

# SOUTHERN VOICE

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Vol. 2, No. 7

Taking Pride in Our Culture

May 25, 1989

## AID Atlanta Director Batson To Leave Agency

The administration of controversial AID Atlanta executive director Buren W. Batson, Jr., is apparently coming to an end, according to high placed sources at the agency.

A development report prepared at the request of the Board of Directors criticized Batson and said "The Executive Director needs to step down on whatever equitable basis can be arranged." The report was presented to the board in late April of this year.

Nancy Paris, president of the Board of Directors, confirmed that the board was in negotiation with Batson as to the exact terms of his leave-taking when *Southern Voice* went to press May 22.

"He was hired to do one thing and now, looking at the future, it looks like the agency needs something different," Paris said. "And it's not good or bad. But now, the agency is going through a different phase of growth." Paris declined to discuss the negotiations further.

Batson also declined comment. "Much of the current situation is the result of inappropriate use of private information. I will have no further comment, now or later," he said.

Batson's forecast departure is apparently in response to a development report prepared by consultant Roger F. Congdon. The report was generated at the request of the AID Atlanta board of directors, to determine the likely success or failure of a \$1 to \$2 million fundraising campaign by the AIDS agency.



RHONDA MENSEN

### Buren W. Batson, Jr.

Congdon's conclusion was "that the image of AID Atlanta is at this time not sufficient to support a major fundraising effort among the public.

"The fact that almost all of the people interviewed (for the report) want the agency to survive is, however, very positive," he concluded.

With regard to Batson, Congdon agreed "with the findings that the administration of AID Atlanta has damaged the agency's image.

During the interview phase of the report, Congdon found that 79% of those interviewed "expressed concern over either

his (Batson's) inability to lead, his overall demeanor and/or his lack of management/people skills."

Congdon interviewed 85 people who "represented a good cross section of the professional, educational, commercial, corporate, foundation, financial and political leadership in the Atlanta area."

Paris cautioned, however, that the development report was only a part of the board's decision to ask Batson to leave the agency. "A development report is not a management report," she said.

"There is no one person who's the problem," she added.

Congdon's report also criticized the board of directors, which he said had serious flaws that would need to be corrected before the agency could mount a successful fundraising drive. In his conclusion, Congdon stated the "some board members must step aside and assume other roles in the organization allowing room for the new board members" with a higher visibility.

"(We) recognize that we don't have a high-profile board," Paris said in response to Congdon's criticisms, "but we are the people who were willing and able to step forward at the time when the leaders of Atlanta's business community would not.

"We are the people who are trying to put in place a mechanism for recruiting those leaders so we will have a board of greater visibility," she added.

- Chris Duncan

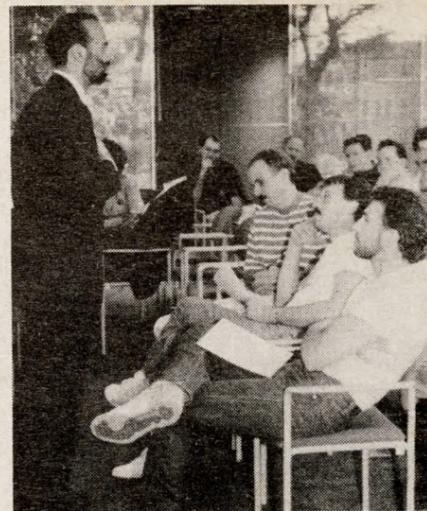
## Lomax Outlines Gay Platform

Fulton County Commission Chair Michael L. Lomax said that he views discrimination against gay men and lesbians as a civil rights violation and that he will continue to actively support the gay and lesbian community if elected mayor of Atlanta.

At a May 15 meeting of Legislative Equality for Gays and Lesbians (LEGAL), Lomax presented an extensive platform on gay and lesbian issues, which covered the areas of human rights, hate crimes and AIDS.

"I hope that my administration can be one where the gay and lesbian community feels they have a friend, a supporter, a strong advocate," Lomax said.

"It's definitely a first - at least in Atlanta - the first time that someone has taken so much interest and time to listen to people's concerns, formulate something comprehensive and yet try to pinpoint our most important issues," said LEGAL President Jim Gilkeson.



Eveitt Bennett

### Fulton County Commission Chair Michael Lomax speaking at LEGAL

Within 30 days after he becomes mayor, Lomax said, he will require the Bureau of Police Services to use "Hate Crime" as a reporting category and to implement training for the identification of such crimes.

Also, Lomax said he will direct the Commissioner of Public Safety to form a permanent Hate Crimes Intelligence and Tactical Unit within the Bureau of Police Services. This unit will be responsible for identifying, investigating and halting hate crimes in Atlanta, as well as for operating a 24-hour "crisis hotline" to report hate crimes that might otherwise go unreported.

Maynard H. Jackson, Lomax's main

## Battered Women's Agency Loses State Funding

### Advocates Charge Rep. Tom Crosby With "Lesbian-baiting"

It appears homophobia has claimed another victim in Georgia. State officials have confirmed that the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence (GNADV), based in Atlanta, will no longer be the pass-through agency for state funds to shelters for victims of domestic violence. For the past four years, the Georgia Network has administered \$320,000 in state funds to 21 shelters and received an additional \$50,000—about half of its operating budget—through its contract with the Department of Human Resources (DHR). That cut will force the Network to eliminate two of its three member staff and will significantly reduce its statewide outreach efforts on behalf of battered women.

Advocates for battered women allege that the decision to cancel the Network's contract with the DHR was made primarily because of "lesbian-baiting" by democratic representative Thomas Crosby, Jr. during the recent legislative session. It is alleged that Crosby referred to the Network, on more than one occasion, as "just a bunch of lesbians".

Crosby, a Waycross tire dealer and chairman of the DHR subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, was determined to eliminate the Network's role in dispersing the funds

to shelters, according to Smith.

"It's all homophobia," charges GNADV executive director Margo Smith. "If you remain a strong advocate for battered women you're going to piss people off, and if you do that, what's the first thing they're going to call you?"

Crosby said he received complaints from some shelters that their boards would not permit them to join the Network because "sexual preference" is included in the policy. Crosby explained that he asked Margo Smith "on several occasions" to remove the phrase because he didn't see the necessity for it. "Their policy had all the safeguards in it without 'that'," he told *Southern Voice*. The State of Georgia's affirmative action statement does not include "sexual preference or orientation," Crosby said.

Smith and other Network members said that Crosby has consistently made disparaging remarks about the organization and that he spent the entire last session trying to undermine the Network's efforts with other lawmakers. "The more we resisted, the more he persisted," she said.

Crosby admitted he made a concerted effort to get the Network to change its mission statement, but he insisted that he was not

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Lucy Was More Than Red On The Head

Everybody loved Lucy, "the first lady of CBS." But, in 1936, most of the nation hated Communists. And Lucy - according to her September 4, 1953 testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities - had registered to vote as a member of the Communist Party that year *The Nation* reported.

For entertainers accused of subversive activities at that time, there were usually two options: One refused to answer questions and one was blacklisted; or one cooperated and was forced to turn informer.

But Lucy named no names, and she went back to work the following Monday. She told the Committee that she had registered as a Communist only to make her grandfather, a lifelong Socialist, happy.

## Fla. Hate Crime Proposal Leaves Out Gays

*Tallahassee, Fla.*—Proposals to allow increased penalties for people convicted of "hate crimes" in Florida currently contain no mention of sexual orientation.

The hate crimes proposals increase penalties for people convicted of crimes in which prejudice was shown against people on the basis of race, color, ancestry, religion or national origin, and would allow victims to sue for triple damages.

Last year, sexual orientation was included as a protected category in the same proposal. Some lesbian and gay activists had believed that it would be included this year.

"We hope legislators see the need to cover a broader range of categories," said Florida Task Force lobbyist Charlene Carres.

Inclusion of sexual orientation in the proposal could allow harsher punishments in cases such as the murder of musician Les Wan of Miami Lakes. Wan died in May of 1987 after he was attacked outside a gay nightclub in Fort Lauderdale. Witnesses said Wan's attackers shouted anti-gay epithets while beating him.

The hate crimes proposal was first introduced by Representative Elaine Gordon (D-North Miami Beach) during last year's legislative session. It did not pass.

Fort Lauderdale lawyer Allan Teri, a member of the ACLU's National AIDS Task Force, said that the current political climate in Tallahassee doesn't favor increasing protections on the basis of sexual orientation.

"Sponsorship and support seem to dry up when sexual orientation is mentioned," Teri said.

## Judge Reduces Award to Rock's Lover

A Los Angeles judge said that the \$21.75 million a jury awarded Rock Hudson's former lover, Marc Christian, in March was "an extremely high amount of money" and lowered that amount by more than \$4 million.

United Press International reported that Superior Court Judge Bruce Geernaert reduced the punitive damages awarded to Christian from \$7.25 million to \$3 million.

Geernaert said he would also consider reducing the \$14.5 million in compensatory damages the jury awarded Christian.

Geernaert said the punitive damages against Hudson's personal secretary Mark Miller were excessive despite the "reprehensibility" of Miller's agreement with Hudson to keep the actor's AIDS diagnosis a secret so that Christian would continue to have sex with Hudson.

## Funding Pulled From Nebraska Gay Student Group

*Lincoln, Neb.*—Officials at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln pulled all funding from the University's student gay and lesbian organization in March, according to the *Washington Blade*. The reasons cited by the Student Senate for pulling the funds included biblical passages and doubts as to whether or not gays and lesbians constitute a true minority.

The Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events (COLAGE) originally requested \$1,600 for the year to plan "educational and social events". A funding committee lowered the figure to \$749 before submitting the budget to the Student Senate, which then cut the funds altogether.

COLAGE appealed to college officials, including Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Friesen and Chancellor Martin Massengale to reinstate the funding, but both men allowed the student budget to pass without comment.

The student group plans to make an appeal to the University's Board of Regents at its May meeting before taking other action. The Nebraska Civil Liberties Union (NCLU) has expressed a willingness to file suit against the University if the Regents do not take action to restore funds to the group.

The NCLU has reportedly told COLAGE members that a previous decision by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals which upheld the rights of gay and lesbian student organizations to receive funding when they are judged on content is directly applicable in this case.

## Lesbian Theologian Denied Professorship

*Newton, Mass.*—Close to 50 women rallied to the defense of lesbian theologian Mary Daly, after Jesuit-run Boston College officials refused to promote the feminist author and teacher to a full professorship.

According to *Gay Community News*, the assembled students and teachers scuffled with college officials after their request to meet with the school president outside his home was rebuffed.

The protestors, who chanted slogans such as "Witch Trial, Jesuit Style," and "Mary Daly Refused Again, Academic Freedom Only for Men," said that three men pushed them off President J. Donald Monan's front porch after their request for a meeting was denied. One woman later told *GCN* that the three college officials kicked her and pulled her hair.

Daly, a radical feminist, has been the center of controversy at Boston College several times since she first joined the faculty in 1966. She is the author of several widely regarded feminist books, including,

*The Church and The Second Sex, Gyn/Ecology and Webster's First New Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language.*

## Mormons Choose Lesbian Bishop

*Salt Lake City, Utah*—The Restoration Church of Jesus Christ, which serves lesbian and gay Mormons, has chosen Leanna R. Anderson as presiding bishop, the highest-ranking bishop in the Restoration Church.

Anderson, a lesbian who lives in Sacramento, California, was made a bishop in 1987.

The presiding bishop is responsible for financial matters and the training of people ordained to the priesthood. The Restoration Church of Jesus Christ has units, which it calls "families", in Arizona, California, Texas and Utah.

## Calif. Considers Cutting Services To Gay Youth

*Sacramento, Calif.*—Republican State Senators in California are supporting two bills aimed at limiting the services available to gay youth in public schools.

One bill would forbid non-academic gay issues counseling by school guidance counselors without parental permission. The second bill would put more restrictions on sex education classes.

The *Bay Area Reporter* reported that the guidance counseling bill would prohibit programs such as Project 10 in Los Angeles, which provides information to students about their concerns over their sexual orientation.

The counseling bill would also kill a gay-sensitive liaison program available in the San Francisco Unified School District for students facing issues of sexual identity. It would also prohibit school employees from referring students to therapists or care providers for other issues, such as physical or psychological abuse.

The sex education bill would severely limit AIDS education and the discussion of homosexuality in sex education courses. The bill would require that all parents sign consent forms for their children to attend such classes.

Both bills are currently being addressed in the State Senate Education Committee.

## Jewish Lesbian/Gay Group Gets Cemetery

*San Francisco, Calif.*—Congregation Sha'ar Zahav may become the first lesbian or gay organization to have its own cemetery, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

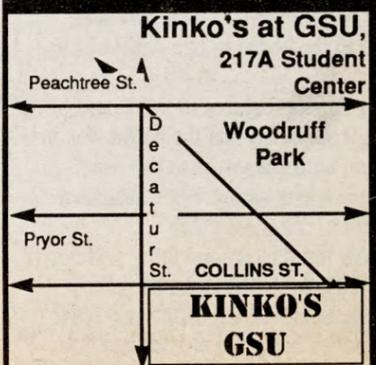
"There is a great need for this," said Congregation president Robin Leonard. "A great number of members have expressed a desire to be buried within something that was significant, not just a plot somewhere," Leonard said.

"If it is important for a person to be buried in a cemetery and to be buried in a Jewish cemetery, then it is important for gay people to be treated the same way as heterosexual couples," Congregation member Tim Rivaldo said.

## Georgia State University

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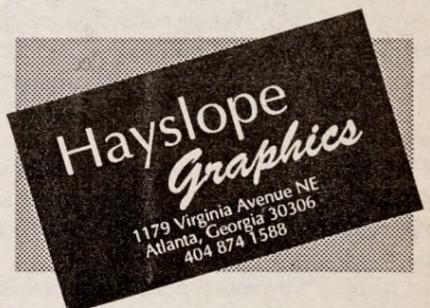
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## Lomax Platform

Cont'd From Page 1

opponent, promised Atlanta's gay and lesbian community on April 9 that upon taking office he will immediately reform current police procedures for reporting hate crimes. At that time, Jackson did not specify how he would do so.

As a part of his human rights commitment, Lomax said he plans to reconvene the Community Relations Commission "to ensure that no one group of our diverse citizenry is ostracized from the community at large." At least two representatives from the gay and lesbian community will serve on that commission, and Lomax said he will also appoint a gay man or lesbian to serve as a Community Relations Commission liaison, reporting directly to him.

Jackson has said that, if elected, he will re-establish the city's Human Relations Commission, in which the mayor is not involved. On that commission, people of different backgrounds, orientations, policies and parties would meet and advise government of their findings, Jackson said.

Lomax promised to enforce statutory protection to gays and lesbians in all city-directed or city-related employment,

housing or public accommodations. He said he will require all vendors and contractors with the city of Atlanta to meet anti-discrimination standards set forth by the city and to have statements of non-discrimination stipulated in any contract by the city.

"We will not allow discrimination based on sexual orientation," Lomax said.

Lomax also said that he will support the establishment of an emergency housing fund for people with AIDS and that he will commit the city to financially supporting at least 10 multi-unit residences for people with AIDS during his first four years in office.

"The entire community has to recognize that we have an obligation to integrate these facilities into the community," Lomax said.

"I have been working hard to speak out in my own community about AIDS and let people know that this is an issue that we have to address and not one that we can afford to stick our heads in the sand on."

Gilkeson said he believes that Lomax clearly has targeted Atlanta's gay and lesbian community, a community that has not been targeted in the past.

"We want someone to see us as a viable community that can vote together on major issues and I think that's what he's done," Gilkeson said.

- Wendy Morse

## Jerusalem House Only One Step Away From Being Home to PWAs

Atlanta-In a hotly contested hearing May 11th, the Atlanta Zoning Review Board (ZRB) voted unanimously to approve a special-use permit allowing Jerusalem House to proceed in developing a home for 24 people with AIDS at 831 Briarcliff Road.

Controversy swept the hearing as Jerusalem House supporters dissented with representatives from the Druid Hills Civic Association, who opposed the facility on the grounds of negative impact to the historic district, inadequate medical supervision, and land use and zoning statutes. Druid Hills advocates wore green cottage-shaped tags insisting "Homes not Institutions".

"I'm not surprised at the intensity of the concern here," ZRB member Alfred L. Knox stated. "But we're playing ostrich... we've got to face this issue. I believe we could be setting an example (of housing PWAs) that the federal government should follow." Knox moved that the Board accept the facts of the Jerusalem House petition and approve the request.

During heated debate before the final vote, Druid Hills Division Chairperson Alida Silverman

charged, "If you approve Jerusalem House you'll be giving up on Briarcliff Road in Atlanta... This 'Jerusalem House' proposal will have an adverse impact on our historical district." Both Silverman and Druid Hills President Elizabeth Jacobs objected to "institutional use in a strictly residential area".

"Let's take a walk down Briarcliff Road" countered Jerusalem House attorney Seth Weissman. "The opponents primarily live in single-family homes on Springdale on the other side of Ponce de Leon" Weissman charged, but in such a multi-family setting as Briarcliff Road "24 apartments are perfectly compatible".

According to Evelyn Ullman, president of Jerusalem House, an entire wing will be added to 831 Briarcliff to accommodate 24 residents. The wing will comprise three levels, the bottom a parking deck and the top two floors 10 small apartments each with open lounge areas as well.

Jerusalem House's next hurdle will be the Zoning Committee of the Atlanta City Council and consideration by the entire Council as well, now slated for June 5th. Druid Hills President Jacobs promised "We will present our position at City Council." Jerusalem House President Ullman said "I'm very leery about being complacent" about the City Council, as Jerusalem supporters continue to lobby Council members between now and June 5th.

- Dave Hayward

Anyone concerned about approving Jerusalem House is encouraged to call City Council members between now and June 5th. 330-6030.



JO GIRAUDO

## Rep. Coelho Urges 'Achievable Change' at HRCF Dinner

"You are wise to work for achievable change and I'll be with you," promised Congressman Tony Coelho (D-Calif.), the keynote speaker at the Southeastern Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner held at the Atlanta Regency Hyatt on May 20.

Addressing a crowd of 550 which included many local and national gay rights activists and local politicians, Coelho urged participants to keep pushing for reform. "The challenge is maintaining our momentum," said Coelho, who is the House Majority Whip. "High on my list is passing a strong hate crimes bill."

"We may not all be Ozzie and Harriett, but we are all members of loving families just the same," said the U.S. Representative, referring to the right wing's argument that supporting gay rights is not in keeping with family values. Coelho noted that the efforts of the gay community in its fight against the pain and fear associated with AIDS and its struggle for legislative equality showed "real family values."

Coelho praised HRCF and its strong organizational skills. "In our lifetime... we see the bridge between our current lives and our highest hopes being built. We must keep our eyes on the prize," he said. HRCF was founded in 1980 and is the ninth largest independent PAC (Political Action Committee) in the country. HRCF is dedicated to electing and educating members of the U.S. House and Senate who support gay/lesbian civil rights and responsible AIDS policy.

Resigning HRCF executive director Vic Basile was honored with the Dan Bradley Humanitarian Award during the May 20 dinner. The award is given in honor of Bradley, who was one of the four founders of HRCF and a champion of civil rights. A Georgia native, Bradley died last year from complications from AIDS. Also recognized at the HRCF Southeastern Gala were MACGLO (Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations) and ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance). MACGLO received the Community Action Award for its many accomplishments during the past year. ALFA received a special award of \$1,500 to further its efforts to compile an extensive lesbian and feminist periodical library and research room at its Atlanta facility.

A cocktail hour preceded the dinner. Special dancing and entertainment was provided following the dinner by the Fabulous Dyketones.

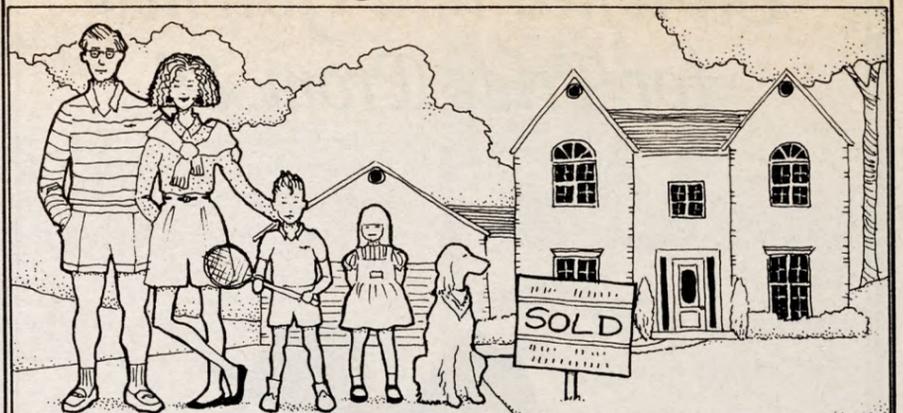
-Kalan Brown



Jo Graudo

Representative Tony Coelho (D-Calif.)

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# Before and After Stonewall

Part 1 of a 3-part series

*This series of three articles is a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Stonewall, the 1969 rebellion that changed forever the way lesbians and gays would see themselves. The theme for this year's gay and lesbian pride celebration is Stonewall: Reasons to Remember. We have a lot to remember, a lot to be angry about, a lot to cry about and a lot to give thanks for. Within this series, which spans pre-1940 until the present, we hope you will learn something you didn't know about your history - the history of being gay in America*

What was it like being gay in pre-1940 America? How can we find out, beyond what is recounted in police records of raids, harassment and arrests, or sensationalized in public revelations? Often these accounts came from autopsy reports, of women who "passed" as men and worked at (better paid) men's jobs, sometimes actually living with another woman "as man and wife." Then, as now, police records tell us only about what was sufficiently obvious, or notorious, to attract police attention or morbid curiosity. And, while many such instances are documented in Jonathan Katz's *Gay American History* and elsewhere, these records reflect only a particular aspect of life in large cities. But in the 1930s the vast majority of Americans, gay and straight, were still living in or near isolated villages and small towns. Many spent their entire lives without a single visit to a major city. It is in those small towns that most of our history took place, including my own. A look at my own life is a fair representation of what it was like to be gay prior to 1940.

I grew up in a white brick Colonial house in the country club neighborhood of a small Southern town. And yes, we had electricity and indoor plumbing at our house, but one set

of grandparents didn't, because they lived a few miles out in the country, and electric power lines hadn't been run yet to most individual farm houses.

My two grandfathers each owned Henry Ford's Model-T, which my grandmothers never learned to drive. Both men hung on to their horses and buggies, too, just in case. Most of the nation's roads and highways were still unpaved country lanes, because until long after World War I and the early 1930s, railroads were the way people traveled if they were going more than a few miles from home. My conservative country grandmother was driven to town in the Model-T by one of the male family members. My "advanced" grandmother, who lived in town, kept her own horse and trap (a two-wheeled buggy) and her independence. But my teenaged aunts, who had bobbed hair and were "flappers" and danced the Charleston, both drove cars "like a man". My aunts were then smoking cigarettes in private, but not in public. Never, as long as they lived, did they smoke in the presence of either of my grandfathers, who were convinced that only "fallen women" (prostitutes) smoked.

That's what America was, for me, in 1929, aged 8, just 40 years before Stonewall.

It was a closed little world, and if there was a scandal, everybody knew about it. Bachelors and "old maids", as unmarried women past a certain age were uncharitably called, were allowed and even expected to be "eccentric", but only within certain stereotypical limits. All most people knew about Freud was that he had made up something called the Oedipus complex, and they thought that was hysterically funny. Obsessions, odd quirks, speech impediments, palsies, mutism, and compulsive mannerisms were observed with relish, even amusement, and taken in stride. Except for sex: To be



found out in any kind of sexual oddity meant ostracism, public denunciation, or worse. If my witty, loveable junior high school classmate, who got pregnant at 15, had to leave school and be sent away to a "sanitarium", from which she returned totally dull and spiritless two years later, with no mention of what became of the baby... imagine what would have happened to any child suspected of being actively homosexual!

Given all this, I can state with absolute certainty that the most important phenomenon in gay history during the first two decades after World War I was the mass production of the automobile, and the paving of roads into the cities. For it was access to private transportation that freed us from patterns of behavior enforced by the surveillance of others, and allowed us to shape our lives according to our own needs and desires.

In that small town of the 1930s, virtually all grade school teachers were women, and all of them were either single or had passed their childbearing years. In addition to being miserably paid, they dared not smoke or be seen having a drink in public, and the company they kept was everyone's business. It was unthinkable that a teacher get pregnant, and any young female teacher who married while on the job was immediately terminated. As for the legions of older women, those spinster teachers, many shared houses and led inseparable if outwardly prim and decorous lives. We can at least hope that privately they managed to enrich each other's dreams in ways their pupils' parents could not even imagine. If there was any lesbian outpost in my hometown, this must have been it. But no matter what they did or didn't do in the privacy of their own homes - whether lesbians or perpetual virgins - like us, they were different. The nuclear families propagated, but it was the unmarried, the women without issue, who really brought us up, baby-sat us seven hours a day, taught us to read and to write and to do arithmetic, and taught us American History out of a textbook in which there was not one single word about themselves, or people like them.

Going to public school in my hometown, I found no male role models with whom I could identify. The male teachers were either swaggering bullies like the gym coach I feared and hated, or dry dusty old men with neither empathy for their students nor enthusiasm for the subjects they were obliged to teach. In retrospect, I realized that one of these was almost certainly gay, but deeply closeted and probably celibate - he would have called it "sublimation" if he had ever spoken of it openly at all.

There was also the man I never met but who was pointed out to me as "the homo". He was middle-aged, fat, wore thick glasses and no one knew his name or where he lived - probably in some other town nearby - but all of us were positive that he was a freak whose sex organs were located in his throat. And that he waited in his car to pick up high school boys. He frightened me one night simply by

parking his car nearby when I was waiting for a bus. So much for role models: I could far more readily have identified with Count Dracula or Dr. Fu Manchu than with what I then perceived to be "homosexual". It seems extremely improbable that the closeted old teacher and the man who waited in his parked car, who may have been married, with a family, would have known each other, or wanted to. Both lived and died, as far as I know, without the companionship that we take for granted now.

The year was 1940, I was a freshman in college, 19 years old, and indubitably gay, although as yet I hadn't the faintest idea what that might mean. I might have tried to find out, had I known how, but a small, all-male college was like another small town, with no cars allowed. Having grown up in a goldfish bowl, so to speak, I was so conditioned to lack of privacy that I behaved as though I still lived under glass and decided on a career, because that's what people did. If even very-effeminate-acting men like John's scoutmaster and extremely artistic people like the director of last summer's Little Theatre play were married, probably that was the way things were supposed to be for everybody except those who were hopelessly repulsive or outright bizarre. I just hadn't met the right girl yet.

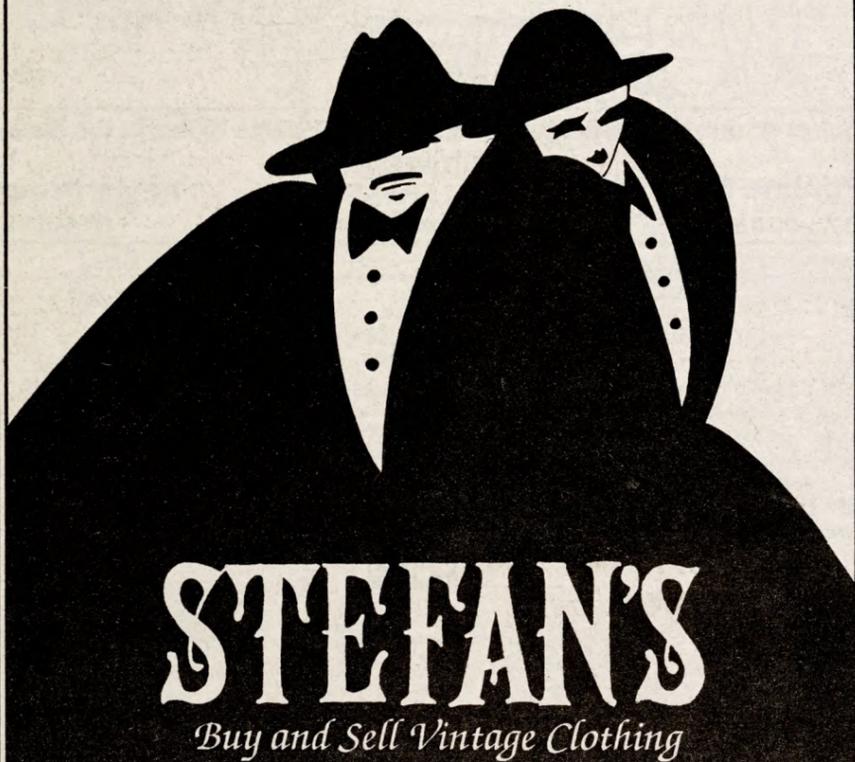
Although my sexual orientation was still a mystery to me, one thing was very clear: I got along fine with both women and men, but my affectional preference was decidedly for members of my own sex. I was hopelessly and quite pointlessly infatuated with one particular upperclassman, and would have welcomed the chance to sacrifice my life for him. He was wise, and kind, and seemed to understand me as no one else ever had. He listened to my confused efforts to know myself, and I massaged his temples and neck when he was tense and tired. (Years later, I learn that, although married and a father now, he is well known in the gay bars of another city.) Perhaps he knew what I did not know about myself. Or perhaps he too was simply unaware, or afraid. We had no support group in those days, and each of us was alone. Whatever was happening, no one else could help, because no one else could possibly understand what I thought I alone, in all the world, was experiencing. Probably it had been like that too for the dried-up old teacher in his lonely closet, and for the terrifying creature in the parked car, but of course it would be years before that thought would occur to me.

For along came Pearl Harbor, and we were in World War II, and along with thousands of other naïve, green, smalltown men and women, I was swept up in what many Americans believed to be a "war to end all wars". And, although we didn't know it then, gay American history was on the edge of another major frontier, the most significant since the coming of the automobile.

- George Sinclair

*In the next issue of Southern Voice, Mr. Sinclair looks at our history from World War II until the 1969 rebellion at Stonewall.*

## Crowned and Gowned for Pride Prom '89



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# Georgia Network

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aware of the statement until it was brought to his attention by other shelters. Janice Mays, executive director of Liberty House in Albany, said her agency questioned why each shelter had to be a Georgia Network member in good standing to receive state funding. "Why should we as a shelter have to have a more stringent affirmative action policy than the state government?" "As far as our agency is concerned, this is not a lesbian issue," said Mays. "The work that we do with battered women has nothing to do with that issue. I don't see the correlation between the two."

The news of the Network's funding demise elicited strong reactions on both sides of the issue from shelter directors in Georgia. "We are devastated," says one shelter director who asked not to be identified. "What I appreciated as an administrator was that I could contact with an organization that understood the kind of work we do."

When her facility opened a year and a half ago, "The Network provided all the technical assistance," she said. "Without it, we wouldn't have been able to get organized."

The director called representative Crosby's allegations about the Network "lies," adding that with the exception of a "few people from a few programs," the majority of the Network's members voted to keep "sexual preference" in the group's affirmative action statement.

"I think those shelters brought this issue to their boards out of their own fears," she continued. "None of those shelters were ever able to admit that the issue is homophobia. They kept saying things like 'we would let one of them into our shelters, we just wouldn't let them work there.'"

Many rural agencies across the state rely heavily on the Network's information to help them identify how to best serve battered women, says Wayne Dow, training director for the Georgia Council on Child Abuse in Atlanta. "It's very difficult to gather statistics on this problem in counties where advocates are trying to get programs started and local officials are telling them the problem doesn't exist," he said.

Dow acknowledged that some Georgians view the Network's advocacy for battered women as controversial, adding that some male lawmakers like the "feeling of being able to divide and conquer" women's issues.

"Underneath the notion of sexual preference is that the idea that women can help empower other women, not to direct or guide them but to support them and make resources available so they can make good

choices for themselves," he added.

As the debate continues, state officials are preparing to fold the Georgia Network's responsibilities into its massive bureaucracy. By July 1, a program specialist will be hired by DFACS to handle domestic violence issues, which includes administering state funds to shelters, confirmed Beth Carroll, chief of the Adult Services Unit.

Carroll, who served with several other DHR staffers on the Network's Domestic Violence Task Force, said "We are meeting with the Network to make the transition as smooth and as fair as possible. Something will be set up with the shelters to explain how things will be handled."

But many shelters are worried that they will have to compete with each other for an already limited amount of state money. "We are a task force, just like the coalition for the homeless," says one director. "This will diminish the power of our unified voice as advocates for battered women in Georgia."

Janice Mays sees the change as a positive one. "I feel confident that DHR will listen to our recommendations and disperse the money in the same way that it was allocated before," she said. "Now other shelters who were not willing to go along with the Network's requirements will be able to apply for state funding. We didn't intend to destroy jobs for anyone," she continued. "The Network elected to destroy itself."

DHR's Division of Family and Children's Services (DFACS) will administer \$370,000 in state funds to shelters in Georgia when the new fiscal year begins on July 1. And as DHR gears up for their new responsibilities, Margo Smith prepares to scale down the Network's staff and programs, uncertain about the future. "Do we try and go back and get state funding or is it too much of a compromise? In any history of struggle, the words are important," she stated. "They mean that you're living by your principles, and not just by how to get along."

- Andrea L. Berry

## Complete Schedule of Events '89 Lesbian/Gay Pride

in the next issue of Southern Voice.

# OBITUARY

Pamela Jo Martin (May 15, 1946 - May 16, 1989)

Pam Martin (also known as Olive Turtlewomon), one of the lesbian nation's greatest radical daughters, died in Minneapolis on May 16th as a result of complications arising from an intestinal tumor and an abdominal cavity infection. Pam was surrounded by her friends, lovers, and parents during the course of her week-long hospital stay. Pam moved to Minneapolis last month, after having lived in Atlanta for the last 15 years.



Pam Martin at the National March for Lesbian & Gay Rights, Oct. 1987.

She is survived by her parents, who live in California, and by her two brothers. She was born in Montana and grew up in the West. Pam attended college in Chattanooga, Tennessee, earning a degree in social work. She later received training as a hairdresser and as a masseuse. She was an Atlanta entrepreneur for several years, owning her own beauty salon in Chamblee. She then became a permanent freelance provider of care to the lesbian community. She also produced women's music events under the name of Granny Mae Productions. She found it imperative to work with and for lesbians.

Pam Martin worked extensively with the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA) where she served on the Boogiewimmin, newsletter, and renovations committees. Although ALFA is an organization with no leaders, Pam proved to be a driving force propelling ALFA forward.

Pam Martin worked tirelessly in service to the lesbian nation, never seeing a job as too little or too big. She had amazing energy and talent, a forceful personality, and a quick mind. She contributed to numerous lesbian organizations, conferences, and festivals over the years. Always ready with her address book, she added the name of every lesbian that she met, knowing that networking was the lesbian community's greatest tool. She organized support and study groups dealing with issues of money, racism, and fat liberation.

Pam Martin challenged us with her radical ideas and angered some with her radical actions. We needed her, and we need others just as radical to provide the cutting edge. We need these great women like Pam Martin, who walk the boundaries, who are exploring the frontiers of our lesbian community, for without these guides our journey would be all the more perilous. Thank you, for blazing the trail, Olive Turtlewomon.

-Nancy Oswall

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# National Lesbian Health Care Survey Results Released

Recently, *The Sourcebook on Lesbian/Gay Health Care*, second edition, listed a study designed and implemented by Caitlin Ryan, MSW, ACSW, and Judith Bradford, PhD. Four thousand questionnaires were distributed across the country in a survey designed to provide valuable data on lesbian health care needs and concerns. The study involved the analysis of 1,925 completed and returned questionnaires. Be aware that most of this data was collected before 1986. Consequently, some of this data might not be as timely in its representation.

Among other things, the survey indicated that:

- 81 percent of those women responding were between 25 and 44, while only 28 percent of women living in the U.S. as a whole are in this age group.
- 70 percent had graduated college, compared to 18 percent for women from the U.S. as a whole.
- 60 percent were in a primary relationship or "somewhat" involved with a woman partner.
- Despite higher educational levels and 73 percent of lesbian respondents filing

professional and upper management positions, 88 percent made less than \$30,000 per year.

- Radical distribution of respondents was similar to that of women from the U.S. as a whole, with 12 percent being women of color. However, Black women specifically were under-represented among respondents of color.
- Number one health problem for women 17-34: 24 percent, had cramps; women 45-54, breast lumps.
- 30 percent of respondents had been pregnant; 16 percent had given birth.
- 4 percent of the women would consider adoption; 33 percent agreed donor insemination was an option.
- Only one out of ten were concerned about infection with HIV/AIDS, with health care providers showing the most concern for infection. (However, this data was gathered in 1984-85, and may not be as relevant today.)
- One third of respondents had long bouts of depression/sadness at some point in their past.
- 21 percent had suicidal thoughts "sometimes" or "often" while almost one

out of five had attempted suicide (usually with drugs).

- Most common causes of anxiety: 1—money, 2—lover, 3—job.
- 65 percent over-ate "sometimes" or "often"; two percent had symptoms of bulimia (eating then vomiting).
- 41 percent smoked, but only a fourth of those smokers were concerned about their health and smoking.
- 37 percent reported some type of physical abuse at some point in their lives. Six percent were abused as a child, usually by a male relative, and as adults, 53 percent had been abused by a lover, 27 percent by their husband. White women reported abuse less often than Blacks or Hispanics.
- 21 percent had been sexually abused or raped as children, 15 percent sexually abused as adults. 19 percent experienced incest as children, with their most frequent abuser being 1—brother, 2—father, 3—uncle. Blacks were most likely to experience incestuous relationships (31 percent); whites least likely (16 percent).
- 52 percent of lesbians had been verbally attacked, 15 percent lost their jobs, and 8 percent had been physically attacked just for

being lesbian.

- 44 percent sought counseling for personal relationships, 21 percent for sexual orientation difficulties, 16 percent for drinking or drug use. Better educated women, women with higher incomes, and women who were not Black were most likely to seek out counseling.
- 64 percent stated their female friends were also lesbians; however, 78 percent also had close male friendships which were more evenly balanced between gay and straight men.
- 61 percent tended to choose friends from their own ethnic group.

Those interested in a more detailed understanding of the survey can write to the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation, PO Box 65472, Washington, D.C. 20035 and request information on ordering *The National Lesbian Health Care Survey: Final Report*, or the *Sourcebook on Lesbian/Gay Health Care*; second edition.

—Curt D'Achille, M.A.

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I am valuable to life • I am willing to change • I can ask for help • I deserve Love • I deserve recovery  
 I am valuable to life • I am willing to change • I can ask for help • I deserve Love • I deserve recovery  
 I am valuable to life • I am willing to change • I can ask for help • I deserve Love • I deserve recovery

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Contact:  
 Beverly Buthwoman, Ms.T. Linda Owens, M.Ed., L.M.T.  
 525-0629

14 may  
 Sunday afternoon

Sweetheart—

It's a bit strange, writing you a letter that I know is going to be printed on 7000 sheets of newsprint and distributed to who knows where. But it seems somehow appropriate to write about relationships, our relationship, in a letter to you.

What makes a relationship work is intimacy. But do we really have any idea what intimacy is? I think we've been tricked into believing that intimacy and sex are the same thing—in fact a quick look at my thesaurus shows words like "fling," "fooling around," and "affair" as the first definition. We talk about "being intimate" with someone when what we really mean is having sex. To me, equating sex and intimacy is much the same thing as picking one colour from the rainbow and saying that colour is the rainbow.

You and I, my love, living 1200 miles apart, have only been in the same place 6 times in the last year—and we spent most of that time doing what we've done when we were 8 states apart...talking, laughing, walking, crying, telling one another what we think, feel, how we see the World...we've created an intimacy much deeper than any amount of "fooling around" would do.

Maybe we were lucky, or maybe it was a combination of that and a willingness to work...from the start we developed a friendship that did not worry what the other might think—it was, and still is, much more important that we be as clear, as forthright with one another as we possibly can. I have appreciated your honesty, even when it hurt, when it was quite frightening. Because I know you are going to tell me the truth, I never worry that you might be hiding something from me, concealing from me some piece of information that I need. This is an unquestioning trust, I know, but it's something else, not trust, that doubts.

You and I have talked about some of the reactions we've gotten from other Folks about our relationship...we've talked about the skepticism we get, how when we talk about how we met, how our relationship has grown during the time we've known one another, that some Folks smile that "knowing" smile and say something like "Oh, you're still in the Honeymoon Stage." It's disconcerting, that reaction. I've done it to my share of "newlyweds" too. And it would be easy, too easy, for us to fall into that ourselves—to adopt a "wait-and-see" attitude about it all, saying in effect that "It's pretty good right now, but"...Always that "but." It seems to me that when we take that course, both for ourselves and other people, we are saying we expect the relationship to fail, to go sour. And it's true that too many of us, me included in the past, have treated our relationships as disposable commodities. When it gets too hard, we'll bail out and find someone else.

But I'm not willing to go that route anymore. This past year has been anything but a Honeymoon Stage. We've been honest—sometimes brutally so—about our fears, our insecurities...we have not been afraid of showing our worst sides. But no matter how frightening, we have been willing to listen, to hear even the essence of the words we said. We've talked about everything, trusting one another with our very souls. We've resolved conflict not with compromise (where neither of us would be satisfied) but by considering both of us, together, and finding solutions. And above all, we have treated one another with the care, respect and understanding that *any* two human beings in *any* kind of relationship deserve.

So. We're about to start Year Two—with a big difference. We'll be in the same state, same city, same house. And that brings on a whole new set of things to think about, possibilities that we can turn into probabilities and then realities. A future together, my love. One I'm not the least bit afraid of.

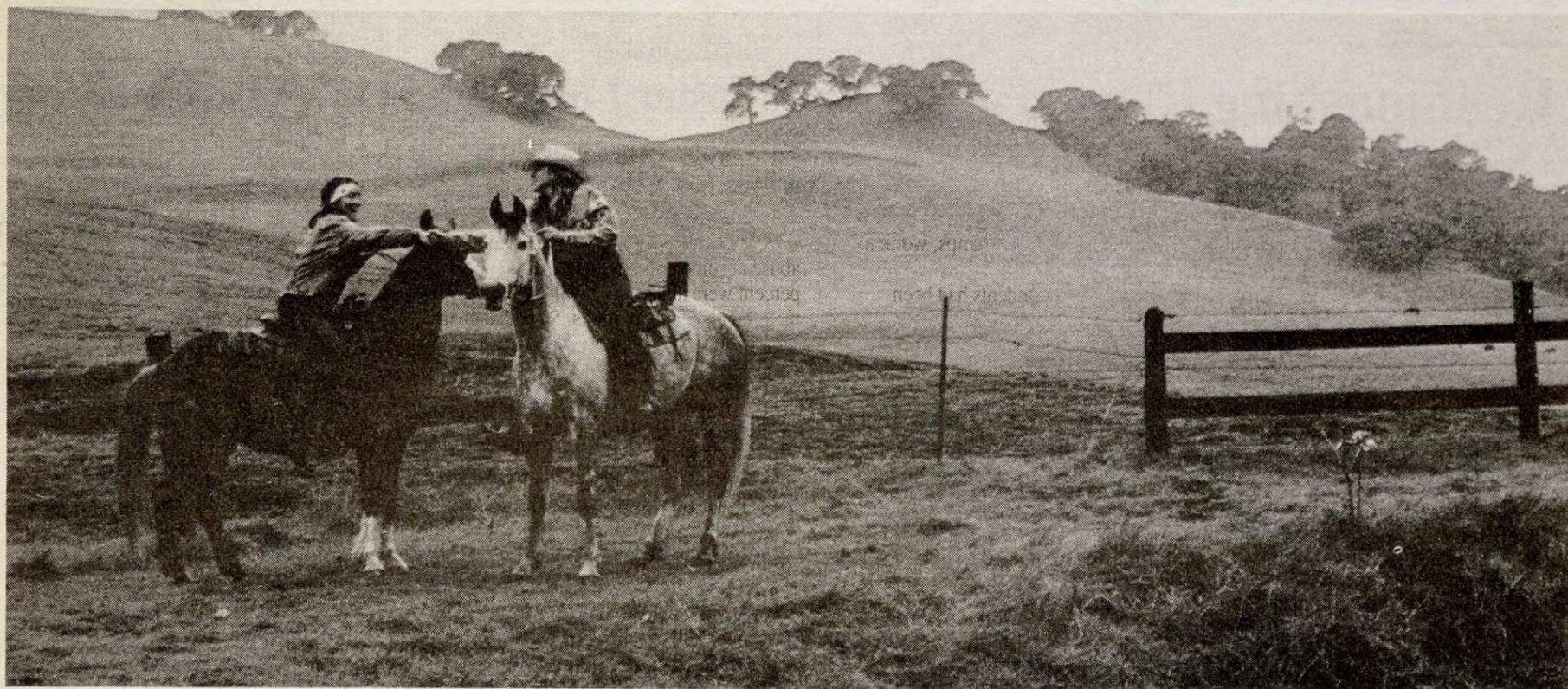
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## New Olivia Release "Blessed" by Teresa Trull

It almost worked. With the release of *Country Blessed*, I was almost able to say, in this review, that I had a new and better opinion of Cris Williamson. Try as I might, I haven't liked her music since *The Changer and the Changed*. But then I realized that *Country Blessed* belongs to Teresa Trull. It is Ms. Trull's writing, singing, arranging, and producing talents that set this album several steps above the rest. And Ms. Williamson benefits from this—never has her rich, deep voice been given a better presentation. With excellent backing musicians, even a weak "Calamity Jane" gets a good treatment. The stronger songs (Gary Marks's "The Love We Take" and "Soulful Days") showcase that voice: John Bucchino's keyboards on "Soulful" and Nick Milo's on "Love" offer the perfect accompaniment.

The album kicks off with a rousing "Keep On," spurred by Ms. Trull's playful, soulful voice (and Paul Davis's guitar, Darol Anger's fiddle, and Rob Ickes's dobro). Next is the title cut, and here Ms. Williamson's and Ms. Trull's voices blend on a beautiful tribute to a "country girl...Country Blessed." Paul Davis switches to acoustic guitar and backs the two women to perfection.

After the first two songs, however, the album

loses some of its punch to the questionable addition of Ms. Williamson's "Calamity Jane," a song that is just plain silly. It's not a good lead-in to the first two of Mr. Marks's compositions, "For Molly's Sky" and "The Love We Take." "For Molly's Sky" contains some of the most powerful lyrics on the album wondering as it does about the world we are leaving to our children—*Oh where will the children go after the light is gone/Born with love, but love is not enough to let them grow/To let them carry on*. Side one closes with the aforementioned "The Love We Take," which (with the other Marks composition, "Soulful Days") tends toward the over-romantic, but is still an excellent vehicle for Ms. Williamson's resonant voice.

Side two opens with a second questionable entry—Ms. Williamson's "Mother, Mother." Originally written for a film of the same title about children with AIDS and their relationship with their parents, it's not Country and it's not Blessed. Mike Marshall adds a nice acoustic guitar to Ms. Williamson's piano, but the song goes nowhere despite a clean vocal.

But then redemption—the very excellent "Shady Glen," written by Ms. Trull. This is a real foot-

stomper with fun lyrics, Ms. Trull's soaring voice, and superb musicianship. Would that *Country Blessed* contained more like this one...

The album closes with "Soulful Days" and the sentimental "Fertanga," another duet with Ms. Trull and Ms. Williamson. Ms. Williamson's vocal actually outshines Ms. Trull's on this cut.

OK, it's a good album. Ms. Trull is definitely one of the finest producers in "women's" music-land, maybe anywhere. She's assembled an excellent group of musicians and singers: the rhythm section, Barry Rietveld on bass and Kevin Hayes on drums, plays everything from the rockin' "Keep On" to the folk/country "Fertanga" with studied ease; and a cast of back-up singers including Vicki Randle, Tim O'Brien, Annie Stocking, Laurie Lewis and Barbara Higbie provides key subtleties to the arrangements.

And yes, on this album, I like Cris Williamson. But it still belongs to Teresa Trull. Keep on.

—KC Wildmoon with Steve Shear

*A brand new day begins...*

# 'DIFFERENT'

Last year's musical hit returns July 7.

# VIEWPOINTS

Guest Editorial

## Relinquishing Responsibility

"Man can will nothing unless he has first understood the he must count on no one but himself; that he is alone, abandoned on earth in the midst of his infinite responsibilities, without help..."

—Jean Paul Sartre

Sartre died in 1980. I wish he'd lived longer. I'd like to hear his talk about AIDS. In view of the tremendous outpouring of compassion and assistance the epidemic has generated, would he modify his above quoted dictum?

Maybe. But I doubt it.

Dealing with the existential aspects of life—responsibility without the certain knowledge of what is right, wrong, good, or bad—has never been high on my list. Absolutes are easier.

I accepted, without question, the responsibility of being the executor of my friend David's estate. His HIV antibody positivity had, with the appearance of KS lesions, converted to a certifiable diagnosis. Death and that diagnosis were absolutely equatable in David's mind. Equally absolute was his trust in the "two to five years before most KS patients die" prognosis that his doctor offered. Plenty of time to make a will and put other affairs in order.

Readers of this paper will be familiar with the story: Just four months after his diagnosis, David was admitted to Grady with toxoplasmosis. His will was executed in the hospital. He died two months later. His father and brother, claiming eight counts from forgery to incompetence to undue influence, challenged that will.

More specifically, they took exception to the fact that David left a house and a substantial chunk of cash to me, not them.

After months of posturing, depositions and delays, the case went to a jury trial in mid-February. Three days of excruciatingly painful testimony yielded a verdict that the will represented David's wishes, not mine.

The family threatened to appeal, then offered to negotiate. Last week, one year and one week after David's death, we signed documents that traded a substantial sum of money for withdrawal of the appeal.

David and his family were distant. Their problems came not so much from his sexuality as from their profound mutual distrust. Prayer and therapy helped David, but the gap was never bridged. In illness he became terrified they would either pull the plug before he was ready to go or extend his life when there was no hope.

He assured me they would contest his will. In a daze of denial I said, "No they won't." But trying hard protect myself, I added, "I'll fight, but if it gets nasty, if they start attacking me, I may have to back off. I can't put myself between you and your family."

In the end I did just that. I did what he had not done: Stand up to his family. Say, "Yes, I am different from you and deserving of the right to be that way."

It sounds very noble; indeed, many whom I admire and respect have said it was.

I wish I felt noble.

Until the settlement I seethed. Furious at David's family for their unwillingness to let him be separate even in death. And enraged at David for manipulating me into doing his work.

Now I'm sad. Mostly I mourn my good friend's absence. But I also despair that it took dying for David to get what he never had in life: an identity different from a family unable to accept, understand or truly love him.

I had thought to use this space to write about creating a will capable of withstanding assault. Better you should talk to a lawyer.

Instead I would ask readers to ponder another quote from Sartre, "We do not do what we want and we are responsible for what we are—that is the fact," and to meditate on the power of honesty in *all* our relationships.

—Gary Kaupman

Staff Editorial

## Foster Love, Yes... On These Conditions

A new program designed to place children with AIDS in gay and lesbian homes was unveiled at the April 27 meeting of the Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay And Lesbian Organizations. (See *Southern Voice*, Vol. 2, No 6.) Called "Foster Love", the amazingly pro-active program seeks to avoid what state officials are predicting will be a "glut" of children infected at birth with the AIDS virus in two years or less.

It seems logical to us that the individuals charged with placing children with AIDS in foster homes would turn to the gay and lesbian community as a source of potential parents. Our community has dealt with the deadly epidemic for eight years now. The likelihood of finding a foster parent for a child with AIDS in the gay/lesbian community is much greater than the chances of finding such a person in society at large. We commend those people working with state government for their ability to get Georgia officials to even consider such a move in our institutionally homophobic state.

Unfortunately, however, we feel compelled to urge that the plan to recruit gay and lesbian foster parents be shunned by our community until state officials are willing to show the same amount of courage and compassion they are asking us to exhibit.

It takes a lot to foster parent any child. The spiritual, physical, emotional, and yes, monetary commitment it takes to love a child that you know will eventually be placed elsewhere is staggering. Foster parenting is always a temporary solution to the tragic problems that have removed a child from its biological parents. The eventual goal of foster parent programs is to keep the child in a safe and nurturing environment until either the problems in the biological family are corrected, or an adoptive family steps forward to take the child.

In pediatric AIDS cases, the chance of returning the child to its biological family or finding an adoptive family is so remote as to be beneath consideration. It's likely that approximately half of these children will die before they turn four. No one really knows what the long term survival chances for the remainder are. Studies have shown, however, that the life expectancy of any child with AIDS increases dramatically when it is placed in a home as opposed to an institution.

Still, when you talk about foster parenting an "AIDS baby," it is a safe assumption that you may have to face that child's death. There's no pretty side to that fact of life.

The fact that state officials are willing to recruit gays and lesbians for such a task, yet are unwilling to commit to the simplest assurance that they will stand behind the family that they have intentionally created is morally criminal.

When *Southern Voice* posited a series of mild to rabid homophobic reactions to placing a child, any child, in a gay/lesbian household, state officials said we were "conjecturing." They agreed, however, that if they received complaints about gays or lesbians as foster

parents, a child would be removed to a "more suitable" environment.

It is not conjecture to assume that someone will react homophobically to the placement of children with gays and lesbians. It is a safe bet. And if state officials truly need our help in placing these children in good homes, they should have the courage to stand up to bigotry. They should accept the responsibility for the well-being of the family they create, and they should stop acting as if Foster Love is a dirty little secret.

If placing children with AIDS in foster homes demands unusual and creative solutions, then placing children in gay/lesbian households most certainly demands forethought and pro-active planning.

Although the images of children with AIDS tear at our hearts, we cannot recommend that anyone involve themselves with Foster Love until the State of Georgia is willing to make the following public assurances to our community:

- 1) That they will absolutely protect the identity, HIV status and sexual orientation of all individuals involved with the Foster Love program.
- 2) They will not remove a child from a household because of complaints from the community at large, or from other foster parents, because of the sexual orientation of the parents or family members.
- 3) That the Division of Family and Children Services and the Georgia Department of Human Resources will testify in all court proceedings that a same-sex family is no worse an influence on a child than a traditional nuclear family, and recommend to the court that no foster child should be removed because of the sexual orientation of the parent(s).

These conditions are uncompromisable. There are too many lives, hopes and dreams at stake for us to take any less staunch of a position. If participants and state officials are able to reach this type of agreement, we can see a much better life for many children with AIDS and gay/lesbian parents. If not, however, what started off as a generous gesture by everyone involved could quickly turn into a quagmire of grief and despair.

Parents who are already caring for a child with a terminal disease should not have to be checking their backs to see if the same state officials who recruited them have turned tail and run at the first hint of controversy. There is a lot of honesty needed on the part of everyone involved in the Foster Love program.

Although we do not recommend that people commit themselves to the Foster Love program at this time, we do encourage individuals who are interested in foster parenting to call Kellogg Associates, Inc. Kellogg is the private consulting firm which developed Foster Love. Their number is 455-1665. Together, our community, Kellogg Associates and the State government should be able to work these problems out to the betterment of everyone involved.

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### Yet Another Homophobe Pulls Wrong Rug...

If you think that homophobia just affects our community, read the news story on Page 3 of this issue about the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence (GNADV). Rep. Thomas Crosby, Jr. of Waycross did not like the fact that GNADV has an affirmative action policy which includes sexual orientation. He felt it was not necessary to include such wording, so in his position of power as the chair of the DHR subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, he saw to it that the Network would no longer disperse funds to Georgia's 21 shelters for battered women. This move will force the Network to cut back on its staff and its outreach on behalf of battered women. Crosby is also charged by some reliable sources as using "lesbian-baiting" to do his dirty work. He was overheard on more than one occasion calling GNADV "just a bunch of lesbians". We deplore this action and want Crosby to know that he will be closely watched by our community during the 1990 Georgia General Assembly session.

## Education, Not Isolation

To the editor:

In reference to Dennis K. Mayer's letter criticizing ACT-UP's demonstration in South Carolina, we must take issue with several of his points.

First, the South Carolina AIDS laws are NOT acceptable. No one should be quarantined, no one should be forced to be tested and anyone who chooses to be tested should be able to do so anonymously. Your laws are a criminal code and do not address the real needs of HIV positive individuals. It is often difficult to keep AIDS a medical issue when legislators such as those in South Carolina make it criminal to have AIDS.

Second, ACT-UP has no sexuality. At no point have we stated that we are a gay organization or that we believe the South Carolina AIDS laws are aimed solely at the gay community. Our actions and our chants such as "Black, white, gay, straight... AIDS does not discriminate," contradict your claim that we are making AIDS a gay disease. The AIDS crisis has affected the gay community most severely and many of us are gay, a fact we will not hide and one that is apparently uncomfortable for you.

Third, your suggestion that all HIV positive individuals be kept out of sexual circulation would require testing everyone and that those testing positive would be subject to forced celibacy through some sort of police state. Safe sex education, **not isolation**, will stop the spread of AIDS and obviously, that education needs to begin in our own community.

Fourth, ACT-UP was asked to Columbia by concerned South Carolinians, many of whom demonstrated with us on the steps of the state capitol. We applaud the courage it took for these citizens to risk retribution in

standing up for the rights of all South Carolinians. The real embarrassment to the gay community of South Carolina is attitudes such as yours, Mr. Mayer, which demean the citizens of your state by suggesting that their rights are any less important than those of the citizens of Atlanta or New York. The injustice of AIDS discrimination does not stop at a state line, nor shall our fight to end those injustices. Because regional prejudice and tunnel vision may inhibit your understanding of why someone from Atlanta or New York would be concerned with another human being's rights regardless of their state of residency, let us explain it another way. The negative message sent by the South Carolina AIDS laws prevents South Carolinians from seeking health care in their own state. Instead, many flee the ignorance and bigotry of "home" for the greener pastures of Atlanta where they are taken care of at the expense of the taxpayers of Georgia. Understand?

Sparked by our presence in Columbia, a small group of dedicated activists have formed ACT-UP/South Carolina and hopefully will provide the voice to truly allow South Carolinians to speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Hartley III  
ACT-UP/Atlanta

*Editor's Note: We have received several other letters in response to Mr. Mayer's complaints about ACT-UP's presence in South Carolina. We are unable to run them at this time due to space considerations, but will run them in a future issue.*

## Is It Tuna Or Is It Theatre?

To the Editor:

I read with utter astonishment the confused and confusing April 27 Guest Editorial by theatre entrepreneur, Harold Leaver, who complains of too many AIDS plays in Atlanta, and pleads for scintillating drama about "the rise of the conservative gay" - subject matter about as ripe for theater as a play about Jews who didn't cause trouble for the Third Reich. Providentially, in the same afternoon's mail, I received a plea from a radical environmental outfit urging me to help them save the dolphins. Enclosed is my reply to Greenpeace, every bit as thoughtful as Mr. Leaver's analysis of gay theater in Atlanta.

Dear Greenpeace:

*There's been entirely too much attention paid the dolphins (or whales, for that matter.) How about some effort focused on the needs of plankton, which is being consumed by sea mammals at an alarming rate. Plankton has been overlooked in your rush to save so-called higher species. Well, Plankton have feelings too.*

*Dolphins are dead meat. It's time you leftist environmental types learned to simply accept dolphin slaughter as the terrible truth it is, and moved on to some other Topics Of The Sea, such as the annual hoards of migrating aquatic species.*

*We are faced with plenty of other concerns. How high does the price of Starkist have to go before you people realize you're damaging the American economy?*

*I have a plan to save your misguided organization in spite of yourselves. You should dilute your passion, curb your anger, cooperate with others outside your area of interest, and gain the simple work on your part, your organization could be completely underwritten by the Japanese and Russian tuna fleets.*

*Some lunatic said to me recently that Greenpeace is, by definition, always political. Bah! That is just another example of the mentality that has fixated Greenpeace on one specific topic: the earth's environment. Ridiculous! As though dolphins, whales, rain forests, ozone layers, etc. had anything whatsoever to do with the comfort and survival of human beings.*

*We've had enough of you Jacques Cousteau-types and your shrill doomsday ecology-related messages. Take my advice: move away from this narrow focus of yours and encourage the support of megabuck industrialists. (By the same token, you should be open to learning from producers of chemical waste who are not environmentally-oriented.)*

*I close with an impassioned plea for collaboration, not division, and see if you don't agree I am just the most reasonable, conciliatory apologist you've ever heard. We have to round everybody up, put politics aside (yours), and adopt new visions (mine) of the consolidated efforts of Greenpeace. The board of directors shall henceforth consist of: The President of Chicken of the Sea; Chairman of Dow Chemical; me; and one member from your present group who is a registered Republican, can get along well with those who hold diametrically opposed views, and who agrees with the unbridled wisdom of my plan. The results would be important and well worth enduring. Don't deny yourselves this beautiful gift. Greenpeace can only PROFIT from the effort. I would suggest a new name for this organization: Blackpeace. Green is too... colorful.*

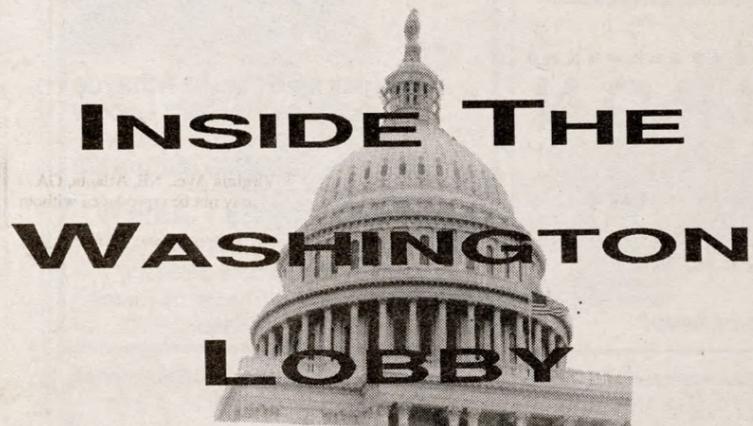
Truly Yours,

Atlanta a virtual desert for gay theatre? Not in my experience as author of *Bathroom Benediction* and *Dream Man*, produced by S.A.M.E. in Atlanta; not in my experience of witnessing Atlanta playwright Rebecca Ranson's very fine AIDS-related work; not in my experience of Michael Kearns' provocative *The Truth Is Bad Enough* and *An Artist Confronts AIDS*, both produced in Atlanta; not in my experience of Robert Chesley's stunning AIDS elegy, *Jerker*, recently seen in Atlanta. Atlanta is doing just fine without the ill-thought advice contained in Leaver's Guest Editorial, and has much to be proud of in its contributions to both gay theater and AIDS theater.

Perhaps Atlanta theaterphiles should take up a collection and send Mr. Leaver on up to New York City where he can hobnob with those wonderfully enlightened straight audiences who have so much to teach him. There he can really experience a theatrical desert - gay, AIDS and otherwise. NYC theater is comatose precisely because of the policies Leaver endorses: water it down, make it palatable to the masses, and for Goddess's sake don't shake anybody up by confronting this century's most devastating health and social crisis. Welcome to television.

Sincerely,  
James Carroll Pickett

*Editor's Note: We appreciate your response to Mr. Leaver's editorial. It's reassuring to know that people on the West Coast are reading Southern Voice with such interest, and are so knowledgeable and concerned with Atlanta theatre. However, you failed to mention the gay musical, Different, in your list of theatre productions in which Atlantans can take pride. If you missed it last year, perhaps you can catch it when it returns in July.*



Inside the Washington Lobby will continue in our next issue with a hard look at U.S. immigration laws and how they affect people with AIDS and/or the HIV virus.

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# CALENDAR

## Art

**Decatur Arts Festival & Garden Tour.** Fri., May 26 – Sun., May 28. Activities include: "Let The Good Times Roll", a Cajun Street Party & Dance from 5 PM-11:30PM on Fri., May 26. \$3; artists, musicians, jugglers perform from 10AM until late afternoon on Sat., May 27. The Decatur Garden Tour also takes place on Sat. Tickets are \$5. Activities continue on Sun., May 28 from Noon-6PM with the performing arts stage providing continuous entertainment and the artists market and food vendors open for business. For more info call 373-9906.

**Calling The Directions: Native American Art From The Four Corners of North America.** Through June 30. Unprecedented collection of art and jewelry featuring traditional and contemporary pieces. Illumina Gallery, Clear Creek Center, 1529-D Piedmont Ave. 875-7617 for more info.

**20 x 20 Exhibit.** Through Sat., May 27. The Architectural Society of Atlanta presents artwork created by its members within the confines of a 20 x 20 x 20 space. Items available for sale, proceeds benefit the High Museum's 20th Century acquisition. Axis 20, Inc. 22-B E. Andrews Dr. 261-4022 for more info.

**Carlton Cobb Gallery at TULA.** Contemporary and abstract paintings by Francoise Baudoin D'Ajoux, Dan Howard, Bob Cogan and June Johnston. Through May. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10:30-6. 75 Bennett St. 355-5676.

event of the season. A special performance by the Uptown Girls, lighting and special effects and door prizes that will make this a night to remember! Backstreet. 10 PM. \$8. 873-1987 for more info.

## Literature

**Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Values.** Thurs., May 25. Author Sarah Lucia Hoagland will read from and discuss her exciting and challenging new book. The book develops ethics relevant to lesbians under oppression. A women-only evening. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM. Free. For more info call 524-0304.

**John H. Johnson, founder of Ebony and Jet magazines,** will sign his book *Succeeding Against the Odds.* Thurs., May 25, 5-7PM. Oxford Books. 262-3333.

## Music

**6th Annual Women's Music & Comedy Festival.** Thurs., May 25-Sun., May 28. In Cleveland, Ga. Call (818) 893-4075 for more info.

**Angela Motter.** Thurs., May 25 and Fri. May 26. Picasso's Performance Cafe. 5:30-7:30PM for Happy Hour. Encore performance on Thurs., June 1 from 9PM-Midnight with Jerry Peek.

**Bonnie Raitt.** Wed., May 31 & Thurs., June 1. \$18.50. 8:30 PM. Center Stage Theatre. 873-2500.

**Toni Childs.** Sun., June 4. 8:30 PM. \$15. Center Stage Theatre. 873-2500.

**Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Summer Pops Series** opens Wed., June 7. Features the Temptations and Ben E. King. Chastain Park at 8:30 PM. 892-2414 for more info.

**Cariocas.** Live music and DJ's, and a big-screen video under the stars, entice you to dance the night away. Located in RIO, Plaza Level. Friday and Saturday performances are from 8PM-3AM. *No cover.*

## Radio

WRFG-FM 89.3 has the programs you've been dialing for – Turn on, tune in, etc.

**Thursdays:** "Soundings". 1-2PM. Topical talk and music with socially concerned artists and the like. Franklin Abbott and Lanier Clance host. "Still Ain't Satisfied". 5:05PM-7PM. Music and public affairs from a heretic woman's view. "This Way Out". 6-6:30PM. **The Lesbian & Gay Radio Show,** brought to you by Southern Voice every Thursday.

**Fridays:** "Music From India". 7-9:30 PM. In its 12th year on WRFG, this show features traditional and contemporary sounds from the Indian subcontinent.

## Sports

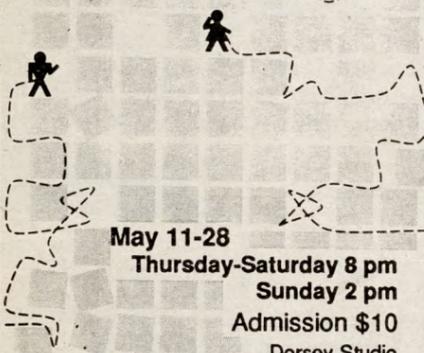
**Hotlanta Softball League Schedule.** NO GAMES SCHEDULED FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

**Sun., June 4: Women's Division**  
11AM: Toolulah's vs. Sportspage  
12:20PM: Sportspage vs. Tower Lounge  
1:40PM: Rumblefish vs. Toolulah's

The Actor's  
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# TRAPS

By Caryl Churchill



May 11-28

Thursday-Saturday 8 pm

Sunday 2 pm

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Directed by Barbara Lebow  
Starring Kerrie Osborne  
as Miss Margarida

Running May 25 - June 4

The Academy Theatre

(Fourteenth & Juniper Streets)

For Reservations & Charge by Phone

CALL 892-0880



The Uptown Girls will perform on Sun., May 28 during "White Heat", Backstreet's social event of the season. 10PM. \$8. 873-1987.

## Benefits

**The Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet.** Fri., June 2. A benefit for the Fox Theatre and Ga. Public Television. A rare chance to see the stars of the Bolshoi performing excerpts and pas de deux from the most beloved Russian ballets. Fox Theatre. 756-4747 for more info.

**AALGA Bazaar.** Sat., June 3. To benefit the African American Lesbian & Gay Alliance. Noon-8PM. 2237 Shamrock Dr. in Decatur. Donation bar. Picnic baskets welcome. \$5. For more info call 289-0298.

## Happenings

"White Heat". Sun., May 28. Backstreet goes all out to offer you the social

## What We've All Been Waiting For! The Southern Voice Ticket Give-Away.

Call 876-1831 Wednesday, May 24 and win Free Tickets to the Actor's Express production of Traps. The first three callers win a pair.

Call 876-1831 Wednesday, May 24 and win Free Tickets to the cult classic, Miss Margarida's Way. The first five callers win a pair.

May 25 - June 7



Karen Finley's "The Constant State of Desire" challenges society's taboos in her uncompromising performance. Fri., May 26 - Sun. May 28. at 8:30 PM. Seven Stages Theatre. \$12 at door, \$10 in advance. 524-3399.

3:00PM: Tower Lounge vs. Burkhart's  
4:20PM: Armory vs. Burkhart's  
**Sun., June 4: Men's Division**  
11AM: Burkhart's vs. Moose/Etc.  
12:20PM: Burkhart's vs. Blake's  
1:40PM: Moose/Etc. vs. Bulldog's  
3:00PM: Lushpups vs. Blake's  
4:20PM: Bass Ale vs. Lushpups

**Theatre**

**The Ginger Woman in Hollywood.** Fri., May 26 and Sat., May 27. Fri., June 2 and Sat., June 3. A multimedia feminist comedy. First Existential Church, 420 Candler Park Dr. 8:30 PM. \$8. For more info call 523-7455 or 424-7203

**The Constant State of Desire.** Fri., May 26 - Sun., May 28. Karen Finley is moving, engaging, appealing and provocative as she challenges the social taboos of our times - including child abuse, menstruation, sodomy and death. Seven Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. 8:30PM. \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance. 524-3399 for info and reservations.

**Rain, Some Fish, No Elephants.** Through Sat., May 27. A look at a futuristic Ozzie & Harriett family caught in an ultra-efficient world. Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave. For more info call 584-7450.

**A Southern Sampler.** Through Sat., May 27. A variety of artists from Ga., Ky., Tenn., and Va. showcase their original work. Picasso's Performance Cafe in Decatur. All shows at 9PM.

Two shows on Sat., 4PM and 9PM. \$5. Call 373-8255 for more info.

**I'm Not Rappaport.** Through Sun., May 28. Theatrical Outfit, 1012 Peachtree St. Thurs-Sat. at 8 PM; Sun. at 3 PM. 872-0665 for more info.

**Three Postcards.** Through Sat., June 3. A frothy, frosty one-act musical involving three women. A celebration of friendship and females. Academy Theatre. 173 14th St. \$9-\$18. Call 892-0880 for reservations and more info.

**Miss Margarida's Way.** Through Sun., June 4. Eccentric, charming and hysterical Miss Margarida frightens and amuses her audience of students. Well worth seeing because it's good theatre, and for its allegorical attack on totalitarian regimes. Academy Theatre. \$5. For reservations and more info call 892-0880.

**Traps.** Through Sun., June 4. Don't miss this one - it's worth the price just for the bathtub scene! The Actor's Express, Dorsey Studio, 3593 Clairmont Rd. Thurs.-Sat. at 8 PM; Sun. at 2 PM. \$10. Call 634-3602 for more info and reservations.

**The Next Big Thing!** Through Sat., June 24. Welcome back the zany Shenanigan Brothers and their bombardment of Buckhead farce. Farce, mystery and science fiction blend into music and dance for an enjoyable and off-center evening. Evotek Theatre, 3078 Roswell Rd. \$4.50-\$8.50. For reservations and more info call 642-3379.

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**WHITE HEAT**  
Sunday  
May 28  
10pm  
White Attire  
Requested

Tickets on sale at...

**Backstreet**

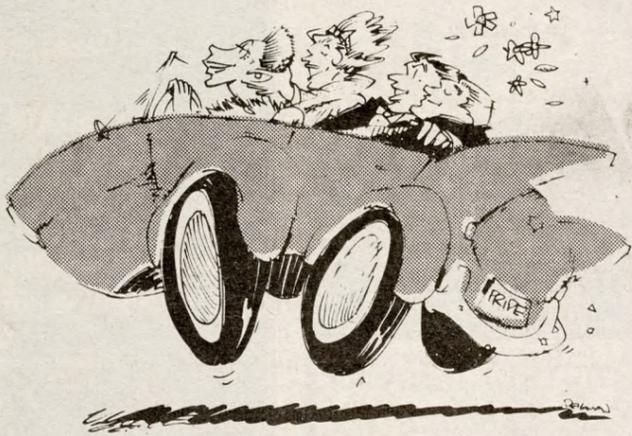
845 Peachtree 873-1987

**Yes!!!! Free Tickets to the Social Event of the Season. Two Pairs to Backstreet's White Heat to the first two Southern Voice Readers who call 876-1831 on Wednesday, May 24.**

# KEEP REFRIGERATED

## CELEBRATE

Lesbian & Gay Pride Week



## PRIDE PROM '89

Saturday, June 17, 1989

8 pm - 12 am  
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Music  
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\$15. per person  
after June 1

Tickets are limited!  
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\*Hosted by  
The Atlanta March Committee

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## Ruling Planets

May 25 through June 7, 1989  
by Mary Bailey-Rule

Mercury is retrograde until June 5, so be especially careful with written and verbal communications and read legal documents carefully. New moon in Gemini on Saturday the 3rd is good for beginning new projects or getting together with friends.



**ARIES** - The next two weeks are excellent for communications and for learning something new. However, Mercury is retrograde, so be sure your message, written or verbal, is clear.



**TAURUS** - You may be more aware of changes in your values and priorities, so take time to clarify what you are feeling. Also communicate any changes to your mate, business partners or close friends.



**GEMINI** - Lots of opportunity for expansion in your personal life, but try to get scattered. You may need some solitude to catch up with yourself.



**CANCER** - You may be feeling more creative than usual, so find an outlet for your talent and take special note of your dreams. Also trust your intuition a little more and watch it grow.



**LEO** - If you have over-extended yourself at work, you may need more time at home. This is a good time to rearrange, redecorate, or clean out the closets.



**VIRGO** - You may be attracting extra responsibilities at work, so schedule some rest and relaxation and don't forget how to say no. There must be someone else who can be responsible, too.

**LIBRA** - This may be a perfect time to take a trip, sign up for a class you've been thinking about or read a book you've been putting off. Spend some quality time with yourself.

**SCORPIO** - If you've been considering going into therapy, you may want to talk to one or two and then trust your instincts. Remember, friends don't make good long-term therapists.

**SAGITTARIUS** - New friends may be coming your way or old ones reappear. This is a good time to communicate with long-distant friends or old lovers to clear the air.

**CAPRICORN** - You may find you are attracted to someone at work or you may be seeing an old friend in a more romantic light, so relax a little and have an evening out for fun.

**ACQUARIUS** - If you are bringing problems home from work, it could be affecting your personal relationships. Your efforts at work will be appreciated, but don't take loved ones for granted.

**PISCES** - Your creative energy may be high for a few weeks, so leave time for the arts or spending more time in the garden. If you are feeling restless, take a weekend trip.

Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer who specializes in birth chart analysis, relationship charts, and astrological career evaluation.

Illustrations by Lize Gollobith

## Dykes to Watch Out For



## bittersweet

by Charles Haver



# Denis' *Chocolat* Is A Beautiful Look At Shattered Trust

Claire Denis' *Chocolat* is about a young woman named France who holds her past up to the light as if it were an x-ray, and gazes.

The film opens in the 1980's, when France returns to Cameroon, West Africa, where she lived as a child with her parents on an insect-ridden outpost in the drenching equatorial sun.

Soon the vividness of her Cameroon surroundings spark memories in France of her past. The film leaps backward in time to the 1950's, to the desolate outpost where her family was looked after by a reticent, dignified young black man named Protee during the last years of French colonialism.

Though he is considered the family's "boy," Protee is far more than an invisible family servant. For both little France and her ravishingly bored mother Aimee, Protee is an object of contemplation. France sees him as her soulmate, as some sort of kin.



Giulia Boschhi as Aimee in *Chocolat*.

Their friendship is of an exceptional order; it registers in the comfortable silences between them and in the mysterious riddles they share. They trust each other.

Aimee's relationship with Protee is a far more complex one. She doesn't recognize Protee's thinly veiled swagger and contempt in playing the role of "boy." She looks on him admiringly, recognizing an erotic gleam in his sculptured, muscular body and his perfumed, exotic air of being out of her reach.

The resulting sexual tension permeates the movie. But Denis' film fixes on more than a particular woman's extant memories. It is an attempt at intuiting the unseen by braiding facts known first hand. Thus some scenes in the film represent what the adult France assumes to have taken place.

When friends of her parents visit, they

bring with them a handsome young Frenchman named Luc, a former seminary student, who is undone by his perception of the sexual attraction between Aimee and Protee.

The situation degenerates. A fight ensues. Events finally lead Protee to betray, brutally, the worshipful France, whose adult sensibility is set on its fragile course by the lost footing of shattered trust.

*Chocolat* is about coming to the ends of things, about the past echoing hurtfully in the present, about the necessity of boldly laying one's own tracks to the future. The process applies to individuals, such as France, as it applies to the blacks of Cameroon, who finally fight for their independence.

*Chocolat* represents another impressive debut in a growing list of distinguished women filmmakers. Last year's welcome addition was Clare Peploe, whose *High Season* was one of 1988's two or three best films. Denis' direction here is never less than assured. Her work with actors is superb. Isaach de Bankole as Protee, Cecile Ducasse as France, Jean-Claude Adelin as Luc, and Giulia Boschhi as Aimee, all give fine, evocative performances rich in the sorts of idiosyncratic detail that form the contours of individual personalities.

The texture of our lives is far more complex and far more interconnected than we dare believe, says the film, which is an exact, sad, but finally hopeful rendering of a young woman's personal struggle to know reason and relief in her life. *Chocolat* is certainly one of the finest films to have played Atlanta this year.

- Terry Francis

*Chocolat* is currently playing at the Garden Hills Cinema.

Subscribe Today!  
SEE COUPON ON PAGE 17.



## FAMOUS FACES

### Honors, Gifts and Awards . . .

Remember Ronny? The people at the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences do, and they have chosen the former president for induction into the organization as a way of honoring him for - get this - his humanitarian contributions. Judy Collins, meanwhile, has received an award for her peace efforts. The singer received the Helen Caldicott Leadership award for her work towards nuclear disarmament. Former winners of the peace award include Lily Tomlin, Yoko Ono and Meryl Streep. On the same day, Mother's Day, Argentine tennis player Gabriela Sabatini retained the championship in the Italian Open in Rome. The sultry South American received \$60,000 for her efforts. And finally, Alaskan musher Susan Butcher, three-time winner of the 1,200-mile Iditarod dog sled race, will receive the Tanqueray Amateur Athlete Achievement Award in New York on June 6. No awards announced so far for her dogs.

### Feuding for the Family

An entire week of the popular TV game show *Family Feud* will pit men against women musicians in a contest where the rewards could end in the hands of an AIDS-fighting foundation. Dionne Warwick heads the women's team that includes dethroned Miss America turned pop singer Vanessa Williams and the female section of the *Manhattan Transfer*. If Dionne wins, the money will go to her own AIDS foundation.



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Andrea Weiss's



Best Lesbian Movies

Mädchen in Uniform (1931)  
Entre Nous (1984)  
Damned If You Don't (1987)  
I've Heard the Mermaids Singing (1987)  
Queen Christina (1933)  
Desert Hearts (1986)  
The Virgin Machine (1988)  
Daughters of Darkness (1970)  
17 Rooms, or What Do Lesbians Do in Bed? (1984)  
The Group (1966)

Andrea Weiss won an Emmy Award for her research for the television documentary *Before Stonewall*. Her articles have appeared in *Ms.*, *The Advocate*, *Cineaste*, and other journals.

Vito Russo's



Best Gay Movies

Abuse (1983)  
Un Chant d'amour (1947)  
Maurice (1987)  
My Beautiful Laundrette (1986)  
Parting Glances (1986)  
Scorpio Rising (1963)  
Sunday Bloody Sunday (1971)  
Taxi Zum Klo (1980)  
The Times of Harvey Milk (1985)  
Victim (1961)

Vito Russo is the author of the widely acclaimed book *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies*. He is a native New Yorker, and a co-founder of ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power).

## NEW DISTRIBUTION

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# AIDS FOCUS

## Sex—How It Can Be Safe

The current AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) epidemic has had great impact upon the experience of human sexuality in the heterosexual, lesbian and, most extremely, the gay communities. But sex can still be enjoyed today provided safe sexual practices are observed.

In order to comprehend and practice safe sex, one should have a basic understanding of the HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) which causes AIDS. It takes several years after infection for the average individual to begin to show signs of AIDS. Although a person may appear healthy, they may still be infected with HIV and be able to infect their sexual partner. Therefore, in sexual encounters, one must assume every partner is infected and practice safe sex.

Many individuals have had HIV testing, but being negative on an HIV test does *not* mean a person is uninfected. It takes 3-6 months (up to 12 months in some) from the time of infection to the time that HIV shows positive on a test (seroconversion). In addition, the currently employed HIV tests only determine infection with the most common HIV strain; several other strains are not checked.

HIV is spread through blood, semen and vaginal secretions. Although the virus has been found in other body fluids, it has not been found to be transmitted by them. In order for infection to occur, infected blood, semen or vaginal secretions must enter an individual's blood stream. This is usually accomplished during sexual acts through minute breaks in the integrity of the skin or mucous membranes (such as the lining of the rectum or mouth). It is these minor, even unnoticeable, breaks in skin or mucous membrane that contributes to the feeling of being sore after a vigorous sexual act.

During unprotected sexual intercourse transmission of HIV is possible in a number of ways. In penile-vaginal intercourse, infected semen may penetrate minute breaks in the vaginal lining and enter the bloodstream. Also, infected vaginal secretions may penetrate minute breaks in the penile skin. In anal-penile intercourse, infected semen may penetrate through breaks in the anal lining. Also blood to blood infection may occur if there are breaks in both the penile skin and the anal or vaginal lining. Since breaks in the anal lining are inevitable during anal intercourse, semen to blood is the most common means of HIV transmission and is why HIV infection and AIDS has spread so rapidly through the gay community.

Prevention of infection during intercourse can be accomplished by the use of condoms (rubbers). These act as a barrier between infected body fluids. Condoms with receptive tips are best since they provide a space for the ejaculated semen rather than having it spread around the penis and leak out. In addition, when pulling out, one should grasp the condom at the base of the penis so that



both pull out together and prevent leakage around the condom. Condoms which use Nonoxynol 9 as a lubricant are strongly recommended as Nonoxynol 9 is an anti-HIV agent and may kill the virus if minute breaks occur in the condom. Lubrication with preparations containing Nonoxynol 9 produce added protection and are strongly recommended. Also, latex condoms are better than natural ones (such as sheep intestine) since they do not have microscopic pores (openings) in them.

In oral-penile sex, it is not advisable to have the penile partner orgasm in the oral partner's mouth unless a condom is used.

Oral-genital sex and oral-anal sex (rimming) are enjoyed by heterosexuals and homosexuals. There is some controversy concerning the safety of these acts since the HIV virus is very fragile and inactivated upon exposure to air. HIV infection may occur in oral sex by infected blood or vaginal secretions entering the bloodstream through breaks in the lining of the mouth. In addition, direct blood to blood transmission may occur if there are breaks in the anal or vaginal lining or penile skin and breaks in the lining of the mouth. Certainly if the oral partner has cuts or sores around or in the mouth, oral sex must be avoided. It has been recommended that the oral partner not brush teeth or floss teeth prior to oral sex as both of these practices tend to cause minor cuts (breaks) in the gums.

If the genital partner is male, it is recommended that he use a condom to prevent any semen from coming in contact

with his partner's mouth. If unprotected penile oral contact occurs, the penile partner should not ejaculate (come) into his partner's mouth. In addition, pre-ejaculatory fluid (pre-come) may transmit the HIV virus and contact with the oral partner's mouth should be avoided.

The danger in oral-anal activity is by direct blood to blood contact through breaks in the skin or mucous membrane. This is an activity which should be avoided. It has been suggested that oral-vaginal contact may carry a low risk of infectivity since lesbians have the lowest incidence of HIV infection and AIDS.

Mutual masturbation (jerk off) can lead to infection by having the semen or vaginal secretions come in contact with wounds, sores or the eyes. Although mutual masturbation is generally a safe sexual practice, care must be taken to avoid sexual fluid contact with open wounds, sores or the eyes.

Manual-anal sex (fisting) may lead to infection by direct blood to blood contact through breaks in the skin and the rectal lining. If this activity is practiced, disposable latex gloves should be worn and lubrication with a preparation containing Nonoxynol 9 (For Play and Lube) used.

Some individuals use a variety of devices (toys) to enhance their or their partner's sexual pleasure. These objects should be vigorously cleansed with soap and water before being used. Devices are not to be shared during sex unless they are cleansed between use from one person to the next. It is best if each person uses their own devices.

Devices which penetrate the skin, burn the skin or penetrate the lining of body cavities should be cleansed first with regular chlorox bleach and then soap and water to prevent blood to blood transmission of HIV. Any sexual device or activity which causes bleeding should be avoided because of the profound danger of blood to blood transmission.

When urine or feces are exchanged in sexual activity, care must be taken to avoid contact with open wounds, sores, cuts and the eyes. Although these body fluids may be free of HIV virus, usually blood is intermingled with these fluids and blood to blood transmission of HIV can occur.

AIDS is primarily a sexually transmitted disease and is caused by the sexual transmission of the HIV. Sexual activity can still be enjoyed today *provided* safe sex is practiced. Everyone has the responsibility to practice safe sex because at present it is our only means of curtailing the spread of HIV and, therefore, AIDS.

*This article has been prepared by the Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights as a community service. We invite specific questions and concerns about safe sex, AIDS and HIV infection. These questions can be addressed to Southern Voice.*

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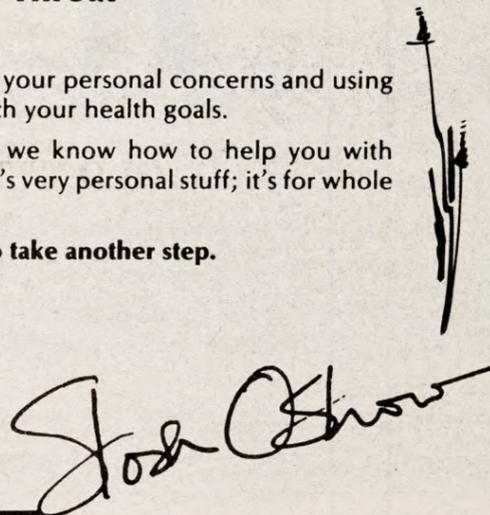
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**SOUTHERN VOICE**

# Atlanta Group will "Challenge the Course of HIV"

A group of Atlantans will attempt to conquer the North Georgia mountains and build their self-image the weekend of June 10 and 11 following the format of the nationally known Outward Bound wilderness program. The major difference between this group and the corporate executives who normally participate in these types of programs is that this group consists of people who have the AIDS virus.

Called "Challenging the Course of HIV," the wilderness training program is sponsored by the Atlanta chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS (Atlanta NAPWA). The group of 20 individuals, whose health status ranges from HIV seropositivity to full blown AIDS, will tackle issues such as personal risk taking, challenge and growth before moving on to the physical challenge aspects of the weekend.

"The experience is all about balance, control and the use of the power within each and every one of us to effect positive attitudes and changes in our lives," according to Kurt Rahn, president of Atlanta NAPWA.

Participants will begin the weekend with a series of introductory activities designed to help them "get in touch with themselves, feel comfortable and begin to work cooperatively with others" in their group, according to Rahn.

The rest of the weekend will be spent



working with others in the group to learn how to expand communication channels, work cooperatively and solve problems as individuals and as a group. The Challenge Course, the part of the program that has gained the most notoriety because individuals are encouraged to take personal, physical risks, will involve exercises on a series of cables and ropes strung throughout the forest.

Although the Challenge Course looks dangerous, Rahn said that participants are protected from serious physical danger by a complex network of ropes and pulleys, similar to the gear used by mountain climbers.

"While the activity may seem dangerous, the danger is perceived and not real," Rahn explained. "However, the thrill of success is real, and yours to keep."

The weekend course will be co-facilitated by James Sacco, M.S.W. and Will Parks, M.A. Sacco is widely regarded in Atlanta for his work in support groups counseling people who have AIDS or are HIV seropositive. Parks has over ten years' experience in personal growth programs like "Challenging the Course of HIV."

Spaces are still available for the program, according to Rahn, who encouraged individuals to contact Atlanta NAPWA at (404) 874-7926. Atlanta NAPWA is also soliciting funds to establish scholarship seats for the \$150 per person program. Rahn encouraged interested donors to contact him at the same telephone number.

-Chris Duncan

# Quilt Grows to 12,000 Panels

San Francisco, Calif.-NAMES Project organizers said that this year's display of the AIDS memorial quilt will include about 12,000 panels.

The October 6-8, 1989, display will require the efforts of hundreds of volunteers to work in San Francisco during the next six months. The NAMES Project has solicited interested people all over the nation to "take your vacation at the NAMES Project."

Although the NAMES Project, a non-profit organization, cannot be responsible for transportation or housing, it does offer the chance to help prepare the October display and see San Francisco.

For more information, contact the NAMES Project at (415) 863-1966.

# AIDS Group Urges Testing

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has made a major change in its policy for HIV-antibody testing.

The foundation said it will now recommend that anyone who believes he or she may be at risk for AIDS be tested for HIV to take advantage of medical advances in treatment.

The foundation is the first major AIDS prevention organization in the U.S. to promote testing rather than leaving the issue open to individual interpretation.

The group changed its position in part because of breakthroughs in the prevention of AIDS-related pneumonia, the most common killer of people with AIDS, said Dr. Tim Wolford, the foundation's director.

# AIDS Vigil to Return May 28th

Atlanta-The 6th Annual AIDS Memorial Candlelight Vigil will return Sunday, May 28th at 7 PM to the front lawn of the Academy of Medicine at 875 West Peachtree Street, the corner of 7th Street and West Peachtree. All participants are asked to bring their own candles and styrofoam cups to contain the flame and wax.

For the first time this year the Candlelight Vigil will be a broader cooperative effort with 7 groups sponsoring the event: Open Hand, Childkind for children with AIDS, the Jerusalem House home for PWAs, the Southeastern Arts and Media Education Fund (SAME), the National Association for People With AIDS (NAPWA), AID Atlanta and the NAMES Project Atlanta Chapter. "We wanted to incorporate as many groups as we could," emphasized Larry Lehman, Chairman of the local chapter of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. "To be a vigil we felt it really needs to include everybody."

Representatives from each group will address the crowd, and Georgia House Rep. Jim Martin from District 26 of the Georgia House of Representatives will be the featured speaker. "This year we're asking each person to speak how they feel, give their personal vision as much as possible," said Lehman.

The Hope in Harmony chorale group led by local conductor Ed Biggs will sing, and the vigil will end with a Love Feast as leaders break bread and pass it out among those gathered to encourage a "common bond among everyone," according to Lehman.

The Memorial Day Weekend Vigil was initiated by Mobilization Against AIDS in San Francisco six years ago, and will be observed in 97 American cities and in 27 countries. For information call Kathleen Brockel at 872-0600 or Larry Lehman at 982-9512.

- Dave Hayward

## LOVE & SEX



In general, men are more likely to approve of sex without love than are women. But lesbians are more likely to approve of it than are married men. In one study, those who said they approved of sex without love broke down as follows, by category:

- Gay men: 79%
- Male co-habitators: 72%
- Female co-habitators: 67%
- Lesbians: 57%
- Married men: 52%
- Married women: 37%

Summarized from *American Couples*, by Philip Blumstein and Pepper Schwartz.

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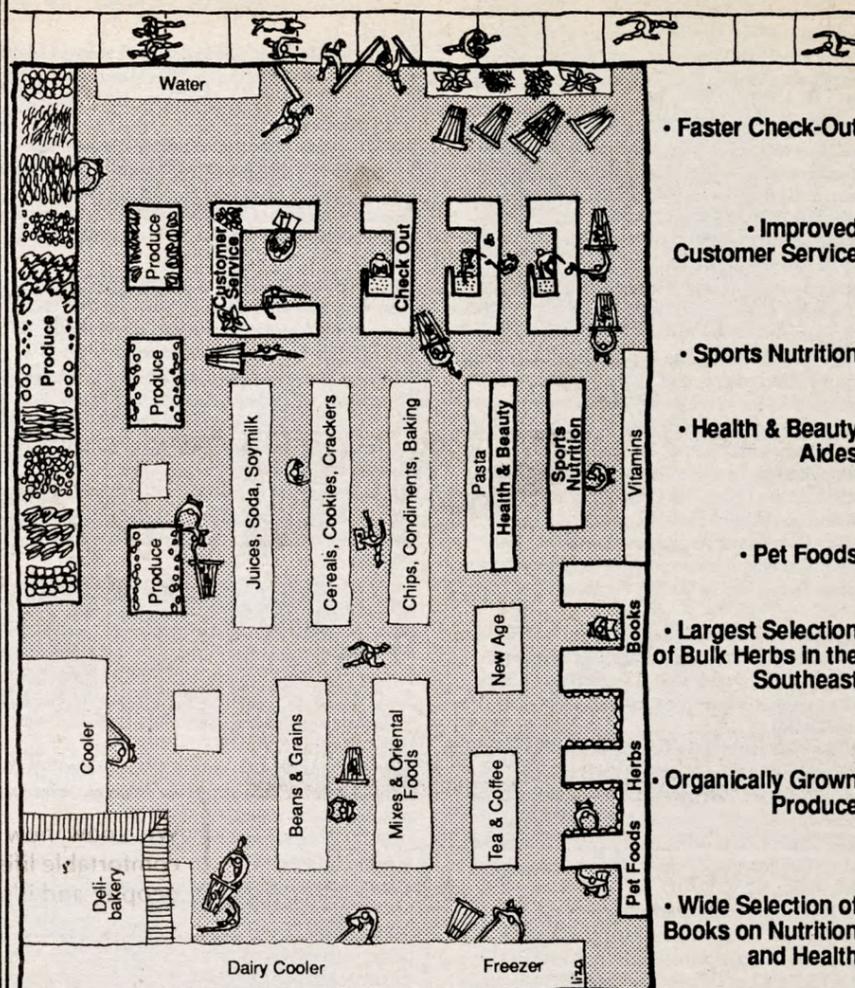
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# ORGANIZATIONS

**AAALGA- 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 at 7:30 PM at 131 Ponce de Leon, Suite 233. 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 Chorale.** A community-oriented choral group for both men and women. Membership open to all singers and non-singers alike. Rehearsals every Tuesday at MCC-Blessed Redeemer, 800 N. Highland Ave. 7:30 PM. 874-1622.

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

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

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

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

**COOR - Coalition Opposing Operation Rescue** opposes any individual or group trying to limit women's rights of reproductive choice. Meetings every Thursday at 7:00 PM, Inman Park Library, 447 Moreland Ave. 365-5311.

**ELGO- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization.** Meetings every Wed. at 7 PM. 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 Naturist Group.** For gay men who enjoy nude outdoor and social activities. Not a sex club. Nude camping, swimming, parties, etc. several times per month. For info send SASE to: GANG, PO Box 7546, Atlanta, GA 30357.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LEGAL- Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians.** 3rd Monday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. The voice of lesbian and gay Georgians in the Democratic party. 289-6358.

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

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

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

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

**NAPWA- Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS.** Regular meetings and events. 131 Ponce de Leon, Suite 233. 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 434-7826.

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

**SESA - The Southeastern Sports Alliance** is a fundraising, awareness and organizer for sports and cultural events leading up to Celebration '90 Gay Games & Cultural Festival, Vancouver, British Columbia. 875-0700.

**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.

**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.



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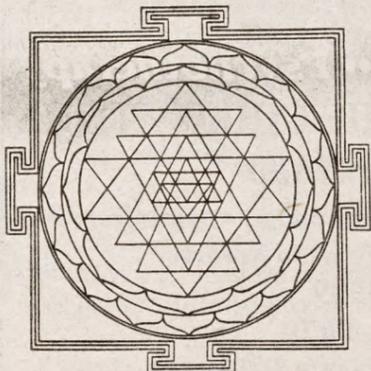
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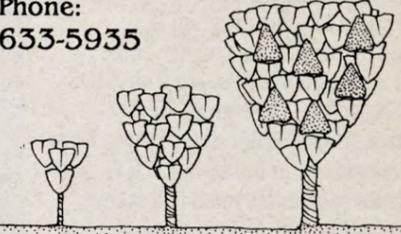
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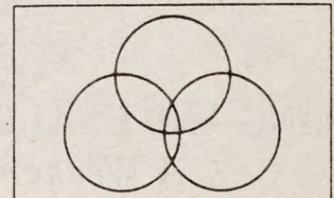
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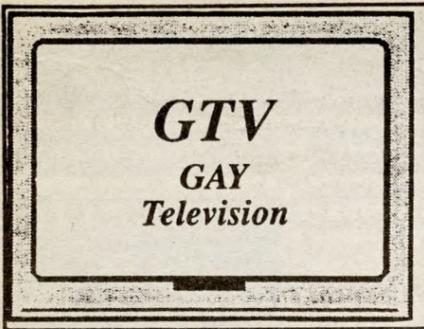
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You'll have several different choices for your television enjoyment at midnight on Friday, May 26. You might want to watch *Nightline*, *Arsenio Hall* or even the last half of *The Tonight Show*. Or ...., you might just want to tune into GTV (Gay TV) for it's premiere half-hour of programming targeted at America's lesbian and gay community.

Principally run by founder and president Kay Masters, GTV will be the first national broadcast medium exclusively devoted to programming gay-oriented news, information, features and entertainment. The first show will air at midnight, Friday, May 26 on Prime Cable Channel 7 in Fulton and DeKalb counties.

The debut show will include an AIDS benefit with the tongue-twisting title "AIDS Aide," a segment on the 1990 Gay Games III, a "very moving" presentation on the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and a "colorful" feature on the 1988 Los Angeles Gay Pride Festival.

The "AIDS Aide" portion of the show will include an auction, the star attraction for which will be a dress once worn by Judy Garland, plus a script and musical score used by her during a TV special filmed at the London Palladium with daughter Liza Minelli. The bidding for the dress will start at \$10,000, and any amount raised in excess of that will be donated to AIDS education and care.

GTV's offices are currently located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, but will permanently move to Atlanta within weeks. Why the move? Principally, says Masters, the openness and friendliness of Atlanta's gay and lesbian community.

"Atlanta's gay community is more together," she said, in comparison with what she has seen in Palm Beach Gardens. She added that she thought Atlanta's gay and lesbian community "works well collectively."

Masters said that Atlanta's position as

a transportation and communications hub, large pool of creative and production talent and the convenience of air travel in and out of the city also played a large role in her decision to move the company to Atlanta.

GTV's primary focus at first will be on news, Masters said, but will expand into more creative programming after the company is established in its new Atlanta home this fall. Local stockholder and executive secretary of Atlanta's Metro Council Jeffrey Laymon said he is "excited at the prospect of the new creative programming GTV will be able to put together."

Laymon, who is also involved with Gay Cable Network (GCN) here in Atlanta, said he does not see a competing interest between the two groups.

"GCN will continue to broadcast locally through the end of June," Laymon said, but added that he was unsure of what the non-profit group would do after that. "Due to the demise of the producer of *Lifestyles Update Coast to Coast* (the local affiliate's only show at this time), we are searching nationwide for a replacement program.

"But because we are not in a position to produce another show locally," Laymon said, "I don't know what will happen to GCN."

Laymon added that many of the same people who were working with GCN had expressed an interest in working for GTV, which is a for-profit organization. He said that he saw an eventual fusion between the two organizations at some point down the road.

The importance of GTV's emergence can hardly be overestimated. Both Masters and Laymon agree that there is a need for gay/lesbian positive shows on the nation's TV screens. Laymon said that he hopes GTV will provide an introduction to gay/lesbian politics and activism to people who have previously stayed away from the community's growing civil rights movement.

"We hope that people who are not actively involved in our community, those people who might not pick up a *Southern Voice* or a *Washington Blade*, will feel safe to tune their TV sets into our network and discover the depth of the gay and lesbian community from a relatively safe position," he added.

-Ray Hesse

## New Gay Reference Book Tells All

*The Alyson Almanac*, compiled by the staff of Alyson Publications, 208 pp., \$6.96 trade paperback.

The first thing you feel opening the new *Alyson Almanac* is relief—then unabashed pleasure. Relief, because previous efforts like this by other publishers have tended to be badly organized and unimaginative. Unabashed pleasure, because *The Alyson Almanac* avoids—rather nicely—those pitfalls.

It's nice to see that gay reference books, along with the rest of gay literature, are finally coming of age. Gay people no longer need—did they ever?—to be selectively spoon-fed facts coated in a "politically correct" analysis. (If you doubt that we ever were, just take a look at most of the gay handbooks or encyclopedias sitting on your bookshelves: how many were reliable, straightforward, or helpful? How many did you ever go back to after the first perusal?) In happy contrast, *The Alyson Almanac* offers readers the facts, plain and simple, without commentary or filler.

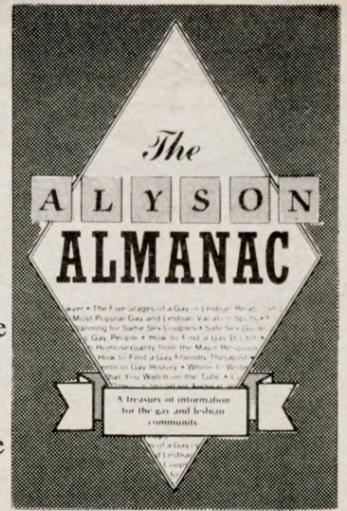
It's difficult to imagine any almanac being engrossing reading in and of itself, but that's exactly what this is: part hardcore reference book, part entertainment and history, perfect for browsing, picking, or just plain cover-to-cover reading. Amid the necessary listings of national gay organizations, hotlines, and gay health tips, there are welcome sections on national gay travel destinations and various gay awards (in media and politics), a compact dictionary of gay slang, a highlights from gay history section, an overview of various official church policies towards homosexuality, plus a concise—and accurate—biographical dictionary of famous gay men and lesbians, including some of the more obscure names usually overlooked in popular gay reference works.

One of the more savory chapters invites various experts to list the best and worst in gay-themed films, literature, pop music, and theater. Surprisingly, even some of the sections that looked a bit dry at first glance wound up being compelling reading. There is, for example, a listing, from the 1987-1988 session of Congress, on how each senator and congressman voted on crucial, gay-related bills. It's a political junkie's dream.

*The Alyson Almanac* is a fine effort, and a good, promising start: it's obviously fertile ground for successive, expanded editions.

- Leigh W. Rutledge

Leigh Rutledge is a reviewer and bestselling gay author who lives and works on a ranch a hundred miles south of Denver.



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(V2#6)

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## \*VOLUNTEERS

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## \*VOLUNTEERS

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## SOUTHERN VOICE

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**PERSONALS:** Lesbian looking for Virginia Woolf-type to pull hair over my P.C.. MAC compatible and cooling a plus.  
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For placement, please fill out the coupon at the end of the Classifieds Section.

IT'S NO SECRET.....CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

# How Many Of Us Are There?

## Part 1 of a 3-Part Series

In 1948 Alfred C. Kinsey startled Americans by claiming that 37 percent of all [white] males had had at least one homosexual experience—to orgasm, after puberty. And other data in his two major books, one on males and one on females, have been casually interpreted by some gay activists as showing that about 10 percent of the entire population, male and female, is gay.

But now—partly fueled by concern about AIDS—*Science* magazine has published the results of an aging National Opinion Research Center (NORC) survey, commissioned by the Kinsey Institute, which purports to show that maybe only 20 percent of males have ever done homosexual sex and as few as 3.3 percent may have engaged in homosexual behavior "occasionally" or "fairly often" after the age of 20. (The published results of the NORC study do not include data on females.)

While Kinsey's own study has been criticized for some of its inadequacies—and the *Science* article refers to "oddities of the original Kinsey sample"—the NORC survey itself, originally done in 1970, has long been withheld because of disputes over authorship, the adequacy of its methodology, and the accuracy of its results. The authors frankly acknowledge that the percentage figures represent a "lower bound" and in their conclusion they admit that a different set of assumptions about missing data could "more than double" some of their frequency estimates. And beyond that, they even agree that some people might actually have lied, fearful of discrimination, social intolerance, and the fact that in 1970 homosexual sex was illegal in 49 states.

If we look carefully at the NORC survey, we can see what went wrong; then we can turn back to the original Kinsey books to see what is still useful in them.

\*\*\*

In 1970 NORC surveyed some 1450 men, 21 or older. Extensive questions about sexual attitudes were asked in face-to-face interviews. These were originally to be followed by questions about actual behaviors, but in pre-testing it became clear that interviewers were not getting accurate responses about stigmatized activities. Some interviewers expressed distaste for the activities they were forced to ask about and—reportedly—some interviewers actually resisted asking those questions at all. It seems likely that the interviewers

were some of the same sort of middle-aged women who did a similarly poor job on an earlier NORC survey of college students, purporting to find an astonishingly low incidence of masturbation among college men.

The questions on sex were then put into a 12-page booklet filled out while the interviewer waited. Kinsey, however, was highly critical of questionnaires, pointing out that they allowed easy "cover-up" and invariably came out with figures much lower than empathetic but probing personal interviews.

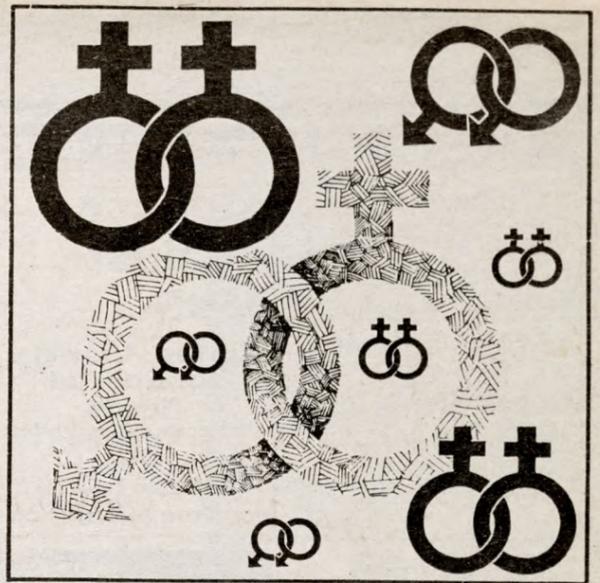
Even within the context of an anonymous survey booklet, some 15 percent of the males did not answer any of the questions about homosexual behavior and another six percent acknowledged homosexual behavior but gave no data on frequency.

The authors take considerable space trying to make an "estimate of probability" for the unreported data. Yet, if there is anything sex researchers have learned over the years it is that when we do not have hard data, we have no idea what those data are.

For instance, the article suggests that the behavior of people who didn't answer the questions might be similar to the behavior among those who did who were similar on certain "demographic and attitude items." They found that non-respondents' social attitudes were less typical of those who acknowledged homosexual behavior than the rest of the sample. But that should surprise no one. Homosexual (or bisexual) men might express liberal or conservative values independently of their sexual behavior, or even as a function of closetedness.

In his landmark study of men who frequent public toilets for sexual purposes, the late sociologist Laud Humphries identified the phenomenon of very closeted homosexual men who publicly express very conservative social values as a cover-up for their own "deviant" behavior; Humphries called this "the Breastplate of Righteousness." It is odd in this day and age to find sex researchers who write as if they had never heard of mendacity, reaction formation, or hypocrisy.

While the survey's strongest suit seems to be its claim to be a national probability sample, that claim does not hold up. Some people, perhaps as many as half, refused or were not available to participate at all, but we do not know for sure since that information was not kept! Yet Kinsey pointed out that



refusal to participate in his study was usually due to homosexuality or extra-marital behavior.

Further, compared with 1970 census figures, the survey under-sampled "single males" by some 40 percent; yet there is no recognition from the authors that "single males" might be a significant locus of homosexual behavior. Kinsey, on the other hand, pointed out that ultimately something like half of all males who remain single engage in homosexual behavior to some degree.

The NORC survey then, despite its tenuous connection with the Kinsey Institute, is almost worthless except as an example of a badly botched job. It abandoned the high standards the original Kinsey team of interviewers had achieved in eliciting personal information through in-depth interviews, and it offered as a cheap substitute an attempt at modern sampling techniques—but turned out not to be able to do that either. And it added naivete of interpretation—something Kinsey was almost never guilty of.

—Paul Varnell

*Paul Varnell is research director for the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force.*

In our next issue, Varnell discusses how Kinsey's research completely undermined the prevailing view on homosexuality (1946-47).

## COOKIN' WITH PRIDE!

### The Well of Horniness

'A laugh at the lesbian in us all'

a fun-poking comedy by Holly Hughes

Thursdays- Saturdays 8:00, Sunday 3:00

Preview June 1, 8:00 ..... \$6.00

June 2-4, 8-11, 15-18 ..... \$10.00

### Theater Buffet

'a smorgasbord of past, present and future SAME productions'

June 5,6,7 at 7:00 pm ..... \$25.00

### Amethyst

'a literary journal for lesbians and gay men'

Issue #4 of SAME's nationally acclaimed magazine ..... \$5.00

### Premiere of SAME's first video project

featuring interviews with people who are surviving and thriving with AIDS

June 12, 13 at 8:00 pm ..... \$2.50

### Gypsy Heart Concert

'a Journey: Songs of the Monomyth'

features Louisa Branscomb, Kathleen Hatfield

June 14, 8:00 pm ..... \$6.50

### Dueling Dykes

'Bandana dyke returns along with MP to MC,

hosting the feud that puts new meaning into family'

A benefit for the Atlanta Lesbian Agenda Conference Committee (ALACC)

June 18, 7:00 pm ..... \$6.00

### Fly High

'a comedy about life and death, love and laughter, balloons and confetti'

the premiere of local playwright Jim Knoll's play

Thursday - Saturday, June 22 - July 1 . \$10.00

A Special Benefit for the Aid Atlanta Buddy Program

Sunday June 25, 3:00 and 8:00 pm . . . \$10.00

### Cookin' With Pride

'a flavorful feast of community recipes'

The inaugural project of SAME's new Southern Point Press

..... \$5.00

RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION: 584-2104

All shows at Onstage Atlanta: 420 Courtland St., across from the Civic Center

SAME • Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project, Inc. • PO Box 54719 • Atlanta • GA • 30307