

STRAIGHT TALK



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VOICE

Vol. 2, No. 26

"Taking Pride in Our Culture"

February 15, 1990

Willi, Patrick and Alvin...



National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference to honor three legends of style, design and dance.

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Score One for Gays at GSU

by Matt Montgomery

More than a few butts have been chafed since three men were caught in a Georgia State University restroom with their pants around their ankles.

An article in the Jan. 16 issue of Georgia State's student newspaper, *The Signal*, reported that three were discovered with their pants down, allegedly about to engage in acts of sodomy. Two other men were also caught "acting suspiciously," in the bathroom.

In the next two editions of the paper several readers applauded the coverage and demanded action from student organizations to eliminate the presence of gays on campus.

A letter to the editor signed by David Johnson demanded "now other campus groups should take action. Let's say, once and for all, goodbye to the gays that do this stupid stuff."

Former Chief of Staff of the university's College Republicans, Jeff Breedlove wrote "one would expect that since those gays are allowed to be at Georgia State that they would refrain from using the public restrooms as their personal AIDS farm."

Several members and officers of the GSU Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance (GLSA) revealed that this was only the latest of Breedlove's letters on this topic. On June 30, 1987 the *Signal* in an editorial (reportedly written by Breedlove) which directly named the GLSA as responsible for promoting "better meeting places" for those who want to engage in tearoom sex.

The GLSA routinely responds to Breedlove's hate filled missives with a

guest editorial demanding an end to homophobia and prejudice. (And, in this most recent case, *Signal* editorialist Jerry Harlow penned an enlightened and supportive editorial.)

Shannon McNeal, the GLSA member who usually authors the responses, said "although the persons involved most likely were gay, we (GLSA) do not condone sex in public restrooms."



McNeal explained that their most recent editorial response to the attacks deals with the desire of the gay community for "basic civil rights." She wrote, "the gay and lesbian students of GSU work, pay taxes and most importantly pay tuition."

On Wednesday February 7, Breedlove proposed disbanding the Gay Lesbian Student Alliance as a legitimate campus organization to the Student Government Association senate meeting, saying that "they advocate and promote sodomy."

A non-gay senator argued that it would

be dangerous to try to take away GLSA's charter because it had been attempted at other schools and been the subject of lawsuits from the gay groups.

Another quipped that if sodomy were a reason for expulsion, most of the student groups would be gone from campus.

But Breedlove's motion was resoundingly defeated, when only two senators sided with him.

Incensed that Breedlove represented himself as an official representative of the Republican Party, a GSU staff member contacted the Republican National Committee and reported the student's bigoted actions. Unconfirmed reports say that Breedlove's actions have caused significant resignations from the GSU College Republicans' ranks and censure from local and state Republican organizations.

Peasant Corp. and ACT UP Negotiate

by Sabrina Sojourner

One of Atlanta's largest restaurant chains and ACT UP Atlanta appear to be on their way to a negotiated truce in a war over the company's group health insurance plan.

On December 28, 1989, the Peasant Corporation—owner of 15 restaurants in the metro area—announced a new group insurance plan with a \$10,000 cap on "AIDS coverage once the disease has been diagnosed." The new "self-funded" plan replaced an existing Allstate group policy which, according to Peasant Corp.

President, Steve Nygren, was cancelled by Allstate, "due to low participation." Only 200 of the nearly 1000 employees signed on to the Allstate plan.

The Peasant claims to have approached 25 insurance companies without finding reasonable replacement coverage. It then opted for self-insurance. Businesses with self-funding plans work with a third party administrator which covers upper end claims. In exchange for this liability, the administrator may set certain limitations. (Legislation passed in Georgia in 1989 makes caps illegal, but self-funded programs are not covered.)

"The choice was quickly becoming accept the cap or not have employee insurance," said Nygren in early January.

Individuals in the gay and lesbian community expressed concerns about the new insurance plan to ACT UP/Atlanta in mid January. The result was a January 22 meeting between the Peasant's Bob Amick and ACT UP representatives says Jessi McVay, ACT UP Action Facilitator.

A follow up letter went to the Peasant on January 31. It put the Peasant on notice that the activist group would push for elimination of the discriminatory HIV cap. In the letter, ACT UP referred to its successful 1988 zap of Circle K Corporation and more recent action with Galaxy Carpet Mill in Chatsworth, Georgia. Both actions produced the desired changes in company policy.

ACT UP gave the Peasant until February 5 to document its "intentions to remove the cap by or before February 28, 1990. If we do not receive this correspondence," the letter said, "the level of your concern for this situation will be very clear and ACT UP/Atlanta will respond appropriately." While demonstrations or boycotts were not specifically mentioned in its

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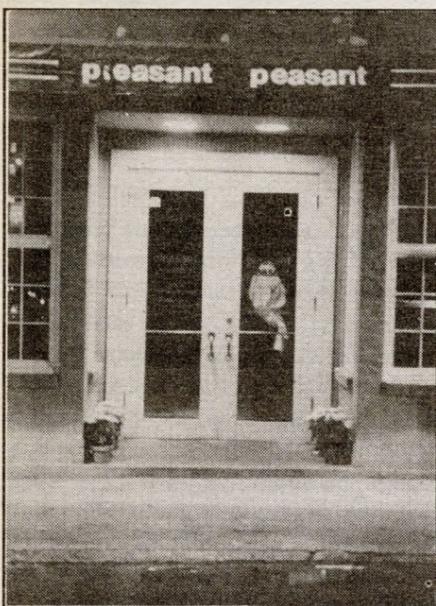
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letters to the Peasant, ACT UP's reputation for using highly visible, public confrontation is public knowledge.

In response to ACT UP's February 5 letter, Nygren stated that March 1 would be the soonest he would have definite word on "some alternative that would change the current AIDS cap."

"The negotiations have proven productive for both the employees and the company," said McVay. "Though the date for the removal of the cap has not been set, we were able to supply the Peasant with the name of Allied Benefits, a third party administrator that is gay-friendly and refuses to set caps. And the Peasant has indicated its willingness to begin AIDS education and support groups for their employees. This indicates very positive change."

Lawrence Wilneff, President of Allied Benefits, wrote to ACT UP, "We recognize that HIV can affect anyone. ...any limitation that would restrict individuals from receiving the same benefit structure for HIV, is prejudicial and unfair."

Wilneff also stated that company policy is "we will not administer any plan that has such a limitation."

ACT UP/Atlanta representatives plan to meet again next week with Peasant principals to continue developing a time line for expected changes.

But, because ACT UP makes its decisions by group process, it is not yet clear whether the group will vote to continue to negotiate with the Peasant and/or call for more public action.

Sodomy Flames Out in GA Legislature

Martin calls for "good will" among groups fighting for repeal

The archaic Sodomy law that sent Michael Hardwick to the Supreme Court and Michael Mosley to jail remains in effect in Georgia. By a vote of 64-44 the Georgia House has voted to reject HB 1380, a bill that would have legalized private, consensual sexual acts between adults regardless of their sexual orientation.

But the bill that was defeated was not the same one that Fulton Representatives Jim Martin and Cynthia McKinney had shepherded through Committee and on to the floor of the House.

Shortly before the vote, Rep. Wesley Dunn of McDonough amended HB 1380 to exclude

homosexuals. The vote on Dunn's amendment was a far more lopsided 87-22.

The Special Judiciary Committee voted to send HB 1380 to the full House rather than a bill introduced by Rep. Billy McKinney (Cynthia's father) that would have legalized sodomy between consenting heterosexuals. ACT UP Atlanta had organized an intensive phone lobbying campaign directed at the Committee in the week prior to its vote.

Cynthia McKinney said she was surprised the measure didn't pass the House after she and Martin had arranged with House Speaker Tom Murphy to get the bill on to the floor on the 19th day of the session thus avoiding a trip through the Rules Committee and allowing a vote by hand rather than one that would be recorded.

Martin and other observers point to Murphy's actions as an indication of his willingness, in an admittedly passive way, to see legislation like H.B. 1380 passed. Publicly of course, Speaker Murphy continues to distance himself from the issue and homosexuals.

Martin said that he, too, had hopes that the bill would clear the House, but added he doubted it would have gotten through the Senate or across the Governor's desk.

Responding to criticism that his speaking on behalf of the bill may have contributed to its failure, Martin admitted his decision to explain the legislation to the House may have been an error. But he said that he preferred to have been honest about the nature of the bill rather than having fellow legislators feel manipulated into voting for a law that they could later claim the didn't fully understand.

One cynical observer countered with, "That *sounds* great, but is the issue playing fair or getting the law passed?"

The chaotic atmosphere that prevails during Georgia's annual 40 day legislative session lends itself to the kind of tactics that Martin chose not to use.

The twin themes of hindsight and blame have run hot and heavy through this year's attempt to repeal Georgia's sodomy law. With both gay and mainstream media questioning the appropriateness of various strategies (particularly ACT UP's raucous demonstration on the Capital steps) for repeal. Responding to questions on that issue, local activist Cathy Woolard said that those who used their disapproval of such actions to rationalize opposition to the bill were simply "masking their homophobia".

"It makes me so damn mad and I don't think there's any hope (of repeal)," offered one gay man (who requested anonymity) on hearing of the bill's amendment and defeat.

"I want to go punch Tom Murphy in the nose," said a lesbian (also anonymous), "but then what good would that do? Hell, at least, I'd feel better."

Acknowledging the generally angry and/or defeatist tone expressed by many, Martin said that he has been working on this issue for seven years and feels it will be at least 1993 before repeal is likely. "There are three things that those seeking repeal must not do: give up; blame each other (for defeat); and not work together," he cautioned.

Woolard echoed Martin's sentiments adding that communication on repeal this year had been "too little, too late." "(Interested community members and organizations) need to articulate a plan and agree to work towards that plan. This is too big a deal for any one group," she concluded.

More news on pages 19 and 20

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FEATURE

Gareth Fenley takes us on a stroll through the past year into a world populated by publications who frequently portray gays and lesbians as bizarre and marginal

How Mainstream Media Looks at Us

Cher Heartbroken!

Daughter Announces She's Gay

The *Star* informed me of this last December in the checkout line at Kroger. Then a few weeks ago in a drugstore, the *Star* grabbed me again, saying Chastity Bono's lesbian lover has been cut off by her parents "without a cent." In case I was wondering, it also provided a theoretical discussion of how Chastity got *that way*, complete with expert interviews. (It could've been her domineering mother, or maybe hormones.)

Ah, the life of a media watcher.

Publishers get our attention, or they go out of business. News has to get a rise out of us — even in the stodgy publications; nobody expects a newspaper or magazine to reflect an accurate, boring image of daily life.

Unfortunately, millions of readers depend on the straight press for information about our lives. What could they have learned about us in 1989?

Glamour polled its readers and announced that 50% say a doctor should refuse artificial insemination to a lesbian.

Nynex Yellow Pages of New York agreed to list gay services for the first time, reported the *Wall Street Journal*.

Time magazine asked, "Is the Gay Revolution a Flop?" My mother mailed me that clipping with a handwritten note: "I think this is true, though you probably don't agree." The magazine's editors had pounced on *After the Ball*, apparently the most "newsworthy" gay book of 1989, a treatise by two guys who think our community needs to clean up its image with public relations. Do you think that if Cher had seen ads promoting tolerance of homosexuality in *Time*, she would've taken Chastity's announcement in stride?

Even the best news sources in the straight press tend to make us seem bizarre and marginal, when they mention us at all. You can picture the average reader at Sunday breakfast: "What won't those queers do next? Glad there aren't any around here." Here's the *New York Times* headline for a story on Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day, for example: "Half-

Million Commemorate a Police Raid on a Gay Bar."

Mainstream news coverage of our lives isn't even a small piece of the pie — it's a crumb. On the average, 0.8% of all newspaper articles are about us. Yes, less than 1%. San Francisco free-lance writer Keith Clark calculated this figure by analyzing twelve U.S. daily newspapers for the first nine months of 1989.

Clark found that the two San Francisco dailies printed the most gay news: 861 articles in the *Examiner* (including the award-winning "Gay in America" series, which was reprinted in

The relentless association of "gay" with "AIDS" in the press should help us understand homophobes who declare, "Gay is sad."

Some AIDS coverage, though, has brought insights about gay male life to an audience that wouldn't otherwise read about us. Reporters on the AIDS beat have ventured into our community, many for the first time. Again and again, they find themselves awed by the compassion and dignity of our response to the epidemic.

One of the most remarkable AIDS articles ever published was a freestanding 16-

page article that boiled over when a male prostitute exposed his relationship with a gay Congressman. The *New York Times* devoted a full yard of column space to the article with the headline I've quoted.

A pasty-faced portrait of Barney Frank peered nervously from the cover of the September 25 *Newsweek*. The photos in a 7-page special section were much more flattering, and the story presented a mildly sympathetic perspective in scrutinizing the difficulties of a publicly gay man. Frank was able to explain himself directly in an extensive, candid interview. After reading it, I wrote to him, urging him to hang in there. He sent me the following letter.

September 29, 1989

Dear Friend:

I wish I could be giving you a more personal response to the generous message you sent, but then I've wished a couple of other things these past couple of weeks as well. One piece of good news for me lately is the large number of people who were, like yourself, gracious enough to send or phone me words of encouragement, and the consequence of that is that I cannot respond in a more personalized way. I hope you understand that I have read every message and I am far more appreciative of your sending yours than this note can convey.

Barney Frank



Southern Voice), and 644 articles in the *Chronicle*. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* ran 287 articles, about the same number as most other major papers. That's about one article out of 170 published per day.

Death and the Next Struggle: To Survive Gay Life

—*New York Times*, 6/26/89

No question about it, AIDS was the top gay story of 1989 in the straight press. "Even among the 'better' news sources," says Keith Clark, "80 to 90 percent of everything published about us relates one way or another to the AIDS epidemic."

page special section in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. "When AIDS Comes Home: The Life and Death of Tom Fox" (August 20, 1989) documented one gay man's experience with AIDS. The words and photographs also gave glimpses of our community from the inside: a party in Key West, Tom's support group, a visit to the Quilt in Washington. Powerful stuff.

Barney Frank's Public and Private Lives: Lonely Struggle for Coexistence

—*New York Times*, 9/15/89

Front pages dripped with the scandal

We all gnashed our teeth over this scandal, wishing the damn thing would go away; but apparently the press coverage generated support as well as a torrent of criticism. I hope the supporters prevail in the elections this year.

Non-Nuclear Proliferation: Alternative "Family" Arrangements Grow More Common Across U.S.

—*Utne Reader*, March 1989

With an odd mixture of affection and alarm, the press introduced mainstream America to gay families in 1989.

A sprinkling of legal firsts marked the year, providing news hooks for feature stories. San Francisco's domestic partner-

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When AIDS Comes Home



EUGENE, ORE., JULY 11, 1989: In his last moments of life, Tom Fox is surrounded by grieving loved ones at Sacred Heart Hospital. His mother, Doris, strokes his head to reassure him, also with Tom are his father, Bob; Fox Sr., his older brother, Bob Jr., and his younger brother, John (right).

The Life and Death of Tom Fox

A 16-Page Special Section

Article by Steve Sternberg □ Photography by Michael A. Schwarz

ship ordinance, passed by the city council in May and repealed by referendum in November, was the first in the U.S. to confer even minimal legal recognition of gay couples. In October, six gay couples registered in Copenhagen when Denmark became the first nation in the world to do so.

Karen Thompson at last was permitted to visit Sharon Kowalski in February. The *New York Times* called Karen's struggle against the court-appointed guardian of her lover "a cause celebre and important symbol around the country for groups

who advocate gay rights, rights for the disabled, and women's rights."

In July, a New York judge ruled that a gay male lover had the same rights as a spouse in a rent-control case. The *Washington Post* called the decision "historic," and readers around the nation were served essays on the changing legal definition of the family.

But the fascination with gay families really showed up in a raft of features. Newspapers and magazines of every stripe (not to mention TV talk shows) had something to say about a lesbian "baby

boom." The *Journal-Constitution*, for instance, printed an illustrated feature on lesbian mothers a week after Valentine's Day. There was even a mainstream magazine cover story on the case for gay marriage: *The New Republic's* "Here Comes the Groom."

And gays in the military also got a lot of attention. Perry Watkins and Miriam Ben-Shalom won a few rounds in their legal skirmishes during 1989, though no resounding victories. (Did you catch them together on Sally Jesse Raphael?) The University of Wisconsin faculty voted to oust ROTC from campus unless the armed forces stop discriminating against us.

The big news, though, was the October leak to the press that a consultant advised the U.S. Department of Defense to stop their policies of harassment and exclusion. Naturally, DoD rejected and hushed up these reports — successfully, until someone sent copies to U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds.

Group Warns Gays: Don't Flaunt Your Ways

—*Los Angeles Times*, 11/14/89

We took a lot of abuse in 1989, and the straight press even reported some of it. Consider the furor over the Mapplethorpe exhibit. The tremendous, documented increase in anti-gay violence. The investigation of Texas judge Jack Hampton following his comments on the insignificance of murdering "queers," which ended with him keeping his job. The speech by William Allen — chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, for God's sake — at a conference hosted by the California Coalition for Traditional Values. (The speech was titled, "Blacks? Animals? Homosexuals? What Is a Minority?") Other commission members denounced it. Allen kept his job.)

While some politicians courted the gay vote, others exploited hatred and fear of us. The Republican National Committee even smeared House Speaker Tom Foley by starting a rumor that Foley was as

queer as Barney Frank.

And did you hear that the backlash is over? Yes, the *New York Times* reported in October that a Gallup poll shows public "tolerance" of homosexual relations between consenting adults has recovered to its level before 1982, "before public concern over spread of AIDS caused a backlash against homosexuals."

Quick, somebody tell Jesse Helms and the skinheads.

Despite all these observations, I'm encouraged that the media considers lesbian and gay life, at least sometimes, simply human life. The term "hate crimes" includes crimes perpetrated against us because we're queer. We're not *always* dismissed as freaky, irrelevant perverts. Keith Clark observes that U.S. newspapers are getting used to calling us lesbians and gays; only a few — notably the *Chicago Tribune* and *USA Today* — seem to cling exclusively to the word "homosexuals."

The resurgence of the pro-choice stance in politics, which dominated analysis and speculation after the November elections, was good news for us too. The *Wall Street Journal*, no less, pointed out that Georgia's sodomy law "stirs furor over the role of the state in intimate relations." The Massachusetts legislature passed a gay rights bill.

And in one of the great gender-bender stories of the last year, music reviewers everywhere noted the huge popularity of female singers such as Tracy Chapman, k.d. lang, and Atlanta's own Indigo Girls. Those "gender-free" love lyrics *could* be about a person of the same sex. The performers coyly refuse to clarify things, while their albums go gold and platinum.

Does this signify greater acceptance of us out there in mainstream America? Or does it mean that we're acceptable only when we hide and don't flaunt our ways?

Keep an eye on the straight press for clues to the answer.

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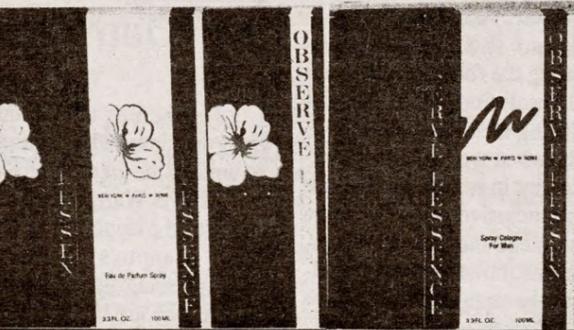
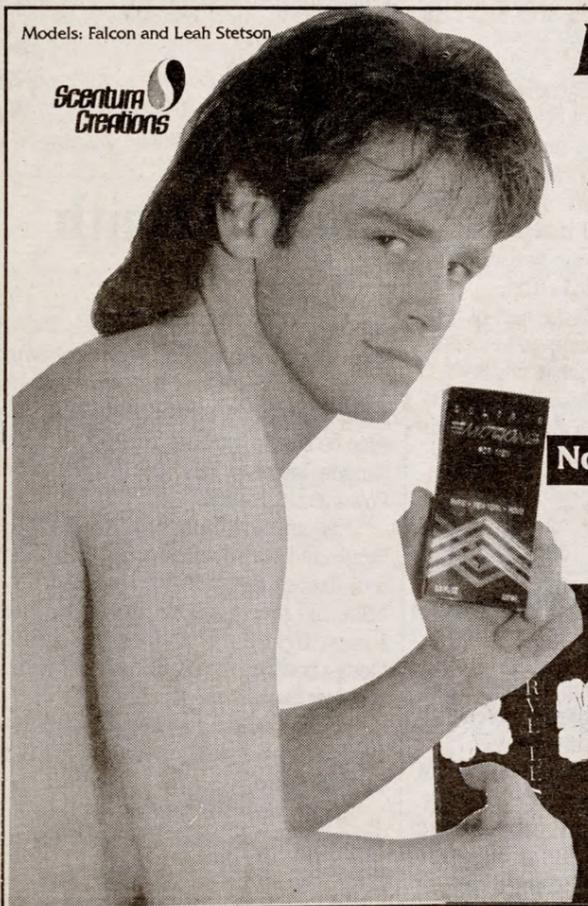
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Guest Editorial

Yanking the Plug on Oppression

by Sabrina Sojourner

Author's Note:

Oppression sickness - n. 1. The intentional or unintentional infliction of bias action against an individual or a group on the basis of skin color, race, ethnicity, nationality, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, creed or socioeconomic status. 2. The internalization of covert and/or overt actions based on the above.

I want to invite you to be provided with a perspective which seeks to empower all of us to be more accepting of difference. We are different and yet we are all the same. However, we have been taught that how we differ from the norm—white, male, heterosexual; able-bodied Protestant; upper-middle class; and college educated—determines how society acknowledges or denies our humanity.

I am one of many searching for ways to move us to a place where we can talk about difference in terms of color, race, gender and class—to name a few.

We do not live in a perfect world. All people are not created equal. Economics, education, gender, color and physical experience are just a few of the barriers erected by a system determined to perpetuate itself at our cost. Our ability to make an honest living; raise families in healthy and safe environments; have satisfying work and so on is the price many of us pay so that too few can actually live out those dreams that we all are entitled to possess.

I continue to have a difficult time with groups who are themselves oppressed and who themselves become oppressors. This seeming paradox has become less perplex-

ing as I begin to understand oppression as an illness which victimizes the perpetrator as well as the human target. It is important to note that victim and perpetrator are victimized differently. The perpetrator, of course, does have more power in the immediate situation.

The power in these situations may be positional, physical, economic—any of a number of actual or perceived variables.

An individual or group of individuals who refuse to participate in their own victimization are often accused of: not knowing their place; being overly sensitive; or misunderstanding the intention of the perpetrators. They are characterized by the institutions which support the perpetrators as rabble rousers, boat-rockers, troublemakers, anarchists, undesirables or whatever the latest brand name taken up by the dominant culture to keep people in line. Witch, comic, nigger, nigger-lover, feminist, liberal, dyke and fag are just a few of the terms used for this purpose.

People who refuse to live their lives as victims without resorting to victimizing others, people working to free themselves of intangible internal and external bonds, have the potential of being the true visionaries, teachers and leaders of our time.

However they are rarely recognized as such because oppressors see them as monstrous threats to the status quo.

Lateral oppression occurs when people who are forced to confront their own issues of visibility act out of jealousy and become fixed on their way of soliciting change as the way things are to be accomplished. Oppressive attitudes perpetrated by those within our affinity group(s) are the attitudes we most often understand as they impact at the deepest level.

How do we begin to break our participation in oppressive behaviors? By recognizing the pervasiveness of the problem. Oppressing others is a learned behavior which can be unlearned. We learned it from a variety of social, economic and governmental institutions which teach us in covert and overt ways to ascribe to a narrow value system. In order to feel a part of the American dream. And that any and all who desire to change, alter or transform that dream to be more inclusive are suspect.

This kind of thinking perpetuates a schizophrenia whose primary purpose is to: divide and conquer; foster the notion of humans (those who agree with us) and monsters (those who disagree); and promote the false notion of scarcity (there's not enough of anything to go around.) An additional important by-product of self-hate.

Once we have made a conscious decision to begin the process of unlearning our oppressive behavior(s), it is important to recognize that, despite our best intentions, there will be times when our actions or inactions will be perceived as inappropriate. (After all, we are human and do make mistakes.) Therefore, when we are called on our bigotry in whatever form it may manifest, the appropriate response is, "Yes, I am (racist, sexist, classist, etc) because I am a product of this society. And I am trying to unlearn that behavior." This response defuses the charge, putting the focus on the insult and its potential resolution while moving away from care-taking the offender.

In other words, when we begin to recognize our own sincerity in wanting to behave in responsible and inclusive ways, we have no more need to defend our errors. Rather, we need to appreciate, however momentarily uncomfortable, the opportunity to have our awareness broadened.

She Likes What Our Editorial Said

Dear Editor:

It was thoughtful of you to compliment those ACT UP people from other cities. They came to Atlanta to add numbers and input to our demonstration here. They came to help us with this, a common cause.

I was at a NYC ACT UP meeting last Monday and they do have their act very much together. If they want to puff up, they have every right.

There's a lot to be learned by everybody. Compliments to people on our side do a lot more than criticism. Keep up the good work. I love the paper.

An Unidentified Reader

...and She Doesn't

The Editor:

Poorly done, *Southern Voice*; in reference to your staff editorial in Vol. 2, No. 25, pg. 6. Many of my friends as well as myself take offense to the third paragraph of your editorial which states, 'Activist from N.Y., Boston, San Francisco and L.A. got to come south, puff themselves up with pride and pretend that they were showing us corn pone types just how such actions ought to be orchestrated. Local activists were able to see that, while their out-of-town guest might have more experience, us Coke guzzlin' yokels can act up pretty damn well on their own, thank you very much!'

First of all, as a woman born and raised in the South, I feel that your remarks regarding our guests to be rather impolite and derogatory. Especially when one considers the personal time, effort, and expense put forth by these visitors. Second, I would like for you to realize that the force of some of Atlantans' actions emotes from individuals like Judy Siff (a recent transfer from California who presently coordinates the media of the Atlanta Chapter of ACT UP) who are pouring their energies and resources into the community of Atlanta. As a recent arrival, I find offense in the editorial's statement "puffing up with pride and pretend" because as a photographer I saw directed, determined, organized forces that were composed three-fourths of so-called outsiders, and no one present was certainly puffing up more than the other. It would appear to me that we are one people united in cause.

Third, I do not comprehend what purpose is served in putting down Atlantans with this corn pone coke guzzling yokel typecasting language. Are these images that *Southern Voice* wishes to perpetuate? I am a woman of the South who has taken the time to live/understand the cities and it seems we are one community. Let everyone praise themselves and others in the directed effort.

Let the South rise again as the best of new and old. Making a difference involves community, statewide, international endeavors. Together, united we will only aid the process of redirecting forces which determine our future.

Sincerely,
Barbara Snell

An "Outraged" Reader

Editor:

For the first time in quite a while something has inspired—or incensed—me enough to write to the great "Editor" in the sky.

Steve Warren's article, the "Tales of Armistead Maupin," was quite an eye-opener. Mr. Maupin's comment concerning "...expressing your impatience to other gay people who are in the closet, telling them you

feel that they have a moral responsibility to be more honest about their lives because it will make the world a better place for everyone" outraged me.

Why would anyone feel compelled to tell another person how to live their life? "Will my 'coming out' put food on the table for the starving people in this city? Does nuclear war hinge on who's sleeping in my bed tonight? I think not.

Those individuals in the public eye who choose not to add homosexuality to their resume are not committing a crime against the gay community. They are simply participating in life as human beings. Would an admission of homosexuality suddenly make them better actors or writers or politicians? No. Would it make them any more bankable? Definitely not.

Mr. Maupin was also quoted as saying, "That's why we have something like the Gay Engagement Calendar that brags about the people who are gay, because we're proud of these people." Are we proud of these people because they are gay? Should we be excited because they are gay and have accomplished something in life? I didn't realize that homosexuals were somehow disabled because of their sexual preference and accomplishments should be rewarded at every opportunity. Why can't we just be proud of the fact that these people have done something with their lives? Why is it necessary to label these people at all? Isn't that one of our strongest complaints against the heterosexual community?

I am a human being, a woman and a lesbian. In that order. My lesbianism doesn't control or dominate my life; it just happens to be a very good part of it. I can't remember the last time I put my feet up, lit a cigarette and said, "Damn, I'm glad to be a lesbian." I'm simply glad to be. I want to be accepted (or not accepted) based on my actions, ideals and achievements. With whom I share my bed should never be taken into consideration in that process.

Mr. Maupin's attitude of "If you won't tell all, I'll do it for you" is frightening. Those individuals in the public eye have worked long and hard to establish and maintain their careers. They have made choices and they are prepared to live with them. It angered me to read about one man's plight to "expose the world" for the good of mankind.

He said, "If my career doesn't go any further than this, I don't give a damn." Fine, Mr. Maupin, but other people do. Why not just leave them alone and concentrate on your own life for a while?

A. Akins
Atlanta

Tender Truth

Dear Editor,

New York City, tourist hotel, 26th floor, it's a small room with a large open window. The phone rings: Doug is dead. The family is packing his body off the same day. I won't even be able to see him. The room shrinks, the window looms larger. I am pressed to the sill. Powerless. Shamed.

There is nothing left to me but anger. Death and waste abound. Seeds of activism root deeper in my being with every body I bathe and every grown man's diaper I change. I must fight back. If I don't, I just throw Doug's body on the heap with Cal's and Gary's and dear David's and Keith's.

Able-bodied gay people must learn to fight. We have the power to demand a cure for AIDS now.

Truth sucks wind when we do not speak out because we falsely believe that truth is divisive.

Our great ally—truth—is slain by the egos

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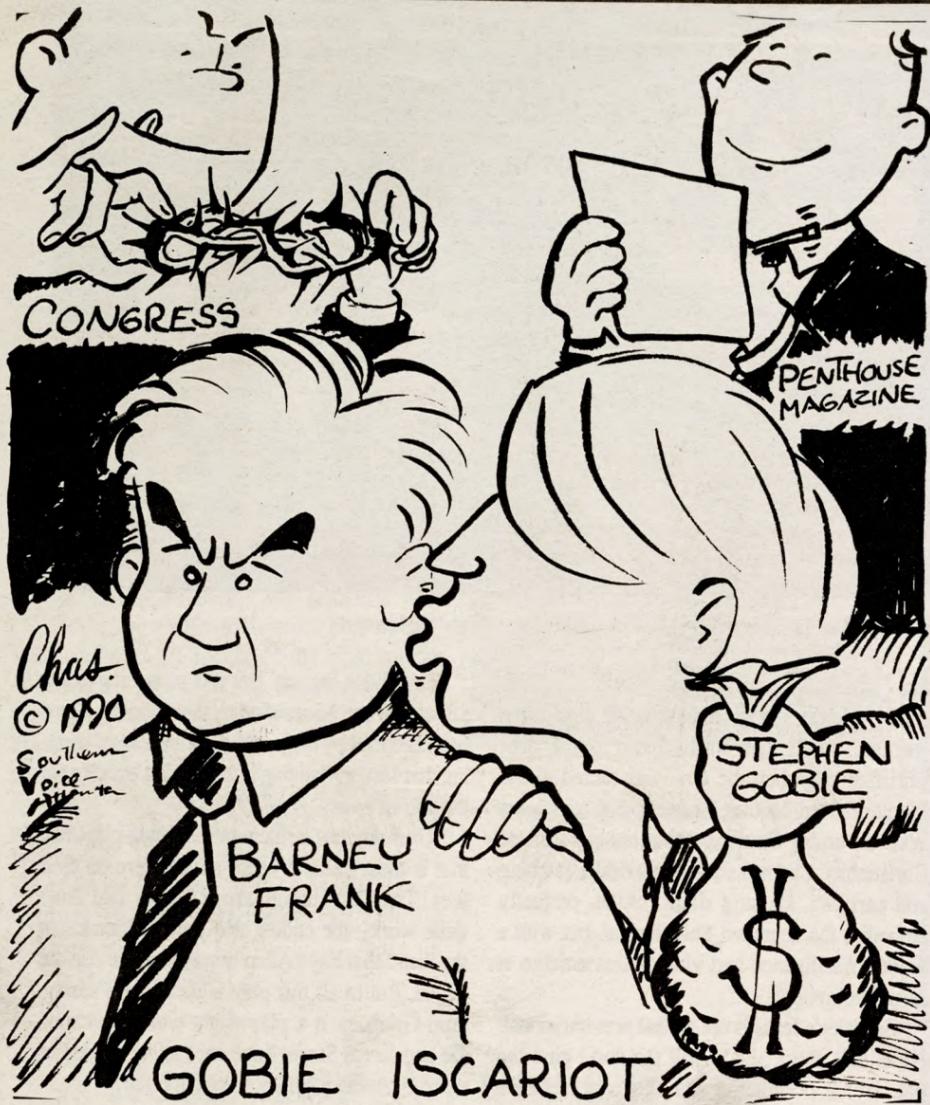
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of self-appointed leaders like Jeffrey Laymon. Read his lies in *Creative Loafing's* January 6th issue.

Truth is lost on behind-the-scenes lobbyist Chris Hagin who can't comprehend the relationship between sexually oppressive laws and AIDS. Hagin says that sodomy laws are not an AIDS issue.

Alma Hill, *Atlanta Journal and Constitution's* reporter "covering" gay issues last year refused my invitations to meet and talk with people with AIDS. Ms. Hill says AIDS is not a gay issue. Alma meet Chris.

A week after the sodomy law demonstration Earl Erhart of the House Judicial Committee told me that he had not heard a peep from any of our behind the "unseen" lobbyists. Good little gays should not be seen nor heard.

The difference between mainstreaming and direct action is that one calls for a compromise tomorrow and the other demands a cure today.

Truth is compromised when gay newspapers permit criticism by anonymous, maybe gay, sexless letter writers of out and visible body/career/pride frontline gay activists. Quit wasting our time. No wonder we can't muster up enough guts for a National Coming Out Day Ad.

Truth is a bitch when a gay man can be jailed for attempted murder for biting a cop and the streets don't teem over with outraged gay citizens.

Truth is silenced when we permit our AIDS service organizations to be figureheaded by heterosexuals, National Association of People With AIDS, AID Atlanta, Project Open Hand...When will gay be good enough? Why are we closeting our organizations?

We hand the victor's spoils to AIDS when we sit silently through funerals without speaking the unspeakable enemy's name, as if the deceased hadn't even fought back.

Tender truth is sometimes sick and too bare. Many Atlanta PWA's die broke, disenfranchised, and alone because the same handful of volunteers can't do it all.

When are we going to commit ourselves to stopping AIDS? Looking into the mirror of eyes of our sick friends we must each ask our-

self, which part of me will I hold back? What do I have that I wouldn't give to stop AIDS now? What talent? What material resource? What pride? What fear?

What does Steve Nygren—co-founder of the Peasant restaurant chain, Atlanta's brilliant gay business success story—have that he wouldn't give back to his thousands of past and present gay employees and hoards of gay diners. He places little value on gay health when his company's own self-funded insurance plan limits AIDS benefits to \$10,000.00. Thanks Steve.

I wonder how many gay Atlantans will still be able to swallow Peasant food.

The cure for AIDS hangs hiding in the same closet where it was born. We are the cure; you and me. We will continue to die until the tuxedo and liquor crowd is willing to dirty their hands, until we realize that home ownership is not a gay right, that parties and raft races and decorating will not stop AIDS, until we are prepared to commit every ounce of fight we have to wage this war.

Our friends will continue to fever away until we accept that they are not simply falling asleep. They are dying! This is gay America's holocaust and our wasted resources are fueling the chambers. We are sucking in the gas.

One last thought. Someday the curtain is going to come down. This fucking tragic play will be history. I never wanted a part, but I know one thing: when they write the critique I want it to read that Jim Allen was in the cast.

Jim Allen
Atlanta

Correction

The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus Holiday Concert was inadvertently omitted from the story "1989, the Year That Was" in the January 18 issue of *Southern Voice* due to a transcription error. We apologize to the Chorus for our slip.

Distrusts ACT UP

Editor:

I went to the rally on January 8, 1990 protesting the continuation of the sodomy statute as law in this state. I should say at the beginning, that I find the sodomy law silly; I find no rational justification for such a law in any realm save that of "Natural Law" which derives its foundation from religion (preference unspecified); and, I find no precept in our current form of government which justifies the intrusion of religion into our law making.

Having said that, I must say that the rally proved everything that I expected it to be. Less than three hundred people turned out. The majority proved themselves obviously angry. I heard speakers use language befitting the late Abbie Hoffman. But, so what?

I don't see that a few young angry women and men speak with any authority for the rest of the lesbian and gay community here in Atlanta. I really don't care how earnest they may think themselves.

The missing element in any of these considerations is the silent majority. By silence, we may say that we disapprove of what or how or why ACT UP does it's thing. By silence, we may also say, "I've got mine - to hell with the rest." By silence, we may simply be expressing our apathy for our right. Which is it?

I personally distrust ACT UP. They seem motivated more by outrage than mature citizenship and dissent. They look more like chronic malcontents seeking warmth in a video camera's kleig lights.

I went to the rally. I saw ACT UP. I left unmoved.

Thomas R. Thompson

Difficult Journey

Dear Editor:

One of my many favorite lines in the movie "Torch Song Trilogy" is when Arnold says, "I've been young and I've been beautiful, but never the two have met." Makes me think of things in my life that have rarely met like being gay and feeling like I belong. Never did I think the two would come together in a church.

Last weekend, I decided to take a mini-vacation and escape the pine trees of South Georgia. I wanted to get in touch again with my people and culture—the bars, restaurants, even the bookstores. I had decided to buy some legitimate, non-porno books about being positively gay and about our history.

I picked up the phone just before I took off Friday afternoon and called the First MCC. Rev. Reid Christensen answered in a very friendly voice. Immediately, I became tongue-tied. All I can remember is I said something about visiting Atlanta and wanting to come to church, never having been to "this kind of church" and wondering what to wear anyway. He told me how glad they would be to have me and said they had no "dress code."

Friday and Saturday night were a lot of fun. Lots of new and interesting faces greeted me at a packed Armory. The heavy beat dance music reverberated off the walls and the pulsating lights illuminated rainbow glimpses of a sea of bodies swaying on the dance floor. This is what I had always thought it meant to be gay—what I remember a friend of mine calling the "magic" of Atlanta.

Around 2 a.m. Sunday I realized the hour of decision had arrived. Should I envelop

myself in the sweaty magic a few more hours or walk across the street to my hotel room and get some sleep to make the 10:45 a.m. gospel "Singspiration" and service that followed. "Oh well, at least it will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience," I muttered to myself as I fell into bed.

Eight-thirty arrived painfully fast. I grumbled, "I had always heard the 'gay church' met at 2 p.m. to give the repenting bar crawlers enough time to get there." Reid (I didn't even call him Reverend on the phone, I realized later. Probably didn't think he really was one) said I could wear jeans if I wanted. But jeans didn't seem appropriate—even for a gay church. So I wore khakis and a button-down shirt.

On Highland Avenue, a homeless person walked in front of me, headed for the church. He went inside and held the door for me. This was going to be most interesting. Inside I saw all kinds of people: black, white, old, young. Some families and gay and lesbian singles and couples.

The choir started singing so I grabbed a handful of brochures and walked into the theater turned sanctuary. In many ways, it looked like a traditional church, but then I noticed some quilt panels with names of AIDS victims hanging and realized, again, that this morning would be a new journey for me as a gay person.

How familiar all this was—Bible readings, hymns, communion, the offering, a choir singing. And yet so different—especially the street people seated together across the aisle. They sang, prayed and stood up just like I did. But their being in a church next to me felt odd. It hit me, the irony of that feeling.

And here I was sitting in a church as an openly gay person and feeling comfortable and welcome. Now, that really was odd!

Reid ended his sermon praying for God to help all of us to overcome the "sin of division."

Those words echoed in my mind; the sin of division.

How separate from society do we often feel as gays and lesbians. Not even feeling welcome in the many churches society has built and calls God's House. I've never gone to church every Sunday and after coming out felt I didn't belong anymore. I knew deep down, though, that God loved me and had blessed me with opportunities and a loving family.

Society teaches us we don't belong, except in seedy bars with our own kind or living stereotypical lives of promiscuity. I remember reading a muscle magazine interview with former Mr. Universe Bob Paris. He admitted he was gay and said "Growing up, society and my family taught me to hate myself." I don't buy what society teaches me anymore. I hesitated to go to a gay church because society says gays don't belong in church. I found MCC is not a gay church, it's a true church "which proclaims liberation for all," and "extends ministry to all." Amen to that!

A quote from the "Universal Fellowship Today" brochure echoed Reid's sermon: "...we need to strive mightily to convince all humankind that love and justice are synonymous."

The MCC is just one discovery on my difficult journey to becoming a positive gay person. I now know for sure that God loves us. More importantly, I'm learning to love myself as a gay person. Now, that's a revelation!

Sincerely yours,
Ross Bodle
Statesboro

Viewpoints is intended to provide a continuing forum for the lesbian and gay community. We encourage you to share your ideas comments and feelings on these pages. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than three pages. We are happy to offer anonymity when letters are printed, but all submissions must be signed. Please also give us your phone number in case we have questions. We reserve the right to edit for space. Mail your letters to: Southern Voice/Viewpoints P.O. Box 18215 Atlanta, GA 30316

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of *Southern Voice*.

COUNTERCULTURE

Jesus Loves Paul and Sol

by Charlene Ball

Every Western writer raised in the Christian tradition has to deal with the image of Jesus. That Roman instrument of torture, the cross, bisected the sky two millennia ago. And we've been trying to put ourselves back together again ever since. Non-Christians look on amused as Baptists, Catholics and secular humanists absorb, rewrite or try to banish this elusive person of myth/history from their consciousness.

If one is raised in the Bible Belt, one becomes steeped in the language, stories, and turns of thought of the Old and New Testaments. And for a Southerner who was raised on the Bible, the rejection one gets for being gay can be a potent catalyst. One is an outsider, with an outsider's sharp perspective, but an insider's knowledge. And one may well find that one longs for a lost paradise of belief. This longing, of course, is what generates art.

As a gay male Southern playwright, Jim Grimsley has a special relationship to the Bible's characters and their stories.

Grimsley's Jesus play, *The Lizard of Tarsus*, is an attempt to come to terms with Jesus and what he represents. It echoes other works—glimmerings of Dostoevsky's Christ and the Grand Inquisitor, Nietzsche's Zarathustra, or the Jesus of the Gnostic Gospels. It is appropriate somehow that another revisionist play about Jesus has appeared in Atlanta. Both Jim Peck (appearing as Jesus here) and Eddie (Levi) Lee have attempted the subject. And, of course, the so-called "Death of God" theology originated at Emory (and at Manuel's Tavern) in the 1960's.

Jesus (Jim Peck) has returned to earth at an

unspecified time in the future of the New Jerusalem and has been arrested by St. Paul (Del Hamilton), who is still the head of the church. Paul wants Jesus to record his message for posterity before being done in again. Jesus, however, can neither read nor write, and he refuses to be pinned down as to what his parables meant, or what actually *did* happen to Paul on the road to Damascus. Paul wants Jesus to validate him and his alterations to Jesus' message. And Jesus refuses.

Del Hamilton and Jim Peck are two consummate actors; it is a joy to hear and see them. They balance each other, with splendid voices, just right for these two larger-than-life characters and the eloquent words they speak. Del Hamilton, as St. Paul, looks like the lizard of the title. A prickly bureaucrat and PR man, Paul is ridden with secret repressions; a man on the run from himself. Jesus is Paul's opposite: vital and spontaneous, with a peasant's simplicity and shrewdness, but all the imperiousness and unpredictability of a Greek deity. Like C.S. Lewis' Aslan, this Jesus is no tame lion. Definitely not the sanitized Jesus image of Christian Sunday Schools.

Peck's Jesus is kind yet shrewd—expressing infinite compassion—but he is nobody's fool. He has the inexpressibly weary air of someone who has seen the same dreadful things happen over and over again. Yet he maintains spontaneity and hope. Likely the most improbable-looking Jesus ever seen on stage or screen, Peck is as down-to-earth as whole-wheat bread. And his delight at working a miracle is a joy to behold.

Faye Allen plays Sol Heifer, a down-trodden servant woman whose tongue has been cut out by St. Paul. Sol's name is evocative: it sounds



Sol Heifer is healed by Jesus, and Paul isn't pleased

like Saul, Paul's original name; it is also the sun. And Heifer is a cow, a derogatory term for a woman, but it also harks back to the pre-Christian era when the cow was sacred to the Mediterranean Mother Goddess. Sol represents Woman under Paul's patriarchal version of Christianity, chained to a huge Bible, fetching and carrying, keeping silent. Allen perfectly embodies the degraded Sol—fearful, but with a hidden intelligence and vitality that emerge at Jesus' prompting.

Grimsley's Jesus is not all that non-traditional: He is still divine; he is still the good guy; the patriarchal premise of his existence remains unchallenged. At one point, when the two men are arguing in abstract terms over whether Sol Heifer, just healed by Jesus, should be allowed to keep her new tongue, I wished Allen would get up off the floor and say, "The hell with you both—I'm gonna bring back the matriarchy!"

That didn't happen. But it is promising to see a male writer acknowledge that women *have* been silenced by male authority, instead of denying that fact, trivializing it, or making excuses for the perpetrators.

Grimsley has written an intriguing play; one that is theatrical and keeps an audience on their toes. There are things about *Tarsus* that don't quite work—the ending and the significance of the lizard that Faye Allen brings in at the end are vague. But in all this play is well worth seeing. And Grimsley is a playwright worth watching. He and Seven Stages have once again handed us exciting and thought-provoking theater.

Lizard of Tarsus plays through March 4 at Seven Stages Theater. Call 523-9647 for times, prices and reservations.

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Lesbians Win NEA Grants

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has recently selected three openly lesbian writers as winners of \$20,000 fellowship grants, reports *The Washington Blade*.

Writers Audre Lorde, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Chrystos received grants to support their individual writing projects for one year.

The lesbian poet/authors were chosen along with 94 other American writers to receive the NEA's Creative Writing Fellowships for 1990.

The decision to support these writers, known for their homoerotic content,

comes at a time when Congress has issued an amendment which is designed to deny funds to projects that "promote, disseminate, or produce materials... which may be considered obscene" and which include descriptions of "sado-masochism" or "homoeroticism."

Sen. Jesse Helms introduced the amendment to an appropriations bill which supplies funds to NEA.

NEA chairman John Frohnmayer said the grants are intended to "play some small part in nurturing a literature that truly reflects the immense diversity of the United States."

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Virtue In Our Voice:

"Tongues Untied" weaves an intricate tapestry of poignancy and humor

by Jim Marks

With his balding pate and round glasses, 32-year-old film maker Marlon Riggs looks a bit like a young Mahatma Ghandi—another intensely spiritual, intellectual man who liked to shake people up.

Riggs did just that with his film "Ethnic Notions." When the Emmy-winning "Notions" aired nationally on PBS it proved unsettling to blacks and whites alike.

Riggs continues to defy convention. In October 1989, his "Tongues Untied" premiered at the American Film Institute's (AFI) Video Festival. "Tongues" captures Rigg's personal "search for affirmation, community, and love in America as black gay men." It opens with his nude image behind the opening credits and goes on to discuss AIDS in the context of his discovery that he is antibody positive. As Howard University professor Ron Simmons wrote in *Black Film Review*, "One cannot help but admire (his) courage."

Riggs first encountered racism during the year he lived in Georgia. In 1968, racial tensions ran high at the newly desegregated Hepzibah Junior High. The 11 year old Riggs was one of two blacks placed in the top class. "In the school yard its was, 'look at that damn nigger over there, who does he think he is?'"

He was friendless and isolated. "Because I was in this class, the black students thought I was above them, so they treated me with hostility too. I just suffered, worked hard and got good grades."

Riggs felt liberated when his family moved to Germany. "In Germany one saw friendships between guys and girls who were Asian white, Black, Latino, Puerto Rican. It was a very affirming experience to find there could be a community in which I could be myself."

By contrast, Harvard proved "...another traumatic time. I had to confront this emerging sense of homosexuality within myself, and how that was setting me apart from the black students."

Just as the little boy in Hepzibah studied harder to survive, so the college student turned to books to learn about himself.

"I was so naive. These are staid Harvard professor types. A short black student comes in—very serious, very somber—saying, 'I would like to do a study independently directed by you on homosexuality in American literature' as if it were a course listed in a catalogue."

"They could not get out of their mouths the word 'gay.' They would say, 'That's an interesting theme. I don't know if I have the qualifications to direct it.'"

But thanks to "this tunnel vision that I can have" Riggs eventually met a tutor named Paul Marx. "He was an exuberant man, full of life. He brought out books and said, here, look at this: Walt Whitman!"

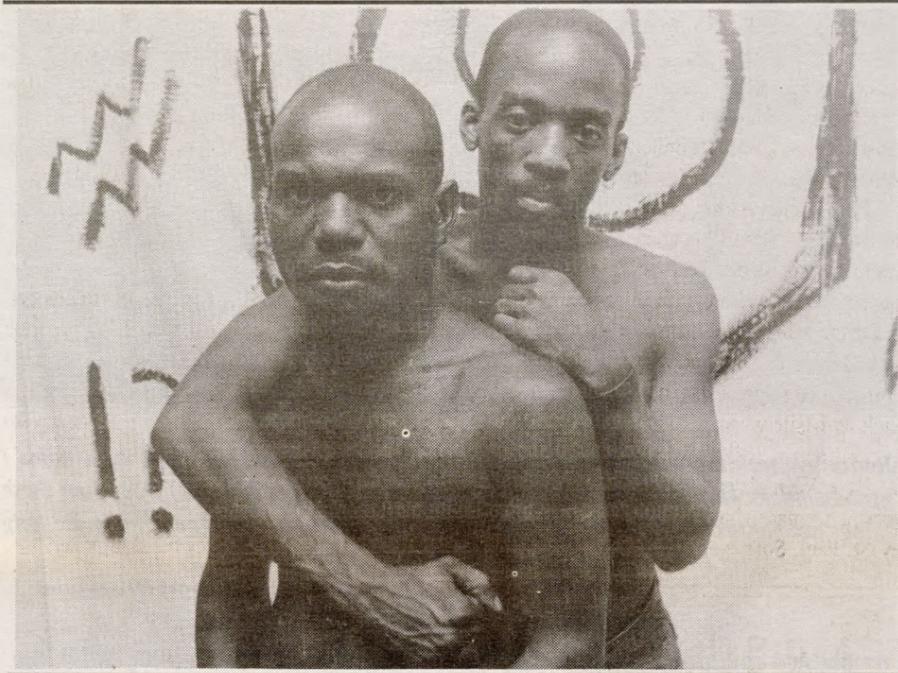
"I consider him my mentor. He made me see that homosexuality was more than intellectual. It became spiritual as well. It wasn't just fucking, it wasn't just finding a boyfriend. That's always been my thing, to look at history and find value and meaning and lessons."

The move from Harvard history major to video maker "wasn't a big jump for me. It was always assumed I would be a preacher, or an

in 1982.

About the time "Long Train Running" began winning awards, Riggs attended an exhibit of Black memorabilia that Harvard hadn't prepared him for. "Imagine a house full of pickaninnies, grinning coons, watermelon-eating mummies, banjo-thumping Sambos, Uncle Toms. Images of you as a black person, hideously distorted. This was saying something about America that no one had ever told me in a history class and I'd definitely never seen in any film or video."

It took five years to make "Ethnic Notions," the film that exhibit inspired. "The biggest problem was fundraising. It rubbed people the wrong way, as cutting edge material often does. 'Aren't we over this, can't we forget about this,' funders would ask."



Filmmaker Marlon Riggs with performance artist Essex Hemphill

RON SIMMONS

attorney; that I would mobilize and lead people." Riggs decided television was the best way "to communicate all the wonderful things I was learning."

After a year-long detour to his hometown of Ft. Worth, Texas, Riggs enrolled in the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley, where he now teaches. His first video, and his master's thesis, "Long Train Running," documented the creation of a distinctive jazz sound by the blacks who'd migrated to the East Bay area during World War II. It won an AFI first prize

"And I would respond: your reaction tells me we are not over it. If you look at the images on television you'll find much the same as 100 years ago: singing, laughing, strutting—happy darkies entertaining America."

"Ethnic Notion's" startling use of Black images to focus on "white fantasies, white perceptions, distortions and paranoia" is enhanced by its clinically detached tone. "Documentaries about racism tend to rail against racism, or show its heart-wrenching consequences. My intent was to look at

America as some specimen beneath a glass, and say, 'look at this cancer. Let's dissect it, see what it is made of.'"

Riggs knows the technique works, and he doesn't need awards to prove it. "I've been to numerous screenings where people laugh at the beginning. They see the cartoon of the big Black mammy dancing with the little coon at her breast. People giggle. But by the end of the film, people stop laughing. They get the point."

"Ethnic Notions" and "Tongues Untied" show a talented film maker's hand, but they are very different works. "Ethnic Notions" is history as Riggs fell in love with it. "Tongues Untied" doesn't re-examine the past; it surveys the present—the living, breathing moment frozen in the amber of technology.

"Tongues Untied" began in 1986, when Black gay men first found their own voice with the publication of *In the Life*, edited by the late Joseph Beam. In D.C., Essex Hemphill was writing poems of extraordinary immediacy and beauty. In New York, the Black gay collective, Blackheart, spawned the writers group Other Countries. Across the country, similar Black gay men's groups sprang up.

Riggs was a regular at Oakland's Black Gay Men United. At readings and conferences, he met many of the leading figures of this "renaissance—or naissance" of black gay literature.

"I said, boy this is just amazing. I also realized I hungered for visual work. I was tired of going to the gay and lesbian film festival and seeing nothing that touched my life directly."

"Tongues Untied," Rigg's portrait of his post-Civil Rights, post-Stonewall generation, began casually. "I just started shooting things." Riggs went to New York, shot an Other Countries workshop and dinner. He caught street queens voguing on the pier. He took the footage back to Oakland and shamed his group into performing for him.

"But, I couldn't go on just shooting willy nilly; I had to organize, give it an overall structure."

Riggs found that structure in his own life. "The hardest part was injecting myself into the film. I was trained not to put myself in the shot. But without a narrative thread there was no cohesiveness, just nice moments and interesting poems."

That personal aspect gives an elegant

Cont'd on Page 12

SUNDAY

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Stephanie Byrd: Visionary Poet with Practical Politics

by Terri Jewell

Stephanie Byrd is a Black lesbian poet, writer and community activist. Her works include two books of poetry: *25 Years of Malcontent* (published by Good Gay Poets, Boston) and *A Distant Footstep of the Plain* (self-published). She is currently attending the graduate school for African Literature and Languages at Cornell University.

SB: I was born in 1950 on July 10th in Richmond, Indiana. My family has lived in or around Richmond since the War of 1812, perhaps before then. Part of them came from Boston because the Northwest Territory was free territory and they did not wish to be enslaved again. Other members of my family escaped from slavery in the South and came to Indiana where small Black settlements had sprung up. These are the people that I come from.

I was an anti-war activist from 1968-1973. I met some civil rights activists during that period. The Black community in Cairo was boycotting white businesses because of their refusal to hire Blacks. The white community was responding by driving through the Black community at night and shooting through people's windows.

SV: Were you a lesbian then?

SB: Yes. When I was about 6 or 7, one of the neighbors called me a lesbian. I went to my grandmother and asked her about it and she told me that being a lesbian was about loving women, women loving women.

SV: Your grandmother?

SB: Yes. My grandmother Byrd. And that it was all right to be a lesbian if I really loved someone. Since I was in love with my little next-door neighbor, I went out and told everyone. My mother was furious! The second time, I was 12 and I was asked to put down on a sheet of paper what my goals in life were. I had put down that my goals were to be a brain surgeon, a lawyer and a lesbian. I was sent to the office. And they said, Well, do you know what a lesbian is? And I said, It's a person who lives on the Isle of Lesbos because I had looked it up in the dictionary. They let me go, feeling secure that I really didn't know what I was talking about. It's funny, a year later I was sent to the office again for being a Communist.

SV: A Communist?

SB: Yes, because I asked for the Communist Manifesto in the school library so we could compare it to the Declaration of Independence. When I was 17, I tried to become straight and hooked up with this guy who turned out to be gay. By the time I was 19, I realized that none of this was working, so I just went back to being a lesbian. It was very hard, because at 19 you're kind of a sexual libertine. Not straight, not gay...just in heat. Being a lesbian was just the best and easiest way for me to be.

SV: When did you start writing?

SB: When I was 17. When I graduated from high school, I started writing poetry seriously and actually had a contest with my gay boyfriend. We would write a book of poetry a month; that summer I produced three books of poetry, all of which I burned.

SV: Why?

SB: I have a tendency to lose control of my



TERRI JEWELL

Bones say seek my naming in the East / swollen cracked lips tell me to turn home / grandmothers warn me to turn away the alien ways of / what is white / For when these things are connected / Winding serpentine in hieroglyphs and / language / a name long evasive wanderer and prophet / will be written on the stone

—25 Years Of Malcontent

temper and as a result, I would burn my work as a cleansing act. A ritual.

SV: You don't consider the act of writing itself a cleansing?

SB: Writing can be cleansing, but there have been times in my life when even the writing is not enough to cleanse. And I've burned my work.

SV: So, writing is not always enough to cleanse... what?

SB: Oh, I call them the Terrors. They are anxieties and fears that somehow combine into a feeling so large they seem to consume me from the inside out.

SV: What has survived of your writing?

SB: There is a book of my poetry called *25 Years of Malcontent* which is now out of print. When I finished, it was the result of seven years of serious writing. It was released in 1986 and published by Good Gay Poets in Boston. As with most first works, it's somewhat autobiographical. There is a poem about a white suffragette I had met in Texas. She told me to be true to my roots. The advice that she gave me was very good. The whole time I was in Boston I don't think I ever really convinced myself that I was anything but a Black woman from Indiana.

SV: When did you first go to Boston?

SB: It was 1973.

SV: Were you aware of the Combahee River Collective then?

SB: In 1974, the women who eventually evolved into the Combahee River Collective were the National Black Feminist Organization of which I was a member. We

would talk about a number of things. I remember the group being open and a lot of women coming who were straight and battered. Some of them were successful, some of them were very poor, some were working-class women. There were incidents where outsiders would come and discover that there were Black Lesbians there and they would flip out with a great deal of hysteria and arguing and name-calling. But the thing I remember is these women coming who had been so battered in their lives that a support group wasn't going to do it for them. I heard someone say recently that one of the best cures for mental illness for Black people is Black culture, and I wanted the group to be more committed to the creation and preservation of Black women's culture. But that was really difficult to do because the group soon was not all Black. The group was very much committed to combating racism and sexism and anti-Semitism and class oppression, so any minority woman had to be included. I had a great deal of difficulty synthesizing the presence and the issues of the minority women who were not Black into the issues that involved me. I was something of a Black Separatist, I suppose.

SV: The group was against separatism and wanted to work with Black men...

SB: I never heard them say anything about working with men when I was in the group. They talked about working with white women. (In attempting to address) all the other concerns (of Koreans, Hispanics, Jews, Chinese, Vietnamese, etc.) just turned into a wave that seemed to obliterate what I

was hoping would become a Black Feminist support group. I realize now that I was hoping that we could do something to address the needs of some of those women who had been stabbed or shot or beaten and didn't know how to leave their husbands or how to address life without a man. These women needed a separatist environment in which to heal. Maybe later on, this whole multi-ethnic Feminist vanguard could include them, but for then, and now, it doesn't. It does not address the needs of these Black women.

SV: Why are we Black women so afraid of having our own groups and projects? We talk about how nice it is to be among ourselves with our own language and our own ways of doing things, but we just don't do it. Yet, we are constantly getting away from that.

SB: Oh, it's much easier to address everyone else's needs rather than your own. Much easier to go find someone who had a bigger problem or a different problem, and work on their problem rather than deal with your own mess. That's what we have been doing all along. We think we *can't* do it by ourselves. And the reason why we can't do it by ourselves is because "they" will annihilate us. We have to get away from this paranoia.

SV: Did it start out being a Black lesbian group with no one saying that?

SB: When the group started, there were only three of us who said they were Lesbians. The other women introduced themselves by talking about where they went to graduate school and what their interests were, but no one else said they were lesbians. Eventually, some of the other women came out.

SV: What made you leave the group?

SB: I was heavily into my poetry, doing a lot of writing and readings. And I wanted to do more cultural things. In 1976 I decided I couldn't maintain the separatist poise any longer, that I would have to become involved with the gay and lesbian rights movement.

SV: Why couldn't you maintain a separatist stance?

SB: I found that despite what the Collective said about separatism, they were very anti-male. I had met a lot of Black gay men who had been decent to me and had been brotherly. I felt the least I could do was return in kind. So I became more involved in the gay and lesbian movement but always, *always* my focus was on us as Black people. Not just as Black women but as Black people. I didn't need a large support group to give me an identity. My identity was growing out of my growing as a Black woman artist.

SV: Tell me about your second book.

SB: My second book is self-published, *A Distant Footstep On The Plain*. It was the late 1970's. I had been asked to read some poetry as International Women's Day at Cambridge's YWCA. I read a poem called "On Black Women Dying". It deals with Black women I have known who have died and who were murdered in Boston whose murders were never solved. I read this poem with the accompaniment of a conga and a guitar. After that, I got telephone calls to do it again, so we got together and we performed more.

Continued on page 13



Enemies, a ★★★★★ Love Story

by Terry Francis

Driving Miss Daisy ★★ 1/2 - A very slight, but beautifully crafted piece of work. Set in Atlanta in 1948, Alfred Uhry's skillful adaptation of his own play chronicles the friendship, from initial mistrust to plucky alliance, between Jessica Tandy, as a rich, aging Jewish widow, and her dignified, patient chauffeur, Morgan Freeman. Directed by the gifted Australian Bruce Beresford, who manages to tone down the creaking obviousness of Uhry's planted insights. Good supporting work from Dan Aykroyd as Miss Daisy's son, Esther Rolle as her independent-spirited maid and Patti LuPone as her just barely tolerated daughter-in-law.



Enemies, A Love Story ★★★★★ - In this adaptation of Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel, Ron Silver plays a guilt-stricken Polish-Jewish intellectual who survived the Nazis by hiding in a hayloft where he was looked after by a Gentile servant (Margaret Sophie Stein) who risked her life to save him. The film is set in 1949 in New York City, where Silver, believing his wife (Anjelica Huston) was killed by Nazis, is now married to Stein and enjoys the occasional afternoon with his mistress (Lena Olin). When Huston turns up, all hell breaks loose. The film is a treasure: a dazzlingly acted sex farce with a complex and grave subtext. It has a shimmer all its own, like the shots at night of the Coney Island amusement park in full, candy-color swing.

Music Box ★★★ - Costa-Gavras's finest work since *State of Siege* (1972). Jessica Lange plays a Chicago attorney who must defend her retired steelworker father against charges that he committed war

crimes in his native Hungary during the Nazi occupation. Thematically, the film lacks the absolute concentration on character necessitated by such grave material. But many, many things here are wonderful. Shining among them is Jessica Lange's performance as a daughter who increasingly doubts her father's veracity in the face of the unspeakable. There's a primal scene in which Lange must maintain her professional demeanor while another woman recounts being gang-raped as a virgin - Lange's father allegedly the most sadistic of her attackers. (One wishes the film had recounted an instance of a war crime against a gay or lesbian.) The provocative film is sharply cast and acted, but Lange is the central performance among many piercing ones in the film. In her final scenes, Lange embodies a metaphoric image of the past calling to the present, and lacerating it with truths about the extant capabilities of the human spirit.

National Gay Tennis Tourney to be in Atlanta

Atlanta's gay tennis organization, the Atlanta Team Tennis Association (ATTA), is sponsoring the Third Annual Atlanta National Clay Court Invitational tennis tournament March 10 and 11, 1990. More than 150 tennis players from around the country are expected to compete. The tournament will feature both singles and doubles tennis competition at various levels of play.

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) ranking system, NTRP, will be used for the tournament to determine appropriate seedings and levels. Tournament officials are predicting six levels of singles competition and four lev-

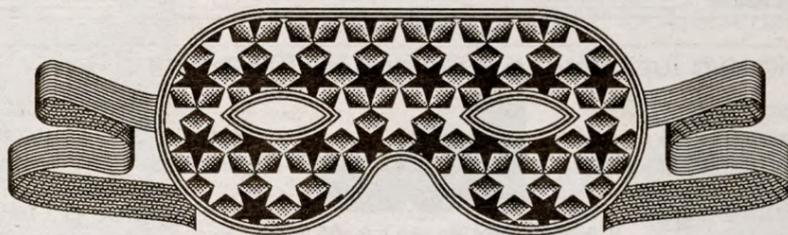
els of doubles competition.

The tournament host hotel, The Colony Square Hotel, will provide accommodations for tournament participants at a reduced cost. Tournament headquarters, banquet and draw party will all be located at Colony Square Hotel. Hosted housing will be available on a first come basis.

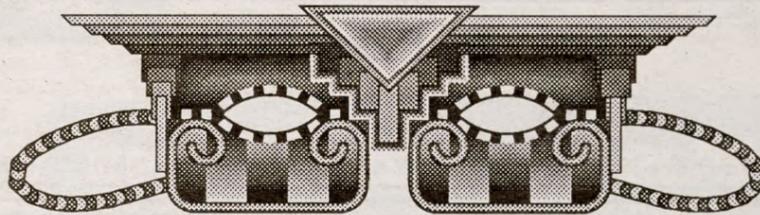
Deadline for tournament entries is March 1, 1990. For applications or more information about the tournament, call either Eric Keyes at (404) 350-9952 or Keith Childers at (404) 892-8335. Or write to: ATTA, P.O. Box 52639, Atlanta, GA 30355-0693.

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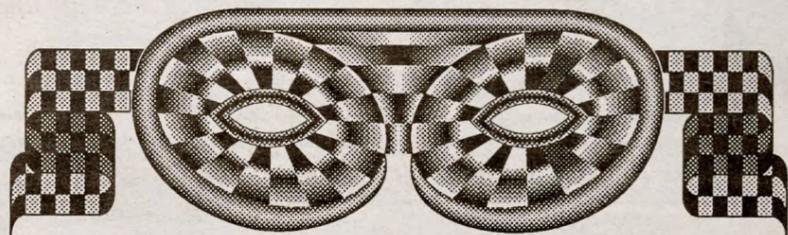
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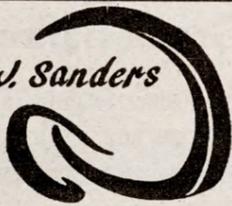
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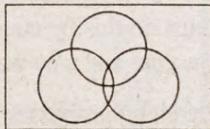
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Planning for National Lesbian Conference Continues

The first National Lesbian Conference will be held April 24-28, 1991, in Atlanta. More than 5,000 lesbians are expected to attend the meetings, workshops, and plenary sessions will planned for this historic event. Other events are also in the planning stages such as a lesbian softball tournament and a business and trade exposition. All lesbians are invited.

Why a national lesbian conference? Lesbians are a diverse community often seeming to be a number of different communities with only the most tenuous connection.

This conference is to help us learn "Who we are, what our priorities are, and how our energies are being used," according to Claudia Scarborough, a planner for the Atlanta Lesbian Agenda Conference Committee (ALACC). According to M. P. Schildmeyer, another Atlanta planner, the purpose of the conference is "to have a conference which is inclusive and accessible to as many lesbians as we can provide for. For example, some women have environmental illnesses, so no scented products will be worn at the conferences."

"Our greatest strength is our diversity," adds Claudia. (The conference is happening) "so that lesbians can get together to work on our issues and identify our goals and issues. For example, we have legal issues. And misogyny is certainly an issue, both from outside sources and the misogyny we've internalized. We need to get together to determine what our collective issues are and form a plan to present them so that we can be heard."

"The participants are going to establish an agenda," says M. P. "There is some talk of establishing a national organization. The purpose of the conference [however] is to bring together as many lesbians as possible. We're expecting 5,000."

A number of women from around the country have been meeting to plan the conference. The first such meeting was held in Durham, North Carolina, in March 1989; a second national planning session took place in Portland in July of that year. An interim task committee was created there

and it met in October 1989 in Atlanta to define the membership of the steering committee that will guide the conference planning process.

Substantial effort has been expended to insure that the steering committee is representative of all lesbians, and that the conference will be accessible to all particularly those who have previously been under-represented at similar events. Therefore, 50% of the steering committee will be composed of women of color, and 20% will be lesbians with disabilities. Three planners will be antiwar activists over fifty, two will be deaf, and three will be Jewish. The remaining planners will be representative of young lesbians, lesbian mothers, s/m lesbians, lesbians in the military, and lesbian separatists.

The interim task committee just completed a meeting to establish the exact composition of the steering committee and prepare the agenda for the final planning meeting in Kansas City, April 28-29, 1990. The first meeting of the official steering committee will take place in Kansas City, on April 27.

This past weekend, the planners "talked a lot about money," says M. P. "We're renting the entire Hilton, and we have to give \$15,000.00 as a deposit."

Such a large conference, of course, costs money. The total conference budget is \$100,000.00; Georgia's obligation is 30% of that amount. The money goes for publicity, transportation, workshop site, supplies, interpreters, disabled support services and transportation, childcare, and local housing for conference attendees.

ALACC has a full battery of fundraising efforts planned for 1990. Events, both fun and serious, are planned - dances, concerts, auctions, and workshops on racism.

"We want everyone's voice to be a part of Atlanta's part of the Conference," says Claudia Scarborough, "Come and let your voice be heard!" If you would like to be a part of the planning process, call 378-9769 for information. ALACC meets at the ALFA House on the first Tuesday of every month at 7PM. All interested lesbians are invited.

"Tongues Untied"

Cont'd from page 9

poignancy to the film's more somber moments. When hatred rears its head in the form of a mugging, Riggs' voice intones, "...and a white boy came to my rescue." Racism emerges as Riggs walks the Castro and talks about being a snow queen "immersed in vanilla"—and invisible. AIDS is introduced in a montage that starts with lovers embracing. While Hemphill performs a poem ("Now we think/as we fuck/this nut/might kill us"), newspaper obituaries flash on the screen, ending with a shot of Riggs' face.

Riggs says learning he was HIV positive made him realize that "there are things I can't take for granted anymore. If I have the opportunity, the energy, the resources to do this; do it. There's no excuse."

But throughout "Tongues," humor leavens seriousness. It may be campy funny, describing Castro clones as "body by Nautilus, mind by Mattel." Or a mock-serious dissertation on the snap, followed by an equally hilarious demonstration of its use by dueling snap divas. And the Temptations will never sound the same after hearing a lavender R&B quartet perform their composition, "Hey Boy, Can You Come Out Tonight."

In "Tongues Untied," Riggs has found the harmony he lost with adolescence. He's learned how to touch people and make them laugh, not just play the clown. As he told the opening night audience, "The lesson is: There is a virtue in your own voice."

"Tongues Untied" will screen in March, 1990 at the Modern Museum of Art in New York.

Steaming About Bad Service

by Gareth Fenley

One night at a restaurant, I noticed how well I know the bussing stations and kitchen entrances of America. The clash of silverware dumped into a gray plastic tray, drip-brewed coffee sizzling and burning on a hot plate when a waiter prematurely grabs the pot, the whiff of steamy air when swinging doors are kicked open by someone straining under a load of dirty plates.

And seated at the table with me, there's never a man. Is the worst spot in certain restaurants reserved for women, or what?

When dining at that table, I always try to get a good look at the waiter when he or she makes a first appearance. The whole staff is going to beat a trail past me throughout the meal, so I'd better be able to flag down the right person when I need a clean fork or the check.

I've been seated at that table when the establishment is half empty. The host guides my date and me past decorated booths, away from the windows, into the dark guts of the place, and just around the corner where you'd expect to find a wastebasket or cigarette machine. Behold! Our table.

"Women get bad service because they're cheap tippers," anyone can tell you. To undermine this stereotype, I and several other lesbian friends always tip generously. But I guess it's not working yet.

Last Friday, for instance, I treated myself to a night out at a neighborhood cafe. There weren't many other customers, and I was seated right away at a nice table by the window; so far, so good.

Then my waiter approached, a confident young blond in a tuxedo shirt. "Something from the bar?" he asked. "No, thanks," I said, "but can you tell me what the specials are?"

"They're on the board," he said, with a gesture. By leaning my head 18 inches to the right, up against the window glass, I could see the board. The blond stood by watching.

"What's the difference between the three chicken specials?" I asked with a friendly

smile, resuming my upright position.

"Oh," he shrugged, "they all come with pasta. And different kinds of marinara sauce." Meanwhile, his attitude was saying loud and clear: "Why should I waste my time on this with you? You're going to go right back to the menu and find something for \$3.99." Then he walked off.

I sat there, angry, wanting one of those chicken specials but damned if I'd beg this man for information. So I did something I'd never done: I walked out. On the way, I told the blond exactly why I was leaving. He said, "Have a nice evening."

Then I drove to another restaurant where I'd enjoyed the food and service before. This place had customers lined up, waiting for tables, so I waited 40 minutes for one.

The one by the door to the kitchen.

But, hey, I can be very understanding about these things when the dining room is full and I'm empty. The waiter was a pleasant fellow who brought me delicious, hot food, as I relaxed in that familiar atmosphere of off-stage metal bashing and yells between the cook and dishwasher.

The next morning, I stopped by the neighborhood cafe to talk to the manager. He apologized roundly for the surly blond's behavior, and said another woman had also complained about it. He said it had been "too soon" to promote this new employee from lunch duty to Friday night. And lamented, "It's impossible to find good help these days."

"I hate to say it," he confided, after we'd talked a while; but he didn't seem to mind saying it, "it's these queens."

I objected, saying that I'm a lesbian and I know lots of gay men who don't treat women like dirt. (And, I might have mentioned, straight men who do.) The manager hastened to identify several gay members of his staff who are great with the customers. Apparently the good ones don't qualify as queens.

I hate to say this, but we still have a long way to go.

her works *Serowe: Village Of The Rainwind* and *Collector of Treasures*. I'm very fond of Samuel Delaney, the Black science fiction writer, and Octavia Butler, another Black science fiction writer. I dream of Toni Morrison and I like Gloria Naylor a lot. They are superior writers. There are a lot of African writers that I like: Ferdinand Oyono, who wrote *The Old Man and the Medal*; Yambo Ouloguen, who wrote *Bound To Violence*; Mariama Bâ, who was a very fine writer. I also enjoy Simone Schwarz-Bart, a Caribbean writer who wrote *The Bridge Of Beyond*.

SV: What's in your future?

SB: Graduate school for African Literature and Languages and finishing my manuscript, *American Mongrel*. Then I'll look for a publisher.

Terri Jewell is a poet and freelance writer who lives in Irving, Michigan.

Byrd

Cont'd from page 10

...in the fall of 1978 / the klan began / its "open recruitment" / in the Boston City schools / and it was 1955 / that a team of white professionals / interviewed colored children / from the Wayne County school system / as to whether their mammas and daddies / was for integration / or segregation / well, what I'm trying to get at / is that in the last 30 odd years / of my life span / there has occurred / a series of events / which have culminated / in the death and near dying / of Black women / across the continent of Amerika...

SV: Why the title *A Distant Footstep On the Plain*?

SB: I was from Indiana. In a sense, it is my being true to my roots.

SV: Which writers do you enjoy?

SB: Bessie Head, a South African, and

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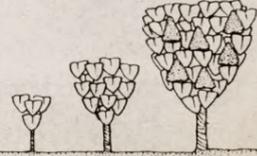
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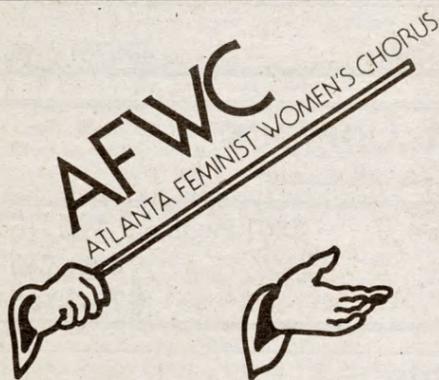
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CALENDAR



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Art

JURIED STUDENT EXHIBITION. Mon., Feb. 19 thru Mar. 13. Outstanding works in all media, many for sale. (Reception: Thurs., Feb. 22). Atlanta College of Art Gallery. Memorial Arts Building, 1280 Peachtree St. For more information, call 898-1157 or 898-1164.

THORNTON DIAL: LADIES IN THE UNITED STATES. Thurs., Feb. 22 thru Mar. 23. Self-taught black artist's works are exquisite. Recommended! Kennesaw State College, Library Art Gallery. 423-6139 or 423-6239.

Bars

LIPSTIX - Monday Night with host Charlie Brown and guest stars: February 19, Samantha Hunter; February 26, Ashley Nicole. Special Wednesday night activities include February 14, Atlanta's Queen of Heart, and February 21, Lipstix's Closet Ball. Sunday night brings you February 18, Miss Atlanta Contest and February 25, Dixie Does Drag. 2329 Cheshire Bridge Road. 633-0452. *Reservations Suggested.*

THE TOWER - The theme bar of the Gay 90s invites you to these weekly activities: Mondays - Monday Night at the Movies, \$3.00 pitchers of beer, with your V.J. Rhonda. Bring in a movie; she might pick yours to see. Tuesday - Mug Night; \$5 gets you a mug and all the draft beer you can drink. Saturday - Our D.J. judges your tape for the best mix of music. Sunday - Pool Night. 735 Ralph McGill Blvd. 688-5463.

Benefits

MASQUERADE 90. Sat., Feb. 24. A Mardi Gras Ball to benefit Project Open Hand. Dancing, costumes, food, cash bar - the works! Fox Theatre's Egyptian Ballroom. \$40/person; \$75/couple. Ticket prices are tax deductible. 522-0172 to charge. Tickets also available at The Boy Next Door and Charis.

Comedy

SCHIZ! Wed., Feb. 21 & Thurs., Feb. 22. This comedy troupe is performing live and will show short films. Jerry Farber's Place, 54 Pharr Road. Call 237-5181 for details.

1ST ANNUAL CHRYSALIS COMEDY CLUB CONTEST. Upcoming! Entries for this contest need to be in by March 15th. Women only, please. \$3.00 cover; \$15.00 to enter contest. Winner takes all. Chrysalis Women's Center, 2045 Manchester Street. Call 881-6300 for forms.

Dance

AN EVENING OF COLLABORATIVE WORKS. Fri., Feb. 16 & Sat., Feb. 17. Features a multi-image presentation by Kate Holland, with original score by James Oliverio, poetry by Martha Shockey, photography by Karl Boelter and choreography by Amy Gately. Also, a classical piano performance by Terry Wilcox. Presented by Room To Move Dance, Inc. 8PM. Seven Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Avenue. \$8, \$6 for students and artists. Call Jody Isenberg at 577-3254 for more information.

LOW-TECH EVENING OF DANCE. Tues., Feb. 20. Jim Chappelleaux and Cherie Carson will present their solos along with other Atlanta

choreographers as part of Dancers Collective's latest program. Mr. Chappelleaux will present "Revelation", a section of his dance on AIDS-"Why?!" It takes a PWA near death into the healing process and transcends the disease to look at AIDS in a more positive light. Ms. Carson will be presenting her newest work, "On A Roll", a light-hearted dance dealing with a relationship set to music by the Rolling Stones. 8PM. Seven Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Avenue. Admission is \$2.00.

Events

3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK GAY & LESBIAN CONFERENCE. Feb. 16-18. Special Events: Fri. 7:30PM: Memorial Service honoring Black Gays and Lesbians at Hyatt Regency. 10PM: Traxx Party w/Danitra Vance (\$6). Sat. 8PM Dinner/Dance with Mystique at Hyatt Regency (\$50). Sun. 1 PM Luncheon & Fashion show at Hyatt Regency (\$40). Call 755-7731 for reservations.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WITH TROY PERRY. Fri., Feb. 16 thru Sun., Feb. 18. Join MCC founder Rev. Perry during this universal fellowship. (Potluck Dinner Sat., Feb. 17 at 5:30PM) Call MCC at 622-1154 for more info

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT. Wed., Feb. 21. Poker and Bridge Night; Wed., Feb. 28. Jam Night. Drug and alcohol-free. Chrysalis Women's Center, 2045 Manchester Street. Call 881-6300 for more.

LILY TOMLIN. Wed., Feb. 21 thru Sun., Feb. 25. The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe continues. 8PM. The Fox Theatre. Call 873-4300 for details. The show on the 21st is a benefit for HRCF. Call 365-8766 for details.

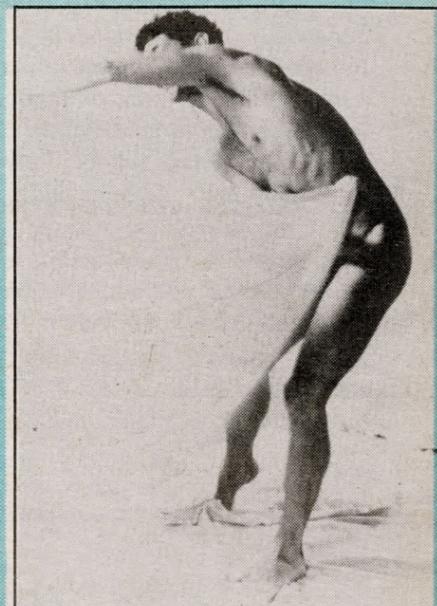
Exhibits

NO APARTHEID. Thurs., Feb. 15 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." Free and open to the public. Hammonds House Galleries, 503 Peoples Street. Hours: Mon., closed; Tues.-Sat., 10AM-6PM; Sun., 1-5PM.

THE STUDENTS OF ROGER RUTHERFORD. Sun., Feb. 25 thru Mar. 10. An exhibition and sale of photographic works by five of the late Rutherford's students. The artists are donating 10% of all sales to Project Open Hand/Atlanta. Works range from nudes to genre pictures of Greece, French landscapes, prison scenes and fragmented ferris wheels and carousels. Burnhoff Gallery, Clear Creek Center, Piedmont Rd. For details, call 875-8877.

Lectures

RITA MAE BROWN. Tues., Feb. 27. Sponsored by 4th Tuesday. 6:30pm. \$20. Cash bar. Hors d'oeuvres. Unitarian Universalist, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. Tickets available at Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave.



Jim Chappelleaux (pictured) in "Revelation" a piece about transcending AIDS. One program in a "Low-Tech Evening of Dance" presented by Dancer's Collective. Tuesday, February 20. Seven Stages Theatre. 8PM. \$2.



"The Students of Roger Rutherford." Exhibition and sale of photographic works by five of the late Roger Rutherford's students. Partial proceeds benefit Project Open Hand. February 25-March 10. BurnNoff Gallery at Clear Creek Center.

Meetings

SAFE SEX FOR WOMEN, Thurs., Feb. 15. *Women Only* Dazon Dixon, a women's health education specialist with AID Atlanta, will present information concerning the prevention of AIDS through the practice of safe sex. A workshop for women, aimed at prevention. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave. 7:30PM. Free.

Metaphysical

SPIRITUAL WARRIOR WORKSHOP, Sat., Feb. 24. With Mary Bailey-Rule. 10AM til 4PM. Call 881-6300 for details.

Music

ODETTA, Fri., Feb. 16. This legendary vocalist brings her folk, blues and spirituals for a rare appearance you won't want to miss! 8PM. Variety Playhouse, 1097 Euclid Avenue. \$13-15. Call 874-2232 for more.

THE JESUS & MARY CHAIN, Wed., Feb. 21 with special guest, nine inch nails. This group is extremely popular at the moment and from a reliable source - very good. 9PM. The Roxy, 3110 Roswell Rd. \$13.50. 577-9600 for more.

SHAWN PHILLIPS, Sat., Feb. 24. Returning to Atlanta after a 10-year absence, folk/rocker Phillips is a social troubadour best known for an incredible five octave vocal range and thoughtful lyrics. 8PM. Unitarian Church, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. \$10-12. Call 874-2232 for more.

Radio

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

THE GOODEARTH, Tues., 1PM-1AM. New Wave and Alternative Music with Eric Price.

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

STILL AIN'T SATISFIED, Thurs., 5:05-7PM. Music and public affairs from a Heretic Woman's view. *Quite Queer*.

THE SEEKER, Sat., 5-8PM. 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. Tkweme.

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

LES CHANTEUSES AFRICANES, Mon. 1-6AM. A unique radio exclusive! Featuring musical and literary voices of black women.

Theatre

FENCES, Thru Sat., Feb. 17. August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the broken dreams of an embittered former Negro League baseball player set in the 50s just before the civil rights era. Tickets are \$13-\$28. Alliance Theatre. Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree Street. 892-2414 for more information.

THE BUG, Thru Feb. 18. This hilarious new work by Richard Strand satirizes the corporate world's red tape and looniness. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta. 8PM. \$11-\$16.

BABY WITH THE BATHWATER, Thurs., Feb. 15 thru Sun., Feb. 24. This dark but hilarious look at parenting is by Christopher Durang (Laughing Wild, Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You, The Marriage of Bette and Boo). Recommended. Wed.-Sat., 8PM; Sun., 3PM. Theatrical Outfit, 1012 Peachtree Street at 10th Street. \$5-\$15. Call 872-0665 for more.

THE LIZARD OF TARSUS, Thurs., Feb. 15 thru Mar. 4. Atlanta playwright Jim Grimsley's newest play focuses on the Second Coming of Christ and His inquisition by the Church's main leader, Paul of Tarsus. Go see it! Wed., Sat., 8PM; Sun., 5PM. \$10.60. Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid Avenue. 523-7647.

ZERO POSITIVE, Thurs., Feb. 15 thru Mar. 10. The powerful story of a young man and his father, each facing death and each searching for a reason to live. The son and a female friend both test positive for the AIS virus and, along with another friend, decide to produce a play written in the form of a Greek tragedy. This play within a play deals with love, humor, tragedy, toy trains and topless nurses. Actor's Express. 280 Elizabeth Street. (Off North Highland in Little Five Points.)

BLACK WITNESS, Wed., Feb. 21. A dramatic collage for the life and writings of James Baldwin. 8PM. Mary Gray Munroe Theatre at Emory University. 727-0524.

Upcoming

S.E. CONFERENCE FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN, Mar. 22-25. For information write: SECLGM, Inc. P.O. Box 28863 Raleigh, NC 27611 or call (919) 833-1209.

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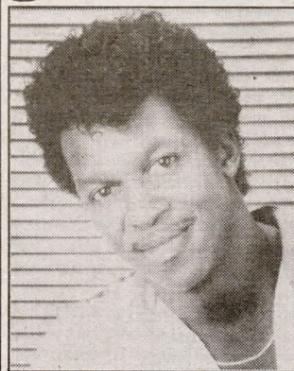
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ORGANIZATIONS

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. 377-8312.

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 gathering for support and to 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. 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.

AGLA- Athens Gay & Lesbian Association, at the University of Georgia. All welcome at meetings, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month; call 404/548-0580 for more information.

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.

APAC Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee - Join Atlanta's newest abortion-rights activist group in defending women's health clinics. A non-profit, non-partisan, nonviolent broad-based organization created to support the right to reproductive freedom for all people. 239-8016 for information. Our bodies, our lives, our right to decide.

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 (Statewide). 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, 4:30-7:00 PM at the First Existentialist Church at 470 Candler Pk. Dr. 355-8894 or 435-4498.

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

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

Circle of Healing- 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. First Existentialist Church. The Circle is open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual. 378-5570

CODA- Codependents Anonymous-Lambda. A 12-step program of recovery from codependency for gays and lesbians. Meetings Tues. & Wed. at 8 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.

Delphi- A fraternity of gay men, offering recreation, fellowship, and idealism. P.O. Box 14591, Atlanta, GA 30324.

ELGO- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization. Meetings every Wed. at 8:30 PM. Room 355 Dobbs University Center. Box 23515, Emory Univ., 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.

GAA- 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. Weekly meetings. 676-1324. GALA, Programs Area, GA Tech, Atlanta, GA 30332.

GLSA- Ga. State Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance. Day meetings on Wed. 10:10am, Rm 904 General Classroom Bldg. (Nov. 8 mtg. in 804 GCB). Info: 651-3636 or 352-4570. GLSA, Box 506 University Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30303.

GANG- Greater Atlanta Naurist 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. 368-7420.

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.

Gay & Lesbian Pride March-1990-PO Box 5643, West Columbia, SC 29171. (803) 796-3615, 252-9455, 271-4207.

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

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

Human Rights Campaign Fund- (HRCF-Atlanta) The nation's largest Lesbian & Gay political + lobbying organization. P.O. Box 8594, Atlanta, GA 30306, Phone 365-8766.

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

LAMP- The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project. Second Monday of every month. 7:30 PM. N. Highland Branch Library. For info: 874-8969. Address: LAMP, PO Box 301, 1579-F Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30324.

LEGAL- Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians. A voice for lesbians and gays in the Democratic party. Mtgs. on 3rd Mon. of the month. 7pm at Ptree Branch Library. P.O. Box 54167, Atlanta 30308. (404) 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/Atlanta- A Christian Ministry for Lesbian and Gay Understanding. Please contact us at P.O. Box 13673, Atlanta, GA 30324. 636-7109.

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

MAAS- Metro Atlanta Astrological Society. A networking educational/research organization for both amateur and professional astrologers. Usually meet the 4th Wed. of each month. 622-5661

MAGCLO- Metro Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations. 3rd Thursday of each month. 7:00 PM. Peachtree Branch Library. A representative council of lesbian and gay organizations to facilitate the exchange of 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 6:30 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church. Send correspondence to: 375 Georgia Ave., Atlanta, Ga. 30312.

P-FLAG- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. 3rd Sunday of each month. 5-7 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Committed to help parents learn what we have learned. To help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding, so all gay people can live with dignity and respect. 961-6085 or 296-0830.

PLGC- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns/More Light. 3rd Sunday of each month. Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their Presbyterian heritage. 373-5830.

Palmetto Gay/Lesbian Association- A support, education and civil rights organization in S. Carolina. PO Box 10022, Greenville, SC, 29603-0022. 24hr. 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 arts and media as tools for exploration, education, and change in human rights, especially those of the lesbian/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 some out-of-town activities. Call 231-0805 for further info.

Speak Out- Provides you, the voter, an opportunity to let your congressional representatives know how you feel concerning AIDS & Civil Rights Matters. P.O. Box 8594, Atlanta, GA 30306, Phone 365-8766.

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.

OUT LINES

Ages: Mo - 38 Cindy - 33
Angel - 14
Hometowns:
Mo - Atlanta
Cindy and Angel - Toledo, Ohio
How Long in Atlanta:
Nine Years
Relationship Status: Mo and
Cindy, fifteen years together
Occupations:
Mo - Lab technician
Cindy - Graduate Chiropractor
Personal Goals:
Mo - To write
Cindy - To establish my practice
Angel - To be an actress
Books currently reading:
Mo - *The Vision of no Eyes*,
by Mary Summerain
Cindy - *Billy Bathgate*,
by E.L. Doctorow
Angel - *The Dark Half*,
by Stephen King



Cindy, Mo and Angel: Strength in the Family

Denise (Mo) Mosley and Cynthia (Cindy) Zachel live in an upstairs apartment in Little Five Points with their teenage daughter Angel. Their house is old, converted into a duplex. Downstairs there's a little foyer with fireplace and sofa, then a wide, polished-wood staircase leading up to a spacious second floor. Another fireplace, large comfortable overstuffed sofa and chairs, flowers in vases, exercise equipment, lots of books, quiet cats. A calico dreams on the sofa; two others can be seen through a doorway draped across a bed. Lace curtains hang at the windows. The atmosphere speaks of an ability to blend disparate elements into an integrated whole, a sense of everyday life as a conscious creation.

Mo and Cindy speak candidly about their goals, the problems they have faced as an interracial couple with a child, and their personal philosophies.

Mo writes poetry and essays and is presently networking and working to get her work published. She is a handsome woman whose presence and voice suggest quiet strength. "I'm working on getting my writing together. While Cindy establishes her practice, I'm going to do what I really want to do, write. I'm getting my feet wet now. I'm in a writers group at the Arts Exchange to find out what the ins and outs are."

Cindy whose delicate features show humor and dreaminess, is a graduate chiropractor waiting to take her Board exams. "It's quite a transition!" she laughs. "Right now, I just want to get settled with myself so I can pursue my practice."

Angel - articulate, graceful, whose every move seems deft and right - plans a career as an actress. I've wanted to ever since I could walk and talk," she smiles. "I'm taking classes at the Academy Theater." Angel also dances. She attends Inman Middle School.

The three talk easily about the challenges they face. Says Mo, "Because we are interracial we really have to think about where we want to settle as a family. We can't just say, 'Oh, let's move to Douglasville or Marietta.' We're so visible. Even sometimes in the community (gay and lesbian) there are lines that are drawn. We meet people then we don't ever hear from them again. But sometimes we do."

Homophobia? "That's always there!"

laughs Mo ruefully. I worked two years in a place after I came back to Atlanta and they suddenly decided they didn't want me to work there anymore."

"We worked in the same place," explains Cindy, "and they found out about us. And they fired her."

"And we were denied housing because of our relationship," Mo continues. "I think it was both homophobic and because we are interracial. Two women, Black and white to boot, and possibly lesbians."

Has Angel had to confront prejudice at school? "Well, actually, it's sometimes hard for me to invite friends over. I know how certain people feel about gays. The majority don't understand and therefore don't like them. And so I would be kind of nervous about my friends finding out. I guess I'm afraid of being alienated. Actually a lot of them do know; I say that Mo is my mother's friend and our roommate."

Mo continues thoughtfully, "One of the ironies of our community is that with all of our own obstacles to overcome, we also harbor the same attitudes towards those who don't align themselves with our beliefs. It is possible to live in a group that's eclectic and still come out liking and being able to love people simply for their differences. Different doesn't always mean 'not okay.' It's just different, that's all. Just different. Just - what it is."

"The community is so valuable to us, though," adds Cindy. "That's one reason we decided to stay in this area."

What advice would these women give to others who face the same challenges? "Look to your self for your own strength," says Cindy. "And with your own strength, build strength in your family and relationship. Because it doesn't matter...what's out there. What matters comes from within. That's our philosophy."

These women have created a haven together, here in a neighborhood that seems to have become a harsh and discordant place. Across the street, obscene graffiti adorns the walls of a grocery store; the roar of car engines never stops. But inside this home, the images and sounds are muffled. The art of living is being practiced here; the art of drawing strength from within.

- Charlene Ball

Luncheon and Fashion Show to Honor Ailey, Smith and Kelly

by Pat Lewis

Alvin Ailey, Patrick Kelly and Willi Smith—African-American men and artists on the cutting edge of their fields—will be honored by the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) for their outstanding contributions to the gay and lesbian community at a luncheon and fashion show on Sunday February 18. The event is part of the 3d Annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference being held here in Atlanta February 16-19.

Each of these men gave liberally of his time, talents and money to numerous causes struggling against racism, sexism and AIDS.

The gala event will feature the fashions of Atlanta designers Jack and Brenda (of Progressive Men's Ware of Buckhead), Oliver Wear and Lenwood Moody both of Atlanta. Moody will also serve as director for the show.

Michael Donnell, producer of the show says, "The show is called Willi, Patrick and Alvin—Legends of Style, Design and Dance. There will be segments featuring traditional

African wear as well as contemporary (American) and evening wear."

In addition to the Atlanta designers featured, Moshood of Bronx, NY, Lubna Originals of Queens, NY, and Nirya Portfolio of Lagos, Nigeria will have designs in the show. Music will be provided by Gary Harrison's Dance Company.

The NMAC will also honor Craig Harris, director of education services at the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City. Harris will receive the Fred Garrett Award. "This award is presented annually to a person or persons who have contributed...to the fight against AIDS in the minority community," said Phil Wilson, Chairman of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, sponsor of the Conference. Garrett, a psychologist, helped create NMAC and was its first national spokesperson on AIDS education and research. Dionne Warwick and Whoopi Goldberg are past recipients of the award.



Patrick Kelly, a native of Vicksburg, Miss., is one of the most creative and innovative fashion designers in recent history. His trademark was snug fitting dresses decorated with brightly colored bows, oversized buttons and outrageous graphics. Critics called his clothes "witty," "sexy," and "fun."

Most of Kelly's fame came after his 1985 line was shown to rave reviews in Paris. His fashions were featured in, and on the covers of, numerous magazines, including *Essence*, *Vogue*, *Ebony* and *Elle*. Superstars Grace Jones and Madonna wore his clothes as did Britain's Princess Diana and actress Jane Seymour.

Kelly lived in Atlanta from the mid-seventies until 1980 when he moved to Paris. He returned to Atlanta two years ago to present a new line of his work at a benefit which raised in excess of \$100,000 for Heartstrings.

Patrick died this past December in a Paris hospital.



Alvin Ailey, considered one of the world's finest choreographers, also died this past December at the age of 58. More than 15 million people, on every continent, in more than 40 countries have been thrilled and touched by his original and energetic work. While known primarily for the more than 75 dance pieces that he created, Ailey also had danced in several films including one with Lena Horne.

Ailey was born in Rogers, Tex., moved to California at age 11 and later migrated to New York where he founded his world famous dance company which performed works based on the traditional Black American music forms of gospel, jazz and the blues.

In 1988 Ailey was honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award given annually by the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., to individual artists who have made significant contributions to the performing arts in America. He is credited with bringing the Black experience to millions of audience members in both classical and avant garde dance forms.



Willi Smith is, without question, the most successful Black fashion designer in history. Known for his funky street wear that was, at the same time, stylish and comfortable, Smith received the prestigious Coty Award in 1983. In 1986 he was given the Cutty Sark Award and designed attire for Arnold Schwarzenegger and his groomsmen when the musclemann cum film star married Maria Shriver.

Smith studied at New York's Parson's School of Design, started his own company, Williwear, in 1976 and eventually sold his fashions to more than 500 department and specialty stores in the U.S. and Europe.

He was heavily involved with the League in Aid of Crippled Children at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Children's Association and had donated his work as well as proceeds from his shows to help combat AIDS.

This special tribute to Willi, Alvin and Patrick is the NMAC's way of thanking these talented individuals for their gifts of time, talent and money. Each of these men transcended the lines of color and elevated the culture of their people while maintaining the integrity of their unique styles.

Each broadened the consciousness of the gay and straight worlds through his craft and humanity. They helped focus attention on the issues of human suffering, bigotry and discrim-

ination. Their loss is one that has been felt deeply by both the lesbian and gay community and the rest of the world.

Proceeds from the benefit luncheon will go to the Prevention Awareness League, a new Atlanta organization that promotes AIDS awareness among Black gay men. Tickets are \$30. For information about the luncheon/fashion show and the Conference, call 755-7731.

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White House, Sullivan Release Fiscal '91 AIDS Budget

NORA blasts near-level funding as reminiscent of Reagan era

by Cliff O'Neill

Washington — The Bush Administration on Jan. 29 released its proposed \$1.7 billion AIDS budget for fiscal year 1991, discouraging AIDS organizations and other advocacy groups who denounced the proposal as "disappointing" and "mean spirited."

Contained within the 88-page, \$464 billion Bush budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the AIDS funding figures represent a seven percent increase over last year's Reagan-Bush proposal.

"This budget maintains an unprecedented level of support for biomedical research and health promotion efforts," stated HHS Secretary Louis W. Sullivan, "including increased spending for the AIDS and drug abuse epidemics which threaten our country."

Sullivan outlined President George Bush's proposal for public health service expenditures on AIDS research, prevention and other activities, an increase of \$109 million over last year's proposed levels.

That increase, however, is decidedly smaller than last year's; the fiscal 1990 budget saw a 24 percent increase over 1989. Also, much to the consternation of AIDS activists, this year the Bush Administration has — like the Reagan Administration — attempted to include under the AIDS budget banner more than \$1 billion in Medicare and Medicaid funding, something not done with any other disease. Thus, the AIDS budget would appear to be \$3.1 billion.

But over 100,000 AIDS cases are expected to be diagnosed in the next 12 months—nearly a 100 percent increase over current numbers, and AIDS activists were quick to note that the National Commission on AIDS, of which Sullivan is a member, suggested that the U.S. would have to appropriate between \$2.5 and \$15 billion to adequately combat AIDS in fiscal 1991.

Asked by this reporter about the disparity, HHS Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget Kevin E. Moley responded indignantly: "That question might be better directed towards the Hill," stated Moley, apparently referring to Congress's automatic \$20 million cut in appropriated AIDS dollars due to mandatory budget cuts imposed after it could not agree on a budget bill before the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction deadline.

"The President asked for a 24 percent increase over last year's (figures) and the Congress gave us less dollars," Moley added. "We're coming back and asking for a \$109 million increase. And I might add, over a two year period, that's over a 30 percent increase. ...It's a 50 percent increase, I might add, over 1987's spending levels. So we think we are addressing this with the funds necessary and we hope that the Congress will, in fact, appropriate the funds we ask for this year."

"The Congress last year appropriated essentially what the President requested," retorted Steve Smith, lobbyist for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Due to Gramm-Rudman, they cut \$20 million off of that. The figures in this year's presidential request are drastically short of the real needs."

AIDS lobbyist Tom Sheridan, representing the National Organizations Responding to AIDS coalition, called Moley's defense both "ridiculous" and "disturbing," pointing to the White House's use of entitlement dollars to beef up the AIDS budget.

"They're trying to match their rhetoric with dollars figures, but they're really doing that in a disingenuous way," stated Sheridan, calling the tactic a "shell game" and a "padding of the federal AIDS budget."

"Medicaid and supplemental security income programs are entitlement programs," he added. "They are programs that people qualify for because of their disability, or because of their income, but not because of their diagnosis. The President's attempts to include these estimates in his budget

this year represents a mean-spiritedness and a lack of courage in facing the AIDS epidemic foursquare."

"We are very disappointed by President Bush's budget because we believe it is basically a status quo budget," added Katherine McCarter of the Coalition for Health Funding. "It perpetuates some of the meanness of the Reagan years."

Sheridan outlined a NORA plan by which the group will lobby Congress to appropriate \$3 billion in "real AIDS dollars." Half of the funds, Sheridan stated, would be used to help out those regions of the country where AIDS has struck the hardest. The other half would go towards programs that provide treatments to patients in early stages of HIV infection.

This early intervention would take place through the Health Resources Services Administration. That line item, however, is cut by \$40 million from 1990 figures in the proposed Bush budget.

"The National Institutes for Health announced in August that anyone who was HIV positive with T-cell below 500 (indicating a compromised immune system) should be receiving some sort of preventative therapy," noted HRCF's Smith. "But there are no funds in the (Bush-HRSA) budget to make those treatments available. That's just asking for trouble."

Asked where the monies for their proposed funding levels should come from, representatives from the six health coalitions gathered for the Bush-critical press conference, referred to the much-touted "peace dividend," a bonus which appears to be all but non-existent in Bush's budget proposal.

Pointing to Bush's comments only several days earlier when he said he would do "whatever it takes" to win the war on drugs, Sheridan said he had hoped Bush would have taken that kind of approach on AIDS.

"We were looking for that sort of a commitment (on AIDS) from Bush, but we didn't find it," Sheridan stated. "We asked the President for bold leadership: what we got essentially was level funding."

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Black Gay/Bi Men Needed for Study

AIDS in the United States is disproportionately affecting the Black community, particularly among Black gay men. Nearly 36 percent of newly reported AIDS cases in the United States occur in the Black population indicating that education and prevention programs are not reaching Black gay and bisexual men.

BLACK C.A.R.E. (Community AIDS Research and Education) Project is committed to the fight against AIDS in the Black community. It is especially concerned with gathering information directly from the community through a national, anonymous survey of Black gay and bisexual men (or any Black man who has had sex with men).

It is important that the diversity of the community be represented in the information collected.

To participate request either a survey or sign-up forms by writing to Dr. Vickie M. Mays, BLACK C.A.R.E. Project, 1283 Franz, L.A., CA 90024-1563 or call (213) 206-5162.

AIDS Conference to Award 325 Scholarships to PWAs

The Sixth International Conference on AIDS, which will be held in San Francisco June 20-24, 1990 is awarding 325 scholarships to people with AIDS who otherwise could not afford to attend the annual meeting of AIDS researchers.

The scholarships will take the form of free registration. This is the first time such scholarships have been awarded. The decision was made, according to organizers, in order to "assure that delegates hear expressions of the needs and concerns of those most directly impacted by the epidemic."

HIV-infected persons interested in applying for the scholarships should write to Dana Van Gorder, Sixth International Conference on AIDS, University of California at San Francisco, Box 1505, San Francisco, 94143-1505, or call (415) 550-0880.

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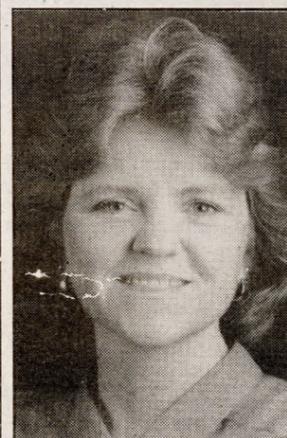
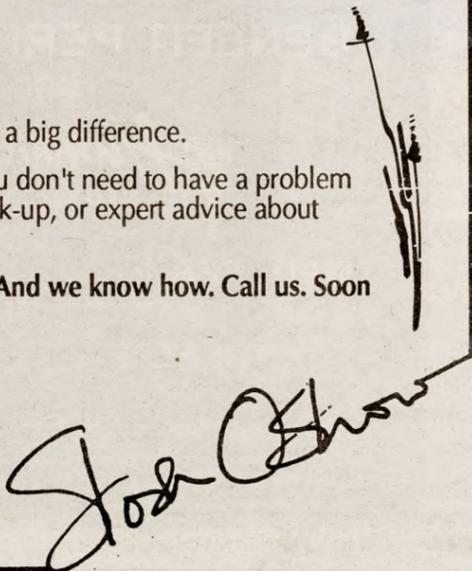
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Hate Crimes Bill Passes Senate, Helms' anti-gay amendment loses 19-77

by Cliff O'Neill

Washington — The U.S. Senate, Feb. 8 passed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act by a landslide 92-4 vote, overcoming an anti-gay amendment from Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) by an almost equally lopsided vote.

The bill (S. 419), which the House passed by an overwhelming majority last year, would direct the U.S. Department of Justice to collect statistics on violent crimes motivated by bias based on race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. The measure now goes on to the White House for the signature of President Bush, who has repeatedly given it his support.

"When myths stir hatred and fear, then great harm can be done," stated Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), the lead sponsor of the bill. "Hitler is an example and history is loaded with other examples of unprincipled people, troubled by hates and fears, who sometime lead others to hate and fear. The ultimate result of hatred is fear and violence."

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the bill's lead Republican sponsor described a series of anti-gay and other hate-motivated crimes, stating, "I think these incidents are disgusting and outrageous. I think every member of the Senate thinks these incidents against homosexuals are disgusting and outrageous."

The vote in the Senate came after a lengthy debate on two amendments which sought to clarify the bill's stance on homosexuality. The bill's lead sponsors, Simon and Hatch, agreed with Helms that each would introduce only one amendment.

As Helms repeatedly insisted that the bill would manifest the "imprimatur" of the Senate on homosexuality, sodomy law repeal, lesbian and gay rights and the "teaching" of homosexuality in public schools, both Hatch and Simon sought to preempt the North Carolina Republican with their own four part amendment.

After being delayed for a last minute rewrite when lesbian

and gay lobbyists expressed concern with the original Hatch/Simon amendment's generous use of the term "traditional family life," that amendment was changed to state that the government should support "American family life" and emphasize that the bill does not "promote or encourage" homosexual behavior.

Surprising many who had expected Helms to oppose the Hatch/Simon measure as preempting his own, Helms quickly declared the proposal a "nice statement" and asked to co-sponsor it himself. It went on to pass 96-0.

Helms, however, did not back off from introducing his own amendment, a four-part, non binding "sense of the Senate" rider. His amendment—the chief reason for the Senate's nearly one year delay on the bill—declared the "homosexual movement" a threat to the American family, suggested that state sodomy laws be enforced, opposed any and all gay and lesbian anti-discrimination laws and stated that school programs should not describe homosexuality as an "acceptable alternative lifestyle."

While acknowledging that he is not in favor of lesbian and gay civil rights, Hatch stated with passion, "I know I can agree with them (lesbian and gay rights activists) on one thing... They deserve to be treated like human beings."

After Helms spoke singularly in support of his amendment—once again describing his rider as a campaign year referendum on homosexuals and sodomy law repeal—the measure went down to defeat 19-77.

The floor debate was visibly marked by Helms' repeated attacks on the bill and on the "homosexual-lesbian" community.

"We don't need this legislation which won't do anything," Helms stated, "This bill won't do any good."

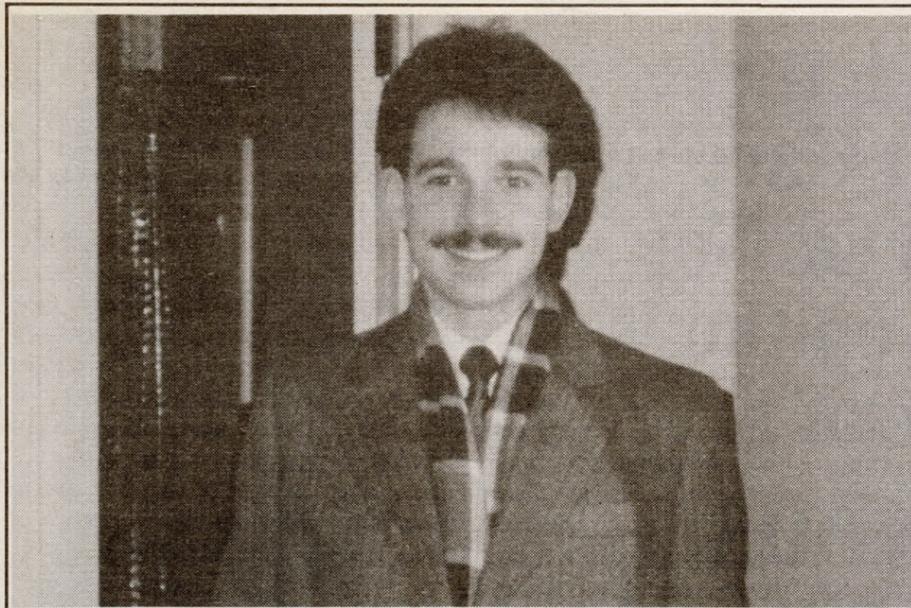
Calling the bill "deceptive" Helms further described it as the "flagship of the homosexual-lesbian agenda" quoting three times from the *New York Native*—which he described as the "official organ" of the "homosexual-lesbian" movement—a publication that had called the Hate Crimes bill the first step towards passage of the federal gay and lesbian rights law.

Helms also described in lurid detail a 1988 kiss-in staged by members of the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Ride in his Raleigh, N.C. offices. He claimed that "militant homosexuals" entered his office two-by-two and committed "unspeakable acts" in front of his secretaries. Stating that the "ladies" in his office were shocked by the demonstration, Helms announced that he had since installed "sensors" in his office to keep such an event from happening again.

Helms described, in equal detail, the December demonstration where "thousands of militant homosexuals," as he put it, "slithered" into New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral, and called the lack of national media coverage of the event a "conspiracy of silence" to censor negative news stories about homosexuals.

Nor did Helms spare gay and lesbian groups from direct attack. He mentioned the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force half a dozen times and blasted the Human Rights Campaign Fund and New York's Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. NGLTF's Kevin Berrill, Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders Kevin Cathcart and GLAVP former director David Wertheimer were also the targets of derisive comments from the Tarheel conservative.

Leading the anti-Helms challenge was Hatch, who opposed Helms repeatedly and with seeming great conviction. While acknowledging that he is not in favor of lesbian and gay civil rights, Hatch stated with passion, "I know I can agree with them (lesbian and gay rights activists) on one thing ... They deserve to be treated like human beings."



Obituary Jonathan Benov

Jonathan D. Benov of Smyrna died of complications of AIDS on Jan. 8, 1990. Surviving are his significant other of 11 years, Luis Ferrer, daughter Liza Campbell Ferrer, friends Marv and Judy Colbs, Atlanta and all his extended and supportive family in Atlanta.

Contributions to his memory may be made to Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays Atlanta, P.O. Box 8643, Atlanta 30306 or Project Open Hand, St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, 1790 La Vista Rd. NE, Atlanta 30329.

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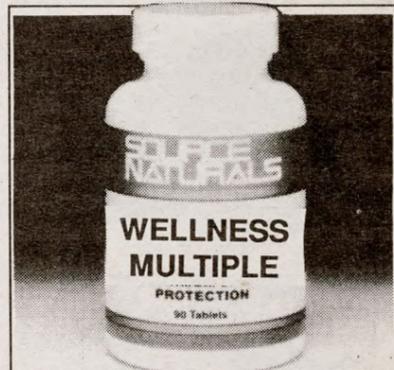
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State Hate Crimes Bill Likely to Pass

by Ian W. Ginsburg

Hate crime legislation is hot. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act has just passed the U.S. Senate (see story page 19) and DeKalb Commissioner Sherry Sutton continues work on her DeKalb County legislation.

On the state scene, Representative Nan Orrock (D. District 30) has introduced legislation (H.B. 1596) that would define hate crimes as those based on a person's race, religion, national origin, sex, HIV status, the perception of HIV status and sexual orientation.



Nan Orrock

The recent letter bombings of a Georgia civil rights activist and an Alabama Federal District Court Judge alerted Orrock to the necessity of proposing the bill. "We have put this legislation together rapidly, because we want the offenders

to know that there are going to be serious consequences for the perpetrators of such crimes."

The bill will be heard before the Judiciary Committee on February 13th; Orrock expects approval as the legislation has already gained the support of the Governor and twenty co-sponsors.

H.B. 1596 calls for a broad-based approach to hate crimes and the problems its victims face. Orrock stresses that the bill doesn't change a hate crime from a misdemeanor to a felony. However, it allows the courts to levy heavier sentences and raises the penalties that violators will face. "This bill will force criminals to recognize that they will be made to compensate for damage done either to persons or property," says Orrock.

The rights of victims are also addressed by the bill. According to Orrock, victims will be able to seek increased punitive damages against their attackers as well remuneration for court costs and attorney's fees. With the passage of the bill, the amount for which victims can sue their violators will be increased. Additional legal restrictions against the criminals, such as restraining orders are also proposed by the bill.

The newly planned database would enable state officials to keep a factual record of all incidents that take place within the state. Orrock feels that the knowledge gained by such a network, "...would be invaluable. We would be able to tell how widespread the incidents are and where they occur the most. Plus, we will ascertain where we need to go into the schools and educate students about hate motivated crime."

Orrock is confident of passage and of the message the bill communicates to hate crime offenders in Georgia: "Hate crimes will not be tolerated by this state."

One HIV Bill Stalled; Another Introduced

There's some good news: S.B. 407 which would have mandated annual widespread testing of food service personnel for salmonella, TB, HIV and other infections has been assigned to a six month study commission. In other words, the regressive legislation is dead for this session.

And some bad: Rep. Tommy Chambliss (D. District 133) of Albany has introduced H.B. 1789 which would permit several kinds of non-consensual HIV testing.

In the name of protecting medical personnel, the bill would permit "doctors to test a person (without his or her knowledge or approval) if he has had, is having or will have surgery" within five days and has not previously been treated by the doctor(s) or nurse(s) performing that surgery according to Gil Robison, legislative for the Georgia AIDS Coalition.

The bill is ostensibly aimed at use in emergency situations. But the Omnibus AIDS Bill, passed by the Legislature in 1988, already permits testing in emergency room situations. The net effect of such approval is probably moot, however, since the turn-around time on HIV antibody tests is far longer than most emergency situations last.

"We have grave concerns that this will open up doors to other kinds of testing without consent and begin a process of erosion of our hard won work on the Omnibus AIDS Bill," says Robison.

Under the proposed legislation, a person so tested would not be charged for the test and, if the test was negative, the person would not be told (s)he had been tested and no record of it

would be kept.

But if the test came back positive, the patient would be notified and given counseling. A positive test would also become part of the person's medical record making the purchase of life and health insurance virtually impossible.

The bill will be reviewed by the House Health and Ecology Committee. Representatives Nan Orrock, Frank Redding and Eleanor Richardson are metro-area members of that committee.

Union Supports Gays

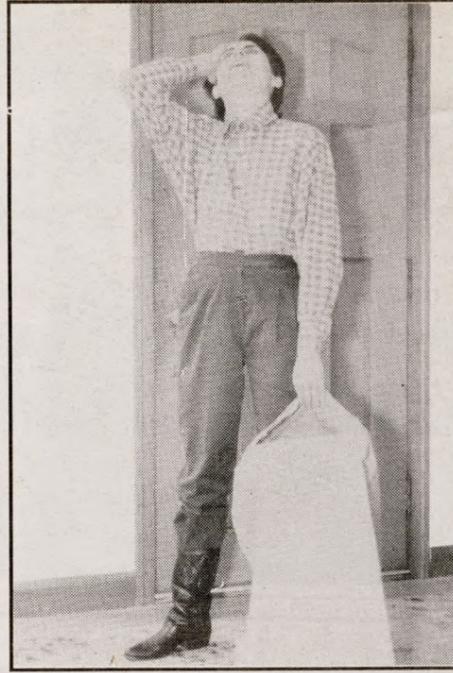
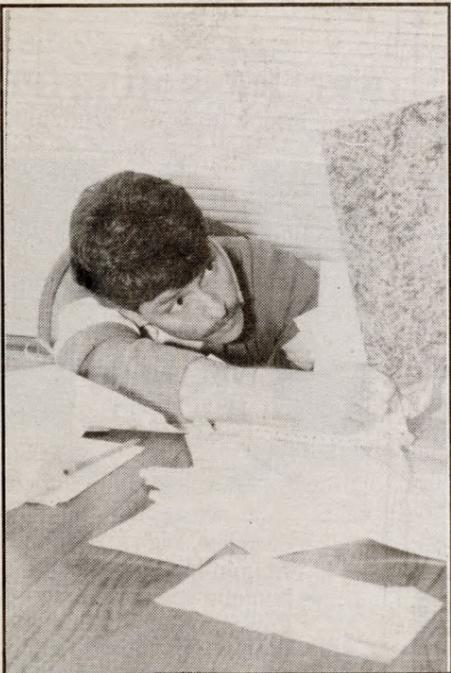
A labor contract that would extend domestic partnership benefits to some gay and lesbian federal employees was denounced by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) two top officials.

Jack Kemp, Secretary of HUD claimed the contract with the HUD employee union illegally "redefines the family."

The controversy was sparked by a clause in the contract of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Its proposed definition of family would provide lesbian and gay employees with familial leave benefits identical to the privileges already offered heterosexual workers.

Commenting on the role of the union in advocating for gay and lesbian employees, Ivy Young, director of NGLTF's Families Project, said, "As we move in the 90's, the issue of benefits discrimination in the workplace will become even more prominent - and unions must play an important role in fighting that discrimination. Too often when contract negotiations get tough, our issues are the first to be thrown off the table. AFGE seems determined to fight this one out, and that's commendable."

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Traxx: The Way to Fun

Traxx Manager, David Hampton is ready for the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference goers, "We can accommodate all of them. We're a big nightclub and we have everything they're looking for in the way of fun."

The way of fun at the 16,000 square foot, multi-level warehouse club is simple: strong beat, high energy dance (house) music with lots of room to move—even on top of the speakers where mini-stages are set for those who like to show-off.

The decor, intentionally sparse with white lacquer accents, suggests a northern party set where the warehouse feel is the vogue. Hampton says, "We lead the way in the Atlanta minority club circuit and we're open to all facets of the community ... we want to widen the spectrum—men, women, black, white, whatever. Atlanta needs a huge place that is fun for birthday parties, fashion shows or even revues."

Traxx welcomes the the Atlanta lesbian and gay community along with the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference goers to a special show Friday, February 16 featuring Danitra Vance.

See you there!



SKYE MASON

David Hampton, manager of Traxx — leader in the Atlanta minority club circuit.

Home Remedy: Doing It Right



EVETT BENNETT

Darlene Drury has the power (tools) to provide a Home Remedy

Quality service at a reasonable price is the motto for Darlene Drury, owner of Home Remedy, a home repair and maintenance business. Her eight years of experience have added up to just that—quality. "If its worth doing, its worth doing right," says Darlene.

Darlene's professional services began in 1979 after wiring, plumbing and refinishing the interior of a 150 year old farm house. Constant requests for her services followed quickly. "I bought a truck, invested in some more tools, and put myself out to hire," she said.

Darlene believes in renovation rather than demolition. She is known best for painting, wallpapering, dry-wall, glass repair, and light carpentry. Her carpentry skills include laying tile, floor refinishing and trim work. One of her most recent accomplishments is the interior painting of the Gallus Restaurant.

If you need home repairs or maintenance, Darlene can handle the job. Call her at 288-6102.

NOW Seeks Lesbian Workshop Proposals for National Conference

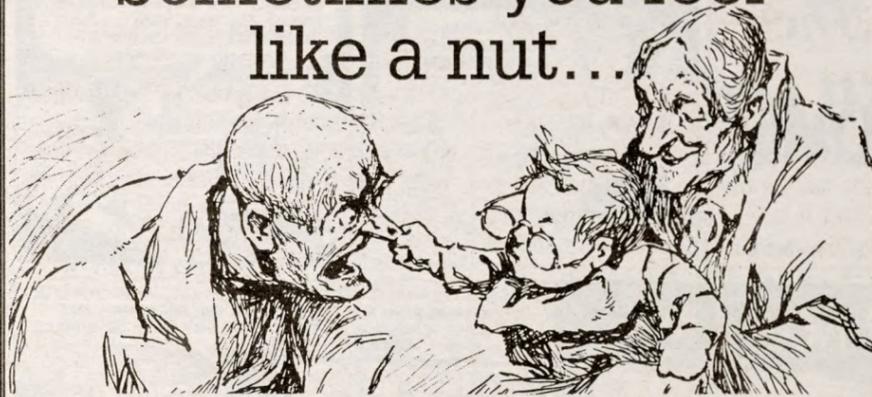
The National Organization for Women is seeking workshop proposals from the lesbian community for presentation at its 1990 National Conference in San Francisco. The Conference, scheduled for June 29-July 1, will include major speakers, workshops, entertainment and the election of national officers. NOW activists from around the country will gather to share ideas and skills and to set policy for the organization.

Workshops are a major portion of the program and cover a wide range of issues from child care to running political campaigns. Each year a number of workshops focus on lesbian rights. This year NOW is calling for proposals for workshop presenta-

tions dealing with lesbian rights issues. Although proposals on all subjects are welcome, NOW is particularly interested in four major themes: How the AIDS crisis has impacted progress on other lesbian rights issues; how to integrate lesbian rights into the consciousness of abortion rights activists; legal strategies to further the right of privacy; and issues of importance to lesbians of color.

Deadline for submission of proposals is March 1, 1990. For a proposal form, please contact the National NOW Office; 1000 16th St., NW, Suite 700; Washington, DC 20036; Attn: Nancy Buermeier, Lesbian Rights Program Director; or call (202) 331-0066.

Sometimes you feel like a nut...



sometimes you don't.

But when you do, look to the Southern Voice Professional Directory for help.

We all have those days when just about everything drives us crazy and even a friend's hug doesn't help much. Our everyday pains and the constant strain of being gay in a straight world can get you down further than you can bear.

Whatever it is, you are not alone.

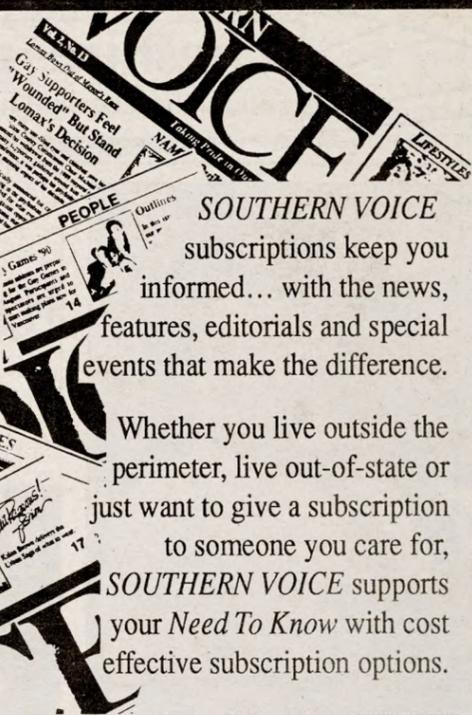
Our Professional Directory is designed to assist you in finding the right person or company to serve you. There you can find astrologers, chiropractors, attorneys, therapists, carpenters, masseuses — people offering highly recommended, top-quality service.

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Dykes to Watch Out For



bittersweet

by Charles Haver



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Over the river & through the woods to...

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Ruling Planets

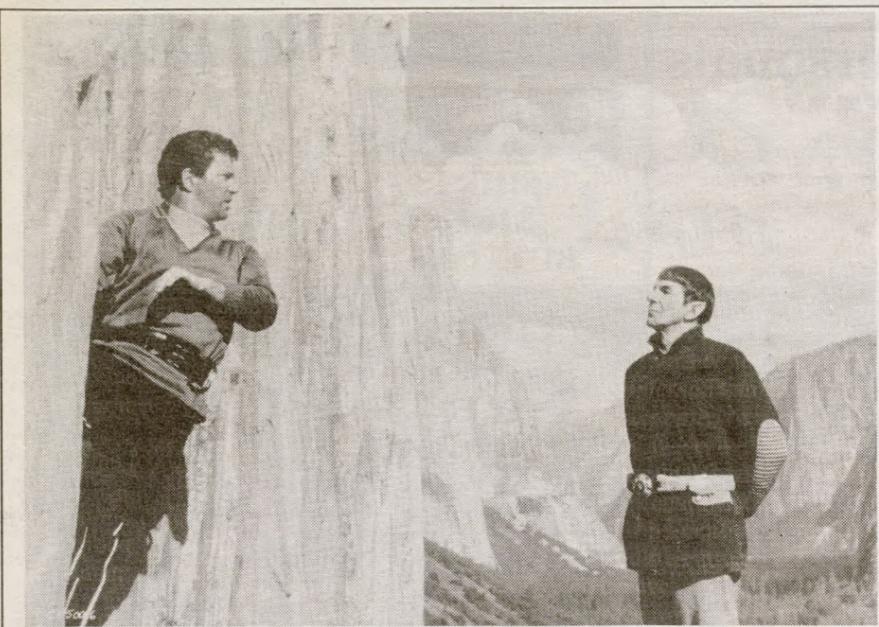
February 15 - February 28
by Mary Bailey-Rule

The Sun goes into Pisces on Feb. 18. This mutable water sign is characterized by emotional and psychic sensitivity as well as a compassionate, mystical nature. Venus, Mars, Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus are all in Capricorn forming a sextile relationship to the Sun in Pisces which is a supportive aspect creating opportunities to bring our dreams and higher visions into a more realistic form.

- ARIES** — The Sun is in your 12th house of visions, dreams, and the unconscious, so expect your imagination and intuition to be more active. Be more aware of your internal guidance.
- TAURUS** — With 5 planets in Capricorn in your 9th house of higher education and travel, this may be a great time to expand your horizons and do something new and different for yourself.
- GEMINI** — Your ruling planet, Mercury, is now in Aquarius, trining your natal sun sign, so your ability to communicate and network is definitely enhanced. Be sure of your goals, especially in business. And have fun.
- CANCER** — Jupiter is still retrograde in your 1st house, opposing the five planets in earthy Capricorn, so do your best to stay balanced and centered, and look for opportunities in unexpected places.
- LEO** — Jupiter continues to activate your 12th house of dreams, visions, and the unconscious, so if you feel a bit out of control, try relying more on your intuition. Use your imagination for problem solving.
- VIRGO** — The Sun in your 7th house of intimate relationships, signals a time for being with close friends and your significant other. Be sure to plan ahead, so you will have a good time.

- LIBRA** — With Mercury in Aquarius, in your 5th house of creativity and passion, you may have lots of energy for fun projects or a wonderful evening out with someone special. Take financial risks with great care.
 - SCORPIO** — With the Sun in Pisces trining your natal sun sign, you may be more emotional or intense, so take time to nurture yourself. You may need a creative project or a weekend at the beach.
 - SAGITTARIUS** — With five planets in your second house of material resources, this is a good time to make sensible investments and evaluate your portfolio. An early start on taxes will make April more enjoyable.
 - CAPRICORN** — Venus is in your 1st house of personal appearance and identity, so spruce up your wardrobe and take note of all your wonderful qualities. Allow your charm and dry wit to come out more often.
 - AQUARIUS** — Your 12th house of dreams and visions is activated by the five planets in Capricorn, so you may want to watch for recurring themes in your dreams. A therapeutic process may be helpful now.
 - PISCES** — Happy Birthday! The Sun goes into your sign on February 18 and the New Moon occurs in Pisces on the 25th, so have a wonderful birthday month. This is your time to shine and be appreciated.
- Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer who specializes in birth chart analysis, relationship charts, and astrological career counseling. Her office is now at Partners in Health. For information or an appointment, call 881-6300.*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLOBITH



FAMOUS FACES

Quick, Scottie, Beam Him Up!

A lawsuit filed in Los Angeles against William Shatner tells of the travels of the former Captain Kirk, claiming Shatner went where more than a few other men have gone before. Vira Montes palimony suit asks for \$3 million from Shatner. She says she spent three years as his companion and confidant and gave up her own career because of his promise of financial support. Shatner, who was married through those years to his current wife Marci, maintains he and Ms. Montes were "only friends."

Don't Mess with Aretha

Fear of flying may end up costing Aretha Franklin a hefty sum. The producers of the 1984 musical "Sing, Mahalia Sing" sued the vocalist, claiming she broke her promise to appear in the show, leading to the project's demise. A New York magistrate agreed and recommended that she pay some \$230,000 in damages. Aretha had said she could not attend rehearsals for the Cleveland opening because of her flying phobia. Aretha may appeal, but who's zooming who? She'll probably have to pay.

An Affair with Julie...

Get ready for a Julie Andrews love affair against a French backdrop. The androgynous star of "Victor Victoria" will pair up with Italian heartthrob Marcello Mastroianni for a film named "Tchin-Tchin." The story, filmed on location in Paris, chronicles an amorous extramarital adventure between a prim British lady and an Italian architect.

Batman Vs. Indiana Jones

Who's the toughest at the box office? The battle between the masked master of Gotham City and the adventurous archaeologist of the Last Crusade was hard to call but it has been won at last. Batman seemed to have the upper hand in the United States, but when global tally for 1989 was totaled, Indi's adventure won. Paramount Pictures announced that "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," starring Harrison Ford, grossed more than \$440 million worldwide, despite a semi-meager U.S. total of \$196 million. It was a grand finale—producers say this is the last we will see of the highly successful Indiana Jones series. For Batman, on the other hand, this was an impressive first flight.

-F.G.



"Winds of change
from the Gulf Coast."

A feminist newsletter
by, for and about
Southern Women.

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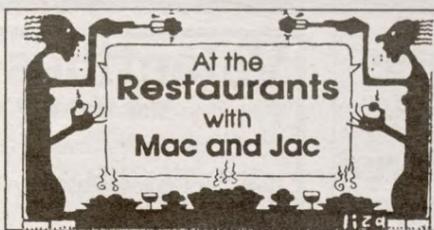
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On Dhal and Such

M: Years ago, I use to hang out at A Touch of India in Midtown. The food was good and prices cheap. So, when J. suggested the uptown Touch of India (What is this city coming to when Piedmont Road is uptown?), I went along mainly for pleasant memories.

J: I'll tell you up front that the new version is better than the Midtown restaurant. For this review, I chose dishes that I've never eaten before. I began with dhal soup (a light lemony, lentil broth) that was perfect before eating my entree.

M: And it's not as crowded as Midtown. I've come to hate those restaurants where everyone sits on top of each other. Actually, the night we were uptown (I still can't get over this word), the other diners were a table of dykes and two fiftyish couples wearing polyester suits.

J: There's something homey about good Indian restaurants. Maybe it's because I stuff myself and want to nap afterwards. Of course, dining with M. is always a challenge, because of her heavy conversations. During this visit, I endured her version of the primitive issues in our relationship. But my entree of sag gosht (lamb with spinach) tasted superb, despite my anxiety over the table talk.

M: Speaking of primitive issues, what do you mean *your* entree? The great thing about Indian restaurants is you can order a



lot of different dishes and share them. So, we pigged out on J's entree, naan bread, onion pakuras, vegetable biryani, Kashmir chicken and Indian rice pudding. There's nothing to compare Indian cooking to and the best I can say is that we wolfed it all down.

J: M's right about the food. Don't miss the selection of breads that are baked in a clay oven and the famous chicken tandoori. Almost all of the food is carefully spiced with cinnamon, cumin, ginger, and cloves. Also, kulfi (Indian ice cream) is unusual (like grandma's custard), and it looks like a cute hat.

M: What ice cream? J. must have had that last time. Anyway, all of the food is great. You can dress grubby, the decor is pleasant, and the Indian music puts you in the mood to sample everything. This restaurant even smells good.

J: Two weaknesses are the sparse wine list and the tables' wide bases. Because of the base, I couldn't move my chair far enough under the table to eat comfortably. But the reasonable prices make up for the inconvenience. By the way M, just because my dishes are mine and your dishes are mine doesn't mean I have primitive issues in our relationship.

A Touch of India (Uptown)
2065 Piedmont Road
Atlanta, GA 30324
Lunch M-Sat 11:30-2:30
Dinner everyday 5:30-10:30



Buonissimo

mama's
italian cuisine



A sample menu for you to savor...

"Serving Atlanta Authentic
Sullivan Cuisine
for 40 years!"

Appetizer: Asparagus Patties
Entree: Lemon Cream Pasta
House Tossed Salad
Dessert: Homemade Italian
Chocolate Cheesecake
Coffee: Caffe Latte

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Personal checks accepted
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CLASSIFIEDS

The categories on this page of the classifieds are FREE. See "CLASSIFIED DIRECTIONS" at the bottom of this page for details.

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

AIDS Care Coordinated is offering free hospital beds to people with AIDS who need them. Call Alice Brown at 371-9433.

The People Project - Ready to assist PWA's in locating services that are available in the community. This is a people-for-people program. Call Ron at 371-0819 or the Atlanta Gay Center at 876-5372.

HIV+ individuals interested in forming exercise classes - respond with name and address to 892-1249 - info will be sent - Exercise - "a natural immune booster", and it's free!

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.

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.

P.O.O.H. - Positive Outlook On HIV+ is a supportive network of HIV+ persons who share positive health attitudes and want to meet similarly oriented people for social and emotional interaction. For more information call 874-6102 or 351-1824.

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE SOUTHERN VOICE CLASSIFIEDS

* EMPLOYMENT

Project Open Hand is looking for paid kitchen assistant immediately. Call 248-1788 for information. (V3,#2)

Hairstylist - Talented professional needed for great Northside location. Good growth potential for high energy stylist. Experienced & presently working in industry a must. 256-3200 (V3,#1)



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AIRLINE JOBS
Earnings \$15k to 46k
Call 404-876-5327
Leave Message

D.J. willing to relocate to Cincinnati, OH (moving expenses) Experience and references necessary. Call collect (513) 381-9900 Write: D.J. 927 Race St. Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (V2,#26)

Penny needs help in Atlanta's new and upcoming hair salon. Come work with the best crew in town and help us continue to grow.



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ASK FOR PAT OR MARY
HAIRANOIA
2000 CHESHIRE BRIDGE RD.

Valentines Personals



S J B - Ma Cherie Amour. Je t'aime á jamais... - Slick
Bob, Okay, Dorothy has surrendered; I'm yours; melt me. Shug

Dearest,
Do you remember last year, the fumbled question, the craziness and the fun? I do and I would all over again. "Where would we be without us?" Welcome back, I missed you. Love Deborah

To Scotty
Patiently awaiting the time your heart will beat in unison with mine. Agnes

Cindy Sue - Will you be my Valentine? I love you with all my heart, sweetie. You're my friend, my lover & partner. I've finally found what I've been looking for... God gave me a diamond. You're the one! Miss Romance

Gail, Sweetheart
Please don't be afraid of me any longer. I am falling because you are a wonderful woman worthy of being loved. Honey, I do want to give you a dance you ain't danced before. Sweet Jana

To My Sweet GBM, I never dreamed what wonderful things could come from one plain little envelope. Your adoring GWM

M.R.D. Thanks for 3 wonderful years. K.J.
To Howison
"... It is so new This walk away and come again to you."
The most tender gift I've ever received. I love you for all your very special ways. Love Joan

Congratulations to P.R. and D.N.B., winners of the Fabulous Dinner for Two at Mama's Italian Cuisine. Have a wonderful time!

* EMPLOYMENT

Twenty dependable people needed, flexible hours, to call on businesses in the Atlanta Area. Earn up to \$500 per week in the Billion Dollar Calendar industry. Call 1-800-562-3354 to set up appointment. (Only serious inquiries please) No experience necessary. Only a desire to earn big bucks. (V3,#1)

LET SOUTHERN VOICE CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU!

* EMPLOYMENT

The Brushstrokes Boys are expanding to create a road show for male entertainers. Needed are young men with good presence, professional attitude, good looks and talent. (No alcohol or drugs!) Especially desirable are rock'n roll types with long hair and ethnic people are encouraged to apply. For interview call 876-6567

* VOLUNTEERS

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BUTTONS - \$1.00
CULTURAL BUTTONS - \$2.00
SCHOLARSHIP LAPEL BUTTONS - \$3.00
Contact Larry 875-0700

A woman is beaten every 15 seconds in the United States. You can help stop the cycle of violence. The Women's Resource Center is seeking volunteers to work with battered women and children. Volunteers work in all program areas. Training begins March 8th. Call 688-9436 for more information and to register.

Atlanta Gay Center is looking for people to help with an HIV/AIDS Library due to our successful STD clinic. Call Joe at the Atlanta Gay Center. 876-5372 or Ron at 371-0819.

Literacy Volunteers Needed Make a difference - teach someone to read. Find out how you can become a literacy volunteer with the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library. Call 730-1963.

Needed: Jerusalem House, a residence for people who have AIDS, is developing a team of volunteers to provide personal care on a weekly and on-call basis. If interested, please call Susan Karlip at 923-5784 between 9am and 9pm.

PROJECT OPEN HAND which provides meals to PWA's NEEDS volunteers to do cooking, driving, office work and fund raising. It's a true service to the community and an opportunity to work with and for wonderful and caring people. Call Mon-Sat 8-2, 248-1788.

Help promote wellness in DeKalb County while developing new skills and meeting new people. Positions include counselors, health screeners, and receptionists/clerks. Facilities throughout county. For more info. call Beth Ruddiman, DeKalb County Board of Health, 294-3792.

* VOLUNTEERS

FREE TYPESETTING

If you are a non-profit organization and deal with any AIDS issue, I'll laser typeset newsletters, flyers, brochures, etc., for free on a MAC. Call 651-3962 (Parker) for more info.

SOUTHERN VOICE CIRCULATION. Join us distributing Southern Voice as a volunteer. We have single copy box and route distribution where your involvement can help us reach the Atlanta lesbian and gay community. It's fun; it's fulfilling, and you get to read the paper first! For info call Jana Tyson at 876-1831.

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.

If you want to let people know about your volunteer organization, or need help, or offer services to PWA's or HIV+ people, Southern Voice will list them FREE! See order form at bottom of this page for details.

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Classifieds

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Free Classifieds

Check Box

- AIDS Education & Services
- Employment
- Volunteers

MAIL TO:
Southern Voice
Attn: Classifieds
P.O. Box 18215
Atlanta, Ga. 30316
For more information call
(404-876-1831)

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

CLASSIFIED DIRECTIONS

1. Print your classified or personal on a separate piece of paper and enclose order form. We must have your phone number to verify the ad.
2. Style Information - Southern Voice will make the first five words bold, italicized, ALL CAPS, or frame your ad for \$1.00 per style, per issue. Or ALL FOUR FOR \$4.00 per issue.
3. Personal Ads Can Be Confidential - Boxes are available for replies to your personal. Southern Voice will forward all replies to you if you check the forwarding box on the order form and enclose \$1.00 for each issue in which your personal ad is to appear.
4. To Respond to a Southern Voice Box Number Is EASY - Put your reply in a stamped sealed envelope and write the box number on the lower left corner. Mail your reply envelope in a separate envelope to Southern Voice, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, Ga., 30316. We will forward your reply to the appropriate party.
5. Free Classified Space is limited to 35 words. Free ads will run for two consecutive issues. Check appropriate box for category on order form. Southern Voice reserves the right to refuse or edit all classifieds. Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

If you think you cannot afford a home of your own, you could be in for a pleasant surprise.

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The real estate agents in our classifieds are sensitive to gay and lesbian couples and individuals.

They will treat you with respect and honesty, helping you meet your personal housing needs.

Give one of them a call today.

Find out if you qualify for that dream house... you may be surprised.

ANSLEY ARMS 2BR / 1BA Condo Great location. \$59,900.

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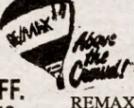
REDUCED \$5K! Total redo, 3BR / 1.5 BA, mid \$90's.

SPACIOUS Over 1800 sq. ft. 3BR / 1BA. \$98,500.

LOCATION! LOCATION! 3BR / 1BA, full plumbed base.

GREAT VALUE 3BR / 2BA total restoration. Plus apt. \$139,500.

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Elegant Georgian
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Emilie Markert 377-3197 325-5900  REMAX/EXECUTIVES

IMMACULATE WEST COBB TOWNHOUSE 2 masters, 2 1/2BA, frplc, dining room, ceiling fans, recessed lighting, custom window treatments, fenced yard with formal garden, many other extras. Beautifully decorated and landscaped. By owner - lease/purchase available. \$9,000. 284-1157 (leave message) (V3,#1)

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Loring Heights \$84,500. Attention renovators - come do it! Great potential, very private lot, hot tub on deck remains. REMAX / SUBURBAN. Susan 447-5558 or 923-6233

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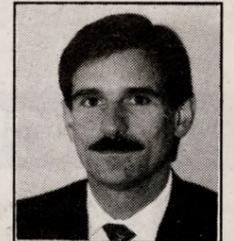
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Call **Bill Medlock at 876-1831**

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have Computer Paper? Don't trash it, stash it! We're the Radical Fairies Volleyball team and we're recycling our way to Gay Games III in Vancouver. Help us raise funds by calling us at 377-1923 if you have computer or office paper we can recycle. (PS - monetary donations from sugar daddies or mommas gladly accepted.) (V3,#1)

Help! The People Project is in need of clothing space for PWA's. This program can expand no further without your help. Call Ron at 371-0819

Bi-Sexual Males; The Urban Research Division of a local University is conducting a study for a public agency. If you are a bi-sexual male, we would like to send you a confidential questionnaire along w/a postage paid return envelope. The questionnaire takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. All correspondence will be by mail, and all responses will be anonymous. Call 651-3534 between 8-10 am M-F for info. (V2,#26)

Lunch, Dinner or Late Night enjoy delicious burgers, sandwiches, salads, soups, chili, chicken dishes, daily specials, desserts, beer and wine at Midtown Pub & Grill at 1027 Peachtree across from Theatrical Outfit. Free Parking in rear. 872-6166 (V2,#24)

To Honor Our Dreams...To Heal the Child Within... Therapy group for Lesbian Survivors of sexual abuse. Starting late January. For information contact Marsha J. Davenport, MS, Beverly Buthwoman, MS. T. Partners In Health. 881-6300. (V2,#24)

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

WOMEN IN RECOVERY- Non-smoking women's support group for all substance abusers based on 12-step program meets every Wednesday and Friday nights at 8pm. North Cobb County. For more information call Diane at 974-0468 or leave message at 974-4907.

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Tell them you saw their ad in Southern Voice

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GWF Looking for Employment: I have restaurant management exp. / 4yrs. fast food / 1yr. full service / culinary arts diploma and 7yrs. in the restaurant business. I am looking for a management position in a restaurant to educate myself in order to open my own in years to come. I am dependable, honest and hard working. Please call and leave a message @ 329-9851. (V2,#26)

FOR RENT

Emory/Decatur Luxurious, large, energy efficient 2 br./ 2 ba. apartment in 4 plex. All new kitchen/ dining. In appointed setting next to stream, with private parking and 5 min. access to downtown Atlanta. You'll find nothing nicer! \$700. 377-6278. (V2,#26)

Cozy home in Forest Park. 15 min. to downtown, 3BR/1BA, large kitchen, washer/dryer included, wood burning stove, hwd. floors, CH&A, storm windows, nice wooded lot. Only \$425. mo. 658-1125 or 876-1831

BOLTON - NW (inside 285) immaculate 3 BR/1BA, garage, workshop. Available March 1. \$595.00 799-3388. (V3, #1)

Decatur - Looking for more than 4 walls? Charming 3BR/2BA brick bungalow house. Great kitchen w/isle, Mexican tile, glass brick, hwd floors, deck, screened porch, W/D, private fenced yard, closets!! \$750. 378-6556 (V3,#2)

Candler Park House - 2 large bdrms, den, dining room, large BA, hwd floors. Plenty storage - front porch w/swing, W/D, near MARTA. Welcome gay/lesbian couple or three roommates - \$675/mo. References required. 624-4942. (V2,#26)

Ormeadow Park House - 2BR/1BA. Spacious kitchen opens into great sun-room, big deck overlooking private yard, W/D, safe neighborhood, welcome gay/lesbian couple or roommates. \$650/mo. References required. 624-4942. (V2,#26)

FOR RENT

Virginia Highlands - Available April 1. Charming luxury 2BR w/study, 1 1/2 BA, 2 Fplc., C/A, Gourmet Kitchen, fenced private yard & off-street parking, MARTA at door. Perfect for roommates. \$775/mo. 881-1143. (V2,#25)

Midtown - Condo, 1BR, w/w carpet, H&A, off street parking, pool, central location, no pets. \$375 to 425 + gas & electric. Security deposit req. 6mo./1yr lease. Available immediately. 875-4348 (V2,#24)

FOR SALE

1974 Super Beetle, Red. Good condition, 3rd owner. Call 879-8099 or 876-3183 after 6:30.

COLONY SQUARE ATHLETIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP for sale. Take over remaining 6 payments of \$25/mo. for 1 1/2 year membership. Moving, must sell immediately. Call Betsy 892-8367 days, 977-4012 evenings. (V3,#1)

Isuzu Trooper II, 1985, Brown/Tan, 55K miles, \$5,500. Phone 875-9639. (V2,#26)

Square Grand Piano: A true antique circa 1860. Hand-carved rosewood. Ground-up restoration. One of only a few in playable condition. \$7,500. Tom (404) 876-0549. (V2,#26)

A classic! Black leather motorcycle jacket in good condition. Has giant patch on back (Winged skull, "Sworn to Fun, Loyal to None"). Medium sized. Would like \$95, but will negotiate. Call 876-2169 and leave message. (V2,#26)

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METAPHYSICAL

MAAS - Metropolitan Atlanta Astrological Society. A networking educational/research organization for both amateur and professional astrologers. Usually meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. 622-5661.

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,#26)

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Rev. R. Lanier Clance

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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 south-side development. 761-1718 (V2,#26)

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PERSONALS

Right here in Atlanta there lives a handsome woman in her late 20's who likes playing basketball and also feels at home with good conversation. She would like to meet women from various walks of life who are drug-free. SV Box 2293 (V3,#1)

GAY BLACK MALE MUSICIAN WANTED! GWM, 32, with unusual stage/video act wants hip, fun, improvisational kinda guy, drummer preferred but not required. I'm looking for love and success in the '90's! Rosser, P.O. Box 54892, Atlanta, GA 30308 (V3,#2)

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

Feminine GWF. Late 20's, blonde, girl-next-door type. Non-religious, social drinker/dancer. I'd like to meet other fair-haired lesbians for friendship. PO Box 14366, Atlanta, GA 30324.

GAY SELECTIONS -- Meet other gay men and women in the Atlanta area and share your lifestyle and interests. Simply leave your own message describing yourself or listen to messages left by others. 1-900-860-4747 Only \$2.00 first min., \$1.00 each add'l minute.

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CO-DEPENDENCY WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN. Explore family dynamics. Become acquainted with the Child & Adolescent within. Be a higher functioning, Playful Adult. Saturday, Feb. 24. 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM. \$75. Led by Marsa Davenport, MS. Sponsored by Partners In Health. Call 881-6300 for further information. (V2,#26)

Alchemical Hypnotherapy Workshop \$25 Each Inner Space Feb. 14, 20, 27. Come get a taste! 289-2343 / 255-5207

ROOMMATES

GWF looking for one or two roommates. 3BR/2BA house in Lilburn. 5 mi. from Jimmy Carter Blvd. 5mi. from I-85. Call 564-9664 (V2,#26)

Grant/Ormewood Park, GF wants to share 3BR home. W/D, frplc, fenced, large deck, on MARTA. Non-smoker, drug/alcohol free. Must like animals. \$350 incl. utilities. 627-5473. (V3,#1)

Emory, Lake Claire. Lesbian, non-smoker, seeks same to share 2BR house. W/D, frplc, AC \$350+1/2 utilities. Near MARTA. Call 378-6640, leave message. (V3,#2)

SEMINARS

Erotic Men - Joseph Kramer and Matthew Simmons invite you to a sacred sex seminar. You will experiment with erotic rituals based on Tantric, Taoist, and Native American traditions. You will learn the pleasure of giving and receiving a complete Taoist erotic massage. And you will relearn sex as sacred, playful, non-addictive, non-compulsive, and non-stop. March 10 & 11, 9am-6pm. Cost: \$195. For information and free brochure, call John Ballew at (404) 659-5175 or Body Electric School at (415) 653-1594. This seminar is available in 25 other cities, including Europe. Honor your sexuality.

SERVICES

Lesbian & Gay people with CFIDS / CFS / EBV: Meet for support, socializing. For more info, write Tandy Solomon, 30 Ivy Drive, Covington, GA 30209, w/Name, address, phone, etc.

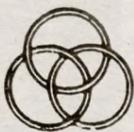
SHY GUY?! Don't know where to ask? Don't be caught empty-handed. Aim for safe-sex in the 1990's. Get your condoms by mail. 3 in a plain brown wrapper. Send \$1.50 + .75 postage and handling to: Condoms by Mail, The B.F. Association, P.O. Box 22505, Baltimore, MD 21203-4505 (V3,#1)

House Sitter - Responsible female graduate student available to house sit on a short/long-term basis. Will nurture your pets, record messages, care for plants, keep your home safe, and your household running smoothly during your absence. \$20 base rate per night. Total rate determined by number of animals to be cared for. Excellent references available upon request. Please call 681-3626 and leave message. Call will be promptly returned. (V3,#1)

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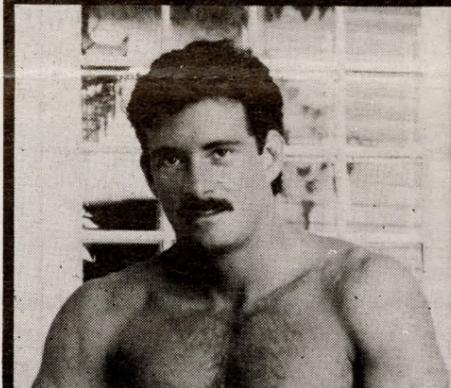


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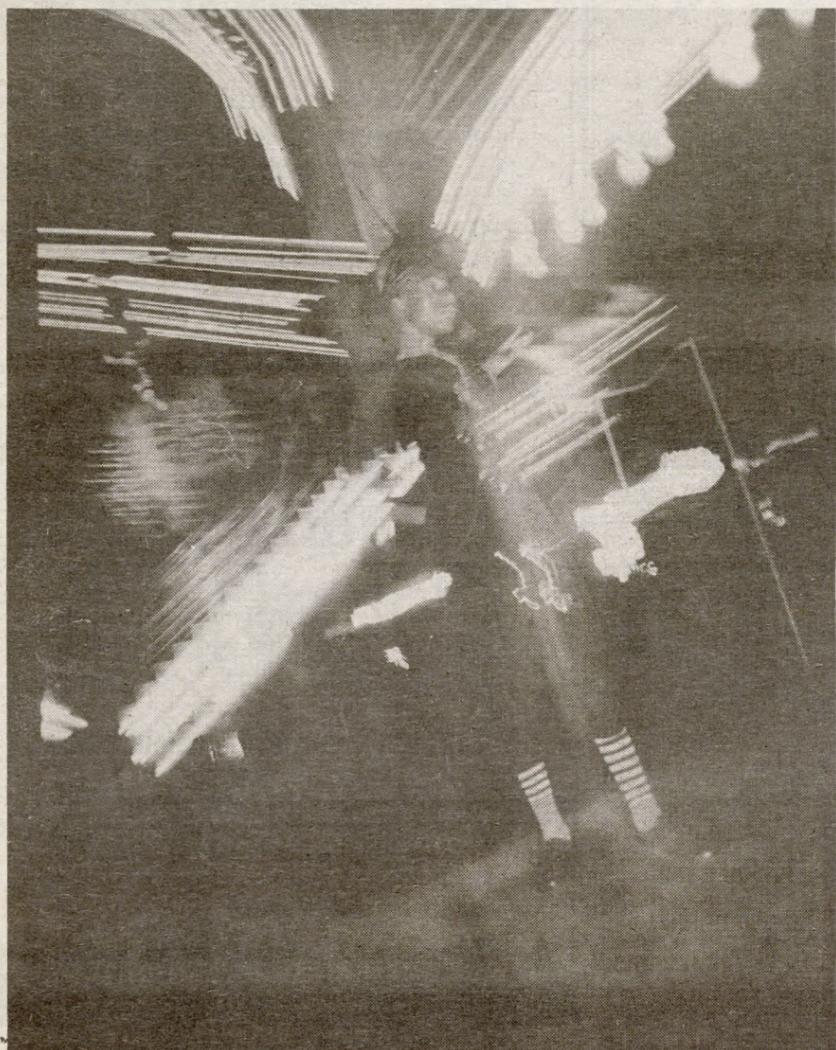
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