

# SOUTHERN VOICE

LIFESTYLES



Creating New Families - Page 4.

Vol. 2, No. 13

Taking Pride in Our Culture

August 17, 1989

## Lomax Bows Out of Mayor's Race

### Gay Supporters Feel "Wounded" But Stand By Lomax's Decision

There were many tear-filled eyes and clenched jaws last week when Fulton County Commission Chair Michael L. Lomax announced his withdrawal from the 1989 mayoral race. Among the many supporters gathered around him at the August 8 press conference, it was perhaps his gay/lesbian supporters who felt the stunning impact of his decision the deepest.

Lomax, who officially announced his candidacy last January, began campaigning in the gay/lesbian community as early as the summer of 1988 for what everyone predicted would be an uphill battle against opponent Maynard H. Jackson. Despite his underdog status, many gays and lesbians signed on to his campaign early, and fought hard for their candidate every inch of the way.

The gay and lesbian community formed one of Lomax's target voting blocs from the beginning of the campaign, according to sources close to him, and he formed many close alliances in the community over the past year.

Explaining his campaign strategy, after his withdrawal from the race, Lomax said, "The size and potential power of the gay and lesbian community are tremendously underestimated in Atlanta.

I am pleased to have taken the history-making step of acknowledging and organizing...in the gay and lesbian community," he added, "(and) I look forward to continuing my working relationship with the gay and lesbian community as chairman of the Fulton County Commission."

It was Lomax's decision to actively court the gay/lesbian vote that swayed many to join his campaign so early, explained activist Joan Garner, and it was his human qualities that forged such a deep allegiance between him and his supporters.

Garner, who is black, said that Lomax's outreach to her as both an African-American and a lesbian was the deciding factor in her decision to work on the campaign.

"I felt he not only addressed our issues, but I think he made an extra effort to find out where black lesbians and gays are in this city, what our issues are, and what we're concerned about," Garner said.

Although she admitted that she felt personally "wounded" by his decision to withdraw, Garner said that she respected Lomax for making an "extremely tough decision."

"This was my first campaign here, and I got very emotionally involved," said Garner. "I have to admit that I'm feeling a little bit wounded right now. (But) when I look at this situation on an individual basis, I recognize that Michael Lomax did the right thing for himself."

Garner's "wounded" feeling was echoed by every Lomax supporter spoken with in the week after his announcement. They all also, however, said they continue to respect and admire their man despite his decision.

Insiders at the campaign headquarters explained last week that the decision to resign was a tough one for Lomax. Facing an August 18 qualifying deadline, he was forced to "take a realistic look at whether or not he could win in October," one supporter said.

With his withdrawal from the mayor's race now, Lomax will be able to maintain his seat on the Fulton County Commission until he is up for re-election in 1990. Many of his mayoral supporters are already talking of working on the County Commission race next year.

Among those who are already working toward that goal is Gary S. Cox, who served as the campaign's liaison to the

Cont'd on Page 3

## NAMES Quilt To Be Displayed For Last Time in D.C.



The NAMES Project Quilt, a memorial to those who have died of AIDS, has grown to almost 12,000 panels since its first showing two years ago in Washington, D.C. The size of the Quilt, and the logistic and financial problems of full displays, have made organizers turn to smaller showings. The Quilt will be seen in its entirety for the last time in Washington, D.C. in October. See page 15.

ILLUSTRATION: DONELAN • LOGO & POSTER DESIGN: ART JAGO-NASI, S.F. • TYPOGRAPHY: ONE STOP TYPESETTING, S.F.

## 1989 Gay Softball World Series Coming to Atlanta

Five teams from the Hotlanta Softball League will compete in the Gay Softball World Series to be held here in Atlanta August 22 through 26. Sixty teams from the U.S. and Canada will participate in the five-day double-elimination tournament to be held at Southside Park.

1989 marks the thirteenth year for the Series, and the first year Atlanta has hosted the Series. Burkhart's (17-1) will represent Atlanta in the Open Division. Toolulah's (12-6) and Rumblefish (14-4) will battle it out in the Women's Division, and Bulldog's Lushuppies (5-5) and Bass Ale Boys (0-10) will compete in the Recreation Division, the Series' newest division added in 1988.

In the Open Division, Atlanta's Burkhart's team faces tough competition from two-time defending champions Twin Cities Cloud Nine. Other teams for Burkhart's to watch out for are

Houston, Milwaukee, Dallas, San Francisco and Norfolk. "There are no slouch teams in this Series anymore," said one Burkhart's player who asked not to be named.

Wayne Vaughn, a player for Burkhart's and Hotlanta Softball Commissioner-elect, indicated that pre-series practice for Burkhart's will emphasize the fundamentals. "We're working on base-running and hitting...This could be our year [to win the Series]. Our goals were to win the season and to win the World Series."

In last year's World Series competition, the core members of the current Burkhart's team played as the Pharr Library and placed third. For the last five years, the Burkhart's/Pharr Library team has been one of the top five contenders in the Series.

Cont'd on Page 20

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Skinheads Knife MCC Pastor During Second Attack In Two Weeks

San Francisco—Lynn Griffis, assistant pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in San Francisco was beaten, threatened with death and carved with a knife by two men police have described as "skinheads," according to the *San Francisco Sentinel*.

This was the second attack on Griffis in two weeks. She was hit over the head with a shovel in her garage earlier by someone who had painted "Die With Your Fags" on the wall. Police think the attacks are connected and have called in the FBI.

According to police reports, Griffis was forced into a car as she walked down a San Francisco street. She tried to flee and reported that the two men yelled "There's that f---ing bitch who works with dying fags. Let's get her." Inside the car the attackers verbally and physically abused her, carving her chest with a knife. Griffis said the men told her, "Next time we'll finish you off," before throwing her out of the moving car.

Griffis was taken to a medical center and released several hours later.

Griffis said what shocked her most was the attackers' hatred toward people with AIDS.

"I am familiar with sexism and homophobia, but I can't understand the viciousness and hatred that they showed toward (people with AIDS). Their repulsion...was really scary."

A \$10,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the attackers' arrest. Griffis stated she is pleased with the police department's response, which she described as "very caring and outraged."

## Coast Guard Board: Discharge Gay Officer

Alameda, Calif.—A U.S. Coast Guard review panel recommended the honorable discharge of Petty Officer Ricardo Huertas here July 19 because of his self-proclaimed homosexuality. Although the review board recommended that the Coast Guard re-examine its discharge policies concerned with sexual orientation, the board said it could not defy existing policy.

Huertas voluntarily told his superior officers in January that he was gay. At the time he was stationed aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Rush*. "It was getting more difficult for me to serve with 130 men," Huertas told the review board. "All they talked about was sex and eventually the words 'fag' and 'queer' would surface, and I found it increasingly offensive."

Since January he has been transferred from ship duty to the Coast Guard base here. The recommended discharge would come under what Coast Guard regulations refer to as a "Class Three Homosexual" which applies to anyone who "exhibits, professes or admits to homosexual tendencies" even though there is no evidence of any homosexual acts while on duty.

Huertas told the review panel that he has not had sex with men during the almost four years he's been in the Coast Guard. "I am homosexual," Huertas said. "I am not a practicing homosexual, however."

Ten former shipmates and co-workers testified in Huertas' behalf at the board hearing, including several who gave telephone testimony from ships on the East Coast.

Huertas told the three-member panel of officers that he wanted to complete his service in the coast guard and go on to medical school to become an Army physician.

The review board recommendation will now go to Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul Yost, Jr. for his decision.

-- Keith Clark

## The Advocate Bows to Pressure From Readers

The publishers of *The Advocate*, one of the oldest gay male magazines, bowed to reader pressure earlier this month and began placing their classifieds and most sexually explicit ads in a separate "pull-out" section.

Many readers, however, remain irate with the grand dame of gay publishing.

The letters to the editor column has been filled recently with readers' complaints about the sex-centered image of gay men they say *The Advocate* portrays. Some men went so far as to cancel their subscriptions earlier this year due to a lack of response to their complaints, according to published letters.



The Aug. 1 front page of *The Advocate*.

Most recently, the magazine embroiled itself in the Marc Christian - Rock Hudson controversy by publishing what some called sympathetic accounts of Christian's lawsuit against Hudson's estate. (Christian claimed emotional damage when Hudson continued having sex with him after learning of the AIDS diagnosis that eventually killed him.) *The Advocate* apparently pushed some readers too far when it diverted from its normal policy of only placing "beefcake" models on the cover, and instead featured Christian.

"The use of beefcake on your covers to sell your magazine has always been offensive to me," wrote reader Richard DeGhetto, "but when that beefcake turns out to be the controversial subject of a profile inside, it borders on exploitative, sensationalistic journalism. I am surprised you didn't have him bare-chested, holding a teddy bear."

Phone calls to *The Advocate's* publisher, L.P. Inc., were not returned. The magazine has defended its sexual content policies in the past, however, as a marketing approach designed to grab gay male readers.

On the positive side, readers have begun to respond to the new format changes.

"Thank you for your decision to return to the pullout classifieds," wrote Paul A. Tucker of Nashville's MCC. "... My church use(s) your magazine as a resource. It will serve our needs so much better now as a source of news and information."

## Soviets Considering Legalizing Gay Sex

Moscow, USSR—As part of the massive reforms in the Soviet government and legal system, the recently convened Congress of People's Deputies (parliament) is poised to enact a revised penal code that, among other things, would eliminate sex between men as a crime in the USSR.

Article 121, which for half a century has banned sex between males, is one of several "social crimes" the deputies are expected to delete entirely. Although the Article 121 restrictions on male homosexuality have been

part of the Soviet lawbooks for over 50 years, sex between women has never been legally forbidden in modern Russia.

Under the Czars, Russian laws governing sex were vague and prosecution generally came under restrictions against "lascivious public behavior". Following the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, the Soviets were—at least at first—surprisingly open about sex.

During the 1930s, however, as part of the solidification of his iron grip on the Soviet state, Joseph Stalin introduced Article 121 banning sex between men.

Soviet scholars generally agree that the failure to include lesbian sex in the law arose from Stalin's preoccupation with maintaining control in the almost exclusively male Red Army.

Under Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of reforms in Soviet society known as *perestroika*, the expected changes in the criminal code are intended to reflect a more realistic attitude toward behavior as well as removing laws that have been used arbitrarily by the state to punish political dissidents.

San Francisco filmmaker Marc Huestis, returning July 22 from participating in the 1989 Moscow Film Festival, said gay men in Moscow considered the elimination of homosexuality as a crime by the present Congress "pretty certain".

-- Keith Clark

## Gay Nashvillian Slain Police concerned for community

Nashville, Tenn.—Metro Nashville police are continuing their investigation into the brutal slaying last week of 34-year-old Barry McDonald, which, homicide detectives say, "could have been directly related to his being gay".

McDonald's body was discovered by his roommate, Gene Rice, when Rice returned home from vacation last Wednesday. Rice told investigators he had last spoken to McDonald by telephone the previous Sunday night.

Police say McDonald was stabbed some 30 times by a still-unknown assailant. The victim died of stab wounds in the back and chest, according to the police report. Sources termed the murder "one of the most violent crimes in the city's history".

"It's kind of hard to say if the murder was directly related to Barry being gay," said Detective Terry McElroy of the Metro Murder Squad. "On the surface it has the appearance that another gay person could have been involved or that the murderer could have done it because Barry was gay."

"But to be honest, the hardest part of this investigation is coming up with the killer's possible motive," he said.

Police are looking for a man for questioning in connection with the murder, McElroy said. The man—who was seen by a neighbor through McDonald's kitchen window in Sunday, July 9—is described as a white male, about six feet tall, having a slender build and weighing 130-150 pounds. The man is believed to have blond hair which is combed back and cut short on the sides.

Information regarding the man police are seeking has been withheld from the city's other media until it was given to *Dare*, McElroy said.

"I don't want someone else in the gay community to be murdered because we failed to let people know the details of the case," McElroy said. "In our investigation, we have learned that Barry had recently become interested in the counseling of AIDS victims," he added. McElroy said that the killer may have been one of McDonald's patients.

Anyone with information pertaining to the case is asked to contact the Metro Murder Squad at (615) 862-7329 or 862-7546.

--Jeff Ellis

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## Lomax

Cont'd from Page 1

gay/lesbian community. Cox reported last week that he has already been named Lomax's liaison to the community from the County Commission.

Lomax made Atlanta history earlier this year, when his campaign became the first every to hire a liaison to the gay/lesbian community. Cox, who filled that post throughout the campaign, said after the press conference last week that gay/lesbian politics in Atlanta would never be the same again.

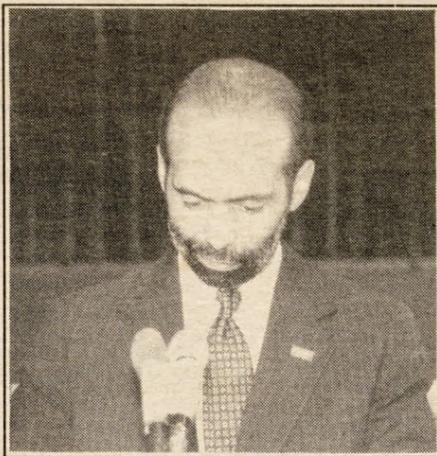
"Michael's candidacy for mayor of Atlanta put gay and lesbian issues on the front burner," Cox said. "I personally believe that Michael forced Maynard Jackson to write a gay/lesbian platform through his aggressive courting and organizing in the gay/lesbian community...and helped point gay and lesbian leaders toward the 21st century.

"As a gay politico, I have a very deep sense of gratitude for Michael's actions," Cox added.

Maynard Jackson's gay/lesbian liaison, Peter White III, also acknowledged Lomax's actions as the main reason gay and lesbian issues gained such here-to-fore unthinkable prominence in the city-wide election, and added that he and his campaign were doing everything possible to "extend an olive branch to Lomax supporters."

Cox and White both urged people who had previously decided to support Lomax to examine Jackson's campaign and ask as many questions as they feel necessary.

"I laud everyone who worked (on the Lomax campaign), and I'm sorry we weren't able to see this thing through to the end," White said. "Now is the time, however, for all of us to come together and work on our mutu-



JO GIRAUDDO

Michael Lomax

al agenda as a community.

"Maynard Jackson is still a friend of our community, and we need to work together to make sure he knows who our entire community is and what our needs are," White added.

Many Lomax supporters agreed with this position, and said that they were ready to take another look at Jackson. Walt Greer, president of the Hotlanta River Expo and a long-time Lomax supporter, said that he will "support Jackson 100% now.

"I think we need to form a committee to make sure he does what he said he is going to do," Greer said. "There are a lot of campaign promises made to get the vote," he noted, "but you always have to follow-up to make sure that they're kept."

For now, at least, Greer's attitude seems to reflect that of most gay and lesbian Lomax supporters—don't burn any bridges with the Jackson campaign, but don't give him any slack either.

— Chris Duncan

## "Bias Crimes" Law Passes City Council

The Atlanta City Council unanimously approved the Bias Crime Data Reporting ordinance on July 17, and Mayor Andrew Young signed it into law on July 24. The new law makes Atlanta one of six cities nationwide that track and count crimes motivated by prejudice against the victim.

The ordinance, which was introduced by Atlanta Councilmember Barbara Asher and co-sponsored by five other at-large members, was sent to the council floor after a unanimous recommendation by the Public Safety Committee.

Asher said that her ordinance is designed to accomplish two goals—public education and police officer training—and that she will consider amendments aimed at attaching specific penalties to bias-motivated crimes at a later date.

"(This ordinance) is going to push us into position to set up a tracking mechanism so that we can monitor and document crimes of violence against minority groups," she said, "and train police officials to recognize crimes of violence.

"I'm hoping that (the ordinance) will also serve as a crime preventative," Asher added. She explained that "if you begin to see a pattern of violence against any minority group, you can take (preventive) action."

Officials with Department of Public Safety Commissioner George Napper's office were unable to tell *Southern Voice* how and when the new ordinance will be implemented.

In the past, Napper has favored waiting until the U.S. Congress finalizes its work on a national Hate Crimes law before implementing new procedures in Atlanta. He has cited cost and duplication of effort as his reasons for waiting.

It is now crucial, according to Asher, that gays, lesbians and other minority groups make use of the reporting procedures set-up by her ordinance.

"I think all of us can sense when we've been singled out because of our minority status for a crime of bias," Asher said, "(and) I think we need to help our police officers recognize if this is a crime of bias."

— Chris Duncan

## Lesbian Conference Set For April, 1991

A July planning session for the National Lesbian Agenda Conference, scheduled April 24-28, 1991, in Atlanta, was successful, according to Atlanta participants.

Using a process called "modified consensus decision making," the gathering seemed to be more productive than an earlier planning session held in Durham, N.C., in March.

Pat Garland, one of 11 local women who attended the meeting, said the modified consensus process was involved, but allowed all participants to "give their input." All decision-making in Portland was done this way, and though time-consuming, Ms. Garland said it seemed to make everyone happy because all views were heard.

"There had been a lot of debate about limiting the conference to 5,000 participants," explained Ms. Garland. "But we decided we had to do that because of cost. The Civic center was the only thing affordable and space there is limited."

Conference meetings will be held at the Civic Center, with the Atlanta Hilton used for accommodations, according to Ms. Garland. Payment of \$3,500, sealing the bid for the Civic Center for the dates of the conference, must be made by the National Lesbian Agenda Conference by the end of this month.

A national steering committee composed of 80-90 women will be the main policy maker. This committee will be composed of 50 women of color, 12 disabled women, 2 deaf women and 5-10 representatives of other national lesbian and gay organizations.

Eight to 10 regions of the country will be represented at the conference. One person from each of the regional committees will sit on the national steering committee.

In April of 1990, the Lesbian Conference office will move to Atlanta to begin finalizing the 1991 gathering. Workshop and seminar topics are still being discussed. Topics of interest to all lesbians will be featured as well as possible proposals for a national lesbian organization.

— Kalan Brown

## ACT UP Members Threatened With Arrest At River Expo Dance

Four members of an AIDS advocacy group complained last week that they were threatened with arrest and evicted from the grounds for distributing free condoms and safer sex materials where a gay men's dance was being held.

Jimmy Allen, a member of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP), said that officials working the "Silver Ball" as part of the Hotlanta River Expo '89 stopped him from distributing the safer sex information because of littering problems. The dance was being held as part of the annual River Expo which attracted thousands of gay men to Atlanta for a four-day weekend that culminated in a race down the Chattahoochee River.

Expo officials counter-charged, however, that no one from ACT UP approached them before the August 5 event. If they had, said president Walt Greer, he could have warned them that the Georgia Building Authority which owns the Freight Depot where the dance was being held does not allow anyone to hand out literature on State grounds.

That explanation did not satisfy Allen, however. "When I think of all my friends who have floated down that river... and are now dead," Allen said, "it is a sacrilege not to welcome AIDS activist groups to participate."

Greer told *(Southern Voice)*, however, that AIDS groups had been involved with the weekend, and that safer sex information and free condoms were given to participants at the host hotel for the weekend. Calls placed to AID Atlanta and the Georgia Building Authority confirmed Greer's assertions.

AID Atlanta's public information officer, George Sinclair, said that his agency had distributed 16,000 free condoms as part of the River Expo. AID Atlanta furnished specially designed baskets of condoms to approximately 15 gay bars, according to Sinclair, in addi-

tion to providing a booth with condoms, literature and "safe-sex kits" at the host hotel.

Allen, however, remained very upset that his group was not allowed to distribute safer-sex information at a gay event by someone ostensibly working for a gay organizations.

"He should have welcomed our appearance there," Allen asserted. "Not only did we have a right to be there," he added, "with our community under attack (from AIDS), we were obliged to be there."

Charles Overstreet, the manager with TPD Management Company who stopped ACT UP from continuing their activities, explained later that his company held the base for the Freight Depot that evening and he was personally responsible for its condition afterward.

"They (ACT UP members) showed up unexpectedly and then got up in my face when I told them they were breaking the law," Overstreet remembered. "They demanded to see someone in charge," he added, "and found out to their misfortune that that was me.

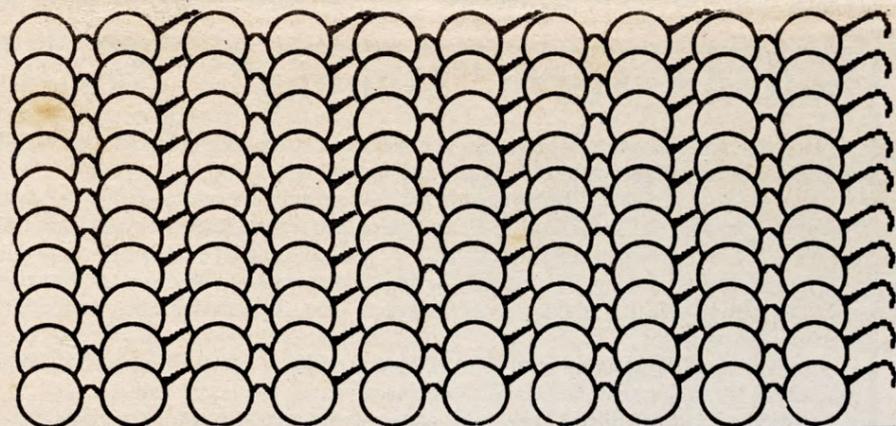
"It was only after the people from ACT UP refused to listen to reason that I told the (Georgia Building) authorities to either escort them off the property or arrest them," Overstreet stated.

With regard to the threats of arrest, Greer said that although he "would not have handled it in that way," he supported the management company's employees.

"The State is real particular," he added. "We have to walk on pins and needles ourselves."

ACT UP did eventually succeed in their goal to distribute 1,000 condoms to Expo revelers by moving to the sidewalk near the entrance of the Freight Depot.

— Chris Duncan



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San Francisco Examiner

# GAY IN AMERICA

## CREATING NEW FAMILIES

*Gay men and lesbians are coupling, having children and battling the institutions that exclude them*

Maryann Simpson and Cynthia Asproditas had a baby. The two women used a friend's gift of sperm. Nine months later, Cynthia gripped Maryann's hand tight in the operating room. In awe she watched the doctor lift up a glistening squinting baby, their baby, now 7-year-old Aija who likes to dress in pink and squeals "eek!" when she sees ants in their Contra Costa home.

They are a family, one most Americans would not recognize.

In suburban Sacramento, Boyce Hinman and Larry Beaty try a new fish recipe in their kitchen.

They are 50, devoted to each other for a third of their lives. Puttering around their house in comfortable sweaters and slacks, they're a lot like Ward Cleaver in "Leave it to Beaver," except, of course, there is no June Cleaver in this home. Boyce and Larry are the couple, one

the law does not recognize.

In suburbs and cities, gay men and lesbians like these are challenging America's definition of family.

With growing stridency and increasing numbers, they are coupling, rearing children and battling the institutions that exclude them. They seek inclusion in the national dream: a home, a spouse, an heir.

Next to AIDS funding, gay leaders say family issues are right at the top of their political and personal agendas.

It is a push that shakes to the core some of straight society's deepest-felt beliefs: That only men and women marry, only heterosexuals create families.

"The gay rights movement has reached a new point," says San Francisco activist and lawyer Roberta Achtenberg. Gay people "real-



ize they don't have to bury their family desires. They can have a job and a child and a home."

They are insisting on it.

At least 1,000 children have been born locally in the past five years to lesbian and gay couples--a "gayby" boom duplicated in Boston, Washington, D.C., and New York. Gays by the thousands are using business law -- powers of attorney, wills, contracts -- to achieve some of marriage's benefits.

Politically, gays are campaigning for new laws. San Francisco just adopted a domestic-partners ordinance giving unmarried lovers of City workers some benefits of spouses; similar laws exist in a few other cities. The San Francisco Bar Association is pushing the state to allow marriage between "two people" instead of "a man and a woman."

"It's piecemeal," says Paula Eitelbrick, legal director of Lambda, the nation's oldest gay legal rights organization. "But the trend is growing rapidly in this country."

Forces fueling this trend are like those driving heterosexuals. Post-war baby boomers are growing older, wealthier -- be they gay or straight -- and feeling a pull to settle down, just as their parents had before them.

AIDS has intensified the drive to attain such legal sanctions as the right to make medical decisions for a partner. And it has forced many people to confront the need to make wills.

"The assumption before was that it wasn't possible," says Ellie Schindelman, coordinator of San Francisco's growing Lesbian/Gay Parenting Project.

"Now you don't have to be a pioneer anymore."

— Jayne Garrison

*All articles on these pages are reprinted with permission from the San Francisco Examiner. For reprints of the entire 16-part series, "Gay in America" see the coupon on the next page.*

### Both Answer to "Mommy"

Maryann Simpson was a pioneer: a 36-year-old school counselor in New Orleans who had never dated a man and yet was quite definitely pregnant.

She knew lesbians with children -- an estimated 20 percent of lesbians have children -- but all had borne them with husbands before they came out of their sexual closet. Maryann came out in her 20s. She'd never been involved with a man. And she was ready for a baby.

Hearing that lesbians in California were having children through artificial insemination, she called a doctor at a medical school to get inseminated. And she learned that even liberals drew the line at lesbian moms.

"She told me, 'I'm the most liberal person I know and I won't do it.' She advised me to lie," recalls Maryann, now an East Bay financial consultant with salt-and-pepper hair.

So she found a man, a friend of her lover Cynthia Asproditas who was willing, sensitive and -- best of all -- moving out of state soon.

On the right day of the month, in the privacy of his home, he gave Maryann some sperm for her to inseminate later. In a few months, she was the talk of New Orleans.

"People were calling it all kinds of names," says Cynthia with a laugh. "People were saying she was a surrogate mother. No one was sure. All they knew was that Maryann Simpson, the

Cont'd on Next Page

### Joint Adoption Still a Rarity

What Michael Pesce and Jonathan Jarnig did, gays aren't supposed to do. State policy frowns on it. The California Bureau of Vital Statistics won't even recognize it.

But on March 15, 1988, a Superior Court judge ruled that, in their case, two parents are better than one. And so Michael and Jonathan jointly adopted young Carly and Jamie, becoming one of only 11 gay or lesbian couples in the nation to legally share parenthood.

"Sometimes I can't believe it," Michael tells Jonathan in the Sacramento living room. A shiver of pleasure rolls across his shoulders. Across the room, Jamie looks up from his homework and grins. "It still really is incredible," says his father, one of two.

Despite the growing U.S. gay baby boom, most laws and most judges still disfavor the gay family in custody battles, foster care and adoption. Women can have their own children; men, too, with a willing partner. But the legal system in many states is pulling shut the door to alternatives.

In six states, court law had decreed that being gay or lesbian is reason enough not to be considered a fit parent in custody disputes. Another 13 states disfavor the gay parent leaving a heterosexual marriage, but stop short of forbidding custody.

In New Hampshire and Florida, gays are forbidden to adopt. In Massachusetts, "unmarried

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• MASSAGE THERAPIST • SHIATSU • POLARITY • ACUPUNCTURE • ROLFERS • TRAGER •  
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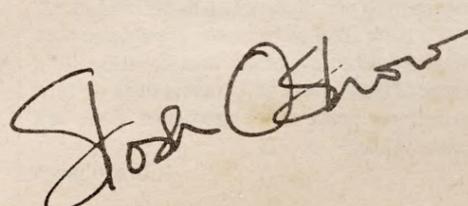
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## MOMMY

Cont'd. from previous page

lesbian, was pregnant."

Today, they are among more than 300 people in the Bay Area's 6-year-old Lesbian and Gay Parenting Group, sharing concerns over the reaction of teachers and of Brownie Scout leaders at potlucks.

They face many obstacles that heterosexuals can avoid with a simple "I do" before a judge.

For example, only Maryann's name is listed on Aija's birth certificate. There is no place on such a legal document for the names of two moms, though Aija calls both women "Mommy," and they answer through some instinct that tells them which one she wants.

And only Maryann truly has clear right to Aija. Though Cynthia is raising and helping to support the sandy-haired girl, the law does not recognize her as a relative.

They try to create legal protections through a jumble of documents. Maryann has a will naming Cynthia as Aija's guardian, though no judge is bound by Maryann's wish in the event of her death. They each have financial and medical powers of attorney giving the other final say over their money and their medical care in the event one is incapacitated - a right spouses have automatically.

If the two were ever to separate, Cynthia would have to rely on Maryann's good will to share custody of Aija. Even if they had one of the "relationship contracts" becoming popular with gays, family court judges are unaccustomed to using business law in their decisions. The dozen or so lesbians who have sued their former lovers for custody and visitation in courts around the country so far have been largely unsuccessful.

Yet as a family, they are so familiar. At home, the two women are found sitting on the floor playing Barbie with Aija.

"This child who loves Barbie dolls, dresses, pink, the ballet - sometimes it's alien to me," says Maryann with a deep chuckle.

Most days are filled with the trivia of life - working, shopping, commuting - but there are also regular reminders that theirs is a different family.

When Aija was 5, she asked: "Mommy, who's the man who gave you sperm to make me grow inside you?" Taken aback, the women told her. Now Aija knows her biological father, but does not describe him as such. He's "just a friend who gave Mommy my sperm," she tells a visitor.

And they worry sometimes about her reaction in the future.

"Aija may suffer pain, confusion, anger - the worst would be despair - over her differences," Maryann says. "If that happens - and I hope it doesn't - I'll just have to cope with it. I'd like to say it won't happen. But it may. And I hope our love will help her get through it. It's hard to be different. I know."

"If we want Aija to feel proud of who we are, we have to feel proud of who we are. And the way I move through the world, I do not move hidden."

- Jayne Garrison

## ADOPTION

Cont'd. from previous page

couples" are given lowest priority as foster parents.

The laws stem from the common and long-held public misperception that "a fundamental mission of a gay or lesbian person is to convert children to homosexuality," says lesbian lawyer Roberta Achtenberg. "Doing child-related gay rights you see that arise in people all the time. They are skeptical that gays and lesbians can have a good relationship with children."

Change that attitude and maybe the laws will change too, activists say.

Michael, a social worker, and Jonathan, a waiter, discussed having children on their second date seven years ago. The overriding question was never "if," but how?

Four years later they plunged into the foster-care bureaucracy, aided by Achtenberg and the fact that Michael worked in Alameda County children's services and knew the system well.

They took in Carly and Jamie, toddlers taken from their mother for neglect. And slowly they began to snip through red tape.

San Francisco's Department of Social Services, temporary guardian of the children, advised Michael to adopt as a single parent.

"That wasn't good enough," insisted Michael. "Jonathan is their father, too. Why shouldn't the law reflect that? If you leave someone out legally, you leave them out emotionally to some extent."

He spreads his arms, encompassing Carly, curled on the couch, and Jamie, hunched over homework, and Jonathan, sitting by his side. "This is what we are. This is our family."

When the case went before Alameda County Judge Richard Bancroft, Achtenberg submitted a legal brief now circulated nationwide. She noted that the two neglected children would have not only two people to love them, but two people to support them, two people from whom they might inherit.

"The judge didn't bat an eye," Michael recalls. "He said, 'This is good for these kids; this is good for the county of Alameda, this is good for the state of California.' I kept thinking, does he know what's going on here?"

Carly, 5, and Jamie, 6, call Michael "Daddy" and Jonathan "Poppa." For Mother's Day in preschool classes one year, when all the children were making cards, Carly and Jamie carefully inscribed theirs "to Daddy and Poppa."

Not everyone recognizes their legitimacy. The men applied for new birth certificates for the children - routine after adoptions - but the Bureau of Vital Statistics refused to put both men's names on them.

"What are we supposed to do if we need to get them a passport?" asked Michael angrily. He was advised to undo the joint adoption and re-adopt singly. He hung up the phone.

Those are irritating technicalities. Like all gay parents, their greatest worry is the children.

So far, no neighbors have openly shunned them or their children. Still, they avoid displays of affection outside the house; they try not to draw attention to themselves.

- Jayne Garrison

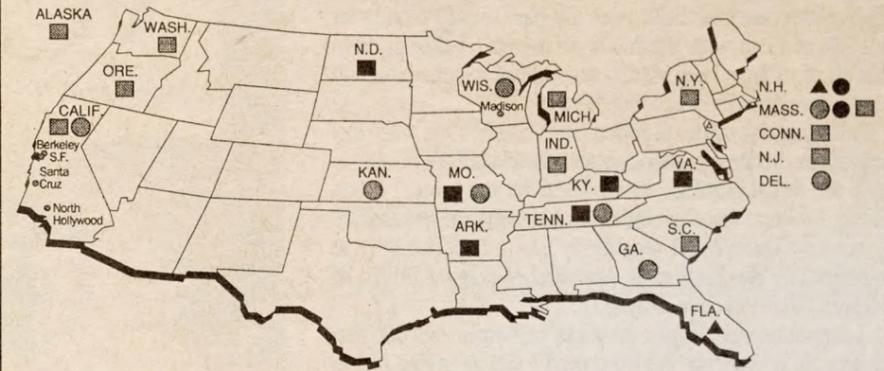
## GAY FAMILY RIGHTS

### Favorable records

- States with laws that say sexuality is irrelevant in custody disputes
- States that recognize durable powers of attorney, allowing people to name their lover as the person to act for them if they are gravely ill or in a coma
- Cities with domestic partner laws giving some benefits to unmarried lovers

### Unfavorable records

- States with court rulings that presume gays are unfit for custody of their children solely because they are gay
- States that bar gays from being foster parents
- ▲ States that bar gays from adopting children



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# VIEWPOINTS

## A Farewell Letter from *Voice's* Chris Duncan

To the staff, volunteers and readers of *Southern Voice*:

Very few people have been as fortunate as I to be able to work with Christina Cash and the uncountable supporters of *Southern Voice* over the past few years. It is the rare person indeed, who can look back over the past twenty months of their life as I can with absolutely no regrets. I take pride in what all of us have been able to accomplish together and will never forget these most exciting days.

Unfortunately, there are periods in everyone's life when circumstances dictate an otherwise undesirable course of action. Since the recent purchase of a home with my lover, I found that my financial responsibilities have brought me to just such a juncture. Therefore, I regrettably take this opportunity to announce my resignation as Assistant Managing Editor of *Southern Voice* effective August 18.

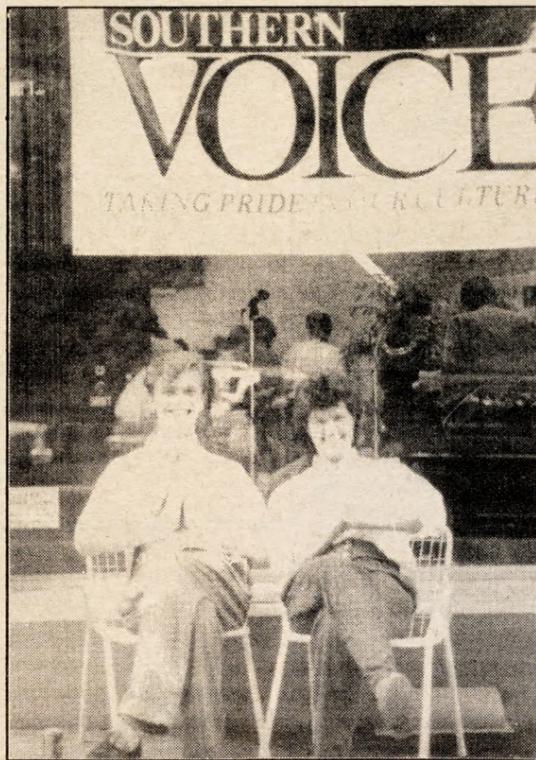
I cannot express to you the depth of despair this decision has brought on me, nor the frustration I feel at having had to make it. I can speak with conviction, however, when telling you that I am satisfied that my work here has made me a stronger person and a better human being. I can only hope that I have given back a fourth of what I have gained from my work here.

To the staff and volunteers at *Southern Voice*, let me assure you that you have not seen the last of me. I will continue to cover the political scene for the paper through the October 3 election, and plan to put myself at Chris Cash's disposal as a volunteer thereafter.

To my friends and readers in the community, be forewarned that I intend to stay in the thick of things. Nothing will be able to keep me away from the rush I get working with you on our common goals.

To Chris Cash, my mentor, collaborator and friend, stand by your dreams and there is nowhere that they cannot take you. When I first heard you speak your dreams for *Southern Voice* in that cold January night, I knew that we would travel together awhile. Only Brian has ever earned my trust and respect more. I expect to be by your side as we see more dreams realized for Atlanta's gay/lesbian community, and I cannot wait.

This phase of my life is coming to a close, but the future holds bright promise of things to come. I appreciate all of the



Chris Duncan and Chris Cash

EVETT BENNETT

well-wishes my supporters have given me, and I hope that I lived up to your expectations.

*Southern Voice* is among the best things to ever happen to Atlanta's gay/lesbian community, and I am extremely proud to have played a role in its beginning. And although I will no longer be reporting to work here every day, I doubt a day will go by that I do not wish I were. I will always support the work being done here with my heart, mind and soul.

Good luck and God bless.

Sincerely,  
R. Christopher Duncan  
Asst. Managing Editor

## New Hate Crimes Law: Use it or Lose it

Now that the City of Atlanta has a Bias Crimes ordinance in place, the most important thing Atlanta's gay/lesbian population can do is use it.

We have all noticed an increase in the number of crimes against gays and lesbians over the past five years. Thankfully, we now have a way to fight back without retreating into the closet or resorting to violence ourselves.

Atlanta's new Bias Crimes ordinance is designed to track and document crimes that are motivated by prejudice against the victim's perceived minority status. We hope that by documenting these so-called "hate crimes," politicians will be willing to go back and add additional penalties for those who wish to intimidate the city's minority communities with violence.

Although the ordinance covers most recognized minority groups—including those identified by race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, handicap and national origin—it was the gay/lesbian community who made hate crimes an issue. And now, the responsibility falls to us to prove that hate crimes are occurring and without legal recourse.

The key to making this legislation work is simple—report all suspected hate crimes to police and make certain they include your suspicions in their reports. Even if you don't believe that your sexual orientation was the reason you were targeted by the criminal, be aware of the possibility that an act of robbery may have been "upgraded" to a case of assault because you are gay or lesbian.

Since hate crimes are also territory for police officers, don't hesitate to play detective yourself and look for evidence that your crime was a hate crime. Remember anti-gay/lesbian phrases that might have been used, notice if particularly gay items in your house were singled out for damage.

Most important, make certain that you report lesser or non-violent crimes to the police. You must remember that someone who gets away with the crimes of harassment, threat or vandalism may feel safe the next time to assault, maim or kill. Reporting hate crimes not only helps the community document the current avalanche of crimes against us, it may also save someone else a lot of grief and pain.

## CPA Has Been Stopped By New Law

Dear Editor:

In your August 3 issue, you ran a story headlined "Pro-homosexual agenda in Atlanta Will Be Challenged." Your story did not mention a new state law and city ordinance that voided petitions seeking to repeal Atlanta's sexual orientation ordinance and human rights charter amendment. The new laws make it virtually impossible for any hate group to repeal the city's human rights laws.

In October, 1986, a local hate group named Citizens for Public Awareness (CPA) started a petition drive to cause a referendum to repeal Atlanta's human rights laws. The drive began when CPA failed to get the Council to repeal the ordinances. In two years CPA did not get the required number of signatures to cause the referendum.

During the past session of the Georgia General Assembly, I drafted an amendment to the referendum law. The amendment introduced by Rep. Bob Holmes, D-Atlanta, puts a 60-day limit on petition campaigns to cause a referendum. It requires that petitions be obtained from the city clerk. Persons collecting signatures must be residents of the city and signatures must be collected within the city limits. The bill, passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by Gov. Harris on

April 18, voided CPA's petitions because they were not filed with the city clerk by July 11. Gil Robison helped me in lobbying the bill.

Councilmember Mary Davis, in June, sponsored an ordinance placing the state law in the city code.

Since CPA failed at collecting the required signatures in two years, I believe, it would be impossible for them to collect the necessary signatures in 60 days, especially when only residents of Atlanta can collect signatures. Most CPA members live outside the city.

Atlantans, who care about human rights, are in debt to Rep. Holmes and Mary Davis. We should be thrilled that another hate group, CPA, lead by Nancy Schaffer, was foiled in a try to force its hate on Atlanta.

CPA calls itself a religious group and its leaders are leaders of Atlanta's First Baptist Church. Their offices are in the Edwards Pie Company building. CPA is no different from the Ku Klux Klan or any other hate group. I believe, CPA and its leaders are worse because they are hypocritical. Love not hate is one of the main tenets of Christianity. Hate groups might spread malice against gays today, but it will be blacks tomorrow and jews the next.

Sincerely,  
S. Christopher Hagin

## Schaffer's Views Rile Voice Reader

Letter in response to Nancy Schaffer's comments in the last issue of *Southern Voice*:

Ms. Schaffer:

I read your petty comment about "sodomy being against God and Nature" and that other one that I forget verbatim but it went something like, "I'm (we're) tired of having gay rights shoved down the throats of the public."

I am a 25-year-old native of Atlanta. I am a male who happens to be gay. I am interested in responding to your comments because there seems to be a gross misunderstanding of the word "rights" here. I am, first of all, not at all interested in "gay rights" per se. I am not interested in imposing my homosexuality on anyone and believe me when I say this—I am not interested in shoving ANYTHING down your throat. However, as a human (who happens to be gay) I AM interested in human rights—and by human rights I mean those rights which belong to every member of our species, not our race, our sexual preference, or any other label.

I feel that the issue which you have so miserably failed to address in your fight to stop having things shoved down your collective throats is a human one, NOT a gay one. I exist as I am without your consent, approval, or even your acknowledgement. You must remember, you do not pay my rent or feed my cats, or buy my clothes. How in the world could I possibly care what you think or what angers you about my existence. As for whether I am a moral disgrace, let nature be the judge of that as She is of all things.

Sincerely,  
Bill M. Lundsford II

### SOUTHERN VOICE

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

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P.O. Box 18215  
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## Front Page Photo Choice Was "Stupid"

To the Editor:

Why would you publish such a hate-filled and stupid picture for the front page of your recent issue? (August 3)

Don't we have enough negative publicity, comments and exposure these days without seeing more on a publication we look forward to getting?

The picture had absolutely nothing to do with the caption below it. It was just another reminder that we are hated and misunderstood. I don't need that.

Bad choice on your part. Poor judgment.

Lynn Misheff

*Editor's Note: Perhaps the photo chosen to plug the article, "How U.S. Views Gays" was a bad judgment call on our part. We'll accept that and try to be more sensitive in the future on photo selection. However, it is a fact that we are hated—that we are misunderstood—by many people. To pretend that we are not is dangerous. To not want to hear about it is a form of denial that will always hurt us, both as individuals and as a community. How can we solve problems if we refuse to look at them?*

## Front Page Photo Focuses On Negative

Dear Editor:

I'd like to share with you some thoughts about the front page of your last issue (#12).

I was thrilled to see the information about the *San Francisco Examiner* series. I didn't see it for a long time, though, because I kept turing the page to be away from the "NO NO HOMO" picture. Why print that? It has little to do with the series mentioned in its caption, and was a very minor part of the March on Washington. Why not a picture of the hundreds of thousands of us who

marched—proud and happy to be there—instead of twenty or so fundamentalists with their message of hate? I think it was a mistake in judgment and a disservice to your readers. Effectively, the picture took a misguided message of hate from 8 years ago, blew it up, and hand delivered it to every gay person in Atlanta.

As gay people, we have a responsibility to support ourselves on all levels. Indeed, the fact that we in Atlanta have such a large community and a strong paper like *Southern Voice* to represent us is something to instill pride and a sense of worth. And that paper can help us to grow even stronger, to let go of the old fears and self-doubts that most of us grew up with.

Let's face it—where we focus our attention determines how we feel about ourselves and the world. When we focus on our strengths, we feel strong and good about ourselves. When we focus on attacks toward us, or negative judgments, or hate, we feel defensive, doubtful, and fearful. I'm not saying we should stick our heads in the sand and ignore what is going on around us. I'm just saying that we can still look at those things in ways that affirm us at the same time. To me last issue's front page seemed an unnecessary slap in the face. If some folks want to judge us, let it be their issue. Let's not spread their message ourselves. We have our own message and it's a lot better!

Just to keep this in perspective, I like and support *Southern Voice*. I think you're doing a great job with the paper—I know it takes an enormous amount of work and commitment. Thanks for being there for the community!

Sincerely yours,  
John R. Stowe

*Editor's Note: Not only did we make what appears to be a very poor judgment call on the photo, we also made an error on the date of the photo. The caption read 1981 and it should have read 1987.*

## Tell Sam and Wyche to Vote "Yes" on Hate Crimes Bill

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to ask all your readers to please consider writing a letter to Senators Sam Nunn and Wyche Fowler asking them to support the *Hate Crimes Statistics Act* (Senate Bill 419). It is imperative that they hear from us concerning this vital piece of legislation.

Jesse Helms and his allies will be prepared to scuttle the bill with killer amendments which, of course, is unacceptable. We must impress upon our Senators how important this bill is. The following are some points you may wish to make:

If you, or a friend has ever been a target of hate motivated crimes, let them know about it. Some Members of Congress don't acknowledge the fact that certain minorities are singled out for acts of violence.

Let them know you want the legislation passed without amendments. Every member of the Georgia House delegation voted for the bill. Specifically request their position on the issue and ask for a response to your letter. The letter does not need to be long, just to the point.

If the legislation is passed, the statistics it will provide will assist in developing methods for preventing hate motivated crimes. A person's race, religion, ethnicity, sex, or sexual orientation should not ever be a motivating factor for violence against him or her. We all know it is—we need to let Senators Nunn and Fowler know, too.

Finally, it is imperative that people from outside Atlanta write to them. We know we are everywhere, they need to see that.

Sincerely,  
Padraig McLoughlin  
Vice President, LEGAL  
890 Argonne Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

P. S. If someone wishes to send a MAILGRAM concerning the issue, call (800) 257-4900 x.9188. The MAILGRAM program is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

## Burkhart's Shows Its Pride With Gay Flag

The Editor:

I would like to use your pages to command and thank Burkhart's in Atlanta for flying the gay, i.e. "rainbow," flag from the front of their establishment. To my knowledge this is the first time a bar or restaurant in Atlanta has flown the gay flag outside of their place of business and would therefore be, in all likelihood, the first time it has been done in the South.

The gay flag is an international symbol of our pride and self-respect as a people and of our demand for full and equal rights in society. Any gay visitor to San Francisco can tell you that the flag is flown from many bars, restaurants, retail businesses and, naturally, many homes. To be in San Francisco and see the flag so often is an uplifting sight, showing that we truly are everywhere. (Besides, the flag is aesthetically pleasing. It is colorful, different and unique—rather like ourselves.) Here in Atlanta it is nice to drive through an intown neighborhood and occasionally see the flag flying from a house or apartment.

I urge all gay bars, restaurants and other businesses in Atlanta and throughout the South to fly the flag. Pride is something we must show every day of our lives not just once a year.

Sincerely,  
Ivy Sinclair

Note: My use of the word "gay" is meant to include both gay men and women. I would hope and like to think that all lesbians consider this flag as much their own as gay men do.

**heterodoxy, n.**

the quality or fact of being an opinion contrary to that which is established or generally received.

a monthly column by KC Wildmoon

## Sex Ads Show A Low Opinion of Ourselves

Something very unsettling has come to my attention of late. It seems that some of us believe that certain Queer publications are biased toward Lesbians. The unsettling part is that as I thumb through a sampling of Queer publications, the only obvious difference between a biased and an unbiased publication is the absence of naked (or near naked) men and not-so-subtle sexual innuendos in the biased one. Personally, I applaud any publication with the guts to say no to using sex to sell unrelated products, using sex gratuitously to spice up related or unrelated articles in newspapers, and just plain old selling sex. But before you drag out descriptions like crude, old fashioned, Victorian, self-righteous, and worse, let's chat a bit.

Frankly, I'm sick of the hypocrisy. Out of one side of our mouths we're busy screaming *We Are More Than Sexuality*, and out of the other side comes *Sex Sex Sex*. Witness the content of so many Queer publications—page after page of phone sex ads, hot stud video ads, and other assorted ads that look just like real sex ads, although they're actually for things like lawyers. Have we really sunk that low? Is it really possible that our community won't support good solid information and entertainment without tantalizing, titillating, *gratuitous* sex thrown in? Quite truthfully, if I were a heterosexual and got my little hands on some of this stuff that we regularly disseminate to our general population, I'd know for a fact that Queers are indeed the degenerate scuzzes my parents said they were.

I already know segments of the strait population are degenerate scuzzes. I know this every time I spot a skin magazine on a rack. I know this every time I see commercials for, oh, say, Health Clubs, beer, or maybe chewing gum, on television.

But hell, we're not even *subtle* about it. Het media generally uses legs, sexy smiles, soft-focus camera shots and Silver Bullets to represent things sexual. Not us. We use a drawing of a man with his head thrown back and an *oil derrick* protruding from his crotch area. Het media mostly confines the *blatant* stuff to those aforementioned skin magazines and the like, safely hidden behind counters in convenience stores. Again, not us. We stick it into everything—newspapers, magazines... whatever we put out puts out.

Now I certainly wouldn't want us to pretend we never have sex just so the Puritans who run this country can feel safe ignoring us. But I'm worried about us. Strait Society has steadfastly denied that humans are sexual beings. Naturally enough, we reject that idea. But we have gotten more than a little carried away. We have made sex the main focus of our existence.

I understand that advertisers buy ads to attract consumers. And they buy the *kinds* of ads they do because *they work*. That's where we come in: by making those ads work, we are telling advertisers that the best way to reach us is through our crotches. But it seems to me that this obsession with sex, from phone sex and videos to bars and dentists, indicates that we've got a problem.

What's really being sold with this stuff is a low, very low, opinion of ourselves. It's as if we can't trust our own selves to make intelligent decisions without appealing to our libidos. Here's a secret: a decision made from there has absolutely nothing to do with intelligence.

We should be demanding respect from ourselves, our friends, our publications, our service/product suppliers. Write, call, tell them all that you're more interested in *what* they're selling than *how*. Tell them your definition of a healthy sex life does not make sex your number one priority.

Or just keep on doing what you're doing, and call me whatever you like.



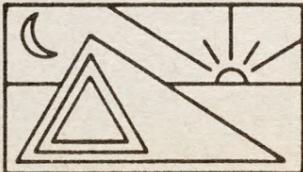
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## Wayland Flowers Memorialized in Local Exhibit

The Center for Puppetry Arts celebrates the unique talents and lifetime achievements of Wayland Flowers in a special memorial exhibit in the Center's museum through November 18. Included in the exhibit are the infamous Madame, Crazy Mary and Jiffy, all of which are hand and rod puppets. Also on display are the numerous awards Flowers received and photographs with Hollywood greats such as Frank Sinatra and Bette Davis. Exquisite puppet costumes and sketches highlight the delightful array of miscellaneous memorabilia from the life and career of Wayland Flowers.

Flowers was born and raised in Georgia, served in the Coast Guard and worked at the Fox Theatre. His talent for puppets surfaced early when he began entertaining neighborhood children. Through the encouragement of his mother he broadened his artistic interests to include ballroom dancing, tap, singing, flute, drums and studied art to improve his design skills and eye for color. Wayland was teased a lot about "playing with dolls," but the power and the control that he received through puppetry was much greater than the insensitive taunts.

In 1963, Flowers hitchhiked to New York and, while not over night, he embarked on a career that spanned 20 years and brought the craft of puppetry to a peak level of entertainment. His most famous creation, the loud-mouth and brassy "Madame" evolved from a vision in his mind and finally came together after Flowers encountered a feisty old woman in a New York bar. He and Madame headlined at exclusive and plush nighteries like the New York Copacabana, as well as casinos and hotels in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. The duo's television career brought him fame with popular appearances on Hollywood Squares, Solid Gold and Madame's own prime-time sitcom called "Madame's Place."

Flowers won two Emmy awards, published a fictional biography based on Madame's rise to stardom, starred in a Showtime special and early in his career performed an erotic puppet show. Flowers' first legitimate stage performance with Madame was in 1971, in an original off-broadway production called Kumquats. This erotic puppet performance set the style of Madame's persona. Madame and Flowers became the toast of Cape Cod and were soon performing in New York's finest night spots.

Flowers created other memorable puppets, like Crazy Mary, a speed freak who knew the ins and outs of hospital mental wards, and Jiffy, a sassy Southern black woman who moved north to become a nightclub singer. Flowers credited a fellow puppeteer, Bob Payne, for the idea that gave way to the outrageous Madame. Payne gave Flowers a hand and rod puppet that had been created for a production of The Wizard of Oz. It was this puppet with several face-lifts and specially designed costumes that evolved into the glamorous, bawdy Madame.

Flowers' career soared in the early '80s, and in 1981 he won Atlantic City Magazine's Entertainer of the Year Award and the Las Vegas "Jimmy" award for best specialty act. His many performances included the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C., the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, Radio City Music Hall in New York and Symphony Hall in Atlanta. In 1982, he was honored for his creation of Madame, with the Sebastian International Fabulous Imagery Award.



Wayland Flowers and Madame

Despite his success - a combination of bad management, financial difficulties, personal lifestyle, and a hectic schedule - his star began to fall. He took some time off to clean up his personal life and began writing a musical comeback for Madame called Madame and Me destined for the Broadway stage. He was coming back strong until 1988 when he underwent serious surgery for a brain tumor. The surgery left his right arm - which gave life to the beloved Madame - paralyzed. Through painstaking work he recovered most of the use of his right arm and continued to work. Flowers was on stage working at Harrah's Tahoe when he collapsed and was rushed to the hospital where he remained until he died from AIDS-related complications on October 11, 1988.

Flowers brought laughter for millions who enjoyed Madame's loud, brassy, obnoxious and outrageous persona. With his death, Madame fell silent - forever.

-Brandon Ross

The Center for Puppetry Arts Museum is open Monday through Saturday, 9 AM until 4 PM. Admission is \$2. The Wayland Flowers and Madame exhibit runs through November 18.

## The New Underground - Avoid It Unless You Like Big Mainstream Crowds, Long Lines and High Prices

Friends who remember the old Underground Atlanta say the new Underground is nothing like it. In fact, every one of them without fail, has said, "Well they turned it into a nice mall, but it's not Underground Atlanta."

I confess I grew up in the southeastern part of the State and traveled to Atlanta but one time when the family vacation included Underground. Unfortunately, I don't remember any part of it except for the smell of beer and urine and a gag gift store that sold packets of Confederate money reproductions (yes, I bought a packet). Apparently we had chosen to visit Underground during its waning years as an entertainment spot, and it was scary enough to force my grandmother to clutch tightly to my father's arm and plead with him to take "us and the children out of here before some of these thugs knock us on the head and



EVETT BENNETT

The only nightspot with any panache is a place called "A Train Jazz Cafe".

drag us away."

A recent trip to the new Underground at night elicited a similar response from me. I clutched tightly to my girlfriend's arm and said "Please, Honey, get me out of here before one of these rednecks or pseudo-yuppies' hair-do ignites and sets off a chain reaction causing big-hair/hairspray explosions and melts their polyester blends onto their skin."

In other words, if tourists, outer perimeter types, from-beyond-the-valley-of-exhausted married zombies, pseudo yuppies and high schoolers on dates trying to false-ID their way into already too-crowded nightclubs and bars is not for you - then avoid Underground at night. At least on Friday and Saturday. A security guard told us that Monday through Thursday is the best time for night visits...and we believe him. We were there on a Friday night (10:45-11:45 p.m.) and it was packed.

Your first trauma concerning Underground Atlanta may be how to get there. You may take MARTA (and get off at 5 Points Station) but unless you plan to stay for hours it is just

Cont'd Next Page

## Book Review

### Matlovich: The Good – and Gay – Soldier



Leonard Matlovich was a knot of tangled images that has needed unraveling since the late Air Force sergeant burst onto American coffee tables with the news there were gay people in the armed services, not to mention on the planet.

Matlovich, who dies of AIDS last year, was admired, ridiculed, canonized, and eventually discarded as a media event past its prime. He briefly held the headlines and we saw him in his formal persona, but we never knew a thing about him.

A conservative of embarrassing conviction, decorated Viet Nam war veteran, gay activist, dabbler in Mormonism, and person with AIDS, Matlovich didn't seem to fit. He didn't belong. He was measured for greatness, but he never seemed to make it, leaping from the lofty cover of *Time* to the banality of the pizza parlor he owned at a resort north of San Francisco.

Fortunately, Matlovich hasn't escaped without an effort to account for his life, and how refreshing it is to read his own words as he attempts to undo the knot in the authorized biography *Matlovich: The Good Soldier*.

In an era when we are accustomed to contemplate manufactured quotes from subjects long dead who engage in conversations about the weather a century ago, Hippler merely turned on his tape recorder and let Matlovich speak for the record.

Most gay people suspended judgment about Matlovich because he attracted homophobic heat for the cause, and those who read this brief, engrossing volume will find he was totally ordinary, motivated by the highest ideals, and was completely unprepared to deal with the fallout of his fame.

Like the virus that ultimately ravaged his body, Matlovich was played like a violin concerto by his handlers who didn't appear to grasp that he was a shy, emotional, and deeply vulnerable man who deserved better treatment and certainly better counsel.

In the few instances where Hippler interprets the hours of recorded conversations, we see that Matlovich was victimized, although not intentionally, by those around him, who used his name for personal gain.

He was also permitted to compromise his stature when he made an unsuccessful and irrational run for San Francisco supervisor, forcing gay people who admired or disliked him, or who didn't know him, to ask what had he done for them lately.

And throughout this maelstrom of image versus reality, Matlovich would have preferred to chuck it all, find a lover, and build a nest. He knew that no matter how many people swirled around him, he still had to face an empty apartment.

Hippler, a prominent gay journalist in San Francisco, has taken the high road in this poignant, neatly crafted little book that reveals this ordinary man's violated heart without mawkish sentiment. Hippler made the deliberate decision to give Matlovich his forum, and hence we are spared the inopportune conclusions of other author-savants who feel each word and gesture teems with import.

There is still a price for the biographer's detachment and in the Matlovich case there are instances when a bit of guidance and interpretation would have been helpful. There are a few matters that remain unclear, opinions that remain



Leonard Matlovich's childhood was as all-American as a Norman Rockwell painting. He grew up an Air Force brat and in 1963, with his father at his side, he too joined the Air Force. It was this clean-cut, straight-and-narrow image that brought him prominence in gay activism, including an appearance on the cover of *Time* magazine, and also drew the wrath of many less conservative gay activists. (Photograph courtesy of San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society.)

unchallenged, and we need more personal explanation.

Matlovich was either a cypher or else he felt (as the reader and Hippler ultimately conclude) that his life was nothing special, and in the ultimate self-effacing gesture, he felt his life was therefore not worth the telling.

Still, Matlovich has assumed his niche, worthy or not, whether he wanted it or not, and this book imposes its measure of sadness for a brief, tumultuous life, the former sergeant emerges a bit like the Rodin statue of Balzac, shrouded by a drape, closed off from the light.

—Jay Newquist

## Underground

Cont'd from previous page

as cheap and convenient to drive, especially if the people riding with you don't mind splitting the parking costs. Keep in mind, however, that all parking and parking decks are full or VERY expensive during regular business working hours. So, if you plan to visit during the week, then MARTA would be your only bet. On weekends, and after 6:00 p.m. during the week, you should find parking available.

Underground Atlanta's main parking deck is accessible from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. The catacombs of that parking deck combined with the entrance to Underground may confuse you, but you pretty much know you've driven to the right entrance level when you are able to see straight into the men's room of one of the attractions.

The only people we saw Friday night on our visit appeared to be straight. Underground does not seem like a place most gay couples or friends would hang out. Mainly, because the crowd is so mainstream and the bars are geared to that very clientele. The only nightspot with any panache is a place called "A Train Jazz Cafe". The band was hot and the look of the bar is avant garde compared to the other watering holes.

Once you do negotiate the parking garage and entrance to Underground, here is a little of what you'll find:

- A mall-type food court serves everything from chili fries to pizza. Prices are higher than at most area malls but the food is adequate for a quick snack.

- Kenny's Alley hosts most of the nightclubs and bars. As mentioned, this area was packed, but we were there during one of Underground's busiest times. The music is...well, let's put it this way, it sounded like we'd been sucked into a time warp at one point and landed somewhere

around 1975/76, when redneck rock was big with cover bands and beach music blasted from preppy bars.

- Moving past the Alley you wander onto a cobblestone street clogged with vendors' carts which obstruct walking and add little to the look of Underground itself.

- After sampling three restaurants within Underground (lunch at all three) the most I can say for the food is mediocre. Buck's, the Peasant Company offering, is supposed to be quite nice, but the rumored wait for lunch, unless you arrive at 10:30 a.m. is 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Dinner is crowded as well.

- Located throughout Underground are historical markers, maps and photos showing Atlanta "as it once was". Good luck finding them and convincing crowds not to bowl you over while you stop for a look.

- Shopping is a bust unless you want a T-shirt. For the fashionable dresser, there are only three stores worth mentioning: Renè Renè, Limited Express and G. H. Bass Company shoe shop.

Aesthetically speaking, those who remember the old Underground Atlanta seem to think the new one has killed its spirit. They don't find it as unique of a place to shop, eat or visit. In defense of the new Underground however, it is modern, clean and attractive and has brought much improvement and economic revitalization to an area of downtown Atlanta which sorely needed it. Despite the Friday and Saturday nightclub and restaurant lines, it is nice to find large groups of people in the normally deserted downtown area who are there for some reason other than a convention.

The Rouse Company, which developed the new Underground, did a nice job transforming urban-blighted areas into places attractive to businesses, tourists and most locals. It is unfortunate that many times when making something attractive to the mainstream, much of its character and charm is replaced with high tech, mall homogeneity.

—Kalan Brown

Deana ain't quittin' 'til she's had enough.....

## Our House Benefit

To raise funds for NAPWA's, Deana's PWA House Fund

*The house has been selected*, but she needs your help with the final touches.

Join us for a fun filled evening of non-stop entertainment, food and refreshment -

Hosted by Miss Charlie Brown  
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Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
August 18, 19 and 20

at both the  
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Atlanta's Own HEARTSTRINGS coming September 17

Deana's reminding you to mark that day on your calendar for this important

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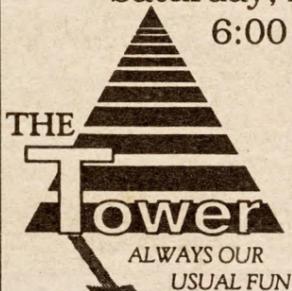
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Saturday, Aug. 19  
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HOPE**

FIRST MCC AIDS MINISTRY in conjunction  
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an evening of entertainment, sweets and treats  
to benefit PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS

Saturday August 19, 8:00pm  
First MCC Church of Atlanta  
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Entertainment By:  
A CLASS ACT

ATLANTA LAMBDA CHORALE  
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\$10.00 General Admission  
\$5.00 PLWA's  
FOR INFORMATION CALL 872-2246

**"Treat your senses while being sensitive  
to the needs of PLWA's."**

# CALENDAR

## Art

**LOCAL ARTISTS.** Time's running out, kids! Exhibit your work this September at the annual Olde English Festival, 1989 partial profits benefiting Jerusalem House. Call Tom Broyles at 455-1902.

**ARTISTS.** Artists are needed to exhibit works. First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta. 470 Candler Park Drive. Call Cathy Logan at 378-1413.

**THE APEX (AFRICAN AMERICAN PANORAMIC EXPERIENCE).** Ongoing. Features Children's African Village; also, an exhibit of quilts and folk art. Tues.-Sat., 10-5; Wed., til 6 PM; Sun., 1-5 PM. \$2 and \$1. 135 Auburn Ave. 521-APEX.



Tuck Andress and Patti Cathcart, "Tuck and Patti", San Francisco's jazz favorites, will perform at Center Stage Theatre on Thurs., August 17 at 8:30 PM. Cy Timmons opens. \$13.50. 577-9600.

## Bars

**THE TOWER.** Mon., Aug. 21 and Fri., Aug. 25. August activities in support of the Gay World Series '89 include spaghetti dinner buffet and—on the 25th—World Series '89 Host Bar. Marvelous Monday, Wednesday night pool and pizza, and Thursday show nights help you blow off end of summer steam. 735 Ralph McGill Blvd. 688-5463.

**LIPSTIX.** Female impersonation in Atlanta. Mon., Aug. 21 at 10 PM, Miss Georgia Continental; Wed., Aug. 23 at 11 PM, Christina Deangelo Fairwell; Fri. and Sat., Aug. 25th and 26th, special guest Jamie Monroe. Reservations suggested. 2329 Cheshire Bridge, Cheshire Square. 633-0452

**CLUB 551.** Get ready for our annual Miss 551 Contest coming in September. For more information regarding participation and schedule call 873-4052. In the interim, don't forget our live shows, Friday and Saturday, 11 PM and 1 AM and Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 PM and 12 Midnight. 551 Ponce de Leon.

**BULLDOG & CO.** Country Mondays help start your week with a yippie-kie-yay. Look for Win, Lose or Draw coming soon. Call 872-3025. 893 Peachtree St.

**THE PHOENIX.** Arlene is back and welcomes you to her new bar. Hours: 9 AM to 4 AM, Mon.-Fri.; 9 AM to 3 AM, Sat.; 12:30 PM to 4 AM, Sun. Call 892-7871. 567 Ponce de Leon.

## Benefits

**FIRST MCC AIDS MINISTRY.** Sat., Aug. 19th. In conjunction with The NAMES Project brings you a night of entertainment and treats to benefit people living with AIDS. General admission-\$10; PLWA's-\$5. 8 PM at the First MCC Church of Atlanta, 800 N. Highland Ave. Call 872-2246 for information.

## Comedy

**THE GREAT SOUTHEASTERN LAFFOFF.** Thru Aug. 22. Sponsored by Abbadabba's & Birkenstock. Winners receive a pair of Birkenstock comfort footwear and more. The Punchline Comedy Club. Call 252-0394.

**MICHAEL WEST IN "TOGETHER AT LAST...REVISITED"**. Limited engagement at Gene & Gabe's Upstairs. Sundays and Mondays at 9 PM. \$9.50. Reservations recommended. 874-6145.

## Exhibits

**NAMES PROJECT QUILT.** Fri., Aug. 18-Sun., Aug. 20. The Atlanta Chapter presents "The Georgia Quilt Gallery," showing 500 panels

## Festivals

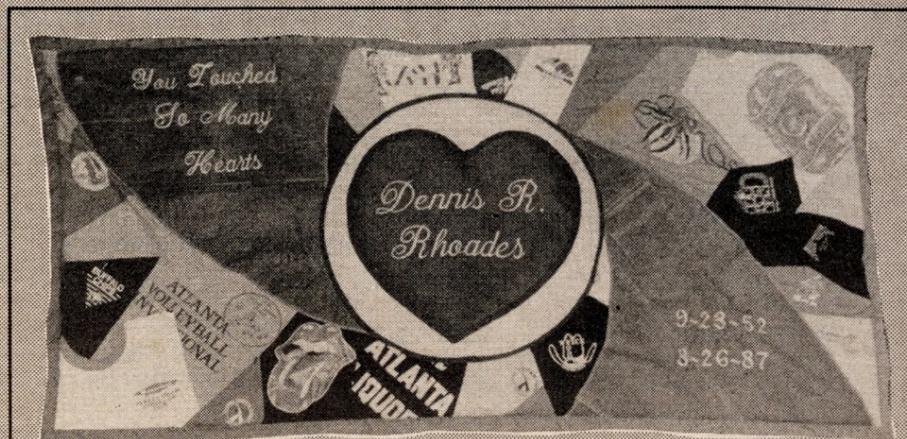
**MONTREUX ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL.** Fri., Aug. 25-Sun., Aug. 27. Groups from all over the world performing—you guessed it—music from all over the world! Sites: Chastain Park, Memorial Arts Center, Piedmont Park. Call 653-7160 for specifics.

**16th ANNUAL GRANT PARK TOUR OF HOMES & FESTIVAL.** Sat., Aug. 26 and Sun., Aug. 27. Tour over 18 restored homes in one of Atlanta's oldest neighborhoods. Numerous arts and crafts, entertainment, etc.

**WEST COAST WOMEN'S MUSIC & COMEDY FESTIVAL.** Thurs., Aug. 31-Mon., Sept. 4. Performers include Cris Williamson and Tret Fure. Would make a great Labor Day weekend! Plan now! Call (818)893-7185.

## Film

**THE WOMEN.** Thur., Aug. 17. Part of the Fox Family Film Series sponsored by Electrolux for the 50th anniversary of 1939-Hollywood's golden year in cinema. 8 PM. \$4 at the Fox on Peachtree St. Also: **LAWRENCE OF ARABIA.** Mon., Aug. 21. 8PM. Fox Theatre.



Georgia panels of the NAMES Project Quilt will be on display Sat., August 19 and Sun., August 20 at the Inman Park Trolley Barn. Sat: 10AM-6PM, and Sunday 10AM-4PM. 963 Edgewood Ave. Admission is free, but donations are gladly accepted.

# August 17- August 30

## Meetings

**CHRYSALIS WOMEN'S CENTER** provides professionally led support group for lesbians every Friday night from 7 PM-8:30 PM. Call 881-6300 for directions and information.

**FIRST MCC AIDS MINISTRY COMMITTEE.** Meetings every Sunday at 12:30 PM. First MCC, 800 N. Highland Ave. Call 872-2246 for more information.

**CODA (Co-dependents Anonymous-Lambda).** Every Tues. & Wed. at 8PM. For location and info call: 239-1657.

**MACGLO.** Thurs., Aug. 17. 7 PM. Peachtree Library. 242-2342.

**P-FLAG (Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays).** Sun., Aug. 20 at 5PM. Unitarian-Universalist Church. 961-6085.

## Music

**TUCK & PATTI.** Thurs., Aug. 17. "The best duo on the planet," says Bobby McFerrin. Acclaimed jazz duo. Center Stage. 8:30 PM. \$13.50

**SOUNDINGS.** Thurs., Aug. 17. An experimental evening with Loy Johnson exploring the curative aspects of tone and vibration. Includes Native American, Tibetan, African ritual and chanting rhythms and C&W music, jazz & gospel singing. Charis Books. 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM. Free and open to the public. Call 524-0304.

**CAROLINE AIKEN.** Thurs., Aug. 17. One of Atlanta's favorite contemporary singer-songwriters. Picasso's. 515B N. McDonough St. in downtown Decatur. \$4. 8:30 PM.

**THE JUDDS.** Sun., Aug. 20 Southern Star Amphitheater at Six Flags Over Ga. 8PM. \$5 with park admission. 739-3400.

**WILLIE NELSON.** Sun. Aug. 20. Chastain Park Amphitheater. \$18.50-\$22.50. 231-5888.

**MELANIE HAMMET.** Wed., Aug. 23. Acoustic singer-songwriter. With Bob Gillespie. Picasso's. 515B N. McDonough St. \$4. 8:30 PM.

**TODD RUNDGREN.** Thurs., Aug. 24. At the Fox Theatre. Call for times and prices. 881-2000.

**FLUTE FOR THE SOUL.** Thurs., Aug. 24. Anne Richardson wows everyone with her flute; and in this special evening performs classical to jazz to blues and some of her original compositions. Charis Books. 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30 PM. Free and open to the public. Call 524-0304.

**OSCAR SHUMSKY.** Fri., Aug. 25. HMA presents this world-renowned violinist in the opening nite concert of the second annual Montreux-Atlanta Int'l. Music Festival. 8 PM. Rich Auditorium at Woodruff Arts Center. \$7-10. Call 892-2414.

**NATALIE COLE.** Wed., Aug. 30 and Thurs., Aug. 31. Center Stage Theatre. 873-2500.

**CARIOCAS.** Every Wed. & Thurs., 5-9 PM. Mose Davis. Every Fri., 5-8 PM, Bernadine Mitchell with Mose Davis. Sat. & Sun., 9 PM until, big screen videos with F.J. No cover. Rio, Plaza Level, North and Piedmont Avenue.

## Opera

**THE BARBER OF SEVILLE.** Thurs., Aug. 17 and Sat., Aug. 19. The Atlanta Opera's second production of this season, conducted by William Fred Scott. 1132 W. Peachtree St., Ste. 200. \$2347. 8 PM. 872-1706 for more info.

**MADAME BUTTERFLY.** Thurs., Aug. 31, Sept. 2 and 4th. Puccini's classic. Make plans to attend now. The Atlanta Opera. 1132 W. Peachtree St., Ste. 200. \$2347. 8 PM. 872-1706.

## Radio

All of the following programs are heard on Radio Free Georgia-WRFG-89.3 FM.

**EXPRESSIONS:** Tues., 9-11 PM. The best of all possible worlds. Exploring the known & unknown giants of jazz w/John Settles.

**THE GOOD EARTH:** Tues., 1PM-1AM. New Wave and Alternative Music w/Eric Price.

**SOUNDINGS:** Thurs., 1-2 PM. Topical music and talk with socially concerned artists, hosted by Franklin Abbott and Lanier Clance.

**STILL AIN'T SATISFIED:** Thurs., 5:05-7 PM. Music and Public Affairs from a Heretic Woman's view. *This Way Out*, the Lesbian and Gay Radio News, at 6 PM.

**MUSIC FROM INDIA:** Fri., 7:30 PM. Our 12th year on WRFG. A blend of contemporary and traditional music from the Indian subcontinent w/Manorma Pandit & Raj Chawla.

**IMPROVISATION:** Fri., 1-6 AM (really Saturday morning). W/Van Mims alternating w/ Abdul Malik El-Amin. Straight-ahead jazz and information to start your weekend off right.

**THE SEEKER:** Sat., 5-8 PM. Music and information which preserves, promotes and advances the true history and culture of African-American people. Coltrane, Marley, Nina Simone, Fela, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, book and film reviews, interviews, news, poetry readings and much more. Hosted by W.S. Thweme.

**SPEED LIMIT 70:** Sat., 1-6 AM (really Sunday morning). Music for beatniks, freaks and weirdos from the late, great, nifty 1950's on up through the high '60's and beyond! With Monty Garrette, the musical madman from Macon! And Bogeyman Foes.

**GAY GRAFFITTI:** Sun., 8-9 PM. Good music and good talk by and about Atlanta's lesbian/gay community.

**LES CHANTEUSES AFRICAINES:** Mon., 1-6 AM. A unique radio exclusive! Featuring musical & literary voices of black women. Alicia Banks hosts.



Michael West, class-act impressionist, performs in "Together at Last...Revisited". Limited engagement at Gene & Gabe's Upstairs. Sundays and Mondays at 9PM. \$13.50. Reservations recommended. 874-6154.

## Sports

**GAY WORLD SERIES '89 (Softball).** Tues., Aug. 22-Sat., Aug. 26. Southside Park. Games Schedule: Tues., Aug. 22 - 5-9PM; Wed. Aug. 23-Fri., Aug. 25 - 9AM-9PM; Sat. Aug. 25 (Championship games) - 11AM-4PM. For more information, call 881-0294.

## Theatre

**SLAMMERGIRLS.** Ongoing. Popular musical comedy written and directed by Patrick Cuccaro. Upstairs at Gene & Gabe's. 1578 Piedmont Ave. 874-6145. Tickets: Tues.-Sun. at 9 PMa, \$16.50; Sat. at 11 PM, \$8.50. (Reservations suggested!)

**MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY.** Thru the summer! Roberto Athayede's scathing play on dictatorships set in an 8th grade classroom! A must see. Thurs.-Sat., 8 PM, \$8-10. For info, call 873-2518.

**DARK OF THE MOON.** Thurs., Aug. 17 and Sat., Aug. 19. 8 PM. \$7, adults; \$3.50, all others. Mercer University Atlanta. 986-3240.

**THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM.** Fri., Aug. 18. 8 PM. \$7, adults; \$3.50, all others. Mercer University Atlanta. 986-3240.

**A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM.** A crazy romp through ancient Rome. Thru Sun. Aug. 27. Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur. \$8. 373-5311.

## Video

**VIEWING VIDEO AS ART: PART 1.** Tues., Aug. 22 & Tues., Aug. 29 (Part 2). Program/discussion w/host John Williams. Picasso's. 515B N. McDonough St., Decatur. \$2 each program. 8:30 PM.

## Celebration In Dining

A Great Neighborhood  
Deserves  
A Great Restaurant

## Gene and Gabe's Restaurant

Piedmont at Monroe  
Reservations 874-6145

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Join Arlene and Friends in  
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AUG 18, 5-7PM  
World Series Buffet  
AUG 19, CASH PRIZE  
Wet Jockey Short Contest  
AUG 20 Through  
AUG 23, Nightly at 6PM  
World Series Buffet  
AUG 24  
Something Special  
AUG 25, 12 Noon  
Cookout  
AUG 26, 2:00PM  
ID Party



Hours:  
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SAT 9:00AM - 3:00AM  
SUN 12:30PM - 4:00AM

THE PHOENIX  
567 PONCE DE LEON  
892-7871

## TIME OUT



WELCOME NAGAAA  
Delegates and Participants of the  
1989 Gay World Series!

Monday, Aug 21  
World Series  
Spaghetti Dinner  
Buffet at 8:30pm  
\$2.00 (includes beverage)

Friday, Aug 25  
World Series  
Host Bar  
~Wear Your Team Jersey and Get  
a Surprise When You Match Our  
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"OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF  
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★★Welcome WORLD SERIES Teams!!★★

"TAKE ME  
OUT TO THE  
BALL GAME!"



Come PLAY  
with us ...

August 23  
10 pm  
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# ORGANIZATIONS

**AALGA- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance.** 1st Sunday of each month. 4:00 PM. Ashby and Gordon Street. 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. 523-6201.

**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.

**ALACC- Atlanta Lesbian Agenda Conference Committee.** A diverse group of lesbians helping to organize the 1st National Lesbian Agenda Conference to be held in Atlanta in 1990 or 1991. For info call 378-9769.

**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 info 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 Info 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 info: 662-4202.

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

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

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

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

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

**Chrysalis -** A women's center providing social, educational and informational programs and services for the community. 2045 Manchester. For info call (404) 881-6300.

**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. All Saints Episcopal Church. Proudly serving the lesbian and gay community. Info 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 7PM. Room 363E Dobbs University Center. Box 23515, Atlanta, Ga. 30322. 727-6692.

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

**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.

**Friends of Zoo Atlanta-** Support organization for Zoo Atlanta. For info regarding corporate sponsorship, membership, volunteers and adopt-an-animal call (404) 525-9936. Mon.-Fri., 9AM-5PM.

**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 Nautist 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. 888-0510.

**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.

**Georgia AIDS Coalition, Inc. -** A consortium of AIDS-service groups organized to address legislative, political, legal and public policy issues surrounding AIDS. Write to: 131 Ponce de Leon Ave., #233, Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

**The Group-** Thursday nights. Call the Gay Center 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. 7:30PM. N. Highland Branch Library. For info: 874-3107 or 872-7568. Address: LAMP, PO Box 301, 1579 F Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30324.

**LEGAL- Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians.** The voice of lesbian and gay Georgians in the Democratic party. 286-7476.

**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. 938-2009.

**Lutherans Concerned/South Carolina-** A society of gay, lesbian and non-gay Christians. We work to foster a climate of understanding, justice and reconciliation among all people. 3rd Sunday of each month. 4:00PM. 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 Thurs. of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. A representative council of lesbian and gay organizations to facilitate the exchange of info. 242-2342.

**MCC All Saints-Serving metro Atlanta** 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 6:30PM 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 Church. 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 7:30PM-9:00PM at First MCC, 800 N. Highland Ave. 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.

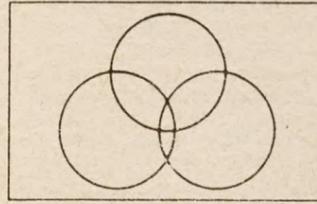
**SESA - The Southeastern Sports Alliance** is a fundraising, awareness and organizer for sports and cultural events leading up to Celebration '90 Gay Games & Cultural Festival, Vancouver, British Columbia. 875-0700.

**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.

**Southern Country Atlanta-** A social organization which promotes country/western dance and activities. We sponsor country/western dance nights at three locations in Atlanta and occasionally sponsor out-of-town activities. Call 231-0805 for further info.

**WOW- Women of Wisdom.** Usually every 3rd Monday of each month. 7:30 PM. N. Highland Branch Library. Facilitates 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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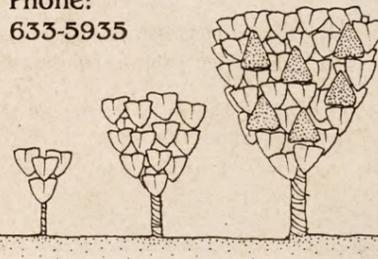
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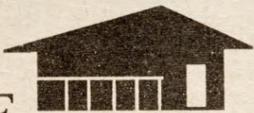
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## FILM REVIEWS

### "Parenthood"

Run, do not walk, to see "Parenthood," directed by Ron Howard ("Cocoon") and starring Steve Martin. This is not just a wild and crazy comedy. This is a slice of life - contemporary Americana.

There is not one bad performance in this movie. Steve Martin is excellent as Gil Buckman, an overly conscientious (read: neurotic) father who determines his three kids will not have a rotten father like he did. While Gil dedicates himself to being Superdad, he is constantly reminded that kids is kids and that's that. Mary Steenburgen as wife Karen is a sweet, charming patient woman who is clearly the backbone of the family.

Gil's sister is Helen, played by the remarkable Dianne Wiest. A harried divorcee with two roller-coaster teenagers (Martha Plimpton and Leaf Phoenix), she is constantly struggling with her own needs and the fact that her children are no longer children. Julie, played by Plimpton in overdrive mode, is 16 and growing up very fast - so fast she has her boyfriend take photos of their lovemaking - which Helen discovers. "I think this one is my favorite," Helen gamely remarks before hell breaks loose.

Garry (Phoenix) rarely says more than one or two words at a time and carries a paper bag.

Another sister, Susan (Harley Kozak) is married to Nathan (Rick Moranis). Their child is a genius that Nathan forgets is, after all, still a child.

Lastly, there is the baby brother, Larry, played by Tom Hulce. This guy is a real jerk, except in the eyes of their father, Frank (Jason Robards). It is through this relationship that the truth comes out:

"He may be a son of a bitch, but he's his dad's son of a bitch."

While the film is very funny, it is very open and honest. There are some genuinely touching moments as well as some very frustrating sequences.

The issues dealt with run the gamut of sex, oral sex, sex toys, and masturbation - not to mention multigenerational households, divorce, teenage marriage, unexpected pregnancy and abortion, and compulsive gambling. There is the matter of a possibly emotionally disturbed child. There is the



child who is extremely bright, reading Kafka at the age of 3. There is a child who destroys his estranged father's office. There is an interracial mixed child. Sounds great, huh?

This is a NORMAL FAMILY, so to speak. Meaning: There is no such thing, kids, as a normal family. You raise your kids the best you can and that's it, right? Wrong. At 5 or at 35, a child is still his parent's child especially if trouble rears its head. (Can anyone recognize this phrase: "I don't care how old you are, you'll always be my baby.")

The only issue not brought up in this brilliant tour de force is the Big Q. That's right. Where's the homosexual? Gays aren't even mentioned. Maybe they will do a sequel. If gays were presented as openly, and lovingly, as the characters in "Parenthood," that would be a giant step.

- Candace Wiggins

### "The Abyss"

James Cameron's "The Abyss" is about humankind's descent to the blackest depths of the uncharted ocean floor. As the film opens, a Navy submarine spangled in nuclear warheads tracks on its radar an immense craft that moves under water at inconceivable speeds.

The military wonders if it is some brilliant new piece of Russian technology designed to lopsided the scales of military cachet toward Moscow. No. Nothing from earth could flush through water so swiftly.

Suddenly, the Navy sub loses power, crashes into boulders resting atop an ocean mountain, and drowns. Alarms ring, the sub takes on a lethal dose of water, till its crew floats bulge-eyed as wisps of paper drift soundlessly round their heads like snowflakes on a serene winter day.

Back above water, Hurricane Frederick has begun churning through the Caribbean toward the vicinity where the sub has sunk. The Navy commissions the crew of an underwater oil-drilling rig called *Deepcore* to investigate the sub for possible survivors.

But their real purpose is to deactivate the missiles on board the sub, which are five times stronger than the bomb that vanquished Hiroshima. As part of a combined effort to rectify the situation before the hurricane strikes, the Navy dispatches a four-man SEAL team (Sea, Air and Land) to work with the *Deepcore* crew.

Complications arise when the head of the SEAL team, Lieutenant Coffey, gradually becomes delusional from decompression sickness. He clashes with *Deepcore*'s project engineer Lindsey Brigman, who is estranged from her husband Bud, *Deepcore*'s foreman.

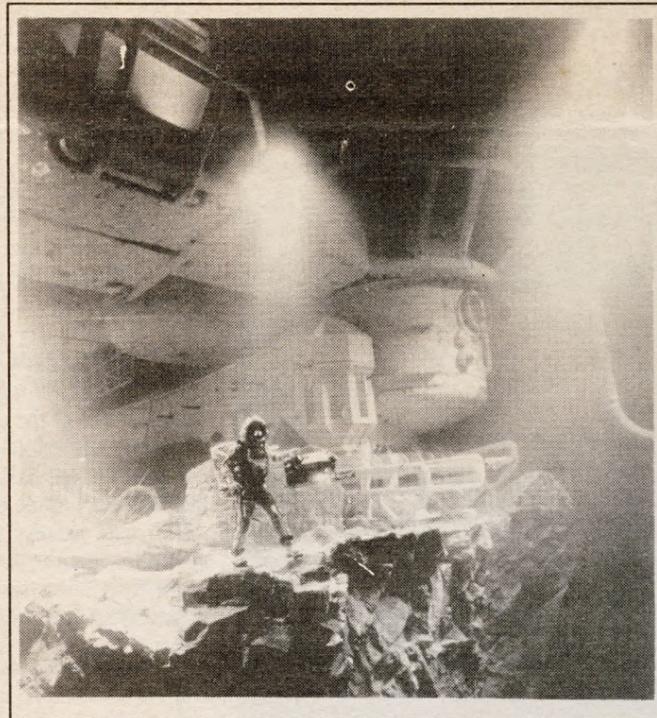
Soon the NTIs (Nonterrestrial Intelligence) who caused the sub to crash begin to make contact with the *Deepcore* crew. They do this by means of a tentacle of water that acts as a sort of chameleon, mimicking the faces and language of Lindsey and Bud. One of the most expressive special effects in movie history, it dispenses a mood of ease and benevolence.

Maddened by his decompression sickness, Lieutenant Coffey believes it to be the work of the Soviets, and sets out to drop the nuclear warheads deep into the abyss where the NTI's ship lies.

"The Abyss" is a dazzlingly severe technical achievement. Cameron shoots in disquieting close-ups, deeping our sense of claustrophobia and isolation. He also brings emotional depth to the Brigman's troubled marriage and manages to make even his minor characters stand distinct with the individual flavors of their own personalities.

"The Abyss" is probably the finest underwater adventure/science fiction movie Hollywood has ever come up with. It's also utterly banal in its view of a superior alien intelligence and weirdly misogynistic in its view of the film's heroine, Lindsey Brigman.

Neither the aliens nor I have any moral qualms about rendering a nuclear submarine powerless, but what sort of lofty plane do such creatures inhabit that they can so lightly take life anyway?



Perplexing, too, is the tone in which so many characters refer to Lindsey Brigman as a "bitch", a label she has apparently earned on account of a sense of professionalism and purposefulness that would be admired in a man. Bizarrely, in many other ways, her character is cast from a mold to break years of anti-feminist stereotyping (though Cameron appears to prefer his women fairly exclusively in tanktops).

For all its gifts, "The Abyss" should have been better. Conceptually, its special effects (apart from the elegant water tentacle) are startlingly derivative of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and the underrated "Brainstorm". And as in the less-favored special edition of "Close Encounters", once again the inside of an alien vessel appears hollow. Beyond that, why these superior beings are here on earth and what their mission is on the ocean floor is apparently of no interest to Cameron. They're just there, and their decisions about when to end lives appear arbitrary. The film's closing line, too, will likely make you cringe.

Fundamentally, "The Abyss" doesn't make much sense, but it's a superlatively well-made film with an unusual degree of emotional complexity for a science-fiction work. Name calling aside, the women in Cameron's films are just as apt to save the day as any man in the movies today, and they make the toughest decisions boldly. If only he'd made the aliens here as interesting.

- Terry Francis

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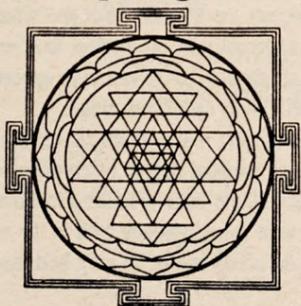
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## AIDS AGENCIES STRUGGLING TO COPE

Loss of Leadership, Stagnating Funds,  
Decreasing Volunteers and Inter-Agency  
Tensions Impact Nation's Agencies

### Part 2 of a 3-part series

In the first installment of this series, reporter Keith Clark uncovered the growing leadership crisis in the AIDS-care industry across the United States. His findings are especially worrisome in light of the fact that major medical researchers identify this as a "new era of AIDS-care" in which AIDS is viewed as a "chronic treatable disease condition instead of an untreatable fatal illness."

In Part 2, Clark goes behind the scenes to see how competition between agencies, new client populations, volunteer withdrawal and a dwindling pool of funds are changing the course of AIDS-care in this country.

### INTERAGENCY CONFLICT

Another symptom of the growing organizational stress among AIDS service agencies manifests itself in the sometimes rancorous rivalry among agencies over politics and shrinking resources.

The South Florida AIDS Network, which serves as a conduit for AIDS funds to the majority of agencies in Dade County, was recently criticized by the South Florida Health Planning Council for growing "resentment and hostility" among member groups as more organizations with increasing caseloads clamor for funds.

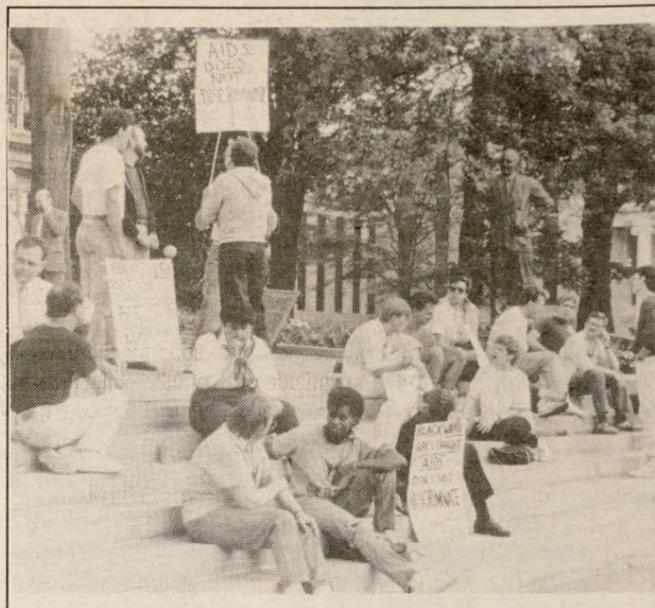
But whether or not the vocal and often strident criticism the South Florida AIDS Network has received from rival Miami agency Cure AIDS Now (CAN), reflects a failure of the Network to function properly, or is the result of a long-standing and irreconcilable political rivalry based on organizational and individual styles remains an explosive political question.

Because the South Florida AIDS Network represents the only model of a centralized AIDS funding agency in this country – a kind of AIDS supra-agency – how it functions, its benefits and its problems may offer valuable insights for the other cities around the country.

Although agencies in most cities are at different points in their evolution, words like "coalition", "consortium" and "network" are more and more frequently being used. The "AIDS industry" has grown from literally a few dozen agencies eight years ago to several hundred four or five years ago to an estimated 6,000 service providers today. In most cities there is increasing concern over duplication of services and redundant agency administrative costs. The natural outcome of this growing concern has been for AIDS agencies to look to collective efforts that might help cut down overlapping services and expensive overhead.

### SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS

Another form of inter-agency tension comes from the shifting demographics of the epidemic itself. Blacks, who make up just under 12 percent of the total U.S. population nevertheless account for nearly one-fourth of the AIDS cases in this country. Hispanics, who are less than 8 percent of the U.S. population represent nearly 14 percent of all AIDS cases nationally. And the rates of infection among people of color is increasing. A recent report by the California department of health found that over the next three years the rate of infection among the state's black population is expected to triple.



Spring AIDS Action, 1988 in Atlanta, drew few supporters.

As the epidemic began shifting from the white gay male community to other minority groups, charges of racism in funding have increased. In March of this year the Oakland, California AIDS Project of the East Bay charged county health officials had not given the agency major funding because it mainly serves minorities. The implication is clear: if black and Hispanic AIDS groups aren't getting funding it's because money is going to white (gay male) agencies.

Recently more direct accusations arose when the Chicago-based Hispanic AIDS Network and the African American AIDS Network accused segments of the white gay community of unfairly influencing the city's health department and ignoring "the needs of the masses of Chicago's Hispanic and African American citizens" in the AIDS battle.

Black AIDS activists have also been sharply critical of their own leaders as well for failing to face up to the disease and its impact on their communities. Larry Saxxon, director of the AIDS Project of the East Bay, said recently, "We've got black pastors quoting Deuteronomy but not what's written on the wall – that their congregations are dropping dead." The lack of response, Saxxon says, stems mainly from an engrained homophobia. "Blacks find it difficult being drug into a fighting arena by people they perceive as being a 'bunch of fags'," he said.

### COMMUNITY WITHDRAWAL?

Like many other AIDS organizations from Boston to Seattle to Los Angeles to Chicago, Miami's HCN has also been experiencing dwindling volunteers from the lesbian/gay community. But when HCN began a few years ago addressing its educational efforts less at Miami's gay "bars, baths, beaches and bushes" and aimed its efforts more at Junior Leagues, Lions clubs, schools, and other mainstream groups, its volunteer mix shifted to include greater numbers of non-gays.

Currently HCN's Edwards estimates perhaps only about 40 to 50 percent of their volunteers are lesbians or gay men. The reason for the change, according to Edwards, stems partly from the agency's change

Cont'd Next Page



Sharon J. Sanders

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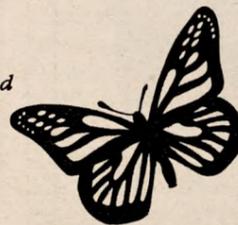
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# NAMES Project D. C. Display To be the Last of Full Quilt

## Smaller Displays of Segments of Quilt to Continue

San Francisco, Calif.—As the AIDS epidemic surpassed the 100,000 mark in July, one additional victim in the almost relentless toil will be the Names Project's massive display of the Quilt itself.

Although NAMES Project spokesman Dan Sauro emphasized that the organization will continue collecting panels as it has over the past several years, and that portions of the Quilt will continue to be displayed around the country and in Canada, the October 6-8 display in Washington, D.C. at the Ellipse on the south side of the White House will be the last full showing of the Quilt. The magnitude of the epidemic itself with over 56,000 people dead from AIDS in this country alone makes the financial and logistic problems of full displays in the future impossible.

"It will be the last display of the Quilt in its entirety," Sauro said. "The finances, the energy and the logistics of complete displays make it more and more difficult to do. Instead we'll be taking smaller segments of the Quilt in smaller cities and smaller settings to use it as an outreach and educational tool to new communities. We will be taking the quilt increasingly to places where people may not want to see it, may not be prepared to face the reality of the epidemic."

The grim reality behind the NAMES Project's decision to fold up full displays is the sheer size of the Quilt—some 10,500 three-by-six foot panels—that continues to grow as the epidemic itself does.

In order to put on this single massive display, the NAMES Project will stop all its other, smaller displays throughout the country for three months while everyone works on the problems involved in packing, transporting, unpacking and exhibiting it. Some 2,500 volunteers will be required in Washington, D.C. alone for the three-day showing. Thousands of other volunteers in the Project's 54 chapters around the country will also work for three months on local aspects of this single display. And this one exhibition will cost about \$165,000, of which some \$90,000 will come directly from the NAMES Project.

At the same time, NAMES Project staff and volunteers have already geared up for a shift in focus.

The Project is increasingly aiming its smaller Quilt displays at new audiences: school children, IV-drug users, black and Hispanic communities where AIDS outreach and education haven't been as pervasive as they have in the lesbian/gay community. "Some groups are in more need of the power



KAREN CHANCE

The first-ever showing of the NAMES Project Quilt at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in October, 1987.

of the Quilt's message," said NAMES Project education director Nancy Katz.

During the Columbus Day-Yom Kippur display in Washington, D.C., NAMES Project organizers will conduct seminars on AIDS, a federal legislation update and a candlelight march to the Lincoln memorial October 7 as part of the final full display of the Quilt. Mrs. Barbara Bush, wife of the President, is being invited to make a special visit to the display as well.

—Keith Clark

Most of the Georgia panels of the NAMES Project Quilt will be on view August 19-20 at the Inman Park Trolley Barn at 963 Edgewood Avenue. The panels will be displayed from 10AM until 8PM on Saturday, August 19 and from 10AM until 6PM on Sunday, August 20. The "Georgia Quilt Gallery" will open on August 18 at 7PM at the First MCC Church, 800 N. Highland Ave. Admission is free at both displays, but donations are appreciated. There will also be an all night AIDS vigil on August 18 beginning at 9PM at MCC.

## The AIDS-care Crisis

Cont'd from Previous Page

in its target audience for AIDS education and partly from what Shanti's Eric Rofes calls the "novelty" of AIDS wearing off in the gay community. "Although the number of gay men volunteering has dropped off," Edwards said, "we still have a waiting list for people in our volunteer program. I don't perceive any shortage of volunteers in Dade County."

Another leading southern city, Atlanta, has had a similar experience. AID Atlanta hasn't had the problems getting new volunteers that many other cities have. And like Miami's HCN, it too has experienced a shift from an almost exclusively gay white male volunteer staff to greater numbers of women, heterosexuals and blacks recently.

Miami's and Atlanta's successes at keeping its volunteer base at a healthy level may surprise AIDS agencies elsewhere, however, as groups around the country put out increasingly urgent appeals for help.

One San Francisco activist, who didn't want to be identified, summed up the volunteer and financial withdrawal in the lesbian/gay community this way: "The prevailing propaganda in the AIDS battle for several years has been 'AIDS is everyone's concern.' Well, a lot of gay men have begun to take that message literally and are starting to think maybe it's about time for some other people to help carry the ball for a while."

But whether this assessment of a lesbian/gay community that's begun to feel unfairly burdened is correct, or Shanti's Eric Rofes is right about the "novelty" of the epidemic wearing off, the grim reality is that after four to five years of intense fighting, many of our AIDS service organizations and their leaders have entered a difficult transition stage just as the news on the research and medical front is beginning to hold promise.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line in all this, of course, is dollars—millions of dollars in any particular city and hundreds of millions nationally. People

are sick and need help, and that costs money. If people don't get the help they need from AIDS agencies, two things can happen. More and more people will suffer all kinds of hardships quite aside from the ravages of the disease itself—malnutrition, homelessness, inadequate health care and simple lack of human contact. Or they will become increasingly dependent on government welfare systems, the social safety-net about which many Americans have serious doubts.

The first prospect most of us consider unacceptable for reasons of compassion. That is, after all, why AIDS service agencies were created to begin with. The second possibility most health officials agree would be a nightmare and might well bankrupt our already overburdened health and government social welfare agencies.

**"The prevailing propaganda in the AIDS battle for several years has been 'AIDS is everyone's concern.' Well, a lot of gay men have begun to take that message literally and are starting to think maybe it's about time for some other people to help carry the ball for a while."**

The cost of hospital treatment for PWAs varies widely, from \$28,000 to \$147,000 per patient, with much of that money coming from the public coffers. Yet a January 1989 study by the California department of health services shows clearly how non-government AIDS services impact the ultimate tax bill we all have to pay. The study found that the average hospital stay for PWAs in San Francisco was 9.5 days compared with 13.3 days in Los Angeles.

With a national average stay of 14.4 days, the figures suggest Los Angeles is doing just slightly better than the rest of the country and that the often praised San Francisco model of AIDS services has been in fact highly effective at saving limited government health dollars and at keeping PWAs from becoming "warehoused" in public health systems.

Speaking of the possibility of AIDS agencies shutting down or curtailing services, Steve Parker of the Sonoma County public health department, said, "Many AIDS patients will go

without vital services, spending unnecessary days in the hospital and getting warehoused in the system at tremendous costs to the taxpayers."

—Keith Clark

Read Part III of this story in our next issue for the possible answer to some of these problems.

### Southern Voice Provides

FREE

Classified Space for  
AIDS Services and Education  
Announcements.

See Pages 18 & 19 for more information.



The Atlanta Chapter of  
**THE NAMES PROJECT**  
proudly invites you to view a special gallery display of  
**THE GEORGIA PANELS of the  
AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT**

<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1989</b>		
7:30 pm	OPENING & ECUMENICAL SERVICE	First Metropolitan Community Church
9:00pm - 10:00am	OVERNIGHT VIGIL	First M.C.C.
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1989</b>		
10:00am - 4:00pm	DISPLAY	First M.C.C.
10:00am - 8:00pm	DISPLAY & LOCAL PANELS	Inman Park Trolley Barn
8:00pm	HARMONY, HOSPITALITY & HOPE BENEFIT SHOW	First M.C.C. (P.W.A. Fund)
9:00pm	VOLUNTEER THANK-YOU PARTY	R.J.'s Exchange
<b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1989</b>		
10:00am - 6:00pm	DISPLAY & LOCAL PANELS	Inman Park Trolley Barn
11:00am - 12:30pm	SERVICES	First M.C.C.
1:00pm - 5:00pm	DISPLAY	First M.C.C.
6:00pm	CLOSING CEREMONY PRESENTATION OF LOCAL PANELS A. G. M. C. - CHORUS	Inman Park Trolley Barn

**LOCATIONS**

<p><b>INMAN PARK TROLLEY BARN</b> 963 Edgewood Avenue, NE Atlanta, Georgia 30307 Two Blocks from Inman Park Marta Station</p>	<p><b>FIRST METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 800 Highland Avenue, NE Atlanta, Georgia</p>
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Please join in this intimate homecoming of most of the panels created by and for Georgians prior to the National Showing of the full Quilt in Washington October 6, 7, & 8, 1989.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to help defray the costs of this display, please mail to:

**THE NAMES PROJECT/ATLANTA**  
Post Office Box 1018  
Atlanta, Georgia 30301

Please note that most, but not all, Georgia panels will be on display.

**ADMISSION TO PANEL DISPLAYS IS FREE**

## Chic Talented: Profiles of the Rich and Famous



**Bertha Butt**

**Occupation:** Professional Impersonator  
**Claim to Fame:** Miss Universe at Large 1988-89

### What Lipstix Means to Me:

I like working at Lipstix because there's a family feeling - a coming together of talented performers from different parts of the country, brought together under one roof.



**Lily White**

**Occupation:** Professional Entertainer and emcee of Lipstix  
**Claim to Fame:** Queen of All Unnatural Acts

Lipstix is special because of its diversified audience - straights and gays together. The only set part of my monologue is for our nightly birthday announcements. The rest comes from the audience; they offer me my best spontaneous material.



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## Ruling Planets

August 17 through August 30, 1989  
by Mary Bailey-Rule

The Sun goes into Virgo on August 22 and the New Moon creates a solar eclipse on August 31. Virgo is a mutable earth sign, usually with exceptional abilities in patience, perseverance and discrimination. Happy Birthday to the Harvest Sign!



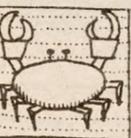
**ARIES** - Venus is moving into your house of personal relationships, so acknowledge your close friends and be open to new friends or partners coming into your life.



**TAURUS** - Your personal relationships may be more intense, so make an effort to heal old hurts and be aware of budding romances or potential friendships.



**GEMINI** - Expansive Jupiter has moved into your 2nd house of personal values and material resources, so this is a good time to create a 6-year plan for finances.



**CANCER** - Jupiter is in your 1st house expanding your self-esteem, your sense of identity and possibly your waist line. Exercise is advisable, as well as eating fresh fruits.



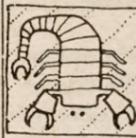
**LEO** - Pluto is in your house of home and immediate family, so watch for answers and solutions by paying attention to your intuition, and act on your instincts.



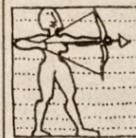
**VIRGO** - The Sun joins Mercury and Mars in your first house on August 22nd, so be ready to celebrate and enjoy life to the fullest. Also take time for a massage, or some physical exercise.



**LIBRA** - Venus is in your first house until mid-September, so be aware of all your fine qualities, update your wardrobe, and take action on a promotion or new career.



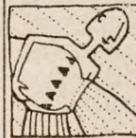
**SCORPIO** - Your creativity and self-esteem are enhanced by a water trine with Jupiter in Cancer and Venus in your 12th house, so trust your intuition and go with the flow.



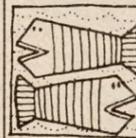
**SAGITTARIUS** - Now is a good time to volunteer for your favorite cause and make new friends. Find ways to align your career with your vision for a better world.



**CAPRICORN** - This is a good month for travel, expanding your awareness, or continuing your education. Include a friend or loved one in your plans and have fun.



**AQUARIUS** - The Sun is moving into your 8th house of mystery and self-mastery, so give yourself time to relax and reflect on the magnificence of your inner being.



**PISCES** - Use your compassion and sensitivity to free yourself from the past and begin to do the things you have been dreaming about, including some time at the beach.

Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer who specializes in birth chart analysis, relationship charts and career counseling. For more information or an appointment, call 261-9343.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA COLLOBITH

## Dykes to Watch Out For

*at the Salon*

© 1989 BY ALISON BECHDEL

63

SO HOW'S YOUR LOVE LIFE, CASANDRA?

ROTTEN. I SEEM TO BE LOSING MY TOUCH.

NO LURID TALES OF SEDUCTION FOR ME THIS TIME?

NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT MY BREATHERS! NIGHTS SPENT PASSIONATELY WAITING FOR THE PHONE TO RING.

LO, THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU! IS IT THE WOMAN YOU WERE DROOLING OVER LAST TIME? OLDER, MARRIED?

YEAH, WE HAD ONE DATE. PIZZA AND SEX ON HER FOLD-OUT COUCH.

HOW WAS IT?

WELL, I COULDA DONE WITHOUT THE ANCHOVIES, BUT SHE ORDERED BEFORE I GOT THERE.

ANCHOVIES ON YOUR FIRST DATE? KINKY!

DON'T YOU THINK IF SHE DOESN'T WANNA SEE ME SHE COULD AT LEAST HAVE THE DECENCY TO SAY SO TO MY FACE? D'YOU THINK I SHOULD CALL HER?

... SO, LIKE, HE KEEPS CALLING ME. I DUNNO WHAT TO DO. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

TELL THE PATHETIC JERK TO GET LOST. BELIEVE ME, HON, YOU CAN'T MINCE WORDS WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO DUMP SOMEONE.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, CALLING HER MIGHT NOT BE THE WISEST OPTION. BUT WHAT CAN I DO? I CAN'T STAND THIS SUSPENSE!

WHY DON'T YOU SEND HER A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE THAT YOU WANT TO SEE HER?

MIKO, YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT IS HERE!

HI, EMMA! HAVE A SEAT, I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE! LOIS, DON'T JUMP LIKE THAT WHEN I'M TRIMMING YOUR EARS!

## bittersweet

by Charles Haver

SUMMER CAMP

HEY, TIMMY! AREN'T YOU GOING HIKING WITH THE REST OF US?

NO, I'M GOING FOR A SWIM INSTEAD!

DOING SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO INSTEAD OF WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO? HOW RADICAL!

MARGO, HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW STRANGE TIMMY'S BEEN ACTING? MARGO?

?

MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER!..

Chas. © 1989

Sheena Easton



### FAMOUS FACES

#### Sheena's Had it with Boys

Sheenawatchers showed little surprise when the singer from down under let her disenchantment with men come to the surface. In a recent concert in Pittsburgh, Sheena Easton advised the women in the audience to stay away from men. "If you want companionship," she said, "go to the pound," explaining that "...girls and dogs stay faithful."

#### Deal Done by the Diver

A lawsuit filed by diver Greg Louganis against his old friend and manager James Babbitt has been settled out of court. The Olympic gold medalist had fired his manager and then sued him, saying Babbitt threatened to reveal "confidential and private facts" about Louganis, unless he was rehired or given money. The matter is now out of the courts, but details of the deal remain undisclosed.

#### Politically Correct (...even with lipstick and mascara)

Progressive activist Morgan Fairchild says her image as a beautiful blond frequently results in her intelligence being discounted. Still, Fairchild works for causes such as AIDS, abortion rights and the environment. When asked about future plans, she maintained she won't run for political office because she'd rather remain "a thorn in the side." Fairchild credits the women's movement for tearing down roles, allowing women to "wear make up and still have a brain."

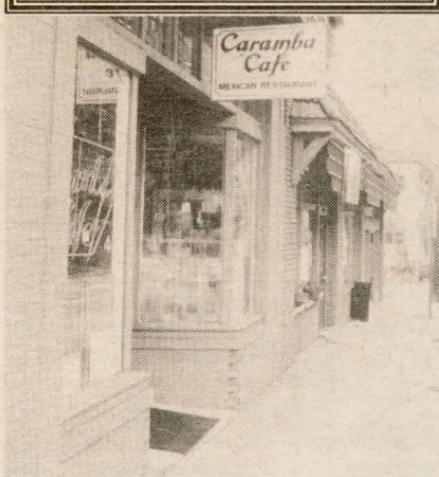
#### Quayle Quotes

Quayle bashing was the order of the day during San Francisco's annual Comedy Day, with comedian after comedian taking shots at the abused V.P. A favorite quote came from Quayle's reported comment during his visit to Latin America, that he should have prepared better for the trip by studying more Latin in school. Referring to that, San Francisco city supervisor Richard Hongiston said Quayle deserved a chance to defend himself. "We invited Dan Quayle," he said, "but he couldn't find California."

- F.G.

### AT THE RESTAURANTS

With Mac and Jacqueline



JO GIRAUDO

#### CARAMBA CAFE:

Mexican New Age

**M:** The first time we went to the Cafe Caramba we were driving back into town from the beach and were looking for a restaurant where we could go grubby and not run into anyone we knew. Trying to sneak into a booth in our worst beach clothes, we ran into eight people we knew - four of whom we did not want to see. Our attack of lesbian fashion paranoia interfered with our ability to taste the food, so we decided to go back for another try.

**J:** And wouldn't you know, when we were dressed in our finest gay summer apparel, we only saw baby boomers or older people with dyed hair pretending to be baby boomers in this small, Mexican, New Yorkey/New Agey restaurant that serves purified water.

**M:** I keep trying to tell the difference between all of the Mexican restaurants in town, but I confess, all of the food tastes the same to me. The only distinctions I'm ever able to make is between fresh nacho chips and yucky nacho chip, and which food gives you the most gas.

**J:** However, Caramba has some notable distinctions. First, there is mouthwatering vegetarian dish #2 that has the best cheese quesadilla that I've tasted. The margarita is just right with a Mexican bite. The nacho chips deserve an A+, and the salsa sauce is not too hot for the average American. Also, I liked the creamy, smooth taste of the guacamole dip.

**M:** I couldn't tell the difference between the burrito and the enchilada.

**J:** I couldn't tell the difference between the tamale, the burrito, and the enchilada on #14. Also, Mac is a semi-vegetarian and her picking out all of the ground beef on this dish didn't help. Don't order #14.

**M:** Actually, this place is an OK Mexican restaurant, except for the Mt. Everest parking lot that requires either tennis shoes or ropes to negotiate.

**J:** Typical of Mexican restaurants, there were few desserts to agonize over. We sampled the flan and the sopapilla (a crisp, flat tortilla doused with honey and butter). The sopapilla was a light ending to a full meal. The flan was excellent in taste, but the texture was a bit coarse. An added touch to the flan, was the soft, dewey-eyed older woman, one of the owners, who when she served it told me she had made it herself. This made me feel at home.

**M:** Caramba is homey. The food is cheap. You don't have to dress up, and the crowd is mixed. And, if you are like me and can't tell the difference between the entrees on #14, you can look at the decor which has got to make the Caramba Cafe the most interesting looking Mexican restaurant in town.

**J:** Caramba gets my vote for the best, most down-home little Mexican restaurant in town. An added bonus is that it seems to welcome open gays and lesbians.

**M:** Ditto.

*Caramba Cafe is at 469 N. Highland Ave. Hours: Mon. - Sat. serving lunch from 11:30-2:30 and dinner from 5:30-11:00. Prices from \$3.00 to \$8.95. It is handicapped accessible.*

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**DEADLINE:**

**August 22 For the August 29 Issue of SOUTHERN VOICE**

**For more information, call Bill Medlock at 876-1831**

The

A L Y S O N

ALMANAC

THIS MONTH In Gay & Lesbian History

**AUGUST 29, 1867:** Karl Ulrichs, speaking to a conference of jurists in Munich, becomes the first known person in modern times to publicly declare himself a homosexual (although he used the term "Urning") and to speak out in favor of gay rights.

This feature is prepared by the editors of The Alyson Almanac, available in bookstores nationwide. Copyright © 1989 by Alyson Publications, Inc.

#### FAMILY TREE

James Baldwin

b. Aug. 2, 1924  
d. Dec. 1, 1987  
U.S. writer and activist



After an unhappy childhood in Harlem, James Baldwin moved to France, where he spent much of his adult life. He became a leader in the black civil rights movement, and argued that the myth of white superiority was the most destructive of the many myths that permeated American culture. Homophobia, he said, was closely related to that racism.

The mainstream media, however, portrayed Baldwin only as a black writer, ignoring his gay identity. Today he is best remembered for books such as *Giovanni's Room*, *Another Country*, and the controversial *The Fire Next Time*.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## \* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

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

AIDS Care Coordinated is a new service for PWA's in need of housing and assisted living. Call for more info at 371-9433.

CIRCLE OF HEALING - 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings each month, 7:30-9:00. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive (near Little 5 Points and Candler Park MARTA station). Meditation, guided imagery, group support. Free, open to all in need of a centering, healing experience, especially people dealing with HIV infection and those in recovery or therapy. Facilitated by Franklin Abbott with music by Beth York. Info: 378-5570, 10-2 weekdays.

ATLANTA GAY CENTER Clinic - M,T,W, 5:30-9:30 pm. Anonymous HIV antibody screening and treatment, \$15.00. Free STD screening. Arrive by 9:00 pm, please. Call 876-5372 for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra is currently accepting applications to audition for its 1989-90 season. Auditions will be held September 16 and 17 in the Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center. Interested young musicians may obtain an application to audition for the Youth Orchestra by calling (404) 898-1182. The deadline for applications is September 8, 1989. There is a five dollar application fee. Contact: Liz Nagel, 898-1192.

BLACK FEMINIST WRITER seeking women with DREADLOCKS for anthology. Wants photographs and women's own words on the experience of locking their hair. If you are a DreadWoman or know of any, please contact Terri Jewell, 211 W. Saginaw, #2; Lansing, MI 48933. Will give full information upon request. (517) 485-3500. (V2, #15)

Sister Sister Productions presents the Contemporary Women in Music Series, part of the 89-90 Cannon Chapel Concert Series at Emory University. September 9 - Solo Pianist Mary Watkins

October 14 - Jazz soloist Adrienne Torf. Phone 377-8312 for info.

Hotlanta (gay) Soccer is now organizing a co-ed team. For more info, call 264-7173. (Also, information on Gay Games '90.)

Gay men and women needed for a raucous gay percussion group now forming. Marches, celebrations, rallies and political action will be our goals. Novices and professionals who want to act out, have fun and make wonderful rhythmic noise, please call Ralston at 875-8648. (V2, #15)

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## \*EMPLOYMENT

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SEW WHAT? Have you an interest in creative design for ladies' fashion? Person required to work closely w/owner of ladies' apparel shop to both design and manufacture new styles. No professional design experience necessary but skilled sewing background a must. Send resume & address to J.A.F.A. Productions, P.O. Box 368, Locust Grove, GA 30248 (V2, #15)

Experienced Hair Stylist with some established clientele wanted for Atlanta's new hair salon, Hairanoia. Call 10 am to 5 pm, Mon-Fri, and ask for Mary - 321-5775 (V2, #15)

Looking for co-driver. Tractor-trailer driver running midwest and southwest. 1989 Cab over double sleeper. \$500 week take-home. 2 years OTR experience, no DUI's. Home every weekend. P.O. Box 382; Palmetto, GA 30268. (V2, #13)

Live-in CAREGIVER NEEDED to attend & watch two incapaci

## \*EMPLOYMENT

tated PWA's during nighttime hours (other health professionals present during day) in exchange for room (one of three bedrooms in Morningside Chase apt.) and board (food available to be cooked.) Relatively well PWA preferred. Please contact N.A.P.W.A. @ 874-7926 M-F 12-5. National Assoc. of People with AIDS, 131 Ponce de Leon Ave., #233; Atlanta, GA 30308. (V2, #13)

### SOUTHERN VOICE Positions Open

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**Distributors**  
2-3 Hours every other week, Insured Vehicle Required

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**Contact**  
Leigh VanderEls  
876-1819

EMORY AREA CHIROPRACTOR needs Receptionist/Insurance Processor. 45 wpm/10-key by touch/computer helpful. 8:30 am - 6:30 pm, M-F. Call for appointment. 8-11 am, 872-1094.

Be Out at Work. Full time Secretary/Office Support. 378-6012 (V2, #13)

## FOR RENT

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Candler Park/Dekalb Ave. 2 Bedrooms/\$475/month. Deposit & References. Maximum 2 persons. Call 876-4852

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## INSTRUCTION

IN A MUSICAL RUT? Try private guitar instruction from a pro. Specializing in classical, jazz harmony, improv, theory. Beginners welcome. 873-1834 (V2, #13)

Tennis Anyone? There is no better time than now to improve your tennis game. For tennis instruction, call Paula Gore. 659-2301. (V2, #16)

## LEGAL

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## METAPHYSICAL

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## PERSONALS

GWM, youthful 31, 5' 7-1/2", 140 lbs. Alluring, swimmer's build, healthy. Ivy League educated. Professional, discreet. You, GWM, charming, trim, healthy, smooth-bodied, clean-shaven, undergraduate, graduate student or young professional. Discreet. Preppy and maybe brattish--I can be! Stable. Et hoc genus omne. Expressive missive, photo and phone. SV Box 2277. (V2, #14)

GWF, 35, attractive, intelligent, honest, seeks same. Into movies, the outdoors, tennis, music (Patsy Cline to Cyndi Lauper), the moon/stars/ocean, chocolate and the Simpsons. Please send a note and photo to SV Box #2276. (V2, #13)

GWF, Very attractive, spiritually androgynous American Indian-Eurasian; short dark hair, green eyes; 5'5"/135 pounds. I'm 45 (look 35), multi-faceted, free spirit. I'm seeking bright, attractive non-smoking friends/lovers. However, with the right lady I could play the monogamy game. Write! Photo/phone appreciated. SV Box #2278. (V2, #13)

Lesbian, 29. I'm a musician who enjoys tennis, biking and exploring the great outdoors. I would like to meet women who are responsible and career-minded. No smokers please. SV Box #2275. (V2, #13)

## PERSONAL

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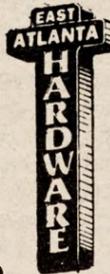
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Senior Citizen Services - Needs Volunteers. Senior citizen services is in dire need of dedicated volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Fulton County. For more information, please contact Gertha Lowe at 881-5982 or 881-5983.

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## WORLD SERIES '89

Cont'd. from Page 1

After an extremely competitive season in the Women's Division of Hotlanta Softball, Toolulah's and Rumblefish will face still more competition from each other, and from defending Series champion San Diego. Toolulah's is Atlanta's first seed in the Women's Division, having won the playoffs held July 29 and 30th.

Susan Lovvorn, co-coach of Toolulah's says the team "could take it all...if we go out there with all of our players. Lovvorn cites talent and experience as factors that have carried the Toolulah's team this far and hopefully to the tournament win.

The coach of Rumblefish also stressed experience as a contributing factor to a possible Series win. "They know what it means to go to the Series," she said, referring to the fact that some of Rumblefish's players had played in the World Series last year with the Armory Falconettes. She also stressed teamwork and mental preparation. "I want them to think of this tournament win as a goal...and take time out each day to visualize winning it."

According to Betsy Kidd, director of the Women's Division of the Series, Atlanta's women's teams have a good chance at a tournament win. "Toolulah's has an excellent hitting team," says Kidd, "and they play well offensively...They are aggressive and it takes an aggressive team [to win the Series]."

Atlanta has sent a representative team to the Gay Softball World Series each year since 1981, when the Hotlanta League formed under the guidance of David Francis, and joined the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). In 1987 the League was awarded host city for 1989 Series by NAGAAA.

Greg Ray, current commissioner of Hotlanta Softball, said that NAGAAA, in choosing a host city, was looking for "good fields, good officials, and a good nightlife," and found all three in Atlanta. "The bars have been very supportive," says Ray, "and this is the first time all of the bars (women's and men's) have gotten together and sponsored an event" such as this.

Three to five thousand players and fans are expected to turn out for the World Series, and the Executive Board of the tournament has planned a host of activities for participants and spectators.

Games take place from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. each day of the tournament (Wed.-Fri.), except opening night (Tues.) when the ceremonies begin at 5:00 p.m. with games played until 9PM. The championship games will be held on Saturday, August 26 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m..

City Crews, Inc. will provide a free shuttle service from the Lakewood MARTA station to Southside Park each day of the tournament. Southside Park is on Jonesboro Rd., just a mile inside of I-285.

-Jesse Leigh Fowler

## "Mr. Hotlanta" Contest Highlights Expo Weekend

Revellers from over 40 U.S. and international cities jammed Atlanta the weekend of August 4 to Hotlanta River Expo, one of the most anticipated gay male events in the country. The weekend included parties, the selection of "Mr. Hotlanta," a film fantasy dance and was topped off by a monster race down the Chattahoochee River.

The hottest ticket for the weekend, however, was the selection and crowning of Mr. Hotlanta '89 - John Howard.

Famed female impersonator Charles Pierce, who starred in the movie "Torch Song Trilogy," headlined the Mr. Hotlanta pageant. Pierce took control of the Mr. Hotlanta crowd from the moment he set foot on stage with his snappy one liners and repertory company of legends - including Joan Crawford, Joan Collins, Tallulah Bankhead and Bette Davis.

As Bette Davis, Pierce warned the crowd "Fasten your zippers-it's going to be a bumpy night!" Another Joan - Collins this time - compared love scenes with John Forsythe to rides at Disneyland-"hard to get in, doesn't last very long and when it's all over you want to throw up!"

Horse drawn carriages, limousines, marching bands, and well choreographed dancing girls were good ideas but "Amazon Girls", and Burl Compton as Cher seemed like unnecessary filler for a show that ballooned to three hours. The contestants, who it seems must have run through the staging at least once, wandered the stage aimlessly.

Pierce and company were undoubtedly the highlight of what was otherwise a predictable evening of drag, speeches, endless awards, mediocre sets, and bad sound, projected against nervous, unrehearsed and nearly neglected contestants.

The production itself (like a mouse running a maze) jerked along with occasional moments of flash and genius only to stumble and dart in an entirely different direction altogether. The massive Civic Center stage engulfed the production numbers and performers who were so far upstage, binoculars were necessary to examine the bulging muscles and glittering costumes from the front row.

It is no accident that the winner of the contest stood 6'4" and weighed over 200 lbs. - he was the only contestant the audience could see!

Judged for their "masculinity, naturalness and personality," 14 men vied to become Mr. Hotlanta. Strapping John Howard was voted most photogenic as well as winning the title. Darin Page of Los Angeles and Howard Lance of Miami received 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up respectively, consoling one another the rest of the weekend.

The Silver Ball August 5th at the Georgia Freight Depot attracted over 3,000 partygoers. While cabaret performers Kim Williams and Megan McFarland entertained in the outdoor courtyard, thousands of men writhed and sweated to the music of DJ Keith Knox in the Depot's ballroom.

The Silver Ball came dangerously close to political suicide, however,



The newly crowned Mr. Hotlanta 1989, John Howard.

when members of ACT UP were ejected for handing out free condoms. Weekend organizers said they sympathized with the group, but pointed out that the State does not allow anyone to hand out literature there. ACT UP eventually succeeded in their goal of handing out 1,000 condoms to the partiers by moving to the adjacent public sidewalk.

When asked about donating a portion of the weekend's proceeds to AIDS organizations, Hotlanta head Walt Greer responded "We're a profit-making venture but we never make a profit. We just cover our expenses."

On Sunday August 6th 1,200 Hotlanta registrants were joined by hundreds more for the now infamous raft race down the Chattahoochee River in the "African Queen Adventure." The extended open air water fight came off fabulously and without incident, drawing compliments from the National Park Service.

The Hotlanta River Expo continues to be one of the country's largest gay events. Burl Compton proudly declares that the Expo highlights Atlanta as an appealing site to play and live. "People build an entire vacation around this thing. And every year people move here as a result of attending this event."

-Cleve Seay

Staff writer Dave Hayward contributed to this article.

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Dr. Stephanie Blackton's  
Dunk 'N Dine on Cheshire Bridge Rd.  
Dunk 'N Dine on Roswell Rd.  
Backstreet  
The Col. Square Market  
Tortilla's  
Hairanoia/BackAlley  
Video on Cheshire Br.  
Superior Foods, VHL

**GRASSROOTS**  
NAPWA  
The Shrine of Immaculate Conception  
Linda Travis Therapist  
Friends Atlanta  
Congregation Bet Havenim  
AND OTHER COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

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