pictured.



24 • **Good Friday**. Tenebrae service hosted by All Saints MCC and First MCC. 7:30 p.m. 800 N. Highland Avenue. 872-2246.

• **Friends Atlanta**. Meetings vary. Social, recreational, and educational group for gays/lesbians. Call 662-4501 for more info.

• **Noises Off**: thru April 15. A hilarious British comedy about the misadventures of a ragtag acting troupe (touring England with their AWFUL sex farce of a play) Alliance Mainstage. Tickets, \$12-\$26. Call 892-2414 for more info. Pictured at right: Brenda Bynum.



SATURDAY

18 • **Hakim and Friends**. Atlanta's jazz trio presents an evening of jazz originals and favorites. Picasso's Performance Café. 515-B North McDonough Street, Decatur. 9:00 a.m. 378-7763.

• **Lucie Blue Tremblay - tonight only!** Unitarian Universalist Church, Cliff Valley Way. 8:00 p.m. \$10-\$12.50. Tickets available at Charis Books & More or call (800) 444-3821 to charge.

• **"British Rock - The First Wave"** chronicles the origins, development and excitement of the original British Rock Invasion of the 1960's. Michael York narrates. Exclusive premier on GPTV channel 8 at 11:00 p.m.

25 • **ACT-UP on Health** - The subject of health in the ACT-UP community is addressed. Guest speakers: Stephanie Blackton, Ben Vaughan, and Kim Brewer. Highland Branch Library. 872-4291. 6:00-9:00 p.m.

• **The Four Seasons** - Ballet Rotaru, Atlanta's new classical ballet company, performs this four-part ballet along with "Pas de Six" from *Napoli* and "Pas de Duix" from *Le Corsaire*. 8:00 p.m. Symphony Hall. \$15-\$25. 892-2414.

SUNDAY

19 • **Michelle Sho** Brilliant new singer returns. p.m. For more

• **Circle of Healing**. 1st & 3rd all in need of healing - physical, spiritual. 4:00 p.m. First E

26 • **"Queen of the Dinah Washington"** Academy Theatre. Juniper Streets. Jomandi Produc

• **Hallelujah!** - an Easter Sunday service sponsored by All Saints MCC. 6:00 a.m. Piedmont Park. C

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Next Week's Highlights

- **"Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South"** - March 23. Betsey Fox-Genovese, Director of Women's Studies at Emory University has discovered many implications for modern Southern women in this study. Among these are the bridge of political-personal, and the bridge between privilege for a few at others' expense. 7:30PM. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. Free and open to the public. 524-0304.
- **ACT UP for HEALTH** - March 25. ACT UP/Atlanta presents this special program which includes: "AIDS: Health Management - Life vs. Survival", Dr. Stephanie Blackton, chiropractor; "The Mind and The Body", Kim Brenner, psychotherapist; "Immunity as Health", Ben Vaughn, structural therapist. Free and open to the public. 6-9 PM. Highland Branch Library, corner of N. Highland and St. Charles Ave. 876-8341.
- **Business Expo '89** - March 28. Over 50 businesses from Atlanta's lesbian and gay community will set up shop with their wares and services. Meet with the pros about your health, money, car travel, taxes, attire, leisure time, and more. Sponsored by Fourth Tuesday in conjunction with The Atlanta Business & Professional Guild. Free parking, food and cash bar. \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members. 6-10PM. Holiday Inn Downtown. 662-4353 for more info.
- **Eddie Brickell & New Bohemians** - March 28. She's here! Don't miss the "What I Am Is What I Am" band. Anybody who writes religion is a smile on a dog deserves to be heard! But stop by the Business Expo first. 8PM. Center Stage Theater. \$17.50. 881-2000.

MONDAY

20 •W.O.W. "Self-esteem" is the topic. 7:30 p.m. North Highland Branch Library.

•**LEGAL** (Legislate Equality for Gays & Lesbians) Maynard Jackson, mayoral candidate, will speak at this monthly meeting. It's an open forum. Peachtree Branch Library, across from the High Museum of Art. 7:00 p.m.



TUESDAY

21 •Any Tuesday But Fourth Tuesday! Coffeehouse sponsored by 4th Tuesday. Next City Comedy Theatre. 7:30 p.m. \$3.00. Angela

Motter, Michelle Martin, Sabrina Sojourner perform.

•**GARAL** (Georgia Abortion Rights Action League). Monthly meeting. Focus: Upcoming Supreme Court challenge to reproductive choice and more on April 9 Women's Equality March. 957 North Highland. 7:30 p.m. Call 377-2181.

WEDNESDAY

22 •Michelle Martin performs! with Caroline Aiken. Little 5 Points Pub. Pictured.

•**NAMES Project/ Atlanta.** A National AIDS Memorial. Wednesdays. All Saints Episcopal Church. 6:30 p.m.

•**Cynthia Knapp** - New paintings and works on paper through March 29th. Fay Gold Gallery, 3221 Cains Hill Place. Monday - Saturday, 10:00-5:30 p.m. 233-3843.



27 •Mike & The Mechanics - Center Stage Theatre. 8:30 p.m. \$17.50. All SEATS locations or call 873-2500.

•**Free Tax Preparation for PWAs.** Sponsored by IRS and AID Atlanta. Call 874-6517.

28 •Business Expo '89 - Over 50 gay and lesbian businesses together under one roof! 6-10PM. Holiday Inn Downtown. \$7. 662-4353.

•**PREVUE!** "A Lie of the Mind" thru April 22. Sam Shepard's most romantic play has its regional debut. Academy Theatre. Corner of 14th & Juniper Streets. Call 873-2518 for more info.

•**Eddie Brickell and New Bohemians** - Ms. "What I Am, Is What I Am" performs at The FOX. 8:00 p.m. \$17.50. 881-2000. Pictured at right.

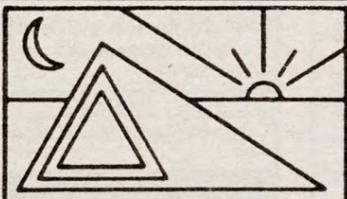
29 •"Women Making Music" - thru April 1st. Rebecca Ranson's musical play. Picasso's Performance Cafe, 515-B North McDonough Street, Decatur. \$5.00. 373-8255.



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ORGANIZATIONS

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

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. Counsel-ing available by appointment for individuals and couples. Same sex Holy Unions performed. 872-2246.

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.

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. 662-4501.

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 Nativist 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. 5-7 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.

Business Expo '89

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New Age Culture Provides Ritual and Myth For a Sterile, Modern World

On Monday, March 20 at 10:28 am EST the Sun moves into Aries, marking the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring with the Sun rising due east and setting due west. Metaphysically, the Spring Equinox signals the beginning of new life and growth within the Earth. The Spring Equinox is also directly related to the Winter Solstice. At the Winter Solstice, the time of the longest night and shortest day, a new impulse of light and energy enters the Earth that manifests around the Spring Equinox with spring blossoms, newborn creatures and physical vitality.

Stone monuments and buildings around the world are oriented along the north/south, east/west directions and constructed to measure the movement of the Sun, the Moon and other heavenly bodies. In one of the buildings at the Hohokam Indian site in Arizona, approximately 600 to 800 years old, are a pair of holes in the wall. These holes are aligned so the light from the Sun shines through the outer wall and disappears into the hole on the inner wall within two days of the equinox. Other more famous sites where similar alignments occur are Tenochtitlan, the island capital of the Aztec Empire, and Stonehenge in England.

Most of these ancient sites were used for religious celebration and rituals to mark seasonal changes, but they were also important because they provided a context for understanding life. In cultures that were dependent for survival on the success of each year's crops and livestock reproduction, these were important events.



Another aspect of these rituals and celebrations is that they provided a kind of archetypal drama which reflected the symbolic nature of the unconscious, the function of myth and legend in all cultures. To a large extent, movies have taken the place of ritual, myth and legend in our culture, providing us with larger than life, two-dimensional heroes, heroines, and antiheroes. It is possible that the growing interest in "New Age" culture such as astrology, tarot, metaphysics and meditation, the I Ching and numerology, to name a few, is the direct result of the loss of these old archetypal dramas.

The re-emergence of these ancient systems to tap the unconscious is probably a very healthy sign for our metallic, technological, goal-oriented, clock watching society. In many ways science and technology have gone as far as they can, leaving us with an acute sense of imbalance and a yearning to reconnect with the mystery of our being and the aliveness of the Earth.

Most of the "New Age" culture is based on ancient, symbolic systems that allow us to tap the wealth of energy and imagery buried in our unconscious. In terms of our unconscious processes and patterns, we are not very far

removed from our Cro-magnon ancestors who carefully painted the walls of their caves with images of animals and purposefully buried their dead. We can use these ancient symbols to reconnect to ourselves and relearn the great mystery teachings.

One of the earliest and most organized systems is astrology. For centuries human beings have watched the skies to chart the movement of planets, constellations and the fixed stars. The recording was associated with planting, rainy seasons, and the flooding of delta areas. Some of the earliest records date from the second millennium (B.C.) of the Sumerian culture, records accurately reflecting natural cycles as well as the nature of man. Carl Jung felt astrology, which is personalized by using the time, place and birth date of an individual, reflected the accumulated psychological wisdom of humans up to the present time.

Modern numerology is based on the work of the Greek mathematician, Pythagorus, who discovered the relationship of the first six numbers to musical intervals. These harmonic relationships represent vibratory frequencies which, in turn, reflect the nature of the universe. So, when numerical values are assigned to the letters of a person's name and the birth date is taken into account, it can give a very accurate reading of the whole person.

Legend says that the Tarot was developed by eastern and western mystics in an effort to preserve the wisdom teachings during the Dark Ages. They were designed to show, in symbolic form, the fundamentals of the spiritual path. Certain decks are excellent for metaphysical study as well as for probing the unconscious. As with any symbolic system, its value is determined by the ability of the reader to stay with the symbols and interject as little personal interpretation as possible.

Runes are based on ancient Viking language symbols, and can be used as oracles. Consulting an oracle is a process of becoming aware of where we are on our spiritual path and runes are often consulted to determine the proper course of action in a difficult or confusing situation. They provide another symbolic system for knowing ourselves and tapping our own inner wisdom.

The I Ching, which developed out of the wisdom of China, is thought to be at least 5000 years old. It is based on the principle that change is constant and that all activity is the result of movement between the Yin, a receptive, quintessent force and the Yang, a positive, expressive force. Throwing coins to arrive at a hexagram made up of two triagrams, that is interpreted according to the Book of Changes. As with most systems, the I Ching functions as a system of divination as well as a method of teaching.

Native American people had a very diverse philosophical system which related everything to the personality of the natural world. Their wisdom teachings focused on being a part of the rhythms and cycles of nature, using symbols in the natural world to attune themselves to Mother Earth and the Great Spirit. Attuning our awareness to the Earth and the movement of the Great Spirit may be one of the most stabilizing and balancing approaches, especially for North America.

All of these systems have great value in teaching us wisdom and providing guidance. However, the greatest value in using them is that we attune to our inner life and begin to listen and respond to our intuition. As human beings, we have a personal spiritual center and we can, through spiritual practices, function at a much greater level of awareness. The key is in doing it, whether we practice meditation, use a particular system or a combination of both.

- Mary Bailey-Rule

U.S. Appeals Court Rules for Lesbian, Against CIA

San Francisco - The Central Intelligence Agency has lost another skirmish in its battle to keep all gays and lesbians outside of the intelligence community.

An appeals court in San Francisco ruled that the CIA must defend in court its decision to deny a security clearance to a senior technical illustrator on grounds that she is a lesbian, overturning a ruling to the contrary by a district court judge.

The case dates back to 1981 when Julie Dubbs applied for the security clearance because her job with the defense contractor SRI International required it. The CIA denied the clearance because of Dubbs' admitted homosexuality.

Dubbs challenged the Agency in court, saying the CIA's pattern of routinely denying clearances to all gays regardless of their qualifications is unconstitutional.

A district court judge disagreed with Dubbs, ruling that the CIA decides on a case-by-case basis, and allowing the Agency's decision to

stand without trial.

But the three-judge appeals panel said the district court erred, and ordered the CIA to go to trial to demonstrate Julie Dubbs represents a security risk.

The panel also noted that the CIA turns down clearances for all gays and lesbians and ordered the district court judge to decide whether that policy is unconstitutional.

This is not the first time the courts have questioned the CIA's policy on gays and lesbians. Last year the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with a gay man fired by the CIA, ordering the Agency to prove in court it had valid reasons for firing him.

In the Julie Dubbs v. CIA case, the Agency has a number of options. It can ask the appeals court to rehear the case, it can appeal to the Supreme Court, or it can go back to the district court level for a trial.

- F. G.

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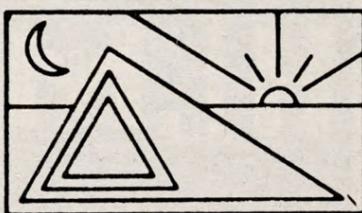
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Living With AIDS

Children With AIDS: Born With the Wisdom of the Universe

Living with AIDS babies create new dimensions to some very simple four-letter words - care, love, hope, life, fear. Suddenly, they encompass all the letters of the alphabet and run the gamut of human emotions.

As the director of Childkind, a social service agency for children with HIV infection, I find myself being the willing student of tiny teachers born with the wisdom of the universe. There are those who say these children were "born to die." I disagree. I believe the "Annie's," "John's," and "Jake's" of the world were born to show us a new perspective and give life new meaning.

Could it be that because so many of us in the 20th century have not learned to truly love, thousands of tiny teachers have been sent to teach, through example, the lessons of love, joy and abundant life?

To become involved with children with HIV is painful, lonely, frightening, and anger producing - as well as joyful. There are times when the pain feels like barbed wire stretched through my veins and each time a dire statistic is quoted, an ugly prognosis is given, or an ungodly prophecy is preached, I feel the wire ripping my body. I live with loneliness, the loneliness of feeling isolated in fear and exhaustion. With each swollen gland, rash, cough, or fever, I cry. I cry for their pain, my pain, society's pain. I rage at our failures of learning love. And I question:

- Why has it taken so long to truly care for our human family?
- Why aren't we telling our so-called "junkie" brothers and sisters that each life has worth, "Hang in there, let us give you clean needles, use them until you understand we're here to help you give them up, *stay alive*"?

- Why are we turning our backs on family members whose lifestyles are different?
- Why aren't we grieving openly with parents, friends, lovers over our losses and theirs?

- Have our minds been so saturated in statistics, medical, political and theological rhetoric that we have forgotten the flesh and blood, the spirit and soul, the person; man, woman, child?

- Why aren't we pulling together all conceivable resources to conquer this virus in every part of the world?
- Why aren't we raising our voices and shouting, "enough already, enough!"?



SHELTON BRYANT

- Why on earth is there even one child "boarding" in an institution?

Why? I don't know the answers. We at Childkind, however, believe there are answers. We are volunteers from all walks of life and from many diverse interests. Some of us prefer football and others the ballet, but we all have the common belief that what we do makes a difference in the lives of these special children. We view needs from the child's perspective creating an environment where love and acceptance is the norm.

We provide emergency assistance. We provide nutritional information. Educational services are provided through speaking engagements to corporate, civic, religious and private groups.

Most importantly, Childkind operates a residence program which emphasizes human continuity to see that each child receives the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual support for healthy growth.

Our first residence will be dedicated March 30!

Please join us in caring for "our" babies!
- Barbara Chamness

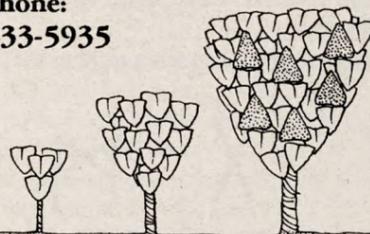
Barbara Chamness is the founder and director of Childkind, 4036 Wetherburn Way, Norcross, Georgia 30092. (404) 246-0819.

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Study Proves PCP Not Natural to Humans

A study published in the Dec. issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine* reported that researchers have proven that the virus that causes pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) does not naturally occur in the human lung. PCP is the leading killer of people with AIDS.

Scientists had previously speculated that the deadly pneumocystis organism was carried by most humans in a dormant phase until it was activated by an unknown trigger mechanism when the immune system was seriously impaired.

The study was conducted by Dr. Frederick Ognibene of the National Institutes of Health, and compared the results of 24 people who tested positive for HIV, but had no history of PCP.

Promising HIV Drugs May Soon Be Available

San Francisco, CA-A number of promising treatments now being evaluated by AIDS experts around the U.S. may be available this year for the first time in the battle against HIV infections, according to a report in the latest issue of *AIDS Treatment News*, a newsletter published here.

The newsletter listed 10 new drugs and treatments including Compound Q, an experimental protein derived from Chinese herbs, whose laboratory tests show it effective in stopping the HIV virus. It could be made available for human use in 1989.

Phase one trials of a new drug, Dideoxyinosine-similar to AZT-but less toxic, began in 1988 according to the report, and trials could be extended this year.

The developer of Compound Q has applied to the FDA for permission to begin human testing.

The report described clinical trials of another drug-FLT-which is an antiviral found to be several times as effective as AZT against HIV in laboratory cultures.

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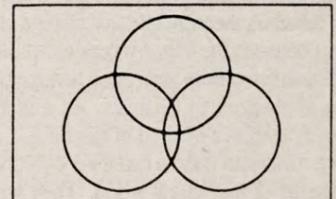
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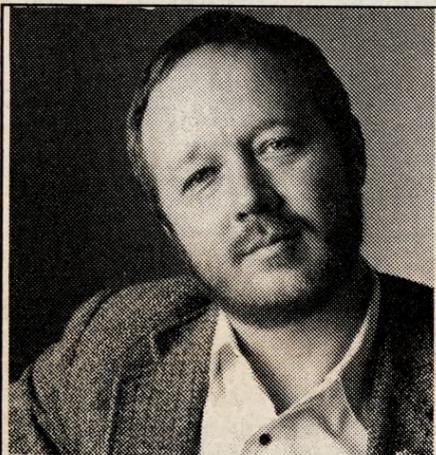
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Health and Healing

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 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

What To Do When Shit Happens: Reaction and Responsibility

Try as I will I have not been able to embrace the New Age motto: You Create Your Own Reality. Perhaps if I could I'd be living a more perfect, blissful existence, a life unblemished by failure, disappointment, grief and bad luck. I'd never have the blues, always be in the pink. I'd also know no one I know now. None of my friends, even my most positive thinking, creating-their-own-reality New Age ones, could come with me to Paradise. They're all tainted not only by negative thoughts but by failures, disappointments, grief and dare I say it again, bad luck. Shit happens to us all, no matter how clear and positive our thoughts, no matter how hard we try to keep our ducks in their rows. Children do not choose abuse, women do not choose rape, gay men did not choose AIDS. Social and environmental problems impact



KENT SIMMONS

Franklin Abbott

individuals who are innocent. It is also true that we human beings have been known to suffer over our suffering. Some of us have made an art of it, most of us are vulnerable to what Joan Barysenko calls "awfulizing."

No one I know has not had something bad, even tragic, happen in their lives. That "shit happens" is a part of the human condition. When shit happens a lot, especially during our vulnerable growing up years, it is easy to begin believing that the world is intrinsically unfriendly. In a hostile environment certain behaviors make sense: defensiveness, lack of trust, feeling helpless to make constructive changes, tension, hypersensitivity (often hidden), etc. This is the stuff that awfulizing is made of. Unlike other cultural minorities lesbians and gay men are not brought up in lesbian/gay families where understanding and protection are offered in the face of social pressures and prejudices. We more or less have to fend for ourselves. Survival skills (hiding, passing as straight, enduring abuse or neglect, denying personal truths and needs) are invaluable. They can also become second nature and are later difficult to detect. We often have a hard time changing behaviors that have become automatic into behaviors we use with forethought and discretion. Our rigid reliance on old ways of thinking and being (often outside of our awareness) can get us into trouble. In that way we can participate in recreating the world of our childhood in our adult lives. Most adults I know who are in abusive relationships were abused as children. Most adults I know who are lonely and insecure felt that way as kids. Awfulizing is making things more awful than they really are or need be. As kids we used awfulizing as a survival strategy to anticipate the bully, or the snubs of the other girls, or the parental critique,

or the date-less Saturday night. Like good little scouts we never prepared for the worst. By the same process as adults we can perpetuate our childhood hell. What is doubly damning: we can do this unaware of our part in it.

Homophobia is a social reality that negatively affects lesbians and gay men. It modifies our public and private behavior. It threatens our relationships, jobs, domiciles and physical safety. AIDS is a social reality for gay men, sexism a daily toxin for lesbians. Racism is part of this poisonous brew as are poverty, addiction, pollution and the threat of nuclear catastrophe. We all, from time to time, must breathe the fumes. We all, from time to time, are called upon to help clean up this mess especially those parts we share responsibility for. Responsibility, the ability to respond, is at the heart of this whole dilemma. What you do when shit happens, regardless of your role in it, is to respond. It is certainly possible not to respond, to react by re-enacting old patterns of helplessness or blaming. If the disaster is sudden or major it is natural to go into shock. Staying in shock is very, very dangerous.

Disasters come in all shapes and sizes. Petty disasters can involve losing your keys, flat tires, forgetting things. These can be and often are awfulized into major melodramas. They can ruin hours, days and weeks. The demons of our insecurities delight in these minor snafus. They torment us in ways in which we are especially vulnerable. It is hard to suppress a chuckle when a New Age friend is pondering aloud what purpose were they in service of when they lost their keys or why did they create that food poisoning the other day.

Petty disasters looked at from another angle are at best a reminder of our imperfections, the mysteries of life and the certainty that things could be and sometimes will be worse. Death and decay are part of the life cycle. The trees that grow outside my window do so "at the expense" of former trees whose bodies now fertilize their successors. Death is one of the few certainties of life and since very few of us will ascend bodily into Heaven amidst the cheers of our friends, decline and disability will likely precede our departure. One reason the AIDS plague is so difficult is that most of us involved are not emotionally prepared to say goodbye to so many of our friends and deal with the reminders of our own mortality that the death of a loved one always engenders. People in their sixties and seventies have often had a gentler initiation to death, losing parents and older relatives, seeing death happen first in generations ahead of their own. Though we are not without wise elders in the lesbian and gay community, their wisdom can be of little solace in the face of profound losses we are experientially unprepared for.

Loss and the inability to make it up or make it right can be more frightening than death itself. It can also be a portal to a deeper understanding of self and an invitation to a more radical aliveness. We are challenged by the loss to believe it, to grieve it and to let go of what was true before the loss occurred in order to live authentically in the present. Many gay men have tested positive for HIV antibodies. When this happens one of the things they lose is the future as they had imagined it. This is true of couples whose relationships fail, of people who lose their jobs, of people who are coming out and lose their heterosexual programming. We do not always choose our losses but we can choose to respond to them bringing to bear our intelligence, intuition and compassion. We can, pride aside, ask for help when we need it. On the other side of grief are new possibilities, greater wisdom and deeper loving self-acceptance. In nature fires are necessary to keep forests and swamps vital ecosystems. Though it may not be your lightening that has ignited the fire that created the loss, how you live with it, day by day, hour by hour, is largely up to you.

— Franklin Abbott

Franklin Abbott, LCSW, coordinates the Circle of Healing at the First Existential Church. He is a psycho-therapist in private practice with Ansley Therapy Associates and authored the book, *New Men, New Minds: Breaking Male Tradition*. He co-hosts "Soundings" Thursday afternoons from 1-2 on WRFG-89.3 FM.



CHRIS DUNCAN

The Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations (MACGLO) raised \$300 in their Parents for Pink Flamingo's campaign, and "adopted" three Chilean flamingos at Zoo Atlanta for a year. The campaign was a part of MACGLO's continued involvement in the greater Atlanta community, according to executive secretary Jeffrey Laymon. MACGLO will donate its 20 one-day passes given by Zoo Atlanta to the Georgia Easter Seals Society.

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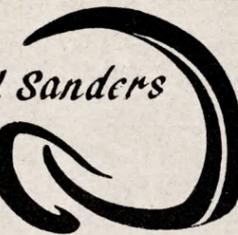
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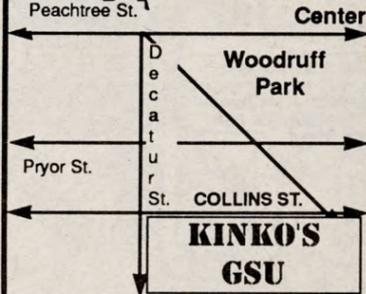
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Ruling Planets

by Mary Bailey-Rule

SUN in PISCES/ARIES March 16-March 30

The Sun moves from Pisces into fiery and assertive Aries on Monday, March 20, at 10:28 am EST. This is the Spring Equinox and indicates the end of Winter and beginning of Spring which was a time of celebration and renewal in ancient cultures. The Full Moon in Libra on Wednesday, March 22 is the perfect time for a romantic evening.

ARIES This is your time of year, so enjoy yourself and appreciate your qualities of will, energy, initiative and pioneering spirit. Time for action and fun.

TAURUS Is Pluto in Scorpio, your complementary sign, pulling at your unconscious? If so, don't worry, it's a cleansing process. Clean out your closets, both mental and physical.

GEMINI Mars and Jupiter are in residence with expansive, physical energy, so it's time to figure out where you want to be in 6 or 7 years. Energy is high, so keep your feet on the ground.

CANCER Venus in Pisces and Pluto in Scorpio create a grand water trine for you until the 24th, so you may need a break from daily routine and emotional relationships. Relax in natural surroundings.

LEO The Sun in Aries will feed your self-confidence and initiative, so watch for opportunities to expand your awareness and improve communication skills.

Illustrations by Liza Golobith

VIRGO If you are feeling at loose ends or restless, get back in touch with the earth. Plan a garden, start some seeds, or perhaps redecorate at home.

LIBRA As the Sun moves into your 7th house on the 24th, pay more attention to close friends, business partners, and be aware of your need for intimacy.

SCORPIO Transformation is still the key word, but stay in touch with your physical surroundings and economic necessities. A good time to get your taxes out of the way.

SAGITTARIUS The emphasis is now on personal relationships and close friends, so return favors, tidy up the house, and plan a romantic evening at home.

CAPRICORN Mercury is in your 12th house, so you may feel the need for solitude. Some time in the mountains or at the beach can provide clarity and focus.

AQUARIUS This is a good time for creativity and communication with friends and neighbors. Also stay in touch with your feelings, and emotions. Rely on intuition.

PISCES Pay attention to income and expenses, taxes, and personal property. Handle stress by keeping your sense of humor. Also include physical exercise in your schedule.

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

Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

The Circle of Healing meets at the First Existential Church the first and third Sunday of every month from 3:45PM-5:30PM. The circle was organized in response to the AIDS crisis, but is not limited to people concerned with AIDS. Anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional or spiritual, is welcome. 470 Candler Park Drive. For info call 378-5570. (V2#3)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GROUPS FORMING. For those who are dealing with issues related to "coming out." Informative, non-judgmental, supportive environment in which to process and explore feelings and get information. Sliding scale. Groups are: Coming Out for Women, to Parents, for Teens, Support for Families and Friends of gays, for Children of lesbians and gays. Facilitated by Connie Tuttle, M.Div. For info call 874-6591. Confidentiality assured. (V2#4)

THE ACTOR'S EXPRESS will hold auditions for *Traps*, written by Caryl Churchill, at the Dorsey Studio, 3593 Clairmont Rd., on March 20 at 7:30PM. Needed are 4 men, 2 women, age 20-35. Need one two-minute contemporary monologue prepared. For appointment and more info call 634-3602 or 525-5728. (V2#2)

Lesbian or gay ultimate frisbee players! A team now forming to play in Atlanta's summer league. Call Jessi at 876-1831 or 624-9916. (V2#3)

The Women's Resource Center of Dekalb County, a shelter for battered women, is currently recruiting new board members. This volunteer position requires a

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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)

* CHILDCARE

I love children! Will do child care in your home or mine. Can sit week nights or weekends. References upon request. 627-2962. Reasonable charges. (V2#3)

* 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)

FOR RENT

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)

FOR SALE

Just in time for Gay/Lesbian Pride Season! So-Do-My T-shirts from NGLTF. Front reads: So Do My Friends, So Do My Neighbors, So Do My Idols. Back reads: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Available in blue or raspberry and sizes M-XXL. \$10 benefits NGLTF. (V2#3)

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)

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

HEALTH

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. (V2#2)

* ORGANIZATIONS

The Commodore Format Users Group will meet at the Atlanta Fulton County Public Library Downtown. The meetings will start March 19, 1989 and will meet the third Sunday each month at 3PM. Contact Ted Moore at 768-2221. (V2#3)

All Saints Metropolitan Community Church offers positive Christian support for lesbians and gay men. Worship Sunday at 5PM. 575 Boulevard, SE. Office hours: Mon-Thurs. 10-Noon, 1-4PM. (V2#3)

Helpline Training for the Atlanta Gay Center. Prepares volunteers with listening techniques and means of assisting callers, both in crisis situations and with routine requests for help. Training begins March 13 and meetings are on consecutive Mondays for 8 weeks, with one Saturday session. Call 892-0661. (V2#2)

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 coled 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#2)

Project Open Hand is looking for drivers to deliver hot meals with love to Atlanta PWAs. Call 248-1788 for information. (V2#2)

PERSONALS

Dearest Mark, On March 21 we will be celebrating the anniversary of the day that changed our individual lives and started our new life together. I can honestly say that I love you more now and my love for you can only grow stronger

PERSONALS

with each passing day. You have meant so much to me and have helped me to grow in ways I could only have dreamed of before you came along. I know things get frustrating sometimes what with all the work I do but, if it's any consolation, "you are the wind beneath my wings." Listen to the song again, it really should have been dedicated from me to you. Happy Anniversary, Sweetheart Love, Mark.

GBF, 31, attractive, professional. Looking for feminine GF who is honest, serious, good conversationalist, romantic, and wants something in life. I enjoy movies, dancing, and quiet evenings at home. Reply to SV Box #2260. (V2#4)

GWM, 39, handsome, 6', 155 lbs. Sometimes funny, often reflective, father, runner, enjoys theatre, reading, cooking, intimate conversations. Desires close dependable friends. Reply to SV Box #2256. (V2#3)

GWF, attractive, warm, feminine woman and a romantic at heart. Love those quiet moments, fairly new to Atlanta. Would like to meet that special woman with those qualities and more. For serious minded women only. Photo and phone number please. Reply to SV Box #2262. (V2#4)

Good looking PWA, 31, GWM, Blonde, blue eyes, 5'6", 130 lbs., healthy. Seeking GWM 30-40 for possible relationship. Partial to father figure types. Send letter and phone to SV Box #2258. (V2#3)

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)

ROOMMATES

WANTED: Woman to share an affordable 3-bedroom pleasant, comfortable bungalow on a large wooded lot, with a congenial, responsible housemate. Available April 1. Call Shirley at 458-6846 (days), or 627-3286 (evening). (V2#2)

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ROOMMATES

woman seeks same to share 2BR/1 1/2 bath house on wooded lot near Emory. Fireplace, W/D, screened porch are a few of its charming features. No pets. \$325 + 1/2 utilities + \$100 deposit. Available April 1. Call 248-0291 and leave message. (V2#3)

Seeking lesbian to share well-maintained 3BR, 1 bath house outside Little 5 Points. 5-minute walk to East Lake MARTA. Landscaped, fenced back yard, great landlord. Available April 1. \$325/month + 1/2 utilities. Couples considered. Call Joan at 378-5162. (V2#3)

GWM, professional seeks roommate to share 2BR/2 Bath beautifully furnished luxury apt. in Northeast club-atmosphere complex. Fireplace + all extras. \$300 + 1/2 utilities. 452-0858. (V2#3)

Lesbian seeks same to share 3BR solar duplex in Lake Claire near Little 5 Points. Move in by April 1. Prime Cable, Sprint, fenced wooded acre. Pets OK. \$275/month + 1/2 utilities. Call between 9-11 PM. Mary Ellen at 377-2443. (V2#3)

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TILEWORKS - Custom Marble, Quarry and Ceramic Tile, Glass Block. Quality work - Free estimates. 352-5284. (V2#6)

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

PROJECT OPEN HAND/ATLANTA needs drivers to deliver meals one day per week (11:30AM-1:30PM) to people with AIDS. We also need volunteers in the kitchen and to answer phones. For information call 248-1788. (V2#3)

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

Southern Voice is looking for experienced news and feature writers. Join Atlanta's progressive paper - Today! Call Chris Duncan at 876-1819. (V2#4)

The Women's Resource Center of Dekalb County is recruiting volunteers for the

* VOLUNTEERS

following positions: crisis hotline, child advocacy and legal advocacy. Training begins April 22. For more info call 688-9436. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ENDING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. (V2#4)

WANTED

PWA needs financial assistance. Unemployed - insurance exhausted. Help, please! Write to: PO Box 53411, Atlanta, Ga. 30355. (V2#2)

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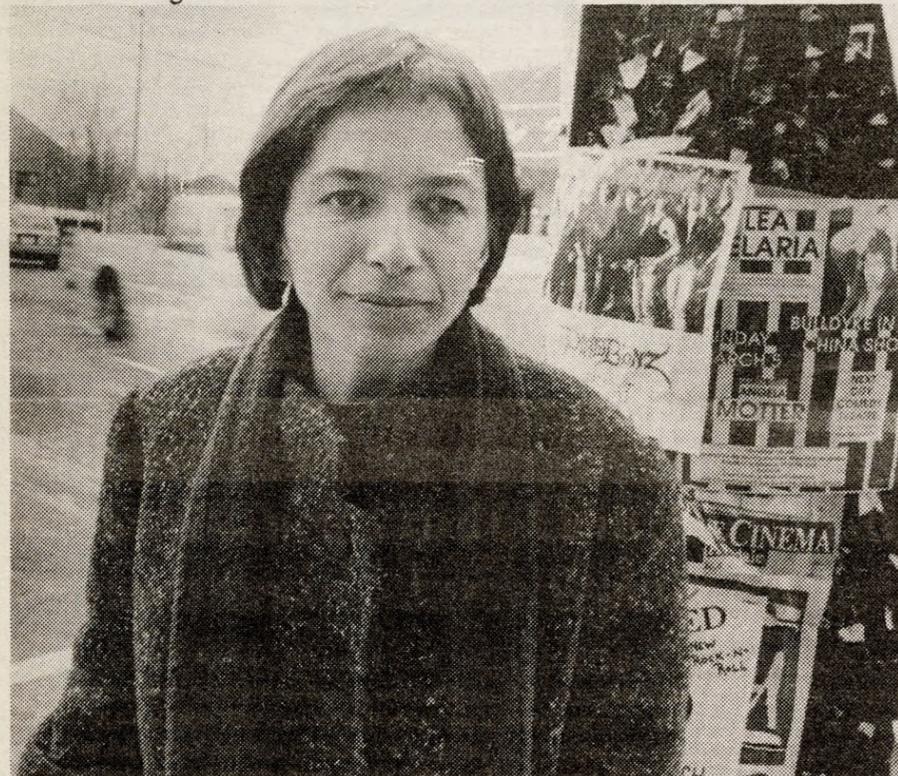
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AIDS: The Women

Cont'd from Page 7



PAMELA J. COLE

Ines Rieder, co-editor of *AIDS: The Women*, spoke in Atlanta on March 2.

because I wanted the story so badly. One woman who was very outspoken about separatism between gay men and lesbians, chickened out and wouldn't let us publish her story. And so we don't have that story. It's very complicated. You have to be very patient."

The book was assembled in eight months, according to Rieder. "With a story like AIDS—it changes so quickly. Already some of the information in the book should be updated."

When asked about her thoughts on the implications of AIDS for the species, Rieder replied, "I heard it said that if we don't find a cure for our dying forests, we won't need to find a cure for AIDS. That really made one think. I think AIDS is nature's revenge."

Rieder's first tour stop was New York, where she said she did several mainstream television and radio interviews. Cleis Press reports that they have received many book orders from libraries. All of which seems to say that the book will find its way into heterosexual hands, which is where it desperately needs to be.

AIDS: The Women is a special voice for women who live with AIDS in their life. The issues are often diffused if unrelated to the PWA, and we let ourselves be drawn into a whirlpool of caretaking and support, never realizing that we too are being drawn under by our own unspoken despair.

Here is a book that tells us our own stories. In the works of Simone de Beauvoir quoted at the beginning of this book, "through the medium of words they render these experiences universal and allow their readers, deep in their private unhappiness, to know the consolation of sisterhood."

- Pamela J. Cole

Nat'l Gay Youth Group Formed

A new leadership project for youth who have same-sex affectional identities, called the Gay and Lesbian Equity in Academia Network (GLEAN), was launched in Washington, D.C. just before the new year.

Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) is on the project's Board of Advisors. "The abuse which young gay and lesbian people receive... is a terrible social problem. Trying to alleviate it is a very important social goal, and I am pleased to be supportive," wrote Frank in his letter accepting the position.

The project will create an information network for the equity and access work being done regarding high school and college aged youth who are, or are perceived to be, gay, bisexual or lesbian.

The emphasis of GLEAN, according to Project Coordinator Luke Adams, will be the direct empowerment of youth.

"This is not going to be about a group of 'experts only' getting together and theorizing about policy and methods and then telling gay male, bi and lesbian youth what's good for them," said Adams.

The early phases of the project will consist of creating a "participatory research curriculum for the youth" that will, according to Adams, "facilitate a critical literacy about their own lives, their situation, where they're going, what they want, what's in the way, and how to overcome it, with a named struggle and identified alliances."

GLEAN will also maintain open lines of dialogue between current leaders of the lesbian/gay movement, current educational equity workers, and youth themselves.

"One by one, AIDS has been killing off many

of this movement's leaders, and sapping the strength of the others, while our youth are being eaten alive worse than ever. Only recently has the



Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass)

community realized the crisis that's coming," said Adams.

"If we are to re-deploy youth in this society with a sense of individual responsibility and social justice that combats the kind of gross materialism or hopeless marginality that has been growing rapidly in the past decade, we have to start where the need is most desperate and acute," he said.

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Take a mid-day or after work break in Backstreet's Rooftop Café. The open-air atmosphere offers casual, relaxed comfort for every type of rendezvous. Rooftop hours are Monday through Thursday 11 am-10 pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am on. Call Bev Cook to reserve the Rooftop Café for your organizational or business meeting.

Be at Backstreet Monday nights for Ladies Night in the newly renovated tongue and groove paneled Mini-Disco. Sound brought to you by Special dj's Rhonda and Dusty. Doors open at 10 pm. Wednesday, March 22, Backstreet's annual Easter Egg Hunt begins at 10 pm.

Skip brunch and stop in Sundays at 4 pm for Backstreet Burgers. They're Free and served until 7 pm. Backstreet also offers a Free late-night Buffet Sunday and Wednesday nights in the Mini-Disco, starting at 11 pm.

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