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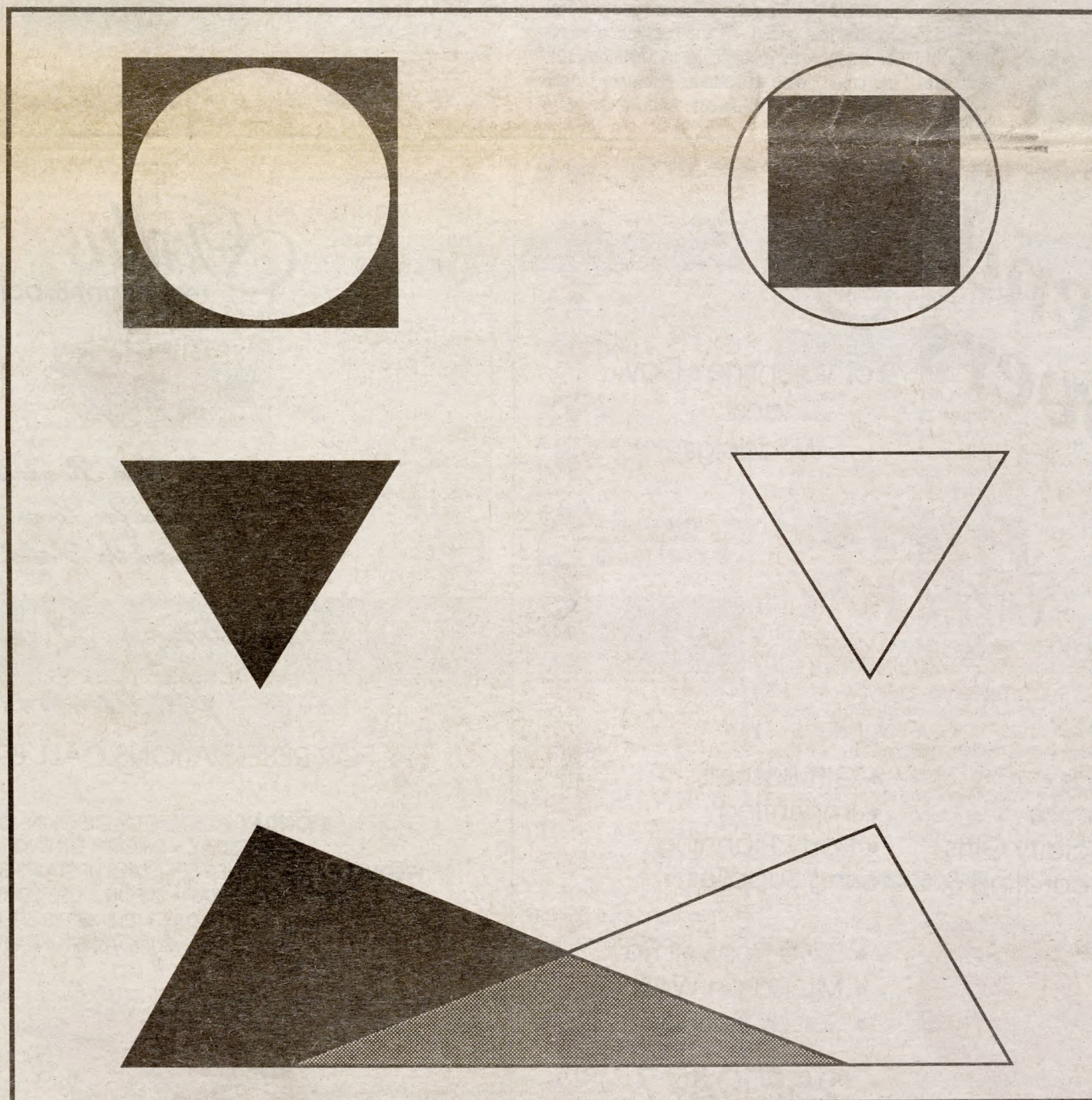
VOICE

Vol. 2, No. 25

"Taking Pride in Our Culture "

February 1, 1990

National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference



Where and how do Black lesbians and gay men fit into their community of origin and into the white-defined lesbian and gay community ?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bet Haverim Changes Name to Reflect Diversity

Will not drop reference to gay and lesbian

by KC Wildmoon

Congregation Bet Haverim, Atlanta's only lesbian and gay synagogue, voted on January 21 to change the wording of their name to "a Reconstructionist synagogue... serving the gay and lesbian community." The change was spurred by a recent Atlanta Synagogue Council vote denying Bet Haverim membership unless the congregation removed references to "gay and lesbian" from the group's publicity.

Subsequent discussions with members of the Council indicated that a change emphasizing Bet Haverim's affiliation with the Reconstructionist movement, and a "special outreach" to the gay and lesbian community might be acceptable to the Orthodox and Conservative members. Bet Haverim previously was called "a Gay and Lesbian Synagogue."

"We are open and receptive," said Bet Haverim president Phillip Kaufman, referring to the Congregation's decision to pursue membership in the Synagogue Council. "At this point the ball is in their court." The Synagogue Council has not yet scheduled a meeting to discuss the issue.

The name change is intended to reflect that Bet Haverim is composed primarily of lesbians and gay men, but that all Jews are welcome.

Opponents of Mass. Gay Rights Bill Win Round One

Opponents of the Massachusetts Gay Rights Bill were granted the "go ahead" on gathering 25,000 signatures on a petition against the bill.

A high court justice ordered the release on the petition which is due Jan. 30. Of the total amount of signatures, no more than 25% can come from one county.

If the proper number of signatures is gathered, the state high court will then hear their challenge to the ruling of Attorney General James Shannon. Shannon had ruled that the Gay Rights bill was exempt from referendum because it contained a religious clause. The clause exempts religious institutions from complying with the new law.

Co-chairwoman of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Arline Issacson said that Secretary of State Michael Connolly printed the petitions before they were released by the judge. This, adds Issacson, allowed the opponents and extra week to gather signatures.

Calling the opponents' attempt "a waste of time," Issacson said "We have a very strong legal reason as to why that law should not go on the ballot." Senator Ed Kirby is head of the opposition to the law and insisted that the bill include the religious exemption.

When the bill passed the state legislature in November, 17 years of debate and political combat had ended. If the opposition meets its deadline, their challenge to Shannon's ruling could come as soon as February before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

NGRA Names New Legal Director

San Francisco -A recent article in *Washington Blade* reported that David Bryan has left his position as executive director of a gay litigation group in Texas to become the legal director for the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA).

Bryan was also a part of the Texas Human Right Foundation where he was involved in attempts to remove Dallas Judge Jack Hampton. Hampton had made anti-gay comments to a reporter. Efforts against Hampton led to a public censure issued to the judge by the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Although Bryan will be located in San Francisco, he hopes to remain involved "at least on a personal level", with the efforts of the Texas group in challenging the Texas sodomy law, which criminalizes only homosexual acts.

The addition of Bryan to the NGRA staff comes at a transitional time for the organization. Two of the three staff attorneys and director Jean O'Leary have recently resigned after bad publicity concerning her leadership. The former director admits using NGRA resources on Democratic party events on one occasion and said that the publicity has made it impossible for her to do her job effectively.

Bryan is reviewing NGRA's current case load of 28 and will work under California lawyers until he takes the State Bar examination in the summer.

Attempt to Sue Barney Frank Fails

A D.C. Superior Court judge dismissed a suit Tuesday in which two local ministers and a law professor sought to have the court order Rep. Barney Frank to eschew "conduct involving prostitution and lewdness in the District of Columbia."

The suit was filed by former D.C. Moral Majority leader Rev. Cleveland Sparrow, Holy Comforter Baptist Church minister Rev. John Martin, and George Washington University law professor John Banzhaf. In a statement released at a news conference Tuesday, Banzhaf said the trio was filing the suit "because the U. S. Attorney has refused even to begin a formal criminal investigation" of Frank "despite the fact that he has confessed that he paid for the services of a male prostitute who then provided sex for sale in and from Frank's D. C. apartment."

In announcing the news conference, the three men, supported by the Conservative Caucus, promised reporters that they would be revealing "secret" information about Frank when they announced their lawsuit. That information was apparently the trio's contention that Frank is threatening the House ethics committee that he will expose other gays in Congress if the committee recommends a harsh punishment for him. Frank's office dismissed those claims and the lawsuit as a publicity ploy intended to harass him. Judge Harold Cushenberry dismissed the request for an injunction.

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White's Murder Seems to Fit Pattern

by Chris Duncan

Community crime watchers fear another gay man fell prey to his trick last week with the discovery of James White's body at his home on Lullwater Road.

White, 64, was found shot once in the chest on January 17 at his secluded home in northeast Atlanta, three doors down from where "Driving Miss Daisy" was filmed. Atlanta police Investigator W. L. Price said that robbery was not the motive in the case.

Police told local media that no one had entered White's home between the hours of his death and the discovery of the body, despite an open back door.

Sources in the gay community have told *Southern Voice* that White was often seen in the company of young men, reportedly for casual sex encounters.

The discovery of White's body followed by one day the publication of "A Dangerous Deal for Gay Men" in the last issue of *Southern Voice*. Community activists have identified a frightening blueprint for crime in which criminals stalk their victims in the relatively anonymous gay sex scene. Evidently it is a pattern used repeatedly and successfully against gay men. According to this scenario, common thugs and psychotic killers casually target and stalk gay men in

their traditional pick-up spots.

The criminals, it is said, rely on the implied anonymity and lowered inhibitions of gay men on the make to lure their victims to private locations in order to rob, rape, assault and even murder them.

White's murder is the sixth Metro-area case to match this pattern in the past nine months. Activists, however, fear this is only the "tip of the iceberg."

Police Advisory Board Chair Cathy Woolard has warned that as this issue gains visibility, more crimes will be discovered that fit this pattern. But with visibility will come awareness, she hopes, and perhaps some resolution.

The fact that Thomas Germain (the pseudonym used by the survivor of such an attack) was willing to talk to *Southern Voice* and WXIA-TV about his brush with death will be of immense importance to the gay community, according to Woolard.

"After some negotiations regarding confidentiality, Thomas was willing to be interviewed," Woolard noted. "I believe that he realizes the importance of coming forward to tell his story so that others might be warned as well as to keep this issue alive for the police department and the general public."

ACLU Honors Activists with Certificates and Gaines Award

by Ian W. Ginsburg

Four Atlanta activists were honored for outstanding work, Wednesday January 17 at the new Atlanta headquarters of the Lesbian and Gay chapter of the Georgia, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Committed to furthering the advocacy of lesbian and gay rights, Atlanta's chapter is one of only three like it in the United States. The ACLU's Martha Gaines Award, and three Certificates of Appreciation were presented in an informal reception.

The Lifetime Achievement certificates were given to: Kurt Rahn, outgoing Executive Director and founding member of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS; Judy Colbs, a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition; and Linda Lowe, an Attorney for the ACLU. The Martha Gaines Award was presented to Judd Herndon, a kinetic member of the Georgia ACLU and longtime community activist.

Judy Colbs, whose oldest daughter is a lesbian, said her motivation for getting involved with the gay community was based of two factors. "Since my oldest daughter is a lesbian, I am concerned about issues which directly relate to her. I also have a deep-seated hatred of any kind of discrimination. But my concern about my own child was the impetus for my involvement." Colbs finds her day to day ability to alter people's mindsets rewarding. "Through my openness, I have the opportunity to change people's minds who are negative either about being gay or having AIDS. I like to take the initiative to change a negative attitude to a positive approach. And this is what I find is so wonderful about my involvement in gay issues."

Kurt Rahn, who recently celebrated his fourth year anniversary since receiving a positive (HIV) test result is pleased with NAPWA's progress. Yet he feels, "there is a tremendous amount of work left to be done. The struggle for just laws and recognition of the rights of People with AIDS will continue and become even more urgent now that Georgia is facing an increased AIDS case-load." Ever optimistic Rahn stated, "I am living proof that a positive test result does not have to be a death sentence."

Linda Lowe was honored for her tireless legal work with Persons With AIDS. Despite the continued legal hurdles she must overcome, her clients' tenacity challenges her to work on. "The courage of PWA's fighting not only for their own lives but also for the rights of others who are sick, is inspiring."

Gaines Award recipient, Judd Herndon, even more familiar to the gay community since his media exposure as Robert Mosley's attorney in *that* celebrated sodomy case, reacted to his award with surprise and a sense of history.

"Martha was an absolutely incredible woman who totally altered the future of the gay community by her establishment of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU, her persistent efforts for the recognition of the rights of gay people everywhere and her unending enthusiasm as a feminist."

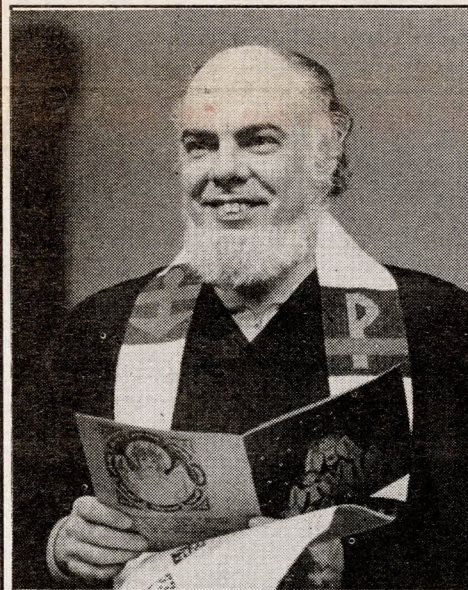
Concerning his work in the Mosley case Herndon stated, "If nothing else, the case alerted heterosexuals that their bedrooms are not sacred either - the Georgia sodomy law can impact anyone. The publicity surrounded the case helped make people and the legislature more aware of this ridiculous law."

Rutherford Show Financial Success



Tom Morris and Paul Plate of Project Open Hand/Atlanta and Tim Dwyer of The Atlanta Chapter of NAPWA receive checks for \$1,800 each, profits from the highly successful exhibition of the works of photographer Roger Rutherford, held at the Burnhoff Galleries in December from exhibition organizer Alexander Wallace and Burnhoff Galleries owners, Gary Noffsinger and Dennis Burnham. Almost 300 people attended the Opening Night Reception and sales were brisk all week. A second show, "The Students Of Roger Rutherford," featuring the work of five photographers who studied under Rutherford at The Art Institute of Atlanta, is scheduled at Burnhoff for late February.

Clance Hospitalized, But "More Radical" Than Ever



by Matt Montgomery

If the congregation at the First Existentialist Church in Candler Park thought their minister, Lanier Clance was radical before his heart attack, he says they are in for a big surprise.

After being rushed to Crawford Long Hospital with severe chest pains on Sunday, Jan. 14, Clance was put in a coronary care unit and later a private room. He underwent a successful angioplasty.

As a result of his illness, Clance decided that he will probably be much more radical and a lot less apologetic in his ways. "You damn well better be doing what you really want to be doing because you never know when it could end," he said from his hospital bed.

Clance, First Existentialist's founding minister, expects to be home after Jan. 25 and to return to his counseling and preaching in about a month.

In his absence the 13-year-old church will have guest speakers at the Sunday services.

Cards should be sent to the First Existentialist Congregation at 470 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta 30307. For updates on Clance's condition, call (404) 378-5570.

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FEATURE

National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference Comes to Atlanta

A determined movement chooses MLK Jr's birthplace as site for its third annual convention; at issue is where and how do Black lesbians and gay men fit into their community of origin and into the primarily white-defined lesbian and gay community.

by Gary Kaupman

The woman, a black lesbian, looks at herself in a mirror and says, "You're just a one of a kind item in *this* world."

A Black gay man describes his closet as "interesting" and goes on to discuss his fear that being completely open about sexual orientation will "make it hard for my younger brother to lead a normal life" in the small south Georgia town that is his family's home.

Then there's the mixture of anger and resentment in the voice of another lesbian as she describes how she feels every time she goes to the meeting of a white gay organization, "The first thing I hear is, 'Bring some more friends.' They don't give me a chance to be real. I mean we're not cattle; we're diverse. We need time to talk and get to know each other and time to understand."

The woman talking to her reflected image is a character in Rebecca Ranson's *Texas Two Stepping With the Girls*. But the other lesbian and her male cohort are members of Atlanta's two and a half year old African American Lesbian Gay Alliance (AALGA) which is host organization to the third annual convocation of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and Health Institute being held at the Hyatt

Regency Atlanta, February 16-19.

The two previous conferences, sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, were held in Los Angeles. According to Pat Lewis, AALGA's person in charge of community public relations and its representative to MACGLO, the Forum chose Atlanta as its site this year because "Atlanta's progressive; there's lots happening here."

That's the positive side.

Lewis also laments that the Black lesbian and gay community in Atlanta simply "doesn't have as many connections" as L.A. In fact, he says, those connections are "almost non-existent."

That lack of bridges — between Black gays and lesbians and the larger Black community and also within the Black lesbian and gay community — frustrate Louisa (a pseudonym) who is seeking volunteers to help with the conference. "The lesbians tell me they're afraid to participate because they don't want people to know they're lesbians. And the straight women are scared that they're gonna' get hit on by the lesbians."

A flyer for the conference puts it in different words, "No one has ever successfully addressed the needs of Black

gays and lesbians, and for that reason," Black lesbians and gay men are "far less conscious, productive and loyal to either the gay or Black movements as a whole."



Louisa's dilemma and the quote from the flyer point to the major issue that these Leadership Conferences have been designed to address: Where and how do Black lesbians and gay men fit into their community of origin and into the primarily white-defined lesbian and gay community?

Neither of the answers will come easily.


Marlene Johnson, a counselor associated with Atlanta's Karuna Counseling Collective, likens the situation for Blacks to that faced by many Jews. In order for either to operate in the lesbian and gay community "you have to step into a (white) world that you've been taught is hostile," she warns.

On the other hand, according to James — a native of D.C. and recently come to Atlanta from Oakland, CA. — the Black community, with its potent alliance of church and family, offers its gays and lesbians the safety and unconditional love that allowed its members to survive and even grow during the terrible turmoil of the '60s. At least as long as one's gayness isn't flaunted.

As example of that thesis, Pat Lewis offers the community's acceptance of Bayard Rustin, a man to whom he looks as a role model.

James is outspoken about the need to operate quietly within the Black community as well as the importance of Black gays and lesbians developing an identity within their own community. Simply abandoning their roots in an attempt to merge with the established white lesbian and gay community hasn't,

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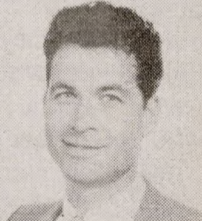
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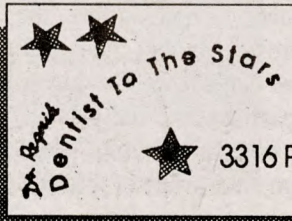
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and won't, work he says.

"And," he adds, "were it not for the hostility created by (more aggressive styles of) coming out, masses of blacks are prepared to deal with the presence of lesbians and gay men in their community."

Marching as an openly gay person in the MLK parade is an example of the kind of aggressive style that James finds inappropriate for Blacks

He offers an analogy: There is this much respected older woman who, at a political banquet, dares to eat her chicken with her hands. Because other attendees know and respect her, they too soon drop their pretense and adopt her more practical attitude.

In James' words, "Her actions become vogue."

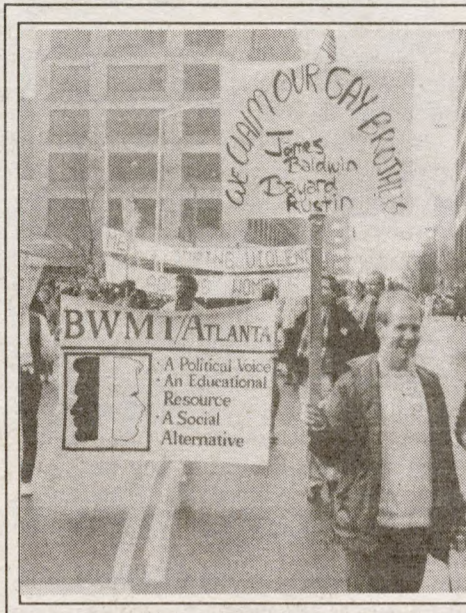
But, he cautions, if a whole table of new comers had abandoned *their* utensils, the rest of the room would have moved away from their example and adopted even more formal behaviors.

Johnson comes at the same issue from a slightly different angle, "The risk (of coming out) is far less for whites because it's they who are in power." And, "Then there's this dualistic whiplash that implies that in order to be (openly) gay you have to act like a white person."

"It's better in the (Black) gay community (than in the larger Black community) because there isn't this obsession with the idea that equality means 'like'

rather than 'equal with'," James thinks. "Like' yields a mixture where identity is lost."

That's especially important, and perhaps difficult to understand, because most whites do not have the kind of collective cultural experience that is simply



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ETC.

Gay participants in Atlanta's 1987 MLK Jr. Parade draw stares of amused disbelief from the crowd. One activist says that such aggressive styles of coming out are unsuitable in the Black community.

a given for American Blacks.

(James has moved to Atlanta to pursue historical studies that he trusts will support an exciting and original thesis about why the struggle for Black civil

rights has been so difficult. With a new "why" he assumes will also come a "how" to deal with the problems faced by Black Americans. While his analysis that *the* issue for Black gays and lesbians is "quality of life within our culture" is the most radical we heard, his

point of view cannot be seen as extreme.)
Serious stuff? Sure. But while the conference's goals are lofty, many of its workshops are aimed at nuts and bolts

issues like economic development, coming out strategies, safe sex and looks at historical and cultural perspectives of the Black gay community.

The National AIDS benefit luncheon will be held on Sunday February 18th and will feature a "fashion extravaganza" in honor of Willie Smith founder of the hip and popular Willie Wear clothing line.

Numerous receptions, a banquet / dance and an evening of entertainment are also planned. And awards in the areas of political activism, community organization, AIDS (care, education and prevention), and arts and letters will be presented.

As part of the Conference, a Health Institute focusing on women's health concerns, chemical dependence and HIV disease will be held on Friday February 16. It is described as "a one day intensive training for individuals interested in more about the unique health issues of Black gays and lesbians."

Participants are urged to bring panels for the Names Project quilt so that they can be displayed at the conference before joining the larger quilt.

The conference is open to all, but organizers emphasize that its focus is on the issues faced by people of color. The need for volunteers remains urgent.

For information about the conference or to volunteer call AALGA at 755-7731.

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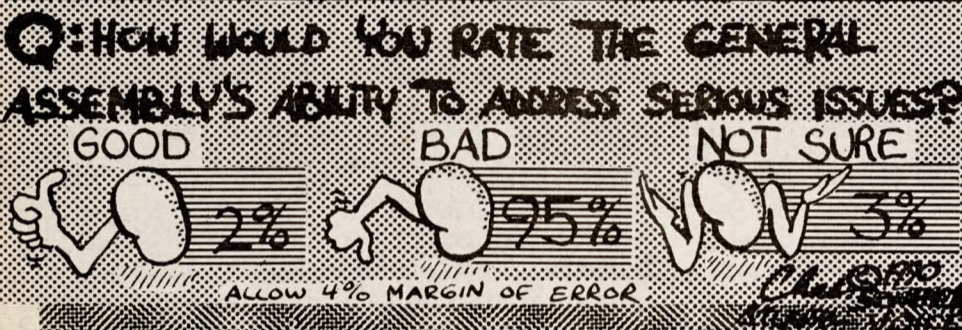
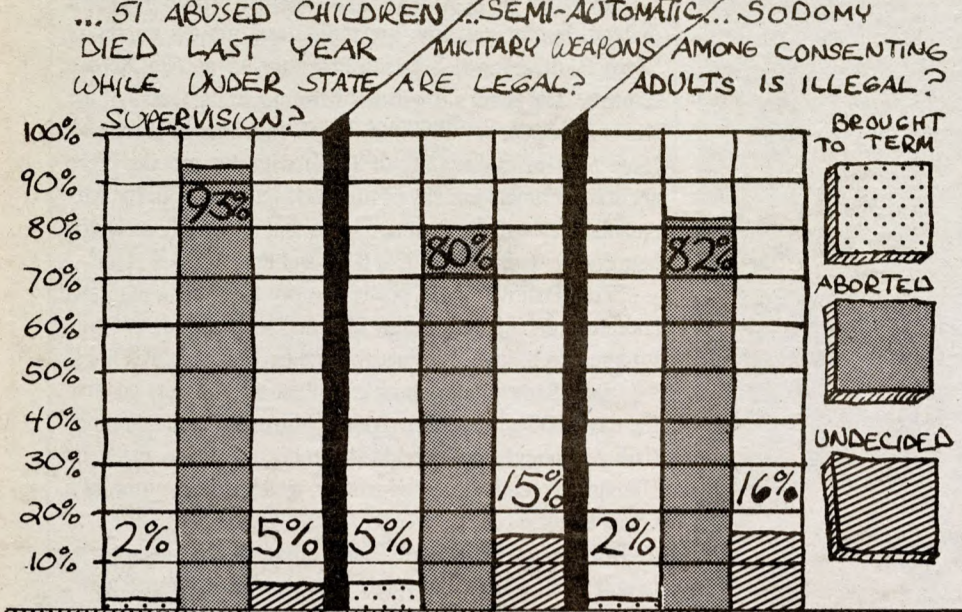
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Go Team, Beat Sodomy

To the Editor:
 Ok folks, I've heard all the hell raising and complaining about Georgia's sodomy law...here's your chance.
 Homophobic State Representative Billy McKinney has offered legislation to amend the law to make sodomy permissible for heterosexuals only while house members Jim Martin and Cynthia Ann McKinney have countered with a measure making it legal for homosexuals as well.
 Jim Martin and Cynthia Ann McKinney are on our side but they need support. They believe in human rights including ours. Martin has represented us well for years in the 26th District while Cynthia Ann is a freshman in the House. Surely you've related the last name of Rep. Billy McKinney and Cynthia Ann—father and daughter. The old school vs. the new.
 I personally spoke with Cynthia Ann for over an hour prior to last year's elections and she convinced me she was nothing like her father. She's been true to her word.
 Please, please get off your ass and write these two people letters of support. Just tell them you support their bill and will remember them at the polls. Just this one time, let's make a difference. Tell your friends and family.
 Hell, recently Communist nations all over the globe are gaining freedom from oppression from tyrannical governments—let's try it here in the State of Georgia, U.S.A.
 Write both Martin and McKinney in care of the "Georgia House of Representatives, State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia 30334."
 By the way, I'm tired of being illegitimate.

Shenandoah Kelly
 Atlanta, GA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Old Lesbians Form Group

In April, 1987, 160 lesbians, age 60 and older, together with 40 younger supporters, gathered in Los Angeles for a joyous West Coast Conference and Celebration by and for Old Lesbians. It was so successful that another conference was held in August, 1989 in San Francisco. At that time, an informal caucus of 60 decided that meeting once every two years was not enough—that an ongoing, politically-active organization was needed.
 In November, an ad hoc group met in San Diego and formed the Old Lesbian Organizing Committee (O.L.O.C.), whose primary purpose is to combat ageism within our own and the larger community.
 This is not to say that we are not concerned about other issues that affect us, especially racism (we particularly encourage lesbians of color to join us), sexism, poverty, health issues, ecology, housing, etc. But ageism in the lesbian and gay community is our main focus.
 After all, who else is there to care about this issue? The pervasiveness of ageism in our culture and the damage it does to our elders, especially old women, is still largely unrecognized.
 Old lesbians everywhere, but particularly in the Midwest and East, who would like to be active in O.L.O.C., or would like information about the next Conference and Celebration, or who would like to be put on a mailing list for a future newsletter, please write to O.L.O.C., P.O. Box 14816, Chicago, IL 60614.

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

We live in a very Ugly World. I don't mean the view—there's plenty about that that hasn't been completely destroyed yet. I'm talking about the climate of attitudes and ideas that pervade people's minds. One of those ideas of course is that we Queers are hideous creatures, subhuman at best. We know that's not true. We can easily look at ourselves and see we look as human as the next person, Queer or not. But it's not what they see that makes them hate us so. It's who we sleep with.
 Nevertheless some Queers work very hard to present an acceptable image to this very Ugly World. They look just like Everybody Else, and they play by all the rules Everybody Else plays by. This is important work, because some of the folks who hate us think we all look different from them.
 Some Queers do look different, Outrage-us even. They scream and yell and dress funny. They make up their own rules, or don't play by any at all because they don't think it's a game. They're right. It's not a game. It's real life, and too many of us are dying. This too is important work because we don't all want to be like Everybody Else.
 So far so good. What's the problem? The problem is that when we come home from the wars at Homophobia, Inc. (HI), we spit our frustrations at the family. The problem is that several members of the family work at HI, and everybody thinks they know the best way to deal with management. The problem is that too many of us think this community ain't big enough for all our ideas, all our methods, all our personalities.
 To be sure there are some real problems at home. But we can't aim across the dinner table the same mistrust, the same hatred, that we fire across the Board table. The issues aren't the same, and some of the people aren't the same. That's why I think it's time we started practicing a little Discrimination.
 I don't mean your garden variety, hate-your-neighbor kind of discrimination. In fact, we could probably benefit from eliminating a little of that from our hearts. No, Friends, when I say Discrimination I'm talking about learning to tell who our enemies really are, and once we've got that down, learning which battles are the ones we really need to fight.
 Gay men suing Lesbians over women-only space, for example, is the wrong enemy and the wrong battle. You'd think those boys could find something more important to spend their money and time on. But no—they're offended because women are tired of having every single moment of their lives open to male inspection.
 How about squeaky clean Lesbians engaging in guerrilla warfare at women's music festivals to irritate SM Lesbians? Women harassing other women. Excuse me, but no one sect has exclusive right to those festivals.
 Insisting that every single member of the community toe the party line and believe all the same things is yet another wrong battle with the wrong enemy. Too many of us lost our original families when we "deviated from the norm." We cannot afford to make the same mistakes with one another that our parents made with us.
 We all give lip service to the concept of a unified community. But what we really have are a bunch of loosely organized subgroups. A true community is a place in space and time where we start with common values, and grow out of our differences. To do otherwise is to foster a false unity—and we are too large a community to be that small.

Support Sutton/Orrock

January 24, 1990
 To the Editor:
 The Hate Crimes Statistics Act will require the Justice Department to maintain records concerning crimes motivated by hate and bigotry. Specifically, it will follow those crimes perpetrated against people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. This legislation is an important first step for the lesbian and gay community. These statistics will surely demonstrate that lesbians and gays are singled out for violence based on their sexual and affectional preference.
 Over the last year, the lesbian and gay community of Georgia has played an important role in making this legislation a reality. By writing their congresspersons and senators the community influenced each member of the Georgia House Delegation to vote yes for this important legislation. Also, after much effort, Senators Sam Nunn and Wyche Fowler have signed on as co-sponsors of the Senate version of the bill. Their support will be important in preventing Senator Helms (R-NC) from torpedoing the legislation.
 Together, we can make a difference. Now it is time to ensure that we have similar legislation at the state and local levels. DeKalb County Commissioner Sherry Sutton and State Representative Nan Orrock have both submitted similar legislation to their respective legislative bodies. They need our support. Please contact your commissioner and state representative and let them know of your support for this legislation.
 DeKalb County residents may call 371-2881 to find out who their Commissioner is. To locate your State House Representative call 656-5082.
 Make your voice heard!

Sincerely,
 Tad A. Gardocki

Fowler Comes Around

Mr. Dick Rhodes
 Atlanta, Georgia
 Dear Mr. Rhodes:
 Thank you for letting me know of your support for the Hate Crime Statistics Act (S. 419). I share your concerns about crimes directed against individuals because of prejudices and biases, and I believe we must take strong action to end such criminal activity.
 Senator Simon introduced S. 419 last year to direct the Justice Department to collect and publish data about serious crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. After reviewing S. 419 in the spring, the Senate Judiciary Committee gave the bill a favorable report. Since then, it has become increasingly apparent that we must learn more about crimes motivated by racism and bigotry if we are to make serious progress in addressing this problem.
 For this reason, I have decided to become a co-sponsor of Senator Simon's bill. It is essential that we work to ensure that all citizens are treated equally and that no group is exploited due to race, religious affiliation, or other characteristics. I hope my support for S. 419, along with that of many of my fellow Senators, will assist in the swift passage of this measure.
 Thanks again for taking the time to contact me about this crucial matter.

Sincerely,
 WYCHE FOWLER, JR.
 United States Senator

VIEWPOINTS is part of a continuing effort to provide a forum for the lesbian and gay community. We invite your ideas, comments and feelings and your responses to opinions expressed on these pages. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than four pages. We reserve the right to edit for space. Mail your letters to:
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COUNTERCULTURE

Wilson's "Fences" Packs a Powerful Punch

by Candace Wiggins

The Alliance Theatre offers Atlanta possibly the best drama to hit Atlanta in several years with "Fences," August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama.

Set in the 1950's, "Fences" features John Henry Redmond as Troy Maxson, an ex-Negro-League baseball player and Carol Mitchell Leon as Rose, his strong-willed and compassionate wife.

Maxson's embitterment over never having broken baseball's color barrier haunts his present and threatens his future. It sours his personal relationship with son Cory who wants to be an athlete. It leads him astray figuratively as well as literally, into the arms of another (unseen) woman, while baffling best friend Jim Bono.

Troy's flaw is that he visits the sins of the father upon the son. Too miserable to live and let live, he cannot see past his own hurt and into an understanding of the old adage, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

Thus he ends up destroying the source of what little happiness he has experienced during the last 18 years. Wife Rose, forced to take the upper hand, turns that hand into an iron fist to insure the family's tentative hold on what tenuous bonds remain.

There are excellent performances that dazzle like diamonds particularly with supporting cast member Afeno Omilami as Gabriel, Troy's war-scarred brother who, cared for by Troy, now believes he truly is Gabriel, complete with horn. Bill Nunn plays elder son Lyons, a smooth operator who regularly visits only to borrow money from Troy. A jazz musician, he is always waiting for the proverbial break. Like the younger Cory, he is also disdained by his father for wanting to get ahead - and out. Unlike Cory, Lyons could care less if Troy approves or not and Nunn is excellent in this blithe portrayal. Frederick Charles Canada as Jim Bono is a very fine actor, his strength being his support of the rest of the cast.

Tico Wells as Cory starts the play as a young, frightened boy, his growing resentment of Troy, smouldering and, finally bursting into flame, Troy doing to Cory what his own father had done to him. Wells performance is superb, but surely there are ways to show hate and anger other than poking out one's jaw and bottom lip.

The play's protagonist, by becoming others' and his own antagonist, only brings it full circle at last.

But, despite its intensity and anger, "Fences" is not just another exercise in *sturmundrang*. Wilson has infused "Fences" with



pathos, frank, merry dialogue and amusing tall tales. When Troy speaks about Death as an actual being coming for him and when Troy's brother Gabriel chases his own Hellhounds, there's a spine-tingling undercurrent of suspense skittering across the stage.

The fence is finally built and as Jim Bono points out: "Some fences keep people out, other are built to keep people in." Hopefully, what is left in everyone's lives is Gabriel's horn with its resulting golden light bathing one and all in its healing rays.

Fences runs through February 17 at the Alliance Theatre, 1280 Peachtree St. \$13-\$28. 892-2414 for more information.

Zero Positive Will Open in Feb. at Actor's Express

Playwright Harry Kondoleon serves up a bizarre hurricane of love, humor, tragedy, toy trains, and topless nurses in "Zero Positive" which opens February 15 at The Actor's Express. The Actor's Express is returning to the theme of the universal impact of AIDS (they began with Harvey Fierstein's "Safe Sex" in the summer of 1988) with this moving piece about the ultimate sanctity of life; and like the benefit for AID Atlanta, they will help out two important organizations which help people with AIDS, Child Kind and Project Open Hand.

"Zero Positive" is the powerful story of a young man and his father, each facing death, and each searching desperately for a reason to live. Himmer (played by Harold Leaver), and his friend Samantha (Stephanie Rollheiser) both test positive for the AIDS virus, HIV. Along with their friend Prentice (Bill Murphey), they decide to produce a play written by Himmer's recently deceased mother, which is in the form of a Greek tragedy.

Bill Greeley plays Jacob Blank, Himmer's poet-father who is still reeling from the tragic death of his estranged wife. Faced then with his son's and ultimately, his own, death, Jacob's mind collapses and returns him to happier times when his son was a child and he was as free as a gigolo.

All will perform in "The Ruins of Athens," the play-within-a-play finale, and each one, like their characters, will be faced with the choice of poisoning themselves or continuing their lives in an unhappy world.

"Zero Positive" runs February 15-March 10 at The Actor's Express Theatre. Performances are Thursdays thru Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 2:00 pm. Opening night tickets are \$25, and will benefit Child Kind. Tickets for the additional performances are \$8-\$12. Preview performances are Monday and Tuesday, February 12 & 13. Tickets are \$3.00, and will benefit Atlanta's Project Open Hand, who deliver hot meals to people with AIDS. For reservations or more information, please call 221-0831.



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New Lesbian and Gay Titles at Library

More than 200 added to collection at Atlanta Fulton's Central Branch in recent months

Ok, so you've seen all the Christmas and first of year blockbusters at the movie house and, fun as they may (or may not) have been, the fact is none could even remotely be called gay or lesbian in plot, character or context.

So how about a new book? Charis and the lesbian/gay sections of intown stores are chock full, you know. But if you're like me you also know that every penny coming in for the next two months is budgeted to paying holiday bills and keeping your toes toasty.

Good news from the Central Branch of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library: They've recently added about 100 gay men's titles and even more books written by for or about lesbians.

Most are fiction but there are also some biographies and a few can be found mixed in with the mysteries. All are located on the third floor of the big grey building at the corner of Carnegie and Forsyth. Call 730-4636 to reserve a title for pick up or to have it sent to the branch nearest you.

My faves from the list include:

Ambidextrous: the Secret Lives of Children by Felice Picano. It's listed as fiction, but these three stories are so funny, painful and filled with wonder that they almost have to be true. Among the very best of the many excellent coming of age novels by gay men.

All True Lovers by Sarah Aldridge. The second of five titles by the prolific Aldridge (the Library has 'em all). This one is about two women growing up together during the Depression. Not Nobel material but fast and fun.

Couplings: a Book of Stories By Richard Hall. Almost a decade old, but Hall is a powerful storyteller who addresses issues that others eschew like intergenerational and cross cultural relationships. And he does it with style, wit and passion.

Conditions: Poems by Essex Hemphill (811.54) Hemphill wrote much of the poetry in the lush and languorous film *Looking for Langston* recently seen in Atlanta. His poems are melodious, seductive and politically prescient.

The Crystal Curtain by Sandy Bayer. You recognize that name? You should, she lives in Atlanta! Suspense, mystery intrigue and psychic powers come together for a fascinating, fun read.

Challenge by Rita Sackville-West. Written in 1924 by the woman who was Virginia Woolf's lover, *Challenge* is said to closely parallel Sackville-West's life. Dish for days.

Daughters of a Coral Dawn by Katherine V. Forrest. The prolific Ms. Forrest tends to write mysteries and romances, but *Daughters* diverges from her norm; it's science fiction that one reviewer claims is as fine as any around and pure escapist joy to boot. The Library also has four other Forrest titles.

The Education of Harriett Hatfield by May Sarton. Sarton is savvy, smart and engaging to read. This, her latest, chronicles the travails of a woman who opens a feminist book store in a working class neighborhood in Boston. Good stuff.

Faggots by Larry Kramer. Written in '78, praised by mainstream critics and damned by gays, this is one of the funniest blackest comedies ever written. Far and away the best thing Kramer has done but a bit much for someone just coming out. (The Library also has *The Normal Heart* (812.54) and *Reports from the Holocaust; the Making of an AIDS Activist* (362.1) by Kramer.

The Front Runner by Patricia Nell Warren. If you came out in the '80s you may not have read this butch yet sappy work that



was one of the first gay novels to find its way into the mainstream. This, like Rita Mae's *Rubyfruit Jungle*, is required reading even now.

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin. Set in Paris in the '50s this is the story of a young American ex-patriate involved with both a man and a woman. The book got raves for its audacity when it was written and now provides a well written glimpse into our history.

Hold Tight: a Novel by Christopher Bram. A WW II spy and espionage story that Hollywood never filmed and that your father never told you. (Also Bram's less successful, but interesting *In Memory of Angel Clare*.)

Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies for Rog (811.54) by Paul Monette. Monette's fiction and *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* (Biography) often seem melodramatic and silly, but these poems about his lover's death from AIDS are intense, succinct, filled with rage and love and are very powerful. A must for anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Lesbian Love Stories edited by Irene Zahava. Twenty nine short stories by well and little-known authors that are bound to make you smile. "Perfect bedtime reading," enthuses one fan.

Memory Board by Jane Rule. A truly engaging story about an aging straight man who has kept his aging lesbian sister's identity secret from his family for years with sub plots about the sister and her lover. The Library also has other books by the prolific Rule who penned *Desert of the Heart*.

Mundane's World: A Novel by Judy Grahn. Prominent poet and essayist Grahn, whose fascinating *Another Mother Tongue* is one of the truly important gay books of our time, takes her first shot at fiction and does quite well in her examination of a mythic world where all creatures are equal.

Other Countries: Black Gay Voices. A First Volume (818.) Essays, stories, interviews poetry and plays by Black gay men. Filled with surprises and treats and a great read during February, Black History Month.

Patience and Sarah by Isabel Miller. Fiction based on the life of American primitive painter Mary Ann Wilson who lived with her lover on a farm in New York state in the early 1800's. Read it aloud to and with your lover.

River Road by C.F. Borgman. Offers a fascinating portrait of the past present and future of a famous poet. Like *Hold Tight* it's both sexy and smart and not quite like any other book I've ever read.

Reflections of a Rock Lobster by Aaron Fricke. Ok, it's almost a decade old, but Fricke's wondrous true tale of bravery needs to be read by all. Especially those fretting over coming out issues.

Rubyfruit Jungle by Rita Mae Brown. Rita Mae lived in Atlanta when she penned this, her first and many think best, novel about Molly Bolt the bright young film student whose flame grows even brighter when she spots the right kind of woman. Fun, funny and insightful. Like *The Front Runner*, a must read.

Stubby Amberchuck and the Holy Grail by Anne Cameron. No, that's not Monty Python, but this Canadian romp is every bit as imaginative and innovative as the British comic's work. Cameron is a best selling author in Canada. Would that she lived here.

Skiptrace by Antonette Azolakov. Cass Milam from *Cass and the Stone Butch* is back for a ripsnortin' murder mystery set in Austin, Texas. Male readers may be reminded of Nathan Aldyne's *Cobalt, Canary, Vermillion* series.

The Swimming Pool Library by Alan Hollinghurst. Edmund White called it "elegantly entertaining...funny, profound and radiant." I was flat blown away by the story's freaky, sneaky climax.

Tangled Up in Blue: a Novel by Larry Duplechan. AIDS, pregnancies and ex-lovers all figure in this latest effort from one of America's foremost black, gay fiction writers.

The Well of Loneliness by Radcliffe Hall. Not so much because it is good (her *The Unlit Lamp* also in the Library is far the better book) but because it's 1928 publication date and banning in both England and America make it an important part of our history.

Zami: a New Spelling of My Name by Audre Lorde. A deeply moving fictionalized biographical memoir that runs from childhood to first encounters with love and sex. If there is a more powerful lesbian writer than Lorde I don't know who it is. The Library also has loads of her poetry and essays.



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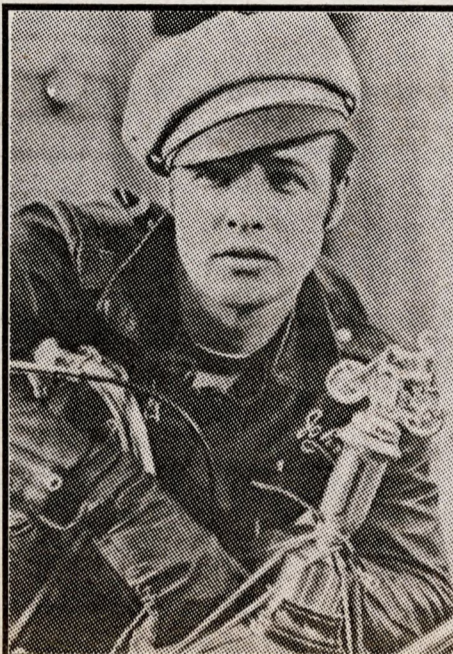


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 - ★ - Poor

Internal Affairs

★★
by Terry Francis

Sometimes the reviews a movie receives are more entertaining than the movie itself. Take the new crime thriller "Internal Affairs," for example. "**** Nothing less than miraculous!" trumpets Mike Cidoni in ads for the film.

"I as so enthralled I forgot to breathe!" gasps Dixie Whatley of At the Movies.

"If only every year had one," laments Mr. Cidoni.

Well, I can't claim "Internal Affairs" to be a miracle and unlike Ms. Whatley I can't go without oxygen for two hours, but I can tell you that "Internal Affairs" is pretty good trash.

It was directed by Michael Figgis, the English filmmaker whose earlier work "Stormy Monday" was an atmospheric tale of crime that established a distinctive mood of corruption and isolation.

Working in the United States, Figgis has traded his own darkly elegant visual style for a mannered design that recalls the work of Michael Mann (Miami Vice, Manhunter), who specializes in pastel blur.

"Internal Affairs" looks like a tasteful man's idea of sleaze, and it has a look that's both superficial and trendy as hell. It's film technology as style, not style in service of a director's personal vision or order of thinking.

And yet, although the film obviously thinks it's an up-to-the-minute expose' of the sick-of-the-soul crowd 1990's style, I believe most readers of the Voice will find its characters and themes hilariously anachronistic.

"Internal Affairs" is a machismo-as-substance movie. Andy Garcia and Laurie Metcalf play partners in the Dept. of Internal Affairs, who investigate possible (who'd have thought it) abuses of the law on the part of certain members of the Los Angeles Police Department.

At first most of the corruption seems ordinary enough: police using excessive force; police planting a knife in the hand of an unarmed sus-

pect shot dead by a coked-up cop.

Then we meet Richard Gere, a cop who is not evil, but Evil. In terms of corruption, he burns up the ground behind him. He makes us understand that what is truly the worst possible crime in Los Angeles is not police corruption or murder, but marital infidelity. Specifically, the possibility that Andy Garcia's wife may have engaged in anal intercourse with Gere and loved it.

The film dwells on marital infidelity and police corruption as if they were somehow interchangeable. Thus the Andy Garcia character feels justified in knocking his wife to a restaurant floor when he believes she's been unfaithful to him.

Laurie Metcalf, as Garcia's partner, is a lesbian so dour that one would assume from her characterization that all lesbians live their lives in a foul mood. Morally, she's the most upright character in the movie, and Garcia feels a genuine bond to her. Yet the lame script has everyone refer to her as "the dyke" in a way that devalues her.

But Richard Gere's crooked cop is a sight to behold. Sex, money, power and infidelity have congealed to form the stagnant mass of his soul. He's evil personified. He preys on infidelity, on sex abstracted from emotion, on flaunting the material fruits of his end-of-the-road amorality, which he subverts in his own mind to an entirely justified and self-righteous ethic.

"Internal Affairs" has nothing to do with life or police corruption or infidelity as we experience them in the real world. It's actually a position paper on how to titillate the audience and clean up at the box office at the same time, without having a trace of honest regard for the themes it raises. The most chilling aspect of the film could be this: that the people who made "Internal Affairs" perhaps have more in common with the instinct for greed than they ever care to admit.

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Fifty (Almost) Ways to Love Your Lover

With all due respect to Paul Simon, our resident New Age Sage Candace Wiggins offers some thoughts on ways to celebrate Cupid's most fave holiday, Valentine's Day

In this post-modern age one is forced to admit discomfort. Not only is there Bush's alleged "kinder, gentler America - which ain't necessarily so - there's this besieged holiday named for Saint Valentine.

Like many of us, he was a martyr.

"Am I really supposed to give a gift, flowers - chocolate even - to the very person who takes issue with my choice of (pick one): hair color, co-dependency, underwear?"

Yes, honey.

And don't laugh, you're supposed to act as if you *like* doing it.

Ah, the key word. Act.

Who among us hasn't done *that*?

"Oh yes, yes, yes, one more inch and I'll see Buddha. Better yet, I'll *be* Buddha."

There are some of you who have really done it now on this love and commitment thing: You've opened joint checking accounts, bought houses and cars together, even see the same doctor, *together*. But what's really scary is when you start getting better presents from the in-laws than you do from your beloved.

But let's not dwell on that stuff. The '90s really do show signs of making some significant contributions to the concept of Modern Romance.

•*The Dance of Intimacy* is a popular "women's guide to courageous acts of change in key relationships." Ok, ok it is geared towards heterosexual females, but don't despair. You can always Texas Two Step with the girls and name your dog after the bitch. Or it it the other way around? Not to worry, just read the book and (even if you're a lesbian or a man) you (and [s]he) will understand. Honest. Would a nice new age leather girl like me lie to you?

•Expand your horizons. Move out for a while. Forget the old adage that says "use it or lose it." Absence and abstinence really do make the heart grow fonder. And harder. Or is that harder?

•Call your honey at work and say it out loud: "I just wanted to



hear your voice." It's a real grab 'em by the balls approach when your usual style resembles Zsa Zsa's in a road block. Once you've got his/her attention, tell 'em just how much you really do care and then suggest that you spend some time alone. Just the two of you. No, not even the cat can watch.

•Another book, *Women in Therapy*, is a popular guide to self, self, self. If you give her this don't even bother sending flowers or chocolates; sniff and munch 'em yourself. It'll save you tons of grief - "They make me sneeze. You *know* I'm on a diet" - you know the routine. If she gives *you* the book, turn the tables and demand dozens of roses and pounds of Godiva. Ha!

•Re-enact the first time the two of you met. It could be eye opening. "God, what did I see in him/her?" is a frequently asked (but rarely answered) question that might come from this little

bit of play acting. Then again, if you have become Buddha, you already know the answer.

•Tired of being Ozzie and Harriet? Swap roles for the day. Butch becomes femme; bottom turns to top. Especially recommended if you're the type that waits to see what kinda' mood baby comes home in before deciding whether to whip up a feast. Doll, let him know what kind of PMS you'll have if he doesn't cook or take *you* out "just this once." Remember, you're relationship - if not carefully tended - could turn out to be like Calvin and Hobbes.

•Another book? Remember *The Dance of Intimacy*? Well, *The Dance of Anger* explains why the world turns fuzzy and red when you realize that (s)he just called the dog by *your* name. Confused? There's a thin line between passion and anger. And, like that Valentine's heart, it's often red. Still confused? Quick honey, claim co-dependency and call the vet.

•Is your sweetie all dressed up with no place to go? Let's talk some turkey. If you're gonna have a relationship you can't take it for granted. So put on that favorite outfit - the one that makes him/her drool. Get a new 'do - maybe from the hair burner, maybe from your psychic. Show your lover that you really do mean monkey business.

•Quit bitchin' at sweetie to do the same things that have allegedly helped you. I use allegedly because when you love the person there's a fine line (again) between helping and controlling. Fact is unless (s)he is your brother or sister (in which case you really *might* want to see a therapist) chances are that what has worked for you won't do it for him/her.

•Along the same line: Get over yourself about doing their dirty work. Just do it. Put his/her favorite tune on the CD. When asked, "Are you OK?" smile and say, "Honey, as long as I've got a face, you'll always have a place to sit."

Remember, humor, compassion and genuine caring *are* what will make us kinder and gentler in America. Bush, or no bush.

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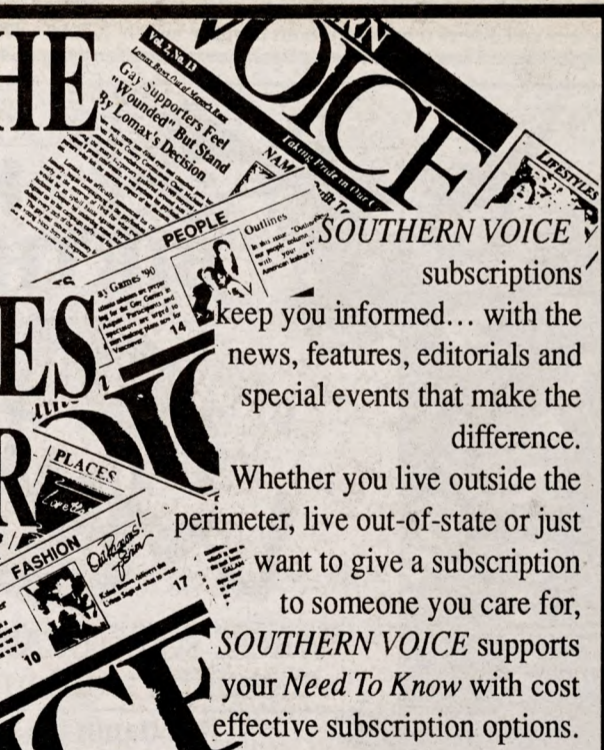


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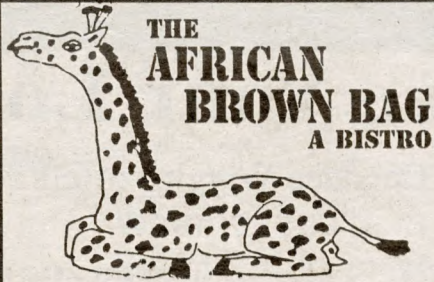
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AIDS ART ACTION. Thru Sat., Feb. 10th. Ten multi-media collaborative projects by Georgia artists and Persons Living With AIDS (PLWAs). Organized by SAME. Atlanta College of Art Gallery. Woodruff Arts Center. 1280 Peachtree Street. For more information, call 898-1157 or 584-2104.

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THE TOWER. Join us every Wednesday starting Jan. 31 and learn country-western dancing with our instructor, Candy. The "Cotton-Eye Joe" starts at 7:30 PM. 735 Ralph McGill. 688-5463.

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Comedy

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Dance

WINTER MADNESS DANCE. Sat., Feb. 3. Sponsored by ALFA/Boogiewimmin and 4th Tuesday. All women, female kids and boys under 12 are welcome. 8-12 PM. Tickets, \$8. Cash bar. First Existentialist Church, Candler Park. Call 662-4353 or 627-5616 (TTY).

THE FOREVER MAGICAL THEME. Fri., Feb. 9 - Sun., Feb. 11. Three of the country's major artists will appear in this interdisciplinary collaboration, commissioned by Lincoln Center and New York's 14th Street Dance Center, co-sponsored by 7 Stages. Highly recommended. 7 Stages. 1105 Euclid Avenue. 523-7647. \$10.60. 8 PM.

Events

A GRAND LOVE AFFAIR. Wed., Feb. 14. A Valentine's party to benefit the Council on Battered Women. Cocktail buffet, light jazz and a silent auction. \$75 per person/\$150 per couple. Call 237-6795 or 237-9085.

Exhibits

NO APARTHEID. Sun., Feb. 4 thru Mar. 4. Sculptor/Artist Valerie Maynard's show of 45 works was begun three years ago focusing on the conditions in South Africa. Confronts "tyranny, oppression and apartheid wherever it exists on this planet." (Reception is Sun., Feb. 11, 1-5 PM.) Free and open to the public. Hammonds House Galleries, 503 Peoples Street. Hours: Mon., closed; Tues.-Sat., 10 am - 6 PM; Sun., 1-5 PM.

Film

A COMPANY OF WOLVES. Fri. Feb. 2. Wedding guests are turned into beasts in this dark fantasy of sexual initiation by production designer Anton Furst. High Museum. Rich Auditorium. 8 PM.

STELLA. Fri., Feb. 2. Bette Midler's latest, a tearjerker remake of "Stella Dallas" will also star Trini Alverado, John Goodman, and Marsha Mason. At all local Cineplex Odeons. Call for times.

WE SHALL OVERCOME. Wed., Feb. 14. A focus on the deep traditions of resistance and hope which sustained the Civil Rights Movement. Noon. Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, One Margaret Mitchell Square. Call 730-1728 for more.

Meetings

PEOPLE IN TROUBLE. Thurs., Feb. 1. Sarah Schulman ("After Delores") returns to Charis with her political fantasy. "People in Trouble" is witness fiction about the AIDS crisis that challenges the layers of protection and denial that keep us from responding to other people's suffering. Sarah will read from her latest and sign your copy as well! Free. 7:30 PM. Charis books & more. 419 Moreland Ave. Call 524-0304.

BWMT. (Black and White Men Together) Sat., Feb. 3. This gay interracial organization offers a supportive environment and realization of overcoming all barriers. Potluck dinner! (Location varies.) 8 PM. 794-BWMT for more info.

CIRCLE OF HEALING. Sun., Feb. 4. First Existentialist Church is the location for this healing group which caters to all phases - physical, emotional, spiritual. 7:30 PM. Call 378-5570.

ATLANTA FAERIE CIRCLE. Sun., Feb. 4. Monthly location and time varies. Gay men gather for support and exploration of their connection to the Earth. 622-4112.

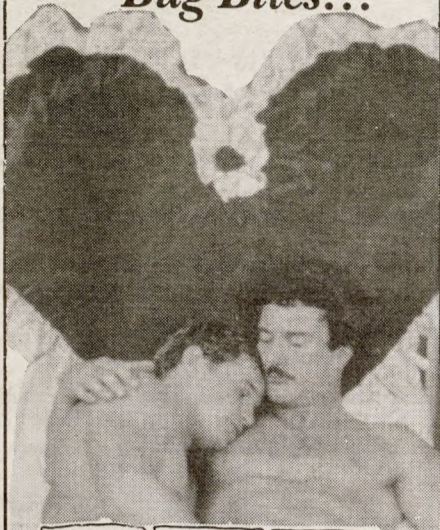


Jazz violinist Leroy Jenkins accompanies Felicia Norton in "The Forever Magical Theme", a collaboration of dance and music showing February 9-11 at Seven Stages Theatre.

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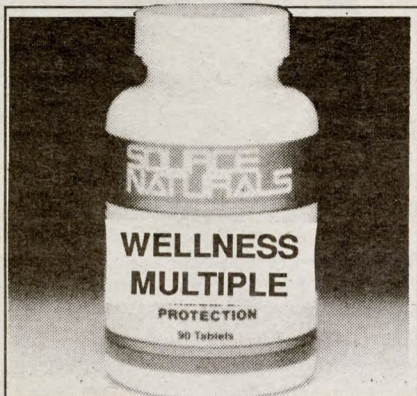


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Flurry of AIDS Bills Introduced

Robison says funding will be a "Real challenge"

by Matt Montgomery

Georgia's reported AIDS cases now number in the top seven in the nation. As the number of Georgia citizens with AIDS grows, so does proposed legislation concerned with the disease.

Since the opening gavel came down on its 1990 session, the Georgia General Assembly has seen the introduction of nine bills and one Senate resolution involving AIDS, ARC and HIV-positive persons. Two proposed bills would affect prisoners who are HIV positive. Senate Bill 426, introduced by Sen. Donny Peavy of Lawrenceville, would allow law enforcement or prison personnel access to suspected HIV—positive persons' medical records merely upon a written request. Current law provides for a closed Superior Court hearing and other safeguards of confidentiality before AIDS-related information may be released.

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Thomas Buck of Columbus introduced House Bill 1224 which would require that hospitals which transfer HIV-positive persons to jails, prisons and other public safety agencies inform the agency of the person's HIV status.

Legislative liaison for the Georgia AIDS Coalition Gil Robison said "We have some real concerns about these two bills, coming as they do on the heels of the Scroggins case. They virtually invite discrimination and the unwarranted prosecution of people with AIDS."

Senate Bill 407 would require annual testing of waiters and other food service employees. It would then be illegal to hire

those found to be HIV positive. The workers themselves would have to pay for the testing.

A fourth piece of legislation, House Bill 974, arose out of neighbors' opposition to the opening of a residence for PWA's near rural Resaca, Georgia. The bill would require that residences and hospices for PWA's be approved by the local county boards of health specifically to protect the surrounding area from the transmission of the disease.

On the budget, Robison offered, "It's going to be a real challenge to get sufficient funding to fight AIDS this year."

Although only four other states report an infection rate higher than Georgia, Gov. Joe Frank Harris has proposed AIDS funding that is \$2,500,000 less than the amount proposed by the Department of Human Resources. DHR requested an increase of \$3,566,000 in improvements over last year's budget for a variety of AIDS education, prevention and treatment programs. Gov. Harris' budget would cut that figure to \$715,887. Also cut in Harris' budget was more than \$500,000 for a pediatric AIDS waiver that would pay for some at-home services for children with AIDS.

A proposed state fund that would make health insurance coverage available for PWA's, HIV-positive persons and other currently unable to obtain insurance at any price, was also taken out of Harris' budget. The high risk insurance pool was priced at \$3,000,000 annually, but the State Insurance Commission has reduced that request to \$1,700,000, enough to insure funding only

Continued on next page



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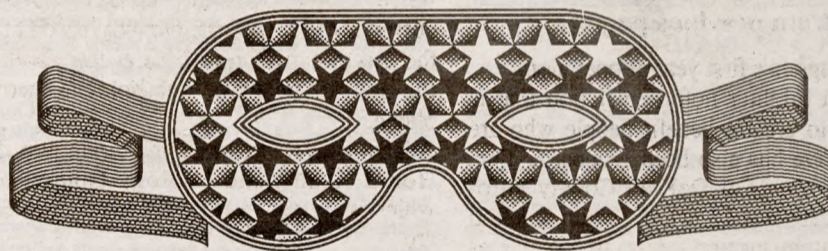
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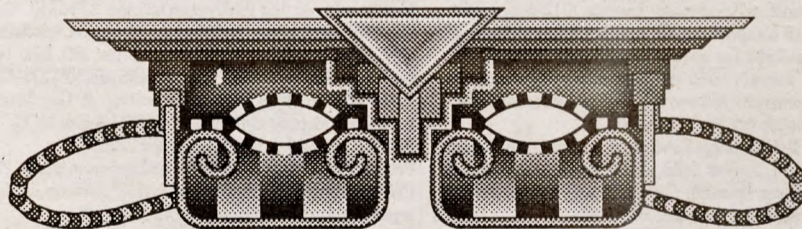
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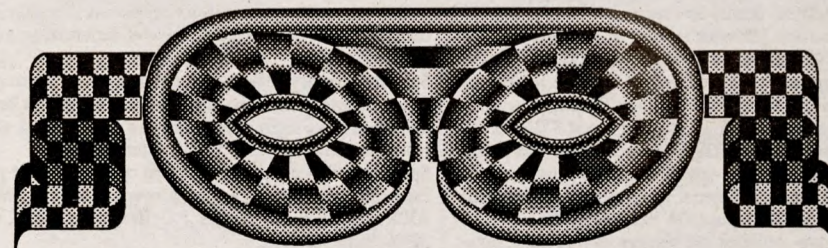
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Kubler-Ross: On Death, Dying and the Need to Clean Up Our Acts Before We Go

by Dave Hayward

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Swiss-born medical doctor and psychiatrist, renowned for her trail-blazing work with the terminally ill says "once you get rid of your Hitler inside, you can literally become Mother Theresa." In 1969 she wrote *On Death and Dying*, first identifying the five stages of coming to terms with terminal illness: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Her work has become a bible in the field, studied in major medical and nursing schools as well as graduate schools of theology and psychiatry. Kubler-Ross has also authored nine other books including the best-selling *AIDS: The Ultimate Challenge*.

Her intensive "Life, Death and Transition" workshops are held across the country as well as in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Europe, South America and Australia. Founder of the American Holistic Medical Association, Kubler-Ross is building her own Training and Workshop Center in Head Waters, Virginia.

Now as much a spiritualist as scientist, Kubler-Ross is controversial for her metaphysical viewpoint on medicine and psychology, shared by a few other peers, such as Dr. Bernie Siegel, author of *Love, Medicine and Miracles*. Unapologetic for her radical position, Kubler-Ross shrugs off criticism. "I believe you are always put in the place where you need to be if you're open to it," she avows.

Kubler-Ross shared some of her views with *Southern Voice* while visiting town to give a lecture at the Atlanta Church of Religious Science in January. "See, this is very clearly the time of separation of the wheat from the chaff," she declares, considering the AIDS epidemic a massive agent for social change. "People looked at the gay man or anybody who doesn't live the very moralistic lifestyle, they were upset and all this nonsense. And now some of those who have had sons maybe, or other family members affected by it, they begin to see the light and realize that this is a disease that involves all of us."

"It does not matter what sexual preference you have" she continues ardently. "What traits, what economic level, what belief system, nothing! It's a human issue that all of us have to take a stand on. And some have switched 180 degrees.... I've had a fundamentalist family who kicked their son out, horrible. When he was dying they welcomed him back home with open arms. Just for a day, but they made the switch. And more than thousands have been doing it."

Kubler-Ross sees AIDS and the plight of the most vulnerable - AIDS babies - as a litmus test dividing those who are

part of the solution, and part of the problem.

"The population will be two people," she stresses. "Those who do anything and bend backwards to help anybody, and those who just don't learn. *They* have to live with their own consequences, their own immune system will go down and they will get sick with ulcers or blood pressure or coronaries or whatever. Those who help will get healthier and healthier because by giving you also receive and by loving you get lots of love."

Meanwhile, there are legions of dead and dying including many gay leaders. Emotional burnout and grief are pervasive. Assessing the psychic health of the surviving community, Kubler-Ross offered, "It does leave a vacuum, but it helps those who know them to grow much faster than they would have otherwise. If everything's hunky-dory, nice and sweet, with no challenges, you don't grow! You remember the saying of my organization, 'should you shield the canyons from the windstorms, you would never see the beauty of their carvings.' Look at these people! What beautiful, gorgeous people they become after they've gone through suffering."

After studying death and dying for 30 years and chronicling well over 20,000 near-death experiences, Kubler-Ross is a firm believer in survival beyond the physical. "There is no end to life. There is nothing but continued growth and evolution. I've been there (in my own near-death experience) and I know the peace and the love that surrounds you is undescrivable."

"Not only are you aware on many different levels, but your own thought processes create the reality", she expounds confidently. "If you believe it is going to be gorgeous and have no question you will meet all those you have loved and lost, you will indeed have a happy reunion. But if you believe in hell and brimstone and eternal whatnot then you will create that reality."

"Until finally you open your eyes and look at the light and you begin to move toward it. Because love and positives are always stronger than negatives... that's why we help people to finish their unfinished business here. So they don't end up in a place which they created with their fears." Consequently, she works vigorously with people with AIDS and their loved ones to exorcise as much of their rage and trauma as possible, so dying may be both a reconciliation and a compassionate farewell.

The challenge of AIDS and of prevailing social and political chaos, as Kubler-Ross sees it, is "to live without fear, shame and guilt. If gay people can do that and get rid of whatever unfinished business they have here - and they have a lot



Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

which makes them much more vulnerable to any illness, not just AIDS - then they can be strong and healthy. That's true for every human being. But it's now the decade, it's your last change to learn those things... Everything that's happening from now til 2000 is happening at an accelerated rate. Things are getting cleaned up. There are no strings attached to loving," she concludes. "If you can learn to love yourself... then you can give what you have to other people."

Reflecting on changes in social consciousness since the '30s, she adds, "You can never give more than what you have for yourself. In my childhood we were told that if you love yourself, you're egotistical, you're a rotten person, you should be ashamed of yourself! So to love yourself is something horrible, and we were raised this way."

"So once you get rid of your Hitler inside, you can literally become a Mother Teresa," Kubler-Ross laughs. "Not that she doesn't have her hangups too!"

The Elisabeth Kubler-Ross Center can be contacted at 703-396-3441.

AIDS Legislature

Cont'd from previous page

for the program's first year of operation.

On a brighter note, legislation that is designed to greatly benefit people who are HIV positive has also been proposed. Sen. Bud Stumbaugh of DeKalb County introduced Senate Bill 43, which would result in lower insurance rates for small businesses that have an employee with AIDS. Insurance companies would be required to pool together small groups for rating purposes.

Georgia may also become one of the few states to have a statute allowing a person to designate someone to make medical decisions in the event he or she becomes too ill to make such decisions. House Bill 999, originally drafted by Georgia AIDS Coalition and introduced by Rep. Jim Martin of Atlanta, would allow enforceable medical powers of attorney. It will help out not only PWA's but also gay men and lesbians who would like someone other than family members to make medical choices for them in case they become incapacitated.

And Rep. Lorenzo Benn of Atlanta has introduced House Bill 1202, a fair housing bill that would prohibit discrimination in the selling and renting of housing on the basis of handicap, among other categories. Handicap is defined broadly enough to include PWA's and HIV-positive persons.

Robison urged those concerned with the rights and welfare of PWA's to write or call

their State Representatives and Senators and voice strong opposition to the bills discussed above. The first number listed is for the assemblyperson's office at the Capitol; the second is his or her home or work phone.

Atlanta area Representatives serving on the House Health and Ecology Committee which is reviewing H.B. 974 and H.B. 1224 are:

Rep. Frank L. Redding (D)
District 50, DeKalb, 656-0220, 377-1458

Rep. Jack Vaughan (R)
District 20, Cobb, 656-0177, 587-6154

Rep. Nan Orrock (D)
District 30, Fulton, 656-7859, 622-6687

Rep. Helen Selman (D)
District 32, Fulton, 656-0265, 463-3374

Rep. Billy McKinney (D)
District 35, Fulton, 656-0188

Rep. Eleanor L. Richardson (D)
District 52, DeKalb, 656-0152, 636-5892

Rep. Vinson Wall (R)
District 61, DeKalb, 656-0137, 963-9558

The Human Resources Committee is reviewing Senate bill 426. Its local members include:

Sen. Hugh A. Ragan (R)
District 32, Cobb
656-0037, 438-8816

Sen. Arthur Langford, Jr. (D)
District 35, Fulton, 656-0049, 525-6320

Sen. Hildred Shumake (D)
District 39, Fulton, 656-0082, 758-1815

Sen. Pierre Howard (D), Committee Chair
District 42, DeKalb, 656-5110, 870-6310

Sen. Eugene P. (Gene) Walker (D)
District 43, DeKalb, 656-0048, 297-1203

The Consumer Affair Committee, which is reviewing Senate Bill 407, includes:

Sen. Arthur Langford, Jr. (D), Committee Chair
(see above)

Sen. David Scott (D)
District 36, Fulton, 656-0090.

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FAMOUS FACES

Pfabulous Pfeiffer

It's that time of the year when everyone wants to tell us who was the best last year. The envelope please...The National Society of Film Critics has named Michelle Pfeiffer as best actress for her job in "The Fabulous Baker Boys." If you missed her in "Boys," you may remember her steamy performance in "Dangerous Liaisons" where many critics also labeled Pfeiffer's performance no less than pfantastic.

k.d. lang Pressured to Change (Can you Relate?)

If you act like everybody else, if you look like everybody else, you'll do better. Yea, yea. We've all heard that before. Now country music tomboy k.d. lang is talking about it. In a recent interview she told *Glamour* magazine that many people have told her she'd sell more records if she'd change her "androgynous appearance." But k.d.'s selling quite a few records these days—thank you very much—and she says she doesn't want to compromise her voice or her soul, explaining to her glamorous interviewer, "It wouldn't be worth it." (Can you relate?)

—F.G.

Ruling Planets will return next issue.

BUSINESS CLIPS

Savor Sicilian with Tradition

If you can remember when Ansley Mall was a dairy farm, then you can trace the initiation of Atlantans to real Sicilian food. Nancy Biuso opened Mama Mia's and the Piccolo Lounge in Midtown some thirty-five years ago. She discovered that gays enjoyed the hearty peasant food being served and grew to appreciate their discriminating patronage and loyalty. To this day, though locations and restaurant names have changed, Nancy insists that her restaurant opens its doors to everyone who enjoys excellent food served in an intimate atmosphere at a reasonable price.

Andrea Frank now manages her retired grandmother's latest endeavor, Mama's Italian Cuisine. Andrea is conscious of the excellent reputation gained by her grandmother; she assures the serving of the original Sicilian recipes first developed for Mama Mia's and has begun to introduce her patrons to new menu items including sea food and cream sauces. Whether you choose the traditional or explore the contemporary, your taste buds and appetite will be enticed.

Mama's Italian Cuisine is located in Grant Park at 451 Cherokee and is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. Next time you want to satisfy your desire for the best in Italian food, look to the original - Mama's.



EVETT BENNETT

Andrea Frank and Jeff Brown serve up delicious Sicilian food at Mama's Italian Cuisine

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Basically, a home inspector and a potential buyer will together make an onsite visual examination of the home. The inspector will check all vital systems including the electrical systems, the roof, plumbing, heating and a/c, insulation, gutters, appliances, and more. "Houses are built to last a lifetime but components do wear out," he explains. The home inspector will finally estimate the cost to maintain a home over the next five years.

Roger's 10 years of experience in construction provide him with the knowledge and experience necessary to inspect homes. If you are a realtor or potential home buyer and need "emotional assurance," call Roger to evaluate your situation.

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Hippified Co-op Goes Nineties

For those of you who've processed out processed foods, Sevananda Natural Grocery in Little Five Points, offers fifteen years of experience. Fifteen Years! That's way before organics became trendy or the immune system made the cover of Time.

The Sevananda staff, led by manager Margo Putnum, offers the knowledge won by experience, coupled with a solid selection of natural and cruelty-free products to anyone who walks in the door. No, you don't have to be a member to shop, but if you do

join, you save 10%.

One of the many ways this hippified Co-op grocery has kept pace with the times is by recognizing the needs of the gay and lesbian community and offering same-sex couples and PLWA's discounts for joining. The \$17 and \$5 prices may work as incentive to those of us who know that by just shopping at Sevananda helps us eat right.

All the principles of good business plus those special extras make Sevananda in Little Five Points a natural choice for us.



Our mutual friends: The Egg Lady, Sam & Steve, Viv, Vanessa & Vixen, and Mr. HIV

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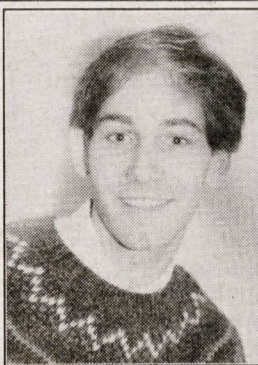
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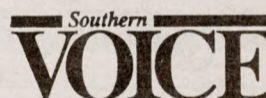


THE FUTURE IS OURS !

1990 Business Expo



FOURTH TUESDAY



Cooperatively sponsored in support of
the Gay and Lesbian Community

Saturday, April 7, 1990

Colony Square Hotel Grand Ballroom

During the 1980's, Atlanta gay and lesbian owned businesses grew in numbers, diversity, visibility and credibility. Economically, we attained a tremendous amount of stability - not only for our individual businesses but also for our community as a whole.

In the 90's we must reaffirm our commitment to excellence and professionalism. We must do this by educating and informing our community about who we are, what we do, and why we're important to the quality of gay life in Atlanta.

Ninety-eight businesses will have this opportunity to introduce their products and services to Atlanta's gay and lesbian community. Insure that your business profits from this day-long activity. Let your community know you believe in the future by being an exhibitor at our 1990 Business Expo.

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INSTRUCTION

SAME is offering classes in acting, playwriting, computer design and technical theater. Starting in mid-January. For more info call 584-2104.

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Attorney - Free Consultation - most legal services, DUI, bankruptcy, injury, criminal, divorce, real estate, wills, etc. J.E. Cline, 2964 Peachtree Rd., 237-9598 Anytime. (V2 #20)

METAPHYSICAL

Innerquest - Spiritual/Metaphysical group starting for Lesbians and Gay men. Group will meet every Sunday from 3 to 5pm. Meetings will consist of channelers, psychics, Native American Indians, and other topics that interrelate with metaphysics, and or spirituality. If interested please call Atlantis Connection, 881-6511. Leave message for David. (V2,#24)

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ORGANIZATIONS

Southside Unit - League of Women Voters meets 1st Sat. of month, 11:30am at Greenbriar Picadilly Cafeteria. Work for progressive southside development. 761-1718 (V2,#26)

PARTIES

LET US HOST YOUR PARTY! Great entertainment comes with your reservations for benefits, social activities and organizational meetings. Jerry Farber's, 54 Pharr Road, 874-8602.

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PERSONALS

Thanks for 3 wonderful years. K.J. (V2,#26)

Progressive SWL, 27 (No longer svelte or gorgeous but still passably charming!) Brand new to area. ISO new friends (underlined!), 22+, w/whom to discover Atlanta's culture from high to low, culinary to political. I'm slowly learning the wonders of LSP. What's next? TES SV Box 2292 (V2,#25)

Did you see the gorgeous blonde in the second booth last Friday night? And that burger he was eating...too much! Why not try it yourself and meet some new friends. Midtown Pub & Grill, Peachtree across from Theatrical Outfit.

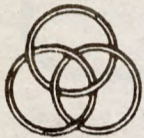
PERSONALS

Hot young female college student looking for Sugar Momma to pay my way through school. Will have [censored] bi-weekly What do you require? SV Box 2290

To the "Hot young female college student", What if someone just bought your cafeteria ticket? What could they get for that?

GWF - 25, I love life. I'm spiritual, playful, stable, intelligent, active (though slightly overweight), and I believe friendships and romance are the spice of life. If fun, creativity, and character are part of your identity, write me (photo appreciated): BOX 794, Decatur, GA 30031. (V2, #24)

BiWF, blonde, blue eyes, sexy, seeks live-in BiWF or Gay WF. Send photo, and phone. Let's have fun. SV Box 2288 (V2,#25)



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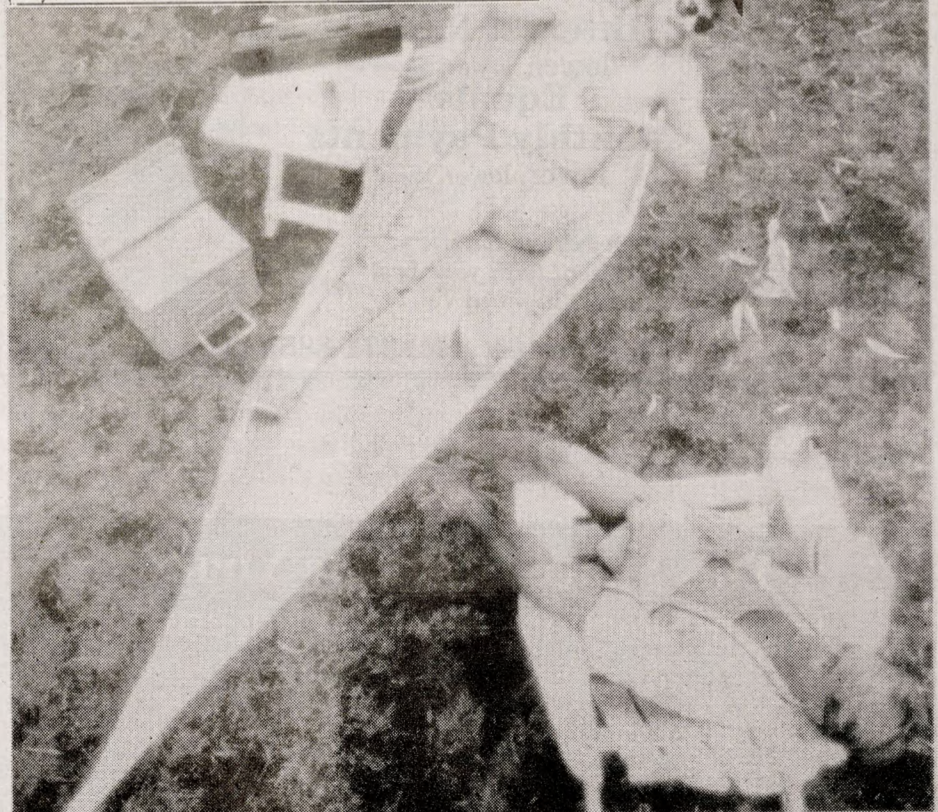
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