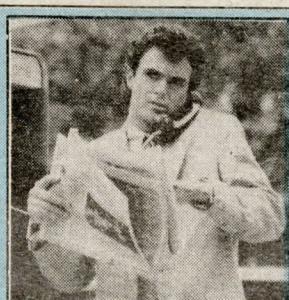


GOODBYE

Carolyn Mobley
is leaving Atlanta
after a decade of
healing activism.

GOOD SHOW

11

A Movie
about AIDS that all
America needs to see—
Longtime Companion

9, 10

GOOD NEWS

Barbara Bush
has come out
against anti-gay
discrimination.

28

SOUTHERN

VOICE

Vol. 3, No. 7

"Taking Pride in Our Culture"

May 24, 1990

GENDER JUSTICE

15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON MEN AND MASCULINITY IN ATLANTA

Judy Grahn, Lesbian poet, author and performer is one of the keynote speakers; learn more about her, the new masculinism and other artists who will be in Atlanta for the conference.

Page 6



SCROGGINS DEFENSE FUND FORMED

New attorney to ask for extension, oral arguments in appeal

Atlanta—A self-described "middle-class Buckhead socialite" is the coordinator of the newly formed Gregory Scott Scroggins Legal Defense Fund (GSSLDF).

Susan (a pseudonym requested because she works in Cobb County) read *Southern Voice's* story April 26 about Scroggins—jailed on charges of intent to commit murder because he is HIV positive and bit a policeman who was restraining him with a choke hold—and responded immediately.

"I was charged with assault in 1980—in another Southern city—when I bit a policeman who had me in a hammerlock...he was strangling me. (Working on Greg's case) is a payback for me," she says.

GSSLDF will raise funds to be spent on: Attorney's fees in the Scroggins' appeal and (hoped for) retrial; court filing fees and documentation costs; post office box rental and mailing costs; advertising, printing and (fundraising) promotional costs; and phone expenses.

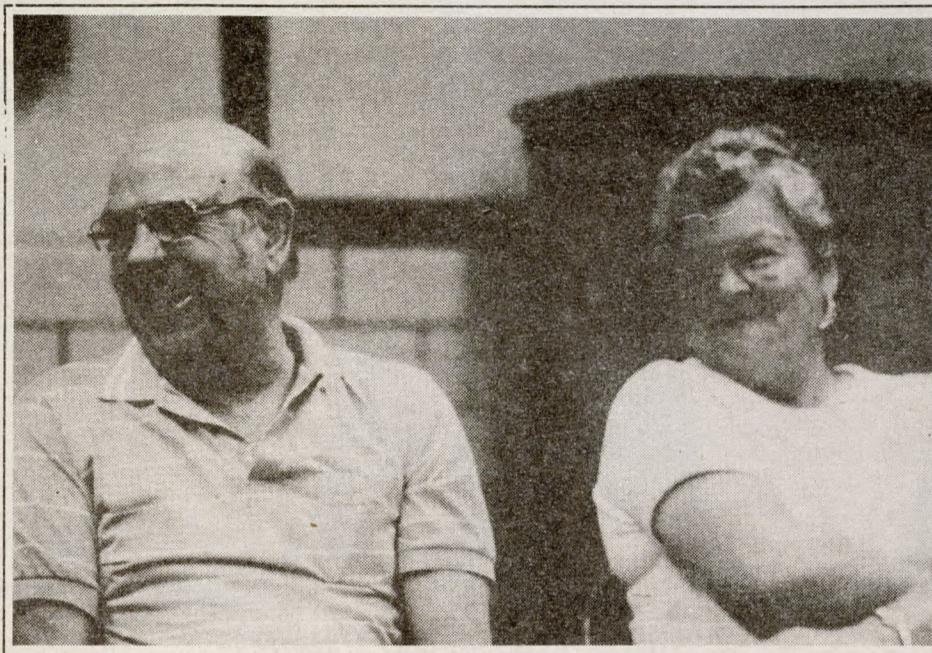
The ad-hoc committee (a PWA, a restaurateur, a music promoter, the owner of a clothing store and the "socialite") is in the process of looking for a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor so that donations will be tax deductible.

Bruce Harvey, a local criminal defense

attorney and member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia ACLU, has been retained by Scroggins as his attorney. Harvey says that he intends to file an extension on the appeal based on the fact

that legal representation has changed. He also intends to refile the appeal brief and request oral arguments in the case. But, he cautions, the appeals board "may or may not accept" his requests.

Asked what influence a significant outcry from the community might have on the appeals board's decision, Harvey replied by bringing his thumb and middle finger



EVETT BENNETT

Phillip and Angie Scroggins chuckle while at the May 3 community meeting held to discuss their son's case.

together to form a zero.

"If this were a case about a bank, a building or the Georgia World Congress Center, the public's opinion would matter. But being that this is an AIDS-related case.... The law is more concerned with things than it is with people."

Paul Murray—who was arrested, tried and jailed at the same times as Scroggins—is now eligible for parole and has requested that he be allowed to live with Greg's parents Angie and Phillip. That request has been denied because both of the elder Scroggins were also convicted of, but not jailed for, felonies during the October '89 trial that sent Greg and Paul to prison. Georgia law does not allow felons to be paroled to the homes of convicted felons.

Murray's second choice was to be paroled to his mother who lives in New York, but state officials say the time required to process necessary paperwork would be longer than that remaining on Murray's sentence.

The address of the Gregory Scott Scroggins Legal Defense Fund is Suite 286, 1033 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309. The GSSLDF Hotline number is (404) 753-8820; FAX (404) 892-6701, Suite 286. A Benefit is planned for June 3 at 551 Downstairs. Call the above number for information.

ACT UP/DC WILL NOT OUT CONGRESSPERSONS

Well, at least not yet...

Washington—Calling an announcement by one of its members "a premature ejaculation," ACT UP/DC has issued a statement that it has not approved a list of names of closeted gay and lesbian congresspersons to be read from the Capitol steps. Yet.

Michael Petrelis told syndicated gay reporter Rex Wockner that a preliminary list had been compiled and Wockner sent the story out to a number of gay/lesbian

proposal. Naming names to the press without permission of other ACT UP/DC members violates the integrity and trust of the group."

On April 24 members of ACT UP/Portland altered one of Sen. Mark Hatfield's (R-OR) campaign billboards and ousted the veteran Senator.

The billboard's original message, "Preserving Social Security" was altered to read "Closeted Gay. Living a Lie—Voting to Oppress." An ACT UP logo was also added.

"We don't care about Senator Hatfield's sex life," says Thomas Schloeder of ACT UP/Portland, "what he does in bed is not the issue. It's what he does in the Senate that matters, and when a gay man votes anti-gay, he is a hypocrite. When asked

SENATE PASSES AIDS EMERGENCY ACT, 95-4

*Helms rebuffed on landslide vote,
loses on all amendments
by Cliff O'Neill*

Washington—D.C.—The U.S. Senate, after two days of debate, has passed a comprehensive AIDS bill channeling a projected \$2.9 billion over five years to areas particularly hard-hit by the epidemic.

Atlanta's share of the allocation for fiscal year 1991 would be \$4.6 million. As the bill is now worded it appears most of those funds would be sent to Fulton County which would, in turn, distribute the funds to area AIDS agencies.

The Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990, was approved by

an overwhelming 95-4 vote, with only Sens. Jesse Helms (R-NC), Gordon Humphrey (R-NH), William Roth (R-DE) and Malcom Wallop (R-WY) opposing it.

During the debate, senators faced off against Helms, who first attempted to derail the measure with a filibuster, and later tried to attach two amendments to the bill. Both amendments lost on clean roll-call votes and were later substituted with more narrowly drawn riders from bill co-sponsors Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT).

Gay and AIDS activists were jubilant over Helms' repeated losses. Unlike previous face-offs with the wily conservative, the cloak of procedural motion did not have to be used to secure his defeat.

"If this were strip poker, Sen. Helms would be feeling mighty chilly about now," quipped Gregory King, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

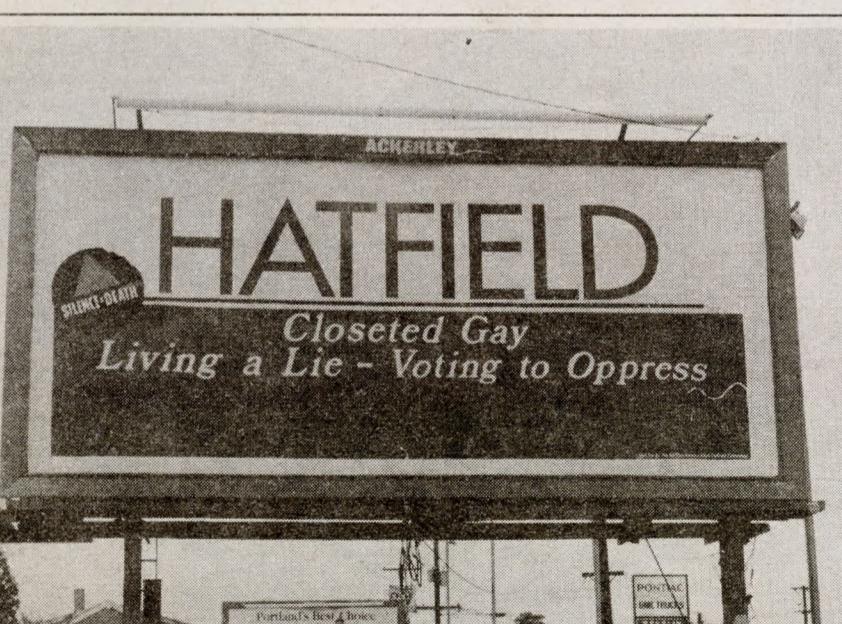
Continued on page 16

Group. They, in turn, welcomed her warmth and readiness to get to work. And—most of all—her smile.

She's likely to need a sense of humor before it's all over.

Lewis has had experience working with other groups such as the National Black Women's Health Project and the National Women's Studies Conference. She will be responsible for the Lesbian Agenda Conference's national office here in Atlanta, as well as traveling and promoting the conference nationwide. Mary Lu says she sees responsibility as oiling the wheels of progress and seeing that tasks are completed on schedule.

Now that Lewis is here and ready to go to work, a place to do the work is first item on the agenda. Near a MARTA station, and either wheelchair accessible or rampable, the space needs to be in a secure area where women will feel safe; nearby restaurants and businesses would be helpful. If you are aware of such a space for rent, or would like to donate one, please call April at 371-0935.



papers around the country.

"The idea of exposing closeted congresspersons," according to Emmett Underwood, another ACT UP member, "was discussed and approved at a meeting on May 8. Mr. Petrelis agreed to come back to the group with evidence to back up his

about the billboard, the senator said he was hurt by our message, but certainly no more than gays and lesbians are hurt by his votes in the Senate."

According to the Human Rights Campaign Fund Hatfield has voted "correctly" on 15 of 27 gay and AIDS related

Continued on page 16

NEWS

MORE MURDERS

Police say two more homicides appear to be gay related

Atlanta—The May 17 murder of Michael Whisnant at the Atlanta Hilton appears to be gay related according to Atlanta Police officials.

Whisnant, 33 and a resident of Shelby, N.C., was found handcuffed, strangled and stuffed beneath his bed at the downtown Atlanta hotel where he was registered for a convention. His self-confessed killer, Henry Eugene Hodges, was arrested early on the morning of May 18 as he was allegedly attempting to break into Whisnant's home.

Hodges also confessed to the May 14 murder of a Nashville man, Ronnie Bassett

who was found slain in his home. According to police Hodges is "an admitted homosexual prostitute." According to the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution*, Hodges was "released from a Tennessee jail in 1988 after serving four years for kidnaping and robbery...."

Whisnant and Hodges apparently met at the Armory. According to Shelby police, Hodges said that Whisnant agreed to pay his \$75 to have oral sex with him, but paid him only \$25.

Atlanta police have also told members of the (lesbian/gay) Police Advisory Committee that the murder of a jogger whose body was found behind Patterson's Funeral Home at Spring and 10th Streets may also be gay related. With the four Macon murders reported last month, this brings to 13 the number of known gay-related murders in the past year.

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MACGLO CHOOSES THREE CANDIDATES FOR MAYORAL ADVISOR

Atlanta—The Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations (MACGLO) has voted to send to Mayor Jackson the names of three candidates for the post of volunteer Senior Advisor to the Mayor's office from the gay/lesbian community. Joan Garner, Maury Weil and Jay Neeley were recommended at the group's May 17 meeting.

In response to a call from the Jackson Administration (through GAPAC's Policy and Planning Committee) MACGLO was asked to gather the names of persons who

could serve as "a conduit or contact" for the Mayor "when he needed information from the community" according to Peter Whiteside of GAPAC.

Asked if information could flow the other way—from the community to the Mayor—through the Senior Advisor's position, Whiteside replied, "It certainly can work the other way around."

But, paraphrasing one of Jackson's aides, Whiteside warned "not to make more out of the position than it is. (The person chosen) will not represent or speak for the community (in the Mayor's office)"

Discussion of the candidates and the necessity for/ appropriateness of the position itself at the meeting was described as "spirited" by one observer and "downright acrimonious" by another.

to the DeKalb County Democratic Party Executive Committee and claims that as a result, "DeKalb County became the first county to have the party organization go on record endorsing the repeal of the state sodomy law, supporting hate crime legislation...and for reproductive rights."

Wimberly is unopposed.

Because, according to LEGAL, "neither knew the other was running" Worsham and well-known community activist Larry Lucas are competing for one of the 26th District seats.

Jones is running against John Krause who, LEGAL claims, "has made no attempts to enforce the by-laws or to increase gay participation on the committee."

The inner workings of County Democratic parties and the impact of regular gay/lesbian participation in their activities is a complex and fascinating subject that *Southern Voice* will explore more fully in our July 5 issue.

T.V.O.M.F.R.—To vote, one must first register. As stated in the last issue, LEGAL will be registering Fulton County voters on May 26, June 2, June 9 and June 16th from 1p.m. to 5p.m. at Ansley Mall. Voters may also register at public libraries (in all counties) or at County registrar offices (see the blue pages section of your phone book).

LEGAL asks that anyone interested in assisting with its registration drive call Jeffrey Corrigan at 897-1800 or leave a message at 286-7476.

But, warns *Atlanta Journal/Constitution* political columnist Tom Baxter, the "biggest media barrage in the state's history" is on its way in just a few weeks.

So far the most exciting races in

the primary election appear to be five

seats on the Fulton County Democratic

Party Executive Committee being sought

by members of LEGAL (Legislate

Equality for Gays and Lesbians).

Craig Allen, Jeff Corrigan, Rich Jones, Steve Wimberly, and Marty Worsham will seek election in the 25th (Ansley, Collier Hills, Peachtree Battle and the areas abutting Peachtree Road south of Buckhead) and 26th (Midtown, Virginia Highland, Lindbergh and close in areas of Buford Highway) House Districts.

In 1989 LEGAL was successful in electing 10 openly gay/lesbian members

Gay Vote '90

GAY CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR FIVE FULTON POSTS

Steinberg's residency challenged in Senate District 42

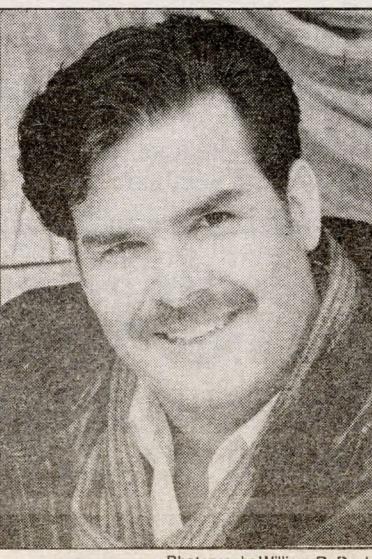
Atlanta—"Think of it as the calm before the storm," says Peter Whiteside of the Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition. While GAPAC's volunteers are busily interviewing candidates for a number of offices, mainstream media coverage of the July 17 primary races is definitely in the doldrums.

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The next Experience is June 1, 2, and 3. For more information, or to attend a guest event, or to enroll in The Experience, call (404) 873-9616 today.

THE EXPERIENCE

Atlanta

GUEST EDITORIAL MANDATING INCLUSION

A student group's changes are producing positive results

As Vice President (1989-1990) and Vice-President for Political Action (1990-1991) of the Emory Lesbian and Gay Organization, I have been fortunate to participate in the very exciting development of this unique group. In early April, ELGO ratified a new constitution and underwent a basic structural change which we are eager to share with the community.

We now have a six-member Executive Committee, consisting of two co-Presidents and four Vice-Presidents in charge of Social Concerns, Political Action, Communications, and Finance. This is a first step in moving away from a hierarchy and including as much input as possible without the chaos which results from having too many people involved.

Under our new constitution, one of the co-Presidents must be male and the other female, and we have a "goal of equal gender representation" on the Executive Committee. Also, one or more persons of an ethnic or racial minority must be present

on the board.

As the co-President of ELGO, I am very excited about these changes. Hopefully, next year we will have more women and minorities involved and have programming specifically designed to be as inclusive as possible. ELGO is for gay men and lesbians, and we should work towards reflecting that as much as possible. The restructuring of the board is only a beginning.

Sara Cook

Sara is right that restructuring the Executive Committee is only the beginning, but it was a hell of a process. I joined ELGO last fall, the first semester of my freshman year at Emory. At that time, the President was a very able lesbian who managed to make the group inclusive through her own personal commitment and energy.

When elections were held for the 1989-1990 academic year, there were no qualifi-

fied women willing to run. The result was an all-male Executive Board. Further, the Board was all white. It was clear we had a problem with gender and minority representation on the executive level.

We began to search for ways to be inclusive as an organization. The board asked a woman to act as advisor when needed and tried to schedule programs that would be inclusive.

But a more basic structural change was necessary if we wanted to make the organization appealing to all. Despite its intent, inclusive programming by an exclusive board started to seem condescending. It became apparent that it might just be impossible for four white men to adequately understand the needs of African-American lesbians, gay Asians, and others who were not white males.

I had been running meetings all year, and I took the opportunity one evening to ask the group how they felt about changing the constitution to *mandate* inclusivity. The response was very positive.

I called a friend, the person who helped draft MACGLO's affirmative action clause, and he helped put together the document which was ratified as ELGO's new Constitution.

Unless the organization can prove that it did everything possible to meet our goals,

and for some reason could not, ELGO's Executive Committee is required by our Constitution to have equal gender representation and at least one member of an ethnic or racial minority.

This past election was a landmark for ELGO in that nearly every race was contested (as opposed to simple confidence votes for those willing to run). Further, as Sara pointed out, we very nearly achieved our goal of gender parity and one of the co-Presidents is an Asian-American.

I do not know whether we can attribute the renewed interest in the organization to the structural changes, but we have seen a vibrant reaction which can only benefit the organization. Further, the officers seem more willing to voice their opinions, perhaps because the intimidating hierarchy has been dismantled.

We are already underway with new plans for minority outreach, men's and women's support groups, and many other creative projects to serve our community. I can only encourage other organizations to consider whether their structure is conducive to including all the members of the community which they serve.

David A. Lowe

GUEST EDITORIAL HOW 22 BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WERE ENCOURAGED TO DO THE RIGHT THING

Like many of you, I was very surprised when the Georgia Legislature actually took a vote on reforming Georgia's sodomy law this past session.

Georgia House members took an historic step by voting, for the first time, to remove criminal status from what gays and lesbians do when we make love. When I arrived in Georgia in 1980, I thought that our only hope for repeal of the sodomy law was through the courts. The Hardwick decision destroyed that hope for the foreseeable future. Or at least until the Reagan majority on the U.S. Supreme Court passes to its eternal reward.

Many of us would like to take some partial credit for this long overdue beginning in the Georgia legislature. The Georgia ACLU and especially its Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter helped by letting the public know that every Georgian was at risk when a Clayton County husband was imprisoned for having oral sex with his wife. Many other groups and individuals have worked for years to lay the groundwork for Georgia's first vote on sodomy reform.

GAPAC (the Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition) has also played an important role by raising the issue of sodomy law reform through its interviews with candidates for the legislature. GAPAC volunteers have educated candidates by meeting with them, discussing the effects of discrimination on our lives and answering questions raised by the candidates. And GAPAC influenced the votes of these legislators through contributions to those candidates who expressed support for equal treatment of lesbians and gays in Georgia.

Getting 22 votes for sodomy reform for sexual minorities may not seem like much. But, in Georgia, legislators who cast such a vote risk direct attacks from thousands of vocal fundamentalists. These legislators voted as they did, in part, because they have met us and have come to know us as citizens who proudly claim our place in Georgia society.

GAPAC's interviewers are men and women, gays and heterosexuals, blacks and whites. These legislators have seen that we

are not all affluent white men but that we represent Georgia in all its diversity.

Before the upcoming primary elections, GAPAC volunteers are asking selected candidates questions about their position on AIDS, insurance reform, abortion rights, privacy and sodomy, and hate crimes. In these Q and A sessions, we are educating candidates and letting them know that we are here to support those who support us. All candidates for the legislature will be mailed these questions. With enough volunteers throughout the state, we could interview all of them.

GAPAC does not have its own deep well full of dollars, however. We depend on our supporters throughout Georgia to donate the funds that allow us to interview

and educate candidates and donate funds to our political friends. Last year, GAPAC supported a candidate who lost in the primary by approximately 100 votes. We wonder if a larger donation and just a few more gay votes would have gotten our friend elected.

This year we are interviewing all candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Insurance Commissioner. We'll also interview candidates in key races for the Fulton and DeKalb County Commissions and metropolitan area candidates for the legislature. In the past, we've met with candidates for the Atlanta City Council which later passed the Gay Rights Ordinance for the city of Atlanta.

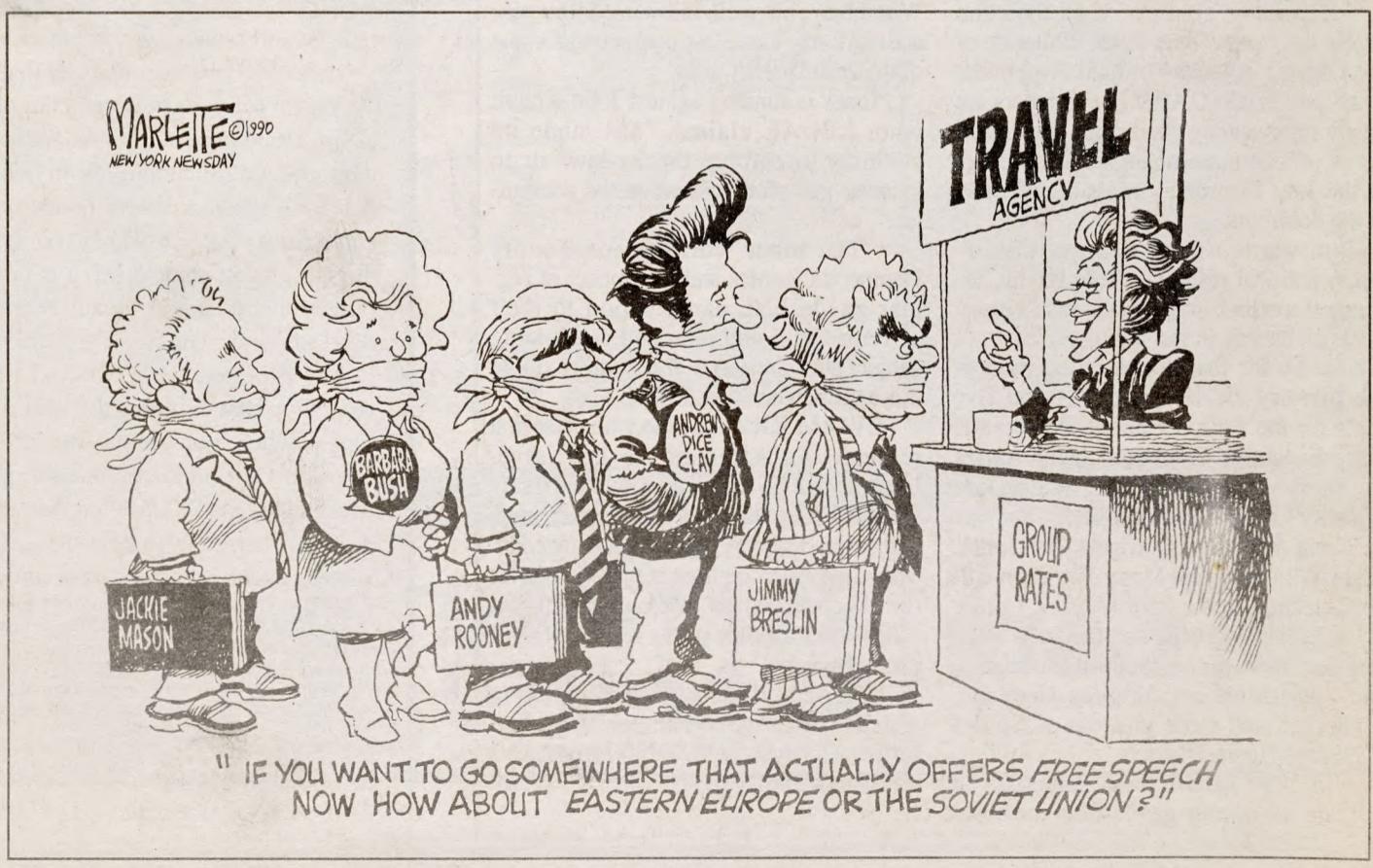
After these upcoming interviews, GAPAC will endorse a slate of candidates. This list will appear in the July 5 edition of *Southern Voice*. We would like to be able to back our endorsements with dollars so that these candidates remember who helped to elect them. We would also like to thank those legislators who backed us last year by giving each a campaign contribution.

In addition to educating and endorsing

candidates, GAPAC has been the largest financial supporter of the Georgia AIDS Coalition (GAC). Through its hired lobbyist GAC has been able to limit repressive legislation on AIDS testing and reporting. GAC has won support for the creation of a funding pool for high risk populations including people with AIDS and HIV who are unable to get health insurance. GAC also lobbied for passage of a Hates Crimes bill which would track crimes against gays and lesbians, HIV positive individuals and other minority groups.

Please help GAPAC help you. I urge you to volunteer with GAPAC. I urge you to donate what you can to help make lesbians and gay men full citizens of Georgia. Call GAPAC at 368-7420 to volunteer. Send your donations to GAPAC, P.O. Box 8420, Atlanta, GA 30306.

Nick Danna
GAPAC Board Member



VIEWPOINTS

EDITORIAL SMALL COMFORT

Mainstream media discovers gay murder

The pattern has become all too familiar. We will call one of several folks knowledgeable in hate crimes and say something like, "the one on page 7D" or "Channel 11 this morning."

The terse reply is, "Yup. I'll call you back after I've talked to the police."

Invariably, and unfortunately, the return phone call provides substance to our fears: the murder victim was a gay man.

The situation is both frightening and frustrating.

The over-worked police seem to be interested in solving these murders, but the fact that the victim is gay (and usually somewhat closeted) and the family and friends and possible witnesses are reticent proves to be a problem.

The police would, of course, be more interested if there was pressure from above to recognize and deal with the gay murder epidemic in Atlanta. And more mainstream publicity—something that has been severely lacking until the murder of Michael Whisnant last week—would no doubt encourage such pressure.

Whisnant's murder and the apprehension of his alleged killer (see story page 3) got front page, multi-story coverage from the *Journal/Constitution*. Not, we suspect, because Whisnant was gay, but because he was a conventioneer and the Olympic Committee folks are in town. And God(dess) knows the city-sellers are sensitive about that issue.

In this case, of course, police have a suspect—a self-admitted, serial killer—and that makes for good headlines. Murders are anathema for white-toothed promoters of the world's next great city. But when the killer is found, and prominently displayed, and identified as a "homosexual prostitute" we breath a sigh of relief. The city is safe again.

Well, maybe for some of us.

For others—like Milton Crews, the black transvestite gunned down on Ashby

Street, or Thomas Germain, the Buckhead resident nearly slashed to death in his apartment, or the next gay victim who does not happen to be staying at a high-profile hotel—the actions of the police and the mainstream media in Mr. Whisnant's case offer little sense of comfort.

WALLACE CALLS FOR PORK N' BEANS

An open letter to Mia Mundale and Dave Green:

As usual, you Human Rights Campaign Fund folk miss the point in your non-response to the elitism charge.

No one criticizes the good work you do. Unfortunately, the method mimics the worst of straight snobbery and condescension. And trying to hide your country club-fraternity-sorority exclusiveness behind a desire for "ritual and celebration," when it excludes so many from the party is incredibly insulting and insensitive. It's like Miss Daisy telling Hoke he can't come to Passover after he's driven home the eats.

But the bottom line is dollars and simple arithmetic. Say you bring in \$75,000.00 from 500 people at \$150.00 a plate at the Hyatt Regency with one of your cost-restrictive little black-tie closeted dinners. Why not go for 5000 people at \$25.00 a head for pork and beans at The World Congress Center? Hosea Williams does it. The Hotlanta Raft Expo does it. The Quilt did it. That would be \$125,000.00—and I'd imagine a lot more impressive to our elected officials! You might even make the 11 o'clock news! And many more of us would be able to join in a "joyous event" that would uplift the whole community.

You "dress-up" types could still do that—although to this senior citizen, today's "hoi fayshun" does lack a certain *je ne sais quoi*. Of course, you might have to sit next to "a nun in drag," a "hot leather number," or, ugh...a poor person.

But then, you might find yourself next to one of us in an AIDS ward of a concentration camp.

Alexander Wallace

NOT FUNNY

Dear Editor:

I was thoroughly disappointed to see the editorial cartoon that you ran in your last issue. It was very insulting to people who are compulsive overeaters. Since I do not know anything about Nancy Schaefer's connection to Edwards Pie Company, the only thing I saw was an insensitive portrayal of people who have eating disorders. What was your point?

I read *Southern Voice* because it informs and enlightens me. Generally, you speak to issues that are important to me as a lesbian. I am saddened that you would print and condone such a fat-hating and uninformed statement.

Unfortunately, the same society that says it's not okay to be queer also tells us that if we would only exercise some "self-control" we wouldn't be fat. (And of course we have to be thin!) This same twisted logic is applied to other addictions such as alcohol, drugs and cigarettes. And that logic does not begin to address the real issues of addiction.

Please remember that our community is comprised of many different types of people...and try to set aside your own biases next time.

Cindy McDowell
Decatur, GA

A LETHAL AND COWARDLY RESPONSE

Dear Editor,

Last weekend's Black Book Fair stimulated even the least curious. Aggressively promoted were countless titles relevant to Atlanta's multi-cultural community.

Yet not one book dealer offered a single title about AIDS. I asked every merchant present. This baffled me considering that over 70 percent of American women with AIDS and almost all American chil-

dren with AIDS are people of color.

During welcoming statements the fair promoter, A. Akbar Muhammad, cited homosexuality and cocaine as destructive forces against the black family. "Homosexuality destroys the flowering of our young males," he explained. No wonder that in Columbia, S.C., an entire black family endures quarantining because of a son stricken with AIDS. Shame and ignorance arms the HIV virus. Unchecked, it steals into our homes.

Homophobia, the abundance of misinformation, and the poverty of uncensored, solid information surrenders many to the HIV virus. Lethal is the cowardly response of many black and white leaders.

Sincerely,
James E. Allen

BILLBOARD BLITZ

Dear Editor:

Thanks for your coverage of the the Billboard Project in the last two issues. Here's an update:

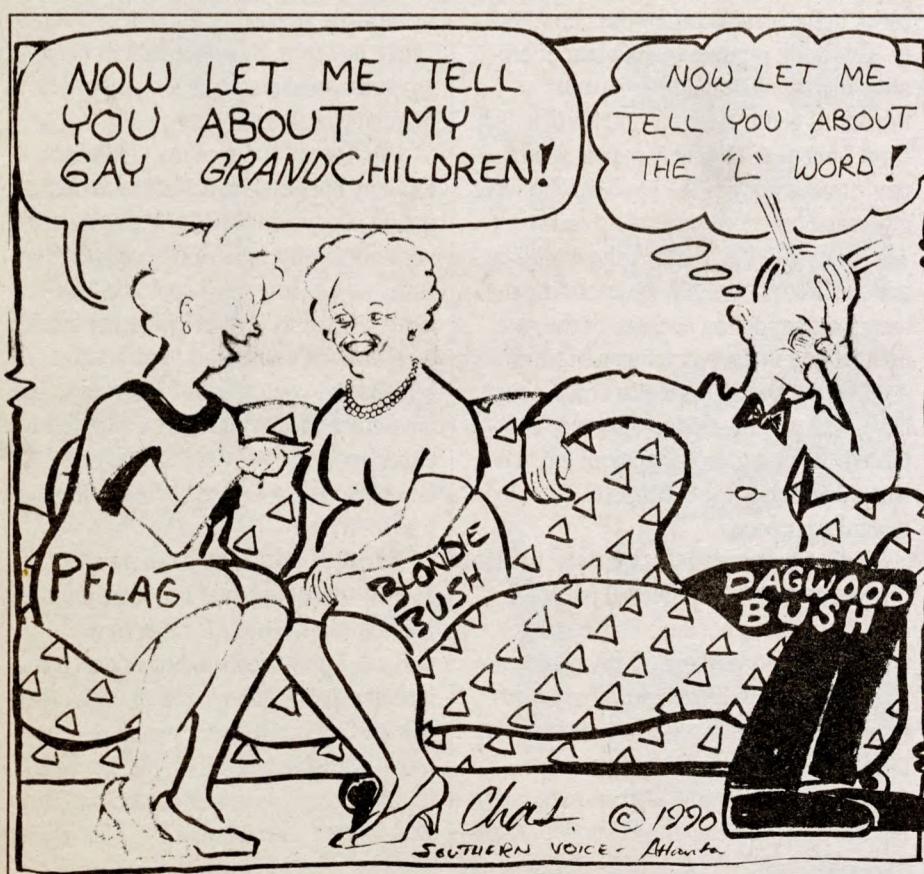
We have signed a contract for the largest billboard in Atlanta facing north on I-75/85 across from Grady Hospital—a Drug Emporium ad on the board presently.

Approximately \$3600 has been raised so far, we need an additional \$7000 in order to pay for this large board and the additional five billboards that will go up on June 1.

We also need volunteers who will help sell the great looking T shirts that we have had made to commemorate the project.

Donations can be sent to The Billboard/SAME. PO Box 8113, Atlanta, GA 30306. Volunteers may contact me at 373-2440.

Thank you,
Jay MacDonald



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 two 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, Georgia 30316

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

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Display Advertising: Jessi McVay, Sherry Sinclair, Liz Hill
Classifieds: Bill Medlock

Circulation:
Manager: Jana Tyson

Distribution: Steve Albano, S. Brown, Anita Akins, Emory Lesbian & Gay Org., Sam Moore, Barb Miller, Mark Simmons, Eileen Poderatzky, Will Faber

Photographers:
Evett Bennett, Jo Giraudo, Mary Vogel, Iris Ruskin, Barbara Snell

Publishers: Christina Cash and Leigh VanderEls
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FEATURE

MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING

What Does it Mean to be a Man?

Men helping men to create a gender just society

by Al Cotton

What does it mean to be a "man?" Ask that question of the average straight, white male, and there's no guarantee you will get anything more than an uncomprehending look. If you do get an answer, it might be something like, "Well, it means I have a, uh, you know... I don't want to talk about it."

Ask your average gay man, even one who is "out" and deals with women's issues from a possibly enlightened perspective, and you could get something like, "I don't oppress women. Yeah, lesbians can be hard to deal with, but I just treat them like I do everyone else at work and we get along all right if they just leave their issues with men out of it." (Ask those lesbians he works with and you might get different feedback.) Hmm, as Arsenio Hall might say.

It will take a man, straight or gay, who sees his masculinity through a set of less than rose-colored lenses, to talk about how

"being a man" has damaged women or his emotional and psychic self.

"I look back on the way I've treated women in the past and I am shocked and embarrassed," he might say.

"The same old techniques that were used to make me the way I was—physical and sexual intimidation, peer pressure, domineering attitudes—I used on women at home, at work, even walking down the sidewalk."

"There are times when I wish to God I hadn't been born a man, at least in this world. But I'm getting better."

By now, the straight man has stalked off briskly, ego undented, wagging his attitudes behind him.

The gay man might ask a question or two: "Well, how *do* you change? I mean, things like using peer pressure and intimidation to get what I want are second nature, aren't they?"

The third man, the new man, says, "Lots

of ways. I like to, you know, play games, hug, sing songs. Play hooky once in a while, the sort of stuff I guess I didn't do enough as a child."

This type of thinking is, in its own way, a revolutionary change for men and how they see themselves. Some call it the pro-feminist men's movement, but the changes envisioned by its adherents in the way men think should justify the coining of a new word, like "masculinism." In the 1970's and '80's, feminism succeeded in showing that a woman can play any role a man plays in society. But until a like-minded movement arises that changes the way men think and act and opens them up to less "masculine" options, the creation of a truly kinder and gentler society cannot take place. That's what "masculinists" (or perhaps "re-masculinists") seek to do—question "masculinity" the way women questioned "femininity" in the last twenty years.

Look at the recent campaign for the Democratic nomination for governor of Texas. It was won by a woman, Anne Richards, a silver-haired grandmother/recovering alcoholic/State Treasurer who wowed the Democrats at the 1988 convention in Atlanta by discovering the location of George Bush's "silver foot." Her victory would seem to be a step forward for feminism and for a society in need of leaders that aren't "straight, white males." But

her campaign was also one of the dirtiest in televised history, with Richards forced to deny allegations of drug use, attacking her opponents with name calling and "Willie Horton"-like tactics, just like George Bush used against Michael Dukakis. What Richards did manage to show Texans is that she can sling mud as well as and be just as much a "man" as her two opponents.

A pertinent question: Was anything other than placing a woman in a position traditionally held by a man won with Richards' nomination? If a woman has to act like a man in order to get power, then society has not changed; the same methods are being used to arrive at the same decisions, which just happen to be made by different people. To see a woman having to "become a man" to gain power creates all kinds of questions. Perhaps the most immediate: After the campaign Richards ran, can we expect her to be any different from those men who came before her, or will come after?

What is needed to finish the job of changing society as a whole is the other side of the feminist coin, a movement that changes men. The number of men who are actively working to create such a change is growing rapidly. As a movement, "masculinism" did not originate from a Stonewall-type riot, but in the ivy-covered wall of the academe—from a growing

Open to The Public Readings, Screenings and Performances

■ Wednesday, May 30, **The Films of James Broughton** at Image Film and Video Center. *The Golden Positions, Gardener of Eden and Scattered Remains* will be shown beginning at 8 p.m. Both Broughton and his lover/collaborator Joel Singer will be present. Admission is \$3 for members of Image and SAME; general admission is \$5. Call 352-4225 for reservations or information.

■ Thursday, May 31, **Judy Grahn, Essex Hemphill and James Broughton** will read poetry and sign their books from 7-8:30 p.m. at Oxford Books, 2345 Peachtree Road. Free. Call 262-3333 for more information.

■ Thursday May 31, **Bell Hooks**, will speak on Feminist Solidarity: A Continuing Dialogue. Teacher/author Hooks consistently pushes the limits of feminist dialogue. Free. At Charis Books and More, 419 Moreland Avenue, 7:30 p.m. Call 524-0304 for information.

■ Friday, June 1, **Judy Grahn, Eddie Smith and Atlanta musicians Beth York and Franklin Abbott** will perform at 8:15 p.m. At Lupton Hall on the quadrangle of Oglethorpe University, \$10 at the door.

■ Saturday, June 2, **James Broughton, David Sereda and Essex Hemphill** will perform at 8:15. At Lupton Hall on the quadrangle of Oglethorpe University, \$10 at the door.

■ Monday, June 4, **Judy Grahn** will present a multi-media performance at Seven Stages Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance (at Charis Books) or \$12 at the door.

Judy Grahn – An Homage

How the words of a lesbian poet/performer/author helped a gay man discover himself

by Al Cotton

No single book has been as important in shaping my thinking as a gay man as *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds*, by Judy Grahn. It was published in 1984, the same year I came out. As an impressionable faggot-in-training



trying to make sense of this very different lifestyle that had seemingly been gratuitously bestowed upon me, I went to this book skeptically.

"What can this dykish looking woman have to say to me?" I wondered then.

Today, I wonder where I would be spiritually as a gay man if I hadn't had the luck to stumble into this glorious book when I did.

Why was this book so important for me? For one, as a former English major, my standard operating procedure for mak-

ing sense of something is to read about it—something to explain to me the reason things are the way they are. And I was intrigued by the title: how could "gay words" reveal "gay worlds"? Once I started reading, Grahn's practicality impressed my Taurus nature. Here was a place to read about those apocryphal stories that people in high school used to tell about gay people—that they wear a certain color or a certain outfit on a certain day, etc. All that I knew about gay people were the things I'd been told over the years by a homophobic society and Grahn helped me rid myself of some of society's superstitious baggage about us.

Not only that, Grahn also showed me a purpose and a context for coming out. The genius of *AMT* is that it is not just a compilation of trivia; each story is a building block in the lost history of our community. This book is a remarkable feat of creative imagination, uniting disparate threads of gentle whimsy and horrific fact, from "green on Thursday means you're gay" (traced back to the Druids, who wore green and practiced orgiastic rituals on Thursdays), to the origin of the word "faggot", which (in addition to describing me) means a flaming log because of the gay men burned in the witch hunts of Europe. *AMT* is the sort of book that could never have been commissioned—it's very existence implies a lifelong study of gay trivia, coalescing in a specific form, directed toward a purpose.

Grahn structures the book slyly, not letting the reader see her overall purpose until he or she is hooked. The message Grahn wants to send—that gay people are different, that we are supposed to be different and that we are not manifesting our purpose in life if we are hiding or conforming—is left on the back burner until the last few chapters, as we wander through a world of fascinating discussions about Greek goddesses and Celtic folkways and myths and lots of the other stuff.

Neither the trivia nor the structure, however, obscures the message of *AMT*, which is one of urgency for gays and lesbians and for society as a whole. Our purpose is to restore the societal balance that has been thrown off by patriarchal domination. As the messengers of balance, we gay men and lesbians don't really have to do anything except assert what we are and let our statement of self do the work for us. We are here to be the mirror wherein society sees itself and, hopefully, rights itself.

Quite a bundle of messages for a relatively idealistic person just popped out of the closet—you have just done something vital to both yourself and to society. It is also a challenge—can you keep it up? My self-assertions since then have come through experiments in the leather scene, by wearing an earring to work at a conservative law firm, by talking about being gay to co-workers, strangers, reporters, by marching on Washington.

I've dodged some of my challenges, too—by not going to school reunions, by not dealing with sexuality issues directly with my family, etc. And no matter how "out" we are, any of us could be "out-er," if we wanted to. I didn't wear my earring on television earlier this year, when I was a Jeopardy! contestant—I knew it would have ruined for my parents a wonderful experience that we were able to share. But I also knew I wasn't being completely true to myself.

Finally, Grahn's vision of gay society as a co-sexual one was her most important coming-out message for me. In my naivete, I didn't realize that gay men and lesbians didn't get along with each other. We would need to work together—that much was obvious, I thought. Because a lot of my early vision of the community was formed by reading *AMT*, I have a natural presumption toward coalition that may be a defining characteristic for many who came out in the mid '80s. Grahn

FEATURE

MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING

number of Men's Studies courses at major universities all across the country. In such classes, feminists started teaching men how much damage traditional male sexual stereotyping has done to women.

Hmmmm, say men, who then start to think about how that same sort of sexual stereotyping may have damaged *them* in ways both subtle and obvious.

As more and more men start to process the lessons learned from the women's rights, civil rights, gay rights and peace movements and begin integrating them into their own lives, a critical mass for change develops. For those who know where to look, that critical mass has resulted in scads of resources on how men can facilitate self-change.

All over the country, there are support groups similar to ones here in Atlanta, like Men Stopping Violence, which helps men who abuse their partners and want to change, and the faerie circles that nurture change in gay males at sanctuaries in such unexpected places as urban Georgia and south Texas and middle Tennessee. There are magazines, like *Changing Men*, bimonthly and geared toward both straight and gay men, and *R.F.D.*, a quarterly publication for gay men in rural settings, also supportive of the radical faerie movement. There are a growing number of books, like Atlanta psychotherapist Franklin Abbott's

two anthologies from Crossing Press, *New Men, New Minds* and *Men and Intimacy*, and the radical pro-feminist essays of John Stoltenberg in *Refusing to be a Man*.

And coming to Atlanta at the end of the month will be the 15th Conference on Men and Masculinity, on the campus of Oglethorpe University. Sort of a support group/reunion for men looking to strengthen and promote their gender just views, this annual conference grew from classes and seminars on gender taught at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville during the early 1970's. Attended by an almost equal number of gay and straight men (with a smaller contingent of women) and focussing on pinpointing and unearthing (with the ultimate goal of uprooting) the internalized ideas that cause such damage.

Think of sexism, racism and homophobia as the three -isms most responsible for these problems, sort of a triple-crown of male oppression and control. Each supports the other two and each prevents meaningful change from occurring.

The conferences help men recognize how unconsciously damaging stereotypes can be absorbed, almost like chemicals in your tap water. At the 13th Conference, held in Seattle two years ago, the specific theme dealt with issues around fathers—how men are wounded during childhood and how they carry their fathers' values and

methods, good and bad, inside of them for the rest of their lives. Variations on fathering themes, from abuse to distance to absence and the types of damage that each can cause are addressed in workshops, discussion groups, play sessions, tough therapy, etc. The problem: how do you reconceptualize your life as it might have been in a less dogmatic world? You might play, dance, sing songs, hug, touch—in short, do any of those things that should have been done to nurture you when you were a child, but weren't.

To this, the straight man says, "You dance? With other men? Yeah, that'll do a lot of good!" and the much unnerved gay man says, "You do that with straight men? Most straight men I know won't even look me in the eye if they know I'm gay, much less hug me and *mean* it."

Indeed, many men who have been at previous conferences say they have trouble telling the difference between the gay and straight men there. Could be that the differences in behavior between gay and straight men are in the ways we deal with our programming, and that gay men do not naturally look or act very different from straight men who aren't homophobic.

It can indeed be quite unnerving for gay men to find non-gay men who are accepting of their gay selves. After all, we have built a whole subculture based on our dif-

ferences.

But the only alternative to feeling "unnerved" is not changing, and many men are finding that option even more unacceptable. And perhaps "un-nerving" is just the right metaphor to use to describe the work these men are doing, as well as for what society needs to do. Rethinking one's masculinity is an "un-nerving" process, which, if successful, is followed by a "re-nerving" of sorts—a rearing of the masculine spirit, only with a completely different arsenal. One of the goals of masculinity, similar to feminism back when it was beginning, is to nurture this new spirit, to "en-courage" it, to use yet another metaphor.

As men start to realize that "What does it mean to be a man?" is a legitimate question that requires a legitimate answer, these stereotypes will wither, become obsolete. As each man, straight or gay, is in turn "unnerved," "re-nerved" and finally "encouraged" to look at his masculinity, he will further the cause of change simply by healing himself. And that's how the world—drop by drop falling into the ocean of humanity, with each "new" man saying, "But I'm getting better"—will *really* change.

Hmmmm, indeed.

deserves a great deal of credit for the rapprochement that has occurred between lesbians and gay men over the last five years.

Grahn's affirmation of gay spirit came like an arrow to me, pointing at the right time in the right direction. In spite of *Another Mother Tongue*'s flaws—the prose can be slow in places, the personal reminiscences sometimes awkward and off-putting—the light that shines from it brilliantly illuminates Judy Grahn's vision of our purpose here in the last decade of the 20th century. Along with *On Death and Dying*, *Light in August*, *To the Lighthouse*, *The Color Purple* and *The Left Hand of Darkness*, *Another Mother Tongue* remains one of the books that I can say truly affected the way I live my life. I guess I'd just like to say, "Thanks".

Judy Grahn will speak and/or perform several times in Atlanta the weekend of May 31-June 3.

See sidebar for details.

Brother to Brother

"But who among us can really judge our choices made in the name of love, choices made to nurture and fulfill intimate emotional needs?"

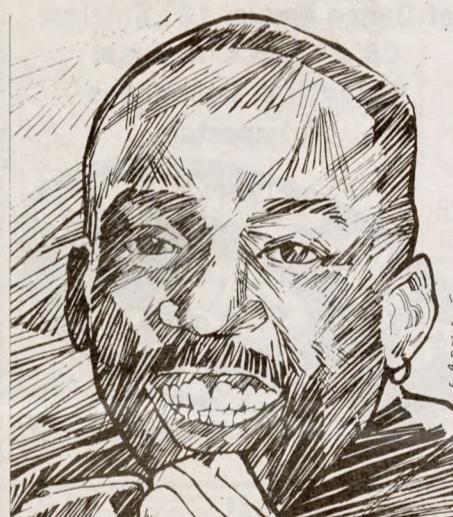
E. H.

by Sedrick Gardner

The central message threaded through both Isaac Julien's *Looking for Langston* and Marlon Riggs' *Tongues Untied* is the concept of "Black Men Loving Black Men"—a phrase coined by the late author Joseph Beam as a possible salvation for black men. The films were shown during the recent film festival sponsored by the Conference on Men and Masculinity as a

prelude to its conference scheduled for May 31 through June 3 in Atlanta.

Essex Hemphill, whose poetry was included in both films, speaks of Black Men Loving Black Men as an endeavor that will redefine our ideas of black masculinity and manhood. He does not believe that Beam invented the phrase to refer solely to issues of sexuality; "To allow ourselves to read the phrase solely as a declaration of black gay love diminishes and limits the force of its implications and the possibility of it empowering us."



Tongues Untied clearly illustrates this point by juxtaposing scenes from the 1963 March on Washington with scenes of black gay men marching in the New York City Gay Pride Parade. This shows the continuity of black men of all walks of life participating in the struggle to be heard and accepted. It also makes the point that we must embrace each other and not hide behind the facades of homophobic fears.

The strength of our unity lies less in our ability to see each other's sexuality than in realizing that by becoming whole as individuals we will become whole as a community; Essex makes the statement "We cannot solely trust semen and kisses to bind us in relations as critical as brotherhood."

Black Men Loving Black Men speaks of understanding each other in supportive, non-abusive ways which enable us to be empowered and give unconditional love without malice. It alludes to not being afraid to share our true selves with one another.

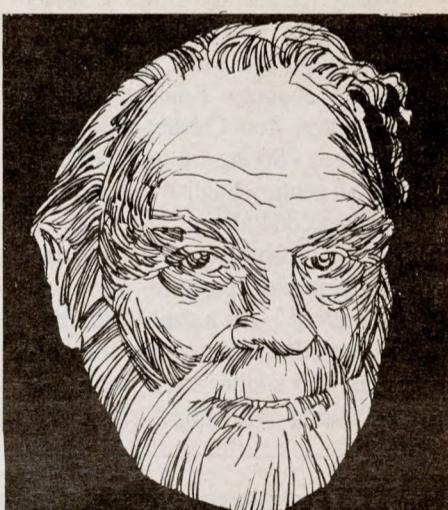
Essex affirms that his work evolves from his experiences of being a gay black man in this country. With his poetry he reaches the black community (both gay and not), the gay community as a whole, and the larger society which must deal with the political issues he writes about. According to Essex, the personal is indeed political. Thus, because as he writes to express the experiences of black gay life, his work is often viewed as a political statement. And because the mere act of writing about these issues affects our interpretations of family, culture, intimate relationships and self in ways which catapult it to political arenas.

The most salient concept Essex extracts from Black Men Loving Black Men is that "loving is not simply intimate and sexual" thereby not exclusive to whether one has a black or white lover. It has more to do with coming from a place which recognizes our similarities than "cumming" from a place of sexual intimacy. The question Essex asks in "Choices" is "Does having a black lover prove that one loves himself and his culture?" He concludes the answer is "no" because he has oftentimes witnessed black gay men treating each other cruelly in the name of love.

Essex has written several books of poetry; his first work, in 1984, was entitled *Earthlife*. He says he published it to "test the waters." He has obviously found the temperature pleasing because not only has he published *Conditions and Family Jewels*, but he is now writing the follow up to Joseph Beam's *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*. Essex feels it is important to finish the work of the late Beam

because it takes a more in-depth look at how the issues of psyche, home, love and AIDS affect black gay men.

Contrasting Essex's rather recent introduction to the world of publishing are the works of James Broughton who has been making art since the '50s. James has written several books and films including *Graffiti for the Johns of Heaven*, *Ecstasies*, *Hooplas*, *The Bed* and *Devotions*. James uses humor and certain mellowed-through-the-ages candor to deliver many of the same poignant messages of gay life. His style is light and



crafted with a unique rhythm of structure and fluidity. He has been touted as the "perennial laughing man of God" and the "uncrowned poet laureate of San Francisco."

The combination of Broughton's light-hearted quick wittedness and Hemphill's penetrating urgency will undoubtedly make for enlightening and entertaining readings during their visit to Atlanta.

Essex Hemphill and James Broughton will make public appearances several times in Atlanta from May 30-June 1. See the schedule on page 8 for details.

FEATURE

MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING MEN CHANGING

David Sereda Striving to be inside the feeling

by Angela Motter

The first thing that grabs your attention is his voice. He sounds like a male version of Tracy Chapman; a voice as Gospel as it is Folk. He is David Sereda, Canadian singer-songwriter, bandleader, actor, music director and composer of film scores.

Whew, that's a bunch of hats to wear, you might say. But Sereda is a consummate artist who is at home in any genre. His music displays a scope many songwriters can only dream of achieving. And most importantly Sereda is not a super-talented musical automaton. His songs have power and passion regardless of the idiom he chooses to employ to bring them to life.

"Records," Sereda says, "are just that." So don't cheat yourself by listening to one



of Sereda's albums and not the other.

His first record, *Chivalry Lives* (1981, Rocky Wednesday Records), was recorded both live and in the studio. Sereda was between 20 and 24 years-old when he wrote these songs. They are songs about gay sexuality ("Underage Blues"), songs about urban sprawl ("Dreamland's Gone"), and songs about the earth and the sea ("Spring" and "Rainbow 'Round the Sun"). The music ranges from Cabaret-style blues to the a capella "Spring," a tune reminiscent of a 16th century English folk song.

Sereda's second album, *The Price of Love* (1985, Gryphon Records), came out of a desire to inspire people to "move and enjoy themselves." It's a danceable, fully produced record complete with full percussion, sax, and a killer screaming guitar solo in "Playing With Fire." It's R&B

influenced with a little bit of Latin on the side. Sereda's arranging skills are well-tuned, so the songs reach their full potential unlike some independent releases which can sound like low-budget first drafts. Closing the album is a sparsely orchestrated love song called "Once in a Blue Moon" which sounds as if it could've just as easily been a Cris Williamson classic. Wonders never cease.

Sereda's most recent works are not yet available on vinyl, but will no doubt be included on Sereda's program at the Men and Masculinity Conference. These new songs will be recorded on Sereda's favorite album, "the one that hasn't been recorded yet."

The tunes on his demo include two particularly striking ballads, both dealing with death and "perseverance." They reflect an intensity—partly due to the subject matter—not found in his previous work. They are the songs of a mature songwriter (now 33) dealing with issues that "make up the fabric of our lives."

The a capella "Powerful Love" begins with the chorus: *I won't be scared for long/ Not when I think about this powerful love! That nothing can strike down/ This powerful/ powerful love.* This honest, evocative song will raise the hair on the back of your neck from the very start. Sereda expresses courage rising above fear so vividly, it feels as though you are experiencing the starkness of the moment yourself. Sereda says he is striving to be "inside the feeling" with his new material. Mission accomplished.

"One Thing Missing" is another tear jerker. But Sereda is not just jerking the listener around to achieve the desired emotional effect. The one thing missing is the lover lost, a feeling known all too well in the gay community. It is this perspective that gives Sereda's songs a richness and resonance not found in the typical straight male songwriter's lyrical palette. This song is speaking to us, about the tragedy so many gay men have had to deal with in their own lives. Sereda accompanies himself here on dulcimer, an instrument he says was "played by Angels" in the Bible. Sereda claims fellow Canadian Joni Mitchell as one of his musical influences.

ences. This eerie lament sounds like it could've come directly from Mitchell's 1971 album *Blue*.

When pressed about how "out" he is, Sereda stresses that he wants to be known for his music, not for being openly gay. "My music is intended for everybody. I think of music as a healing and uniting factor, and sexuality is irrelevant to music. What I'm saying is more important than who I am. Unfortunately, any statement that categorizes one way or another can exclude."

In the best of all possible worlds, sexuality would not be an "issue," rather an influence, like ethnicity, to be recognized as an enriching factor to musical style. That Sereda wishes to downplay sexuality is, in the purest sense, understandable. I can't help but think, however, to ignore it completely would undermine the uniqueness of the gay voice. Sereda walks the line confidently, playing everything from Gay Pride to "family events" with equal aplomb. Such is the life of the musician who wishes not to be immediately categorized and therefore filed neatly away, never to be heard by the general public.

Sereda's audiences are typically "a total mix," including many young people who are helping to support the recent resurgence of the singer-songwriter. Since the solo performer is no longer an anomaly, Sereda's return to solo performance after doing the '80s band thing is well-timed. Combined with his newest, most compelling material and his renewed focus on songwriting, Sereda is a performer not to be missed. Until his next album is

released, you'll be able to hear the new songs only once: in the live performance detailed on page 6. And according to the artist, these songs are "just the tip of the iceberg." An exciting thought for those of us who have fallen in love with his music.

Sereda's records will be available for purchase at the conference. Or to order by mail write: Rocky Wednesday Records, P.O. Box 436, Station E, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4E3 Canada.

Sereda returns to Canada to begin rehearsals for his musical called *Sire n Song* about a love triangle between two women and a man.

Rock Bits:

Columbia Records will be releasing the most complete bootleg recordings to date of the legendary **Bob Dylan** this summer. His next studio album is due out this fall. **The Ellen James Society** is recording their debut album *Reluctantly We* this month in Athens. **John Keane** is handling the producing chores. The album is being released on Indie label backed by none other than local folk heroine **Amy Ray**.

Olivia Records announced **Cris Williamson** will be celebrating the 15th birthday of the classic *The Changer and the Changed* with a 6-7 city tour as well as a kind of "Making of" video "to create a tale of those days and what that time was all about." Bet a lot of us have our own stories about those days. Inside sources say Atlanta will be one of the cities chosen for the solo tour.

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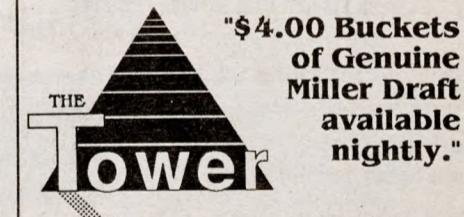


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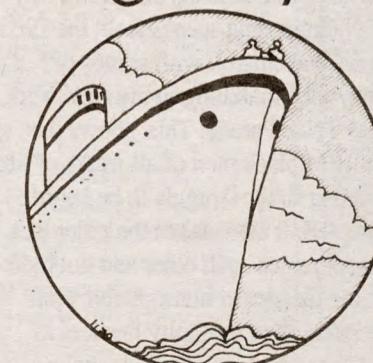
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The Lovely Leave

by Terry Francis

Longtime Companion ★★★—directed by Norman Rene and written by Craig Lucas, takes an abiding and sober view of the toll taken by AIDS on the American gay community in the last ten years.

The film opens in the summer of 1981, on the day when the first *New York Times* article appeared with information that a "rare cancer" had begun turning up in gay men. As the news spreads among the film's assembling characters—principally seven gay men and one heterosexual woman—we realize that probably a good number of these men, six of whom are in relationships, are already infected with the virus and likely have been for years.

We also begin to recognize and understand the deliberate narrowness of the film's focus. *Longtime Companion* centers on the young, upwardly mobile gay white men who were typical of that first mysterious article. At the start of the film, we see these young men at their leisure: jogging on Fire Island in the warm summer sun; going about their lives as lawyers, actors, writers and fitness experts; and making preparations for weekend partying at a time when the gay social scene was at high tide.

But fear has already begun to take hold. Denial looms. We watch as some of the characters sit idly in the sun and discuss the disease over drinks, speculating that it's caused by promiscuity, drugs, heavy use of poppers.

Three couples serve as the film's centerpiece: the affluent, fatherly David (Bruce Davison) and his longtime companion Sean (Mark Lamos), a scabrous soap-opera writer; a courtly Southern entertainment lawyer nicknamed Fuzzy (Stephen Caffrey) who falls in love with an affable fitness trainer named Willy (Campbell Scott); and the rather more closeted Paul (John Dossett) and his soap star lover Howard (Patrick Cassidy).

Also, on the periphery of the film but integral to its spirit and to the characters' lives, is an assortment of friends and acquaintances, including Mary-Louise Parker as Lisa, Fuzzy's enchanting best friend from back home,



whose friendship and support will be relied upon again and again as several characters in the film fall ill.

Longtime Companion is a beautifully finished piece of work in terms of its design. The film derives meaning through its form. It is structured in a series of deft ellipses that continually move the characters forward in one year increments of time. It's an ambitious approach for a film with so many central characters, but Rene and Lucas gamble that by dramatizing the effects of AIDS on singular characters rather than generic representations, they will humanize the disease in a way that statistics cannot.

Their gamble pays off. When characters in this film sicken and die, we experience their passing on a visceral level borne of having known them as individuals, not as theoretical figures in some dim everyman landscape.

Partly this is because the film's fine ensemble cast creates the sense that they are genuine intimates, responding in key to each other's personality traits and quirks as true friends always do. It's there in the way Bruce Davison convincingly portrays a man trying to shield his younger friends at the same time he's struggling for meaning himself. It's the way Caffrey's genteel Southern lawyer trades his courtly manners for fire when a client of his is discriminated against.

It's also in Campbell Scott's Willy as he grows from paranoia into enlightenment regarding his irrational fears of catching AIDS through casual contact. And it's there again in the small role of a well-meaning friend played by

Michael Choeffling (Molly Ringwald's Prince Charming in *Sixteen Candles*), who dispenses Louise Hay tracts to a bed-ridden friend who recognizes love in the gesture and bears him with kindness and affection.

Longtime Companion is an unusual achievement for a commercial American film. It's about gays who have moved beyond bowing to the phony conscriptions of guilt, oppression and powerlessness that even today many would have us believe about ourselves. The dozing senility and lethal indifference of the Reagan administration find their answering resonance in this film, in which the characters are mobilized into action in a benedictive spirit that shames our would-be Christian presidents and governors.

Longtime Companion is about gays and lesbians continuing to endure without yielding, about reverence in caring for the sick and frightened, about empowering ourselves through groups—such as ACT UP—which push toward action sluggish politicians and bureaucrats whose morality is determined by the latest poll.

The film is also radiant with the particular and reviving wit long associated by literary critics and the cultivated public alike as seeming the particular province of gays. And in the circumstances of this film, never has there been so much courage in those self-sustaining ripostes.

It should not be lost on readers the risks taken by the actors in this film, many of them in the early stages of their careers. Each of them stands as a figure of light in a Hollywood that, in terms of dealing with the topic of AIDS, is flailing in the darkness with its feet stuck in the mud.

Gratitude to executive producer Lindsay Law, who financed the film through "American Playhouse"; Rene and Lucas for an imperfect but important film; the Samuel Goldwyn Co. for its risk in giving the film wide distribution; and to Hoyts Cinemas Corporation for providing the film a venue here in Atlanta.

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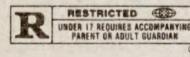
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A Longtime Coming

Longtime Companion's Bruce Davison talks about the film he hopes will "change...the way people view the individuals who are involved in AIDS"

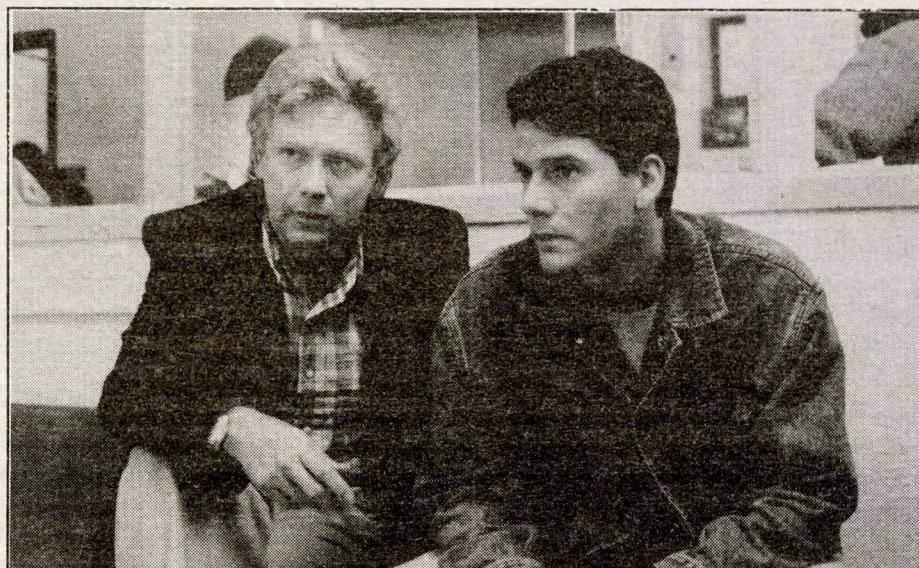
by Dave Hayward

Readers who remember Bruce Davison from the '60s melodrama *Last Summer*, the '70s *The Strawberry Statement*, or as the callow Pied Piper of rats in *Willard*, may be shocked to see him as a middle-aged gay Big Daddy in *Longtime Companion*. Calling himself the "Mary Worth" of the movie, Davison deadpans, "It was so funny being the 'elder statesman' among all these hard bodies running around! I did kind of bulk up and hike up my pants looking portlier, but now I'm back down to fighting trim."

Longtime Companion eavesdrops on its cast of characters on random dates from 1981-1989, showing the repercussions of AIDS on both stricken and survivors. The film eschews the sob sister approach, punctuates its scenes with the spirit and gaiety that have allowed the gay community to survive the continuing crisis. Butch bearded men mime to *Dreamgirls* while devastated friends ponder burying their buddy in his favorite evening gown in *Longtime Companion*'s best-of-all-possible approaches to pain.

"I would like to emphasize that this film is filled with humor and it's a life-affirming experience," stressed Davison on the phone from Los Angeles, where he's appearing onstage in *The Cocktail Hour*. "It's real sad, but it's real funny. That's what is so wonderful about the writing and the direction; it's about life, and life incorporates all those feelings on top of each other combined and twisted up within each other."

Screenwriter Craig Lucas (whose *Prelude To A Kiss* currently stars Alec Baldwin on Broadway) and director Norman René waged a two year battle to film *Longtime Companion* and get it into theaters. PBS' American Playhouse film division underwrote the entire \$1.5 million



Bruce Davison and Campbell Scott in *Longtime Companion*

budget when customary matching grants dried up. After positive film festival response—winning the Robert Redford Sundance award which *sex, lies and videotape* received a year ago—the Samuel Goldwyn Company agreed to distribute *Longtime Companion*, admittedly a far cry from traditional Goldwyn blockbusters like *Wuthering Heights*.

Diffusing fears of financial catastrophe, *Longtime Companion* opened May 11 in New York to become the biggest grossing film of the week. Davison hopes for equal enthusiasm in Los Angeles. "We had our first premiere last week in L.A.," Davison recounts. "It was an AIDS benefit, sold out, standing room only—just swamped—and the response was overwhelming; it really was heartfelt and I think we've got a real grassroots movement going. It's gratifying, because when I first read the script I didn't

know if anybody would see this movie."

"My wife Lisa Pelican had worked with Norman René and Craig Lucas and she said it was the best experience she ever had," Davison explained revealing how he came to do *Longtime Companion*. "It was a great script, it was a story that had not been done for the ten years we've been waiting for it to be done, and it's a wonderful character. I lost my personal manager, my agent and my commercial agent all within one year, and a lot of friends I had in the theatre. I hope it can be a tribute; I was certainly thinking of them when we were doing it."

One of the most refreshing aspects of the film is the casual way it shows male couples expressing affection and caring for one another; the centerpiece of *Companion* is the Bruce Davison/Mark Lamos couple as the father figures of the group. Their love is presented like any

other longterm involvement, with Davison regularly calming his more volatile other-half. "It's like an old married couple and there's all sorts of other agendas going on between them. We just worked from the script and the relationships were there. I really like Mark a lot and it kind of worked out. If it's good, we served the script well."

Davison and Lamos serve the script so well there is talk of acting awards and Oscar nominations for them.

"From your lips to God's ears!" Davison yells at Oscar talk. "It would be nice but I don't really count on it because it's a May release and that's very difficult."

Davison discards being typecast as "a little light"—that's how muscular Patrick Cassidy puts it in the movie. "I don't think it's risky to play a gay man, maybe ten years ago it would've been. I think more's changed. It's hard to say, we'll have to talk about that a year from now. Remember how upset people were when Harry Belafonte touched a white woman (Petula Clark) on television, how extremely silly it seems to us all now? Things change, people change, people grow more tolerant and accepting of each other."

Making a difference for the better was Davison's primary interest for going into acting, he says, but it's rare that actors can really make an impact and effect change. "We do whatever crap is necessary lots of times to pay the rent. When an opportunity like this comes along, it's quite a gift, that's what most of us live for I think."

"I'd like to see the movie change the perception of the way people view the individuals who are involved in AIDS," Davison concludes. "Hopefully the world realizes this is a human struggle and it's a boat we're all in one way or another. It's not as Jesse Helms would figure, 'the right people' dying from this disease."

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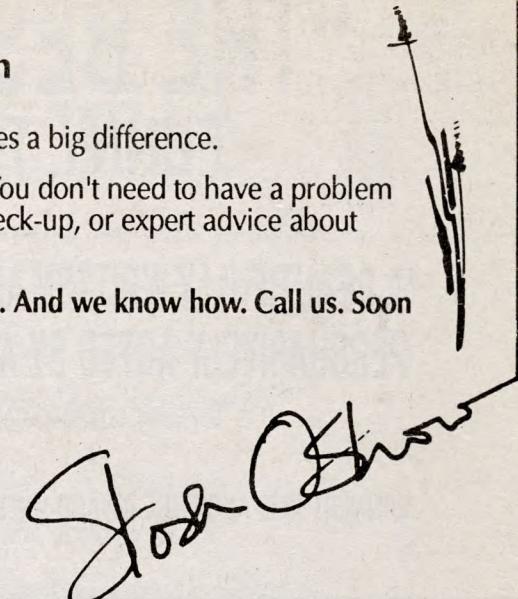
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Carolyn Mobley: The Call Has Come

by Charlene Ball

Carolyn Mobley, who holds a Masters in Religious Education, is a deacon at First Metropolitan Community Church in Atlanta. A gifted singer who has performed in groups and as a soloist all her life, she is a Black woman and a lesbian. Her life seems all of a piece, with all the parts relating to one another and to the whole.

Religious faith is the focus of her life and always has been. In June, she will be pursuing her ongoing journey towards ordination as a minister in MCC by moving to Houston to serve as assistant to the pastor at MCC of the Resurrection.

She is energetic, with a medium build, dark brown skin, warm, observant brown eyes. Forty-one years old. Warm and authoritative in a low-key way, she is able to move others with her music and speaking, yet she herself never seems carried away by emotion.

Carolyn has always been involved in church. "I was five years old when I first wanted to come forward and join, but my mother said, 'No, no, you're too young, you don't even know what you're doing, just chill out and wait.' So I joined the church when I was 10."

Music has also always been part of her life: "I was always in choirs in church and high school, always singing, doing lead singing and solo work with groups. In high school my sisters and I sang as the Mobley Sisters. Then I sang with a guy, one cousin, and two other girls; we were the Middleton Gospel Singers. In college I sang with a trio called the Sojourners. We sang folk music mostly, entertaining young people at after-church fellowships. Beatles songs, a lot of Peter, Paul and Mary; Crosby, Stills and Nash."

Carolyn solos occasionally at MCC in

After ten years of activism in Atlanta, the charismatic Ms. Mobley is moving to Houston



MARY VOGEL

Atlanta, and sang with the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus. Her last appearance with the chorus was as a soloist at the AFWC concert in April at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation on Cliff Valley Way.

When she came to Atlanta from Florida, she became lovers with an intern at Techwood Baptist Church. "She was a student at Georgia State. We were doing our field work placement at the same time. So we were working with kids, and taking field trips together, and just kind of started noticing each other! And I went over, and stayed the night, and the next night, and

then moved in—one thing led to another! (Laughs) That lasted for about a year.

"Together we became involved in MCC," although Carolyn did not join until later: "I was not a member. But I worked as a member: I was choir director for a time, and sang in the choir. Did special music, helped out with the services. But in 1981, I joined MCC."

She was working for the Southern Baptist Home Mission when "I was asked to resign because someone thought I might be a lesbian. I said I didn't think that was a relevant question and that I didn't intend to

answer it. They said either answer it or resign. So I said, 'I resign.'

When she joined MCC, she was encouraged by the pastor to enter its student clergy program. But Carolyn was not ready to consider being a pastor. "I told him at the time that I wasn't sure I felt called."

But the call came. In January of 1990, she received two offers for assistant pastor's jobs: from Orlando and from Houston. "I thought that was pretty clear evidence that I ought to do something."

"I still didn't feel a sense of call to be the pastor of a church. But Houston invited me down, and as it turned out, they decided they wanted me. So I went back the very next Sunday—April 8, Palm Sunday—and I preached both the morning and evening service. I was presented as the pastor's choice. And we agreed that June 1 would be the day I would come there. My responsibilities at MCC in Houston will be developing a program of Christian education and outreach."

Carolyn thoughtfully answers a question about her faith: "What I believe? I believe that the eternal God is one God. And made all of us. Is the author of life and source of life for everybody who lives and breathes, no matter where they are, who they are, what culture they're in. I believe that it's God's desire for every human being to live in fellowship with God."

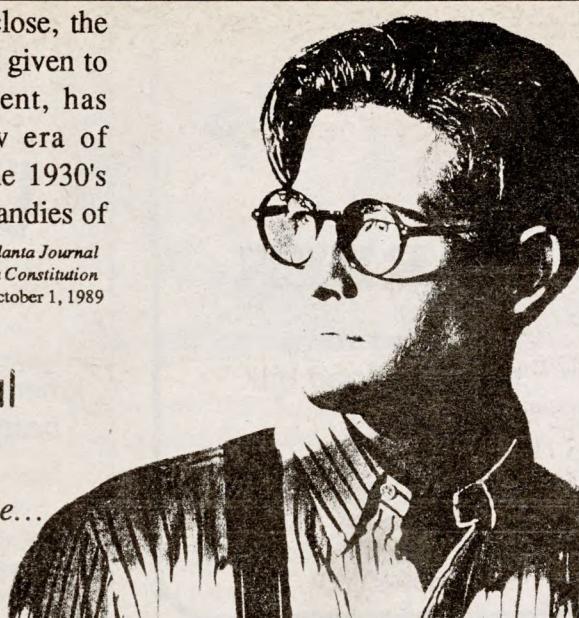
"Because I was born where I was born, and to whom I was born, and in the setting in which I was born, I am a Christian. If I had been born in a Jewish family, I would be a good Jew. If I had been born into a Buddhist setting, I would be a devout Buddhist. Given that I was born into a strong Christian Black Baptist family, that's who I am. I will always be that, no matter where I serve or what I do."

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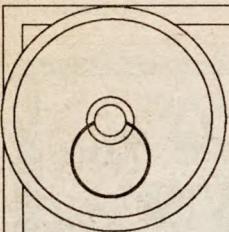
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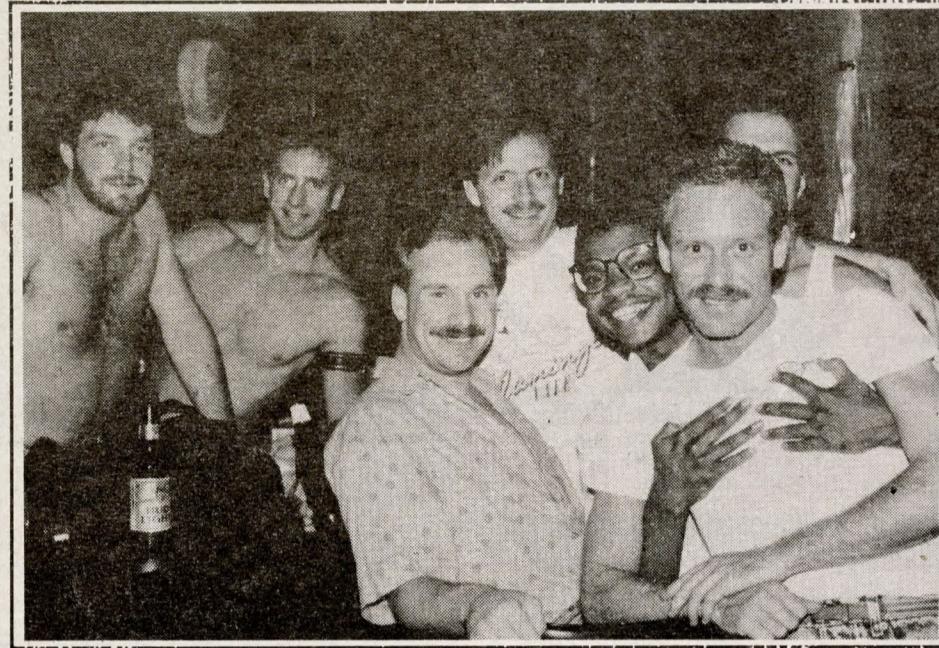
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SHERMAN FLEMING - "BIG REBUS PAINTINGS." May 18 - July 6. Offering a playful representation of ethnic, racial, and sexual stereotypes, Fleming's paintings examine the domination of violence and powerlessness in our society. Don't tell Jesse about this one, he has no sense of humor. Nexus Gallery, 57 Forsyth St.

BLACK ART - ANCESTRAL LEGACY. May 22 - Aug. 5. Presented in conjunction with the National Black Arts Festival, this expansive collection features over 150 sculptures and paintings by African-American and Caribbean artists of the 20th-century. \$4, adult; \$2, students & seniors; \$1, 6-17; children under 6 free. High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree St., NE. Call 898-9285.

STEVEN ARNOLD. Thru May 30. California photographer, Arnold, presents an eclectic surrealistic world where nudes and high religion meet with machines and mannequins. Sure to provoke thoughts and a few erotic fantasies as well. Fay Gold Gallery. Call 233-3843. For more info.

Conferences

CONFERENCE ON MEN AND MASCULINITY. Thur. May 31-Sun. Jun. 3. The 15th annual conference of this group dedicated to "gender justice." Workshops galore and some of the finest lesbian/gay entertainment ever in Atlanta. Women are welcome. Sliding scale. Contact Men Stopping Violence, 688-1376 for registration info.



Tuck & Patti present a dazzling stage show with music that spans tunes from Jimi Hendrix to delicate ballads. Our very own Angela Motter will open. May 29, 8pm at Center Stage. 874-2232.

Events

SEXISM IN THE LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY. Thurs., May 24, 7:30pm. As changes in the community bring more gay men and lesbians together in work, play and politics, can the age-old barriers of sexism fall at last to our mutual needs? A good question for an evening of lively discussion. Men welcome but not kowtowed to. Charis Books & More, 419 Moreland Ave., NE. Call 524-0304.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SHOW. Sun., May 27, 12noon - 6pm. A spiky spectacle for those with jaded interests. Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park. 876-5859.

FEMINIST SOLIDARITY. Thurs., May 31, 7:30pm. Bell Hooks reads an essay and leads a discussion about sisterhood among women of color as well as in the feminist community at large. Did you know that the word lesbian means WHITE women who love women to many sisters of color? Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave., NE. Call 524-0304.

READING-SIGNING. Thurs., May 31, 7-8:30pm. Judy Grahn, Essex Hemphill and James Broughton will read selected works and sign books. And when they finish neither you nor Oxford Bookstore will ever be the same again! Free. At Oxford Books, 2345 Peachtree Road, Peachtree Battle Shopping Center. 262-3333.

THE EXPERIENCE. June 1, 2, and 3. A two and a half day workshop designed to help you "discover the one person you've always been looking for in your life... Yourself." A prerequisite to living happily ever after. For more information call 873-9616.

BENEFIT FOR THE ACTORS EXPRESS. Mon. Jun. 2, 7:30pm & 10pm Great music benefits a great little theatre company. Nancee Kahler and Open the Sky will perform in this benefit for Actors Express. Tickets are \$10 in advance (at Atlanta CD in Brookhaven) and \$12 at the door. At the theatre, 280 Elizabeth Street. 221-0831 for info.

Festivals/Tours

DECATUR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. Sat., May 26, 11am - 6pm. For a mere \$5, Ryan Gainey's garden is too fabulous to be missed. It is an experience you'll never forget. The tour of gardens also features the Williams Rose Garden. For more info call 373-9906.

CABBAGETOWN'S MILL HOUSE TOUR. Sat., June 2, 9am - 1pm. See both renovated and new homes in the twilight zone of this National Historic District. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 day of tour. Tour begins at 230 Carroll St. Call 521-0815 for details.

Film

FILMS OF JAMES BROUGHTON. Weds., May 31, 8pm. Four of Broughton's films will be shown; both Broughton and his lover Joel Singer will be in attendance. \$3 Image and SAME members; \$5 general admission. At Image Film and Video, 75 Bennett Street. 352-4225.

LONGTIME COMPANION. Opens Fri., May 25. See review this issue. Hoyts Tara.

Music

LEON REDBONE. Fri., May 25, 8pm. This man is a genre unto himself who, almost single handedly restores, revives, and revitalizes our musical heritage. The between songs raps and hand-shadow show are as entertaining as his songs. He was never like this on Saturday Night Live. Center Stage Theatre. For details call 874-2232.

TUCK & PATTI. Tues., May 29, 8pm. Bobby McFerrin calls them the "best duo on the planet". Opening an evening of excellent jazz will be our own Angela Motter and Jerry Peek. For \$13.50, you can't beat it with a drum stick. Center Stage Theatre. Call 873-2500.

RICKIE LEE JONES & LYLE LOVETT. Wed., May 30, 7:30pm. Need we say more. She's back. Chastain Park Amphitheatre. 231-5888.

KING SUNNY ADE. Sun., June 3, 8pm. African pop. \$16.50. Center Stage Theatre, 1374 West Peachtree St. Call 873-2500.

DAY OF CONCERTS. Sun., June 3, 3pm. A free day of some of Atlanta's best jazz artists including the Ojeda Penn Experience, Danny and Terry Harper Quartet, Fuasi Abdul-Khalia Quartet and the world premier of Max Roach with M'Boom featuring Dizzy Gillespie. Grant Park.

IN HARMONY AND UNITY. Sun., June 3, 3:30pm matinee & 7pm evening concert. Together at last! The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus and the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus present their first joint concert. \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. Bring a friend you want to do something nice for. June Cofer Auditorium of Southside High School. Call 378-9676.

Performances

JUDY GRAHN. Mon., June 4, 8pm. Ms. Grahn is a founding mother and shaper of lesbian-feminism and of lesbian poetry-philosophy. Her latest performance uses music and other sounds along with poetry to produce a moving multi-media performance. Seven Stages Performing Arts Center. Tickets on sale at Charis Books. Call 584-2104.

Spirituality

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION FOR WOMEN. Friday, June 22, 7:30 pm. The astrological and metaphysical significance of Solstice will be discussed, then the sisters will join together in a guided meditation followed by a Summer Solstice Dance. Chrysalis Women's Center 881-6300, reservations appreciated.

Sports

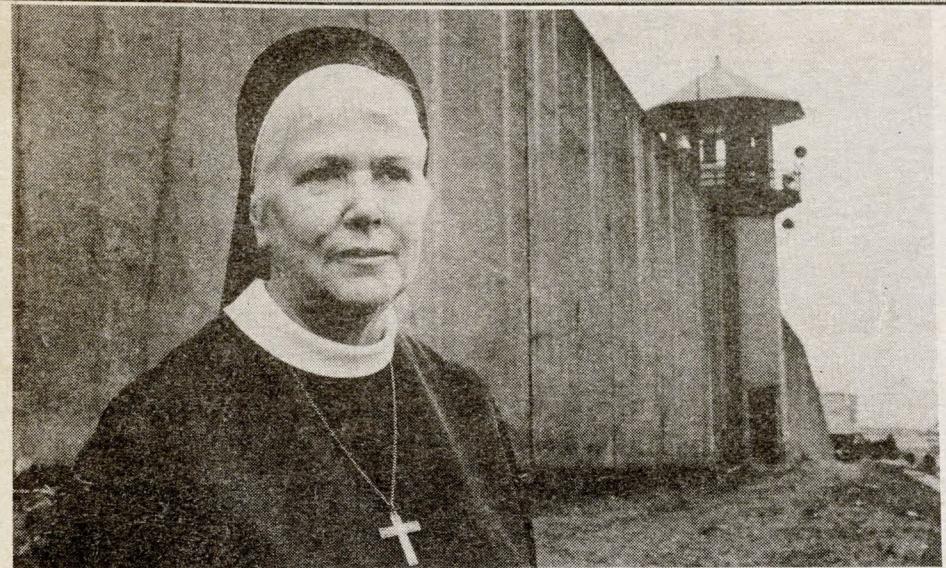
HOTLANTA SOFTBALL - WOMEN'S. Sun., June 3, 11am - 5pm. 11:00 Backstreet vs Burkhart's; 12:20 Atlanta Aces vs Backstreet; 1:40 Burkhart's vs Tower; 3:00 Armory vs Atlanta Aces; 4:20 Sportspage vs Armory. Main field, Piedmont Park.

HOTLANTA SOFTBALL - MEN'S. Sun., June 3, 11am - 5pm. 11:00 Buddies vs Bulldogs; 12:20 Bulldogs vs Armory; 1:40 Armory vs Blakes 2; 3:00 Blakes 2 vs Blakes 1; 4:20 Backstreet vs Blakes 1. Main field at Piedmont Park.

Theatre

COBB. Thru June 3. The story of baseball's greatest and most hated player. This Yale Repertory Theatre production promises material to sink your cleats into. Tickets, \$15-21. 14th Street Playhouse. For ticket information call 892-2414.

MAY 24 - JUNE 5



The AIDS Quarterly focuses on AIDS in Texas and in US prisons. Pictured is Sister Antonia McGuire outside Sing Sing. May 23, 8pm., Channel 8.

ZION! Thru June 3. World premier of Beverly Trader's musical about interactions of blacks and whites in pre-Civil War Marietta. Culminates with the formation of Zion Baptist Church, the first black church in the area. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta.

HAITI (A DREAM). May 23 - June 10, Thursday - Saturday, 8:00; Sundays at 5 pm. Set against the mystery and myth of Haiti, this new play by Karen Sunde contrasts the dream of sailing away to a new land and freedom with the harsh reality of the plight of refugees everywhere. 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Avenue. 523-7647.

THE CHERRY ORCHARD. May 25-27, 8:00. Rely on Chris Coleman to take an old standard and make it prescient. Actor's Express, 280 Elizabeth Street. 221-0831 or 523-7647.

FIFTH OF JULY. Fri., June 1- Sat., June 23. Written by Lanford Wilson (Hot L Baltimore), this moving, funny presentation reunites former college friends who discover together that there is life beyond a series of lost hopes and dreams. Seems to answer the question: "Where do old activists go?" Neighborhood Playhouse, 430 W. Trinity Place, Decatur. Call 373-5311.

TV

THE AIDS QUARTERLY. Wed., May 23, 8pm. Peter Jennings hosts this continuing series of documentaries which explores other sides of the AIDS pandemic besides the death count, including its broad social ramifications and the latest on prevention and treatment. This program focuses on the disease's impact on Texas and American prisons. WGPTV 8 Atlanta.

SEXUALITY AND AGING. Sat., May 26, 9pm. Sex after sixty is the focus of this investigative report. Hosted by actor Ford Rainey, the hour program uses medical documentation and interviews to explore the subject of sex and the senior citizen. WGPTV 8 Atlanta.

Women's Festivals

7TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC & COMEDY FESTIVAL. Thurs., May 24-Mon., May 28. This is the last time it's being held just up the road a piece, so make a point of being there. It's an event you'll always remember. Romp and stomp with Two Nice Girls at Sunday night's after the concert party. A clean and sober dance has also been added for those who are tired of the smell of beer. For details call (818) 893-4075.

WOMONWRITES 90. May 31 - June 3 Not exactly a festival, but more than a conference. Held at Indian Springs, it's an easy commute for Atlanta writers. Whether you publish or just putz around, come share the words of your heart. Contact: WOMONWRITE 1990, 811 NW 19th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601.

EAST COAST LESBIANS' FESTIVAL. June 14-17. The Catskills were never like this before. Celebrate lesbian culture and enjoy some especially enlightening workshops. For further info call (904) 826-0410.

GOLDEN THREADS. June 22-24. While the Golden Threads gathering is aimed at Lesbians over 50, no one will be excluded. Held in ultimate comfort at the Holiday Inn, our favorite frisky feminist fatale, Alix Dobkin, is featured. A wonderful weekend to meet a silver fox. Provincetown, MA.

MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL. Aug. 15-19 It's the biggest, and some say the best. It's also the coldest, so bring warm clothes and come prepared for showers. They're a tradition. For more info call (616) 757-4766.

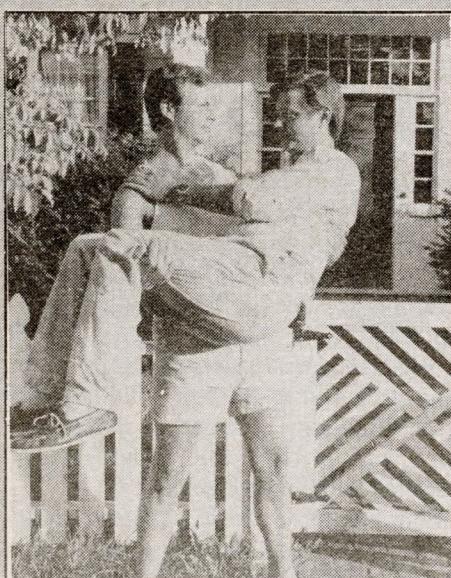
RHYTHM FEST: WOMEN'S MUSIC, ART & POLITICS. Aug. 30 - Sept. 3. A new approach to women's festivals, this group seems to promise content as well as entertainment and vegetarian weight loss. The location sounds lovely. For more info call (919) 682-6374.

Upcoming

SOCIAL SECURITY. Thurs. Jun 7-Sun. Jul 1. Some kinda' summer fun! Paul Goldberg's production at Neighborhood Playhouse was a sell-out last season, now it's up at Actors Express for a month. 221-0831 for times and reservations.

QUEEN CHRISTINA. Fri., June 8, 7:30pm. A chance to see one of Garbo's best on the big screen. Queen Christina was never one to be ruled by society's narrow morals and although this movie does not really explore her legendary lesbian tendencies, there's a lot to fantasize about if you read between the lines. Richard Rich Auditorium, 77 Bldng, Piedmont Hospital. Admission \$3.00.

EMERGING SPIRITUAL BEING WORKSHOP. Fri., Jun. 8, - Sun., Jun. 10. Stress is the main block to health and the Friday evening program with Lazaris focuses on "Escaping the Web of Anxiety" for spiritual and physical well-being. We don't have to learn to cope, we can learn to conquer. Part of a weekend of spiritual workshops. Stouffer Waverly Hotel, 2450 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta. For info call (407) 588-9599.



The Fifth of July is Lanford Wilson's funny and revealing drama about lost hopes and dreams. At its center are lovers Ken and Jed. June 1-23 at the Neighborhood Playhouse. 373-5311.

SISTERS IN SESSION: ABOUT OUR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH. June 17 - 19. The conference will be a gathering of African-American women's organizations, but is not limited to Black women. Dr. Dorothy Height will be the keynote speaker in a weekend that explores the unspoken questions about reproductive choices. Spelman College. For information call 753-0916.

HOTLANTA RIVER EXPO 1990. Thurs., Aug. 2 - Sun., Aug. 5. A fun filled weekend culminating in the 12th annual raft race is a must for men who like to get wet and wild. Events include everything from the Miss Hotlanta Pageant on the 2nd to the Utopia Ball on the 3rd. Tickets may be purchased separately or try the great package deal. Last year over 2500 men attended.

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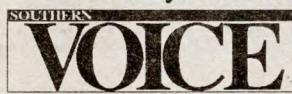
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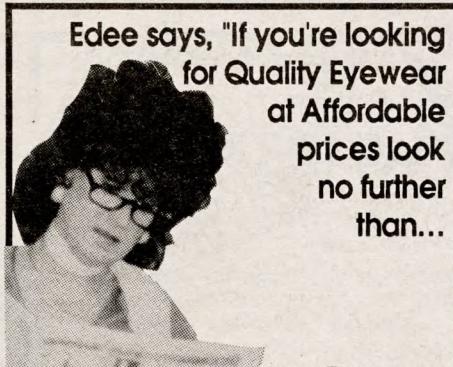
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HATFIELD

Cont'd from page 2

bills since 1987—a record not dissimilar to Georgia's Senators Nunn and Fowler. Speaking of Hatfield's voting record, HRCF's Gregory King told the *Washington Blade*, "...overall there's a great deal of room for improvement."

But King went on to condemn the outing, "It sends a chilling message to millions of other lesbians and gay Americans who are going through the process of coming out."

ACT UP Portland's patience with Hatfield snapped in early April when he supported Sen. William Armstrong's (R-CO) attempt to change D.C.'s Human Rights Law to permit the local Big Brother's organizations to exclude gays. At the time HRCF's King called Armstrong's action "a legislative hate crime."

"Hatfield" Schloeder says, "never denies he's gay; he just calls himself a happily married man."

The message stayed on the billboard for "about 12 hours" and got "virtually no mainstream press coverage" according to Schloeder. "But," he added, "Hatfield's people were distressed, there was even a rumor that they hired an airplane to fly around the state and check all his billboards."

ACT UP/DC's Underwood says the his group is definitely "interested in evidence that could be used to 'out' government officials who are lesbian or gay and who have an action record of opposing or speaking out against the interests of gay men, lesbians and persons affected by AIDS."

"In addition to chaos in the U.S. House and Senate, there'll be a lot of sweaty palms in state legislatures around the country if ACT UP/DC goes through with this," concludes one local (anonymous) activist.

SENATE

Cont'd from page 2

"We won; it's over; it's a tremendous victory," added Tom Sheridan, lobbyist for the AIDS Action Council, the leading organization lobbying for the bill. "What has happened is that the Senate clearly recognized the health emergency that AIDS presents and its response was overwhelming in the face of the disaster."

Prior to floor action on the bill, Helms had threatened a filibuster on the measure, which had delayed its getting to the Senate floor. A "cloture" vote to limit debate, however, saw the North Carolina Republican rebuked by a stunning 95-3 vote, with only himself, Humphrey and Sen. Steve Symms (R-ID) supporting the filibuster.

"Yes, this bill will pass," stated an irate Helms after losing the cloture vote, "no question about it. And I imagine that the editorial writers have already cranked up their little machines to describe that ogre from North Carolina who dares to say wait a minute. Well, I do say wait a minute. So, here we go again."

In his extensive remarks, Helms indicated that "some members of the homosexual community," presumably angry with his attempts at blocking the bill, had allegedly made threats on his life. Helms indicated that he has refused to be guarded, saying, "I do not need any escort. I do not need any protection.... La-de-da. Let them threat. Let them threat."

Helms likewise railed against the bills' being dedicated to the late AIDS patient Ryan White as a coopting of the young man's name to further the "agenda" of the "so-called homosexual community."

Helms' first amendment, similar to others he has attempted to place on several bills, would have barred states from receiving funds under the bill if they did not ban clean needle and bleach distribution programs, which are used to prevent HIV infection in IV drug users. After heated debate the amendment lost by a 70-28 vote.

Afterwards, the Senate, on a 98-0 vote, agreed to a substitute Kennedy/Hatch measure which stipulated that funds under the bill should not be used to fund needle distribution programs.

The other Helms rider, which he dubbed the "Ryan White Amendment," would have brought federal criminal penalties against those attempting to donate blood, organs or body fluids who know they are HIV infected, or who have used IV drugs or engaged in

prostitution since 1977.

In arguing for his amendment, Helms explained that he named the rider after White based on his concern that the bill did not favor those who contracted the virus via blood transfusions and blood products over those who became exposed by "sodomy" or the use of illegal drugs.

The amendment lost on a narrow 52-47 vote.

The Senate, on a 98-0 vote, then approved a milder Kennedy/Hatch amendment stipulating that states seeking funds under the bill should have laws on the books "adequate to prosecute" those who try to donate blood, body fluids or organs which they know to be HIV infected.

A day earlier in the debate, the Senate rejected on a 65-33 vote an amendment from Wallop which would have allowed states with low HIV-incidence rates, like his own Wyoming, to receive funds under the bill to treat other non-AIDS related chronic illnesses.

The bill as passed would set up a five-year federal grant program to provide "emergency disaster relief" funds to be split between 13 cities with over 2,000 cases of AIDS and other areas with high concentrations of HIV infection. It would authorize \$600 million in emergency funds for each of the 1991 and 1992 fiscal years, and "such funds as may be necessary" for fiscal years 1993 through 1995.

Also included in the bill is a five-year authorization program to provide treatment drugs to low income AIDS patients through state health programs. This measure, successfully blocked last year by Helms, has long been sought by AIDS activists as a long-term solution to a year-to-year crisis in funding the now-temporary treatment program.

AID Atlanta's Executive Director Sandy Thurman is naturally pleased with the bill's passage and its broad support. "But," she warns, "don't count your chickens." Funds in the measure are contingent on spending levels set in each year's federal budget, what is actually spent under the act in each of the fiscal years may vary substantially from the bill's stipulations.

And if the bill doesn't pass both houses by the time budget appropriations for the year are worked out, its funding will not become available until fall 1991.

A similar, though slightly different bill, the AIDS Prevention Act of 1990, was approved May 14 by the House Energy and Commerce Committee and is pending action on the House floor.

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sweet, come in. Put on your jeans or shorts and come in. If you're at the park, come in."

Oh, one more element in The Blue Coyote's summer success: air conditioning.

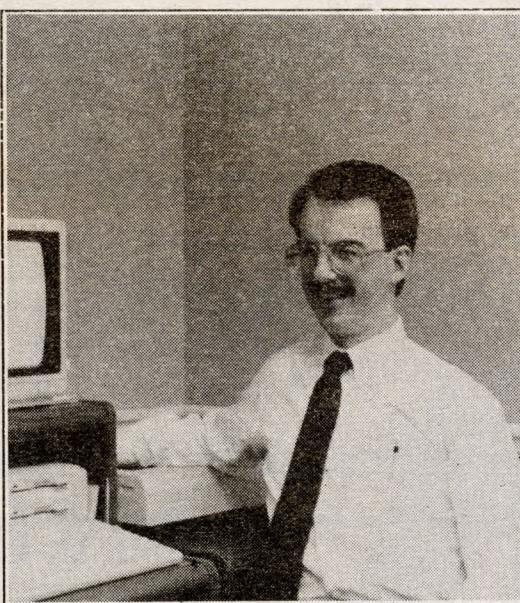
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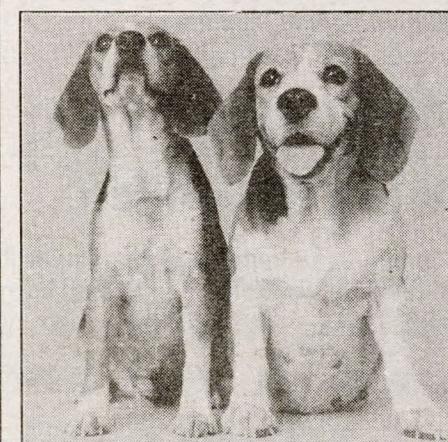
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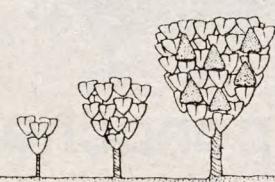
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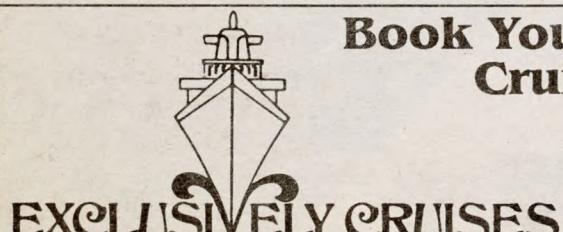
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Lazaris on AIDS

Lazaris has been channeled by Jack Purcel since 1974. *Southern Voice* is pleased to be able to present his words. The AIDS interview will continue in issue number 8. Other issues of interest to lesbians and gay men will follow.

Louise Hay asked Lazaris if he would make an audio tape about AIDS. His response was to do more. Lazaris recorded a 90-minute tape that includes a powerfully moving meditation. He donated the time and the tape to the Hay Foundation which is the sole distributor of the tape and retains all the proceeds.

The response to this tape has been remarkable. One of the many wonderful things about this discussion is that Lazaris talks of AIDS not as a Gay disease and thus a Gay problem, but as a Human disease and a Human problem that requires all of us to work together. Following is a transcription of AIDS: A Compassionate Exploration.

A Meaning: Learning to Be Powerful

And the final message is that it is time now in the world for you to learn to be truly powerful. Again, when the world seemed larger and you could create your isolated little pockets, your little villages of existence and belief, your level of power was perhaps not as critical.

But now, as the world is smaller, as your society is more advanced, and as you broach this New Age where each person is going to be more directly and more completely and more consciously responsible for the reality that they create, it is time, people, to truly be powerful, not just to play with the word.

It is time to really begin and to go beyond beginning—to really fulfill and go beyond fulfillment—and really complete being powerful. It is not enough to go to a workshop here and there, to spend a few hours, to spend a few dollars, to learn the techniques, to list the various components of power. It's not enough to read a "how-to" book on intimidation or on manipulation or on some form of domination. It is not enough to develop the art of intimidating and controlling.

It is time to develop the ability to act. It is time to begin to understand and fulfill and complete power, which is the *ability* and the *willingness* to act.

With that, it is time to develop an image of your self, an image of success. It is time to value yourself, yes, and to

image yourself as a successful, powerful being.

These are the messages, messages of defenselessness, of defensiveness, of desperate clinging to the past and desperate desire to know who loves you. These are the meanings: to begin to desire to really know who loves you, to learn new levels and new ways to expand the expression and the experience of—not making love—but expressing love. Learn to ask for help. Value yourself enough to ask not for pity, but for help. Learn now not just to play around with being powerful, but to sincerely learn to be powerful and develop an image of success.

Belief always precedes reality. Image always precedes reality as well. What you believe and what you image of yourself is what determines the manifestations that you bring forth. These are the meanings. These are the messages.

desperately clinging to that past? Are you holding onto angers, blood angers, at your family? Is it worth dying over? Are you so desperately curious to know who loves you that you're willing to give up your life to find out?

Take inventory. End the self-pity that is either your victim or your martyr. End the self-pity. Take personal responsibility for the reality you are creating and for the world reality that is around you. Release your past. Release the anger. Process in whatever way works for you. You can do an express/release meditation. There are various techniques. We've talked of hundreds of them in varieties of ways. Process and let go of that anger. Is it really worth dying over?

An Action: Learn about Love

Learn. Learn as much as you can about love. Learn as much as you can

defensiveness, the desperateness of the past, and the desperate curiosity to know who loves you all engage and run around an anger that says, "World, you did me wrong. World, look what you did to me!"

Release that anger. Release that rage. Let go of the hurt. We know it is "words to say," but though we don't have time to teach you all of it today, we have talked of these things on numerous occasions. There are methods, there are means, specific ones, to let yourself work with, with which to let yourself grow. Most of you know techniques and methods, or can find them on your own. Let yourself grow. Let yourself learn. Let yourself listen to the messages so that they don't have to continue to be the deadly shouts that they are.

The second thing, beyond taking inventory, is to allow yourself to learn the lessons. Understand the meanings. Bring loving above your Second Chakra. Learn to love from your heart. Learn to love yourself. Learn the varieties and means of loving. You see, sometimes the most difficult loving relationships are those of friendship, because you don't have sex to rely upon. With someone that you can love sexually, often you can show them: "See how much I love you? See how good I was? See how frequently? See how long? See how many orgasms?" Therefore: "How can you question the love?"

But you see, with a friend with whom you are not sexual, you can't fall back upon that sometimes easy, although difficult, method. You rather have to learn other ways of being a friend. Well, similarly it's time not to deny your sexuality, but to expand it. It is time not to deny your loving, but to expand your loving, to find other and alternative means to raise the center of love from the genitals to the heart. That is the lesson. Begin to learn it. Expand the ways you love.

A tape of this complete interview (with meditation) is available from Hay House, Inc., 501 Santa Monica Blvd., Rm. 602, Santa Monica, CA 90401. An additional tape on AIDS, "Lazaris Talks about AIDS with Louise L. Hay's Group" is available from Concept:Synergy at the address below.

Copyright 1988 Concept:Synergy, reprinted by permission. For further information about Lazaris' tapes, books, and seminars in Atlanta, please call or write Concept:Synergy, 302 South County Road, Room 109, Palm Beach, FL 33480. (407) 588-9599.



What do you do about them? The first thing that we can encourage you to do it take inventory.

An Action: Take Inventory

Take inventory. Where are you on the issues of defenselessness and defensiveness? Are you defenseless, pretending, playing the game, trying to argue and convince yourself and the world that it is so—that it is really true that you are defenseless? Are you totally defensive? Are you shut off? Are you closing yourself off, knowing all the answers, having all the answers, needing nobody, not allowing anybody to help?

Take inventory. Are you desperately,

about the giving and the responding and the respecting and the knowing of love. Learn about the humility of intimacy. Learn about the courage of commitment. Learn about the caring. Learn what you can about love, so that you can provide the security, the pleasure, the vulnerability and the trust, so that you can reduce the fear of loss. Feel the caring and the intimacy and the knowing that is love. Learn about it everywhere you can so that you can know how to love, so that you can discern who is loving you, so that you don't have to die for it.

Most of all, people, look at the anger that is saying: "Look what you've done to me." You see, the defenselessness, the



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DISH

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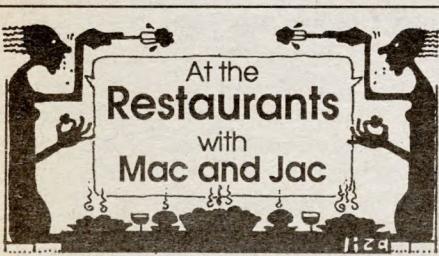
Dish is dismayed that, at a time in our lives when we would expect to be planning for the future, we are too often reading the obituaries. Our dismay is further heightened when we see the chosen family and/or lover(s) of the deceased ignored in those obituaries and funeral announcements. In that vein, we note with distress the recent passing of Bruce Petrovich, a man not known to us but to friends of ours. On the more positive side, we applaud the fact that Bruce's funeral notice uses the words "mother in friendship" and "family in friendship" to give proper credit to the love and support provided by his non-nuclear family.

Easy Purchase

We're not generally inclined to run commercial plugs in this space, but Dish recently accompanied a very nervous friend shopping for a new car. Our friend chose to start his explorations with Kent Curry at Beaudry Ford because he advertises in SV. Curry was calm, courteous and quick. Within 45 minutes, we had found the right car. And the price, without haggling, was within pennies of what the latest Consumer's Reports said was right. Financing and after-sale service were handled with equal ease and professionalism. The new, dark blue Taurus wagon is named Darth Vader's Little Sister—Sissy for short. Thanks Kent.

Easily Shocked

Latest on the list of "tell us something we didn't already know" is singer Michele Shocked's coming out in an interview in *Chicago Outlines*. "I resent like hell that I was maybe 18-years-old before I even heard the 'L' word," says Shocked. "I mean, that's understood, growing up sheltered in a Mormon environment. But it would have made all the difference for me had I grown up knowing that the reason I didn't fit in was because they hadn't told me there were more categories to fit into." Let us think...does Dish know anyone who wasn't in that same boat? Perhaps if more national knowns voluntarily come out there'll be smoother sailing for queers to come.



Southern Discomfort

M: If I got to pick where I wanted to eat every time I went out to dinner, my first choice would always be neighborhood cafes. Unfortunately, Atlanta doesn't have many of them. So, when J. agreed to meet me at Capo's in Virginia-Highlands, I was looking forward to a laid-back dinner.

J: I didn't mind it too much that M. was 25 minutes late, because I was enjoying sitting outside Capo's on a bench watching the local runners and even the suburban yuppies who came in droves to eat in this neighborhood.

M: Are you kidding? I was 15 minutes late and was met by one of those wicked-witch-of-the-West greetings. J. is picky, picky, picky.

J: And, I thought I was very sweet to you, M., given that you've been late for our last 3 dates, but I was annoyed with our waiter. Even if Capo's is a neighborhood cafe, I just hate it when the waiter doesn't pour the wine, doesn't take your menu, and keeps interrupting your conversation. I have a list of waitron pet peeves, and this waiter is definitely on my list.

M: Like I said, "picky, picky". J. was so demanding that our waiter got rattled. He also disappeared leaving J. wondering why he was-

n't coming back. I knew why: he didn't want to come near us.

J: Tsk, tsk.... Capo's hasn't changed much since it opened in 1977. They still serve almost the same cutesy dishes—Jacob's stew, chicken salad nova, fettuccine alfredo, and ratatouille. Capo's has added open patio space for dining. I wasn't even offended that the patio overlooks the backs of shops and a parking lot.

M: And, I still like the food as well as the atmosphere. You can dress up or down, hang out, eat tasty Americanized bistro food, and not spend a lot of money. All you need to do to enjoy yourself is take a friend or a date who is not griping the whole time.

J: Well, my gripes are justified! I expect and deserve better service than I got. The waiter even brought the wrong dessert. But M. was

about to die from embarrassment, because I was violating her Southern manners, I cooled it and ate the chocolate cheesecake that I didn't order. It tasted "noo-noo."

M: "Noo-noo"? What does that mean? The desserts are wonderful, especially anything made with chocolate.

J: And Capo's is a little too trendy for me; not enough gays and lesbians eat there, but this may have been an off night. But, the Virginia-Highlands area is definitely worth a visit just for "gadar" (radar for spotting you-know-who).

M: First, "noo-noo" and now "gadar." Where does she get this stuff?

*Capo's 992 Virginia Ave NE
Phone: 876-5655. Expect to spend \$12-14 per person for entree, dessert and wine.*

May 24 - June 6

RULING PLANETS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLOBITH

by Mary Bailey-Rule

The Sun is in Gemini and Mercury, its ruling planet is now in direct motion which should improve everyone's disposition. You can begin a new cycle of activity with the New Moon on May 24th.

ARIES - Mars, your ruling planet, moves into your sun sign on May 31, so be ready for extra physical energy and enthusiasm. Have any projects clearly outlined and you can forge ahead with confidence.

TAURUS - With Venus in your sun sign beginning May 30, you will have a new appreciation of life, beauty, and your own talents and abilities. Do what brings you pleasure and enjoyment, and you'll feel much better.

GEMINI - HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Mercury is direct and the Sun is in Gemini. It's time to celebrate, kick up your heels, and enjoy life. Include exercise in your daily activities and you'll feel younger and more alert.

Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer who specializes in birth chart analysis, relationship charts, and astrological career counseling. Her office is at Partners in Health. For information or an appointment, call 881-6300

CANCER - With the Sun in your 12th house of unconscious processes and the unseen, be aware of your dreams, intuition, and inner guidance. You can profit from opportunities others overlook.

LEO - Venus highlights your 10th house of career, vocation, and authority figures beginning the 31st. Good time to list all your wonderful talents, abilities, and personal qualities and don't overlook the obvious.

VIRGO - Venus and Mercury in Taurus are trining your sun sign and moving through your 9th house of higher learning and travel. A good time to play rest, and regenerate, especially if you can get out of town.

LIBRA - If you are having to deal with challenging situations with parents or within your home, try to relax and rely on your diplomacy, tact, and inherent sense of fairness. Also remember to take care of yourself.

SCORPIO - With Venus and Mercury now cruising through your 7th house of personal and intimate relationships, you may want to reconnect with close friends you haven't seen or clear up any old misunderstandings.

SAGITTARIUS - Mars is bringing its fiery, physical energy to your 4th house of home and family, so you may want to clean up, fix up and clear out anything you haven't used in 3 years. Time to make way for the new.

CAPRICORN - With Venus and Mercury now in your 5th house of creativity and play, this is the perfect time to use your creativity to solve problems and to have fun. Give your right brain a chance to work for you.

AQUARIUS - With Mars advancing thru your 2nd house of personal values and material resources, you may feel more assertive and determined about your own priorities. You may find you are speaking for others as well.

PISCES - Mars is in your 1st house until the first week in June, providing extra physical energy for exercise, and creative projects. You can accomplish a lot by setting priorities and staying focused.

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CLASSIFIEDS

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

Public Forum - Your Rights under COBRA and the New Medicaid Law, Wednesday, May 23, 1990, 6:30 pm at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 48 MLK Drive, SW, Atlanta. Free Admission. Open to public. 688-5433. (V3,#7)

The Healing Circle is a supportive space for people on the path towards self-healing. The weekly meetings provide safety and a loving atmosphere for the free exchange of ideas and emotional support. We do not offer specific therapeutic advice or promote a specific philosophy. Meetings every Monday evening at 7:30pm. For information call 922-3486.

The Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network will begin its day program, Common Ground, for people living with AIDS/HIV on Monday, April 2nd. The program will operate Monday through Friday from 10:30am-3:30pm. Common Ground will be a place where people living with AIDS/HIV can interact with other people, learn new skills, enjoy crafts and other activities, participate in supportive classes and discussion groups and explore their spiritual journey. Anyone interested in participating in the day program or volunteering, please call 874-8686 for information.

New PWA/HIV Support Group begins at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Sandy Springs - A support group for persons with symptomatic HIV infections meets each second and fourth Sunday 5:30pm. Karen Benjick-Burke, M.Div., M.S.W. acts as facilitator. There is no charge and transportation can be provided. For more info, call the church at 255-4023.

AIDS SUPPORT AND INFORMATION GROUP being formed in Henry County and will serve the surrounding counties of Rockdale, Newton, DeKalb, Clayton, Butts, Fayette, Coweta, Spaulding, Monroe, Pike and Meriwether as Henry. Meeting at 7:00 PM on the first Friday of each month in the Community Room of Henry General Hospital on Hudson Bridge Rd. (Exit #73) in Stockbridge. For more information call Bob Ray at 954-1990 or Jim Morgan at 229-3117.

The First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta now has an AIDS support group, not limited to just PWA's. Anyone who has tested positive to the HIV test, has been diagnosed as having AIDS or ARC, their families, friends and anyone else concerned about the disease is invited to attend. Meetings held at the Church, 800 N. Highland Ave. Every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Church office. This group is open to anyone who wishes to attend. For more information, call the Church office at 872-2246.

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

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.

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.

SPEAK OUT!, a new creative writing publication, sponsored by AID Atlanta, comprised of poetry and short prose written by PLWA's and people who are HIV+, requests submissions. Deadline is June 11, 1990. For info, call Lee at 872-0533.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recreational Co-ed Volleyball Sun 2-5 at Winn Park, Ansley. For more info call 875-0700

Jerusalem House Needs - financial support, FAX machine, yard equipment (including mower), typewriters, telephone recorder, boxes of hospital gloves, donated furniture pickup, Volunteers - practical support (assist clients in personal care needs ie: hygiene, meals, housecleaning) Contact Denny Davis, 527-7627 (V3,#7)

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

DEALING WITH DEATH. Call for entries - exhibition with the theme: expressions of mourning for friends lost to AIDS. Open to Georgia residents only. Application deadline: May 30th. \$15 entry fee. Show opening June 22nd; space donated by New Visions Gallery. For information and guidelines, contact Ann Spivey-Bruce at (404) 876-8212 or

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Chance at (404) 525-5882. (V3,#7)

An organization of support and affiliation for lesbian and gay physicians and med students. In the US and Canada. American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR). (415) 255-4547 or 2940 16th St. #105, S.F., CA 94103.

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CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

Mature responsible person required to train as assistant manager for apparel store in Riverdale \$200/wk start. Hours; noon-8:00pm 5 days/wk. Please call for appt. 957-8634. (V3,#8)

Part time chiropractor assistant wanted. Afternoons 3:30 to 7:30 pm & Sat. 10 to 2. Need knowledge in general office procedure. Phone skills, light bookkeeping, good with kids. Call mornings, 636-7222. (V3,#7)

Experienced carpenter and carpenter's helper wanted by growing contracting/building firm. Immediate openings. Call 377-2232. ALLISON BOVEE CARPENTRY. (V3,#7)

FOR RENT

Emory / Druid Hills Area - Lg. 1 bedroom apt for individual, in quiet older home. Kitchen, LR, DR combo, FP, ceiling fan, W/D connection, patio. Upstairs lg. bedroom, FP, dressing room, bath, closets, white blinds throughout. Utilities included. \$550 + 1 month deposit. 377-1826. (V3,#7)

Marietta Square Area - 2BR/1BA cottage, 2 FP (LR & Kit), W/D connections, fenced in area, large attic storage, nice yard with garden spot. \$500+deposit. 799-3401. Available immediately.

3 BR tri-level condo. 1 car garage, alarm system, FP, Gas Grill, CH/A, W/D connections. Deck & patio w/view of Candler Park. Available June 1. \$925 per month. Call 874-8438. (V3,#7)

DECATUR/EMORY : JUNE-AUGUST : Perfect summer sublet! GF to share 2 bedroom house w/ GF. Fenced yard, cent. air, quiet, safe neighborhood. \$225 month plus 1/2 utilities. Call 248-1577. (V3,#7)

MORNINGSIDE- Large one bedroom apt on quiet, wooded street. Living room with woodburning fireplace, separate dining room, bedroom, full kitchen, bathroom, private deck, washer/dryer, CH/A, wood floors, separate entrances. Very nice! \$525 mo. incl. water and gas. Call Rick 876-4474. (V3,#7)

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1830-E Piedmont Ave.
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Elaine Battle, Manager
Mark duPont,
Weekend Mgr.

LEGAL

ATTORNEY - General Practice including Auto Accidents, Personal Injury, Real Estate, Wills, DUI/Traffic Offenses, Divorce, Child Custody, Bankruptcy. 577-7167. Convenient downtown location on MARTA. PATRICIA J. GARLAND.

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

PERSONALS

GWF-33, non-smoker, drug-free, overweight but on diet. I love sports, movies, TV and a good book. Am a quiet, honest, homebody who also likes nice restaurants. Seek non-smoker, drug-free, financially stable, GWF, 25-45 for sincere friendship, companionship, possible relationship. Please send photo. SV BOX 2302. (SV3,#8)

GWF - seeks same for friendship, laughter, and sharing. I love outdoors, animals, women with a sense of humor, and above all; honesty. NO drugs; no BFs. Write: BLT, PO Box 1933, Lawrenceville, GA 30246. (V3,#7)

GWF - 39 - good looking - butch but not masculine - seeks GWF, feminine, ages 25-45, for sincere friendship, possible long term relationship. Must be attractive and stable. SV BOX 2301 (V3,#7)

Saved Up Some Big Loads? Come and dump them on us. We'll be glad to wash, dry and fold those sheets, towels and clothing for 50¢ per pound. Washable comforters, spread and blankets \$4.50 each. Claire's Clean Clothes, 1830-E Piedmont Ave. (at Rock Springs), 875-4108.

Gay Introductions, Free.
Call 491-6909.

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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PERSONAL GROWTH

Numerology Seminar - Discover the hidden meanings in your name and birthdate through the power of numerology. Sat. April 21, 1990, 10:00am-5:00pm. \$45.00 honoraria. (404) 874-9352 limited seating, so please reserve early. Taught by Michael Ferniany.

SELF-INQUIRY CORRESPONDENCE COURSE: Wisdom of phlos./saints without hassle of classes/groups for busy people. Profound readings, interactive materials. "The idea of God, from which infinite things follow in infinite ways, must be one, and one only." -Spinoza .320-2045. (V3,#7)

PETS

PET PORTRAITS from your favorite photo by Atlanta based Illustrator/Fine Artist who loves animals. Pencil, Ink or watercolor. From \$75. Call J.D. (404) 378-4398 from noon to 6pm leave message. (V3,#8)

Emergency - 2 loving female dogs need a good home. Moving and can't keep them. Shots, records, spayed. One lg. 70 lbs., one small terrier type. Gwen 876-7416 evenings. 874-7631 days. (V3,#7)

Positions Open at Pet Land, Lenox Square, FT/PT. Experience with animals/sales. 233-2246

ROOMMATES

Female seeks gay (MorF) roommate to help find and share a home in Gwinnett/DeKalb area. Must like privacy and cats. For more info call 945-6629 10am-3pm or leave message.

One BR for rent in comfortable late 20's house. Lake Claire. Perfect for someone who doesn't need much closet space. Big kitchen, one bathroom, great backyard. Other occupants: 2 women, 2 cats, 2 dogs, all generally quiet, some of them smokers, all drug-free. \$200/mo. Available

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CLASSIFIEDS
WORK FOR
YOU!**

ROOMMATES

in August. 378-9726. (V3, #10)

Lesbian couple needs roommate to share home in Decatur. Rent is \$300 plus 1/3 utilities. No pets (we have 2 cats). No smoking. 377-8312. Available June 1. (V3,#7)

ROOMMATES 1-800-876-MATE
Compatibility is key...Fast, convenient and affordable...M&W 11-5/ Th. & Fri. 11-7/ Sat. & Sun. 12-3...Call today...

ROOMMATES 1-800-876-MATE

SERVICES

Having Lunch Alone? Too much TV? Want to meet new friends and have community? Enjoy new activities? Join the day program at Common Ground for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program operates Monday-Friday, 10:30-3:30. Call 874-8686 for information. Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network.

PERSONALIZED CROSSWORD PUZZLES Designed for you - about you! For questionnaire send \$2.00 and self addressed stamped envelope to: P.O. Box 14305, Atlanta, Ga. 30324. Please specify child, teen, adult. (Mention Southern Voice for discount!)

MOVING TO ANY U.S. CITY? Gay men & Lesbians will be referred to a Realtor familiar with the local gay community in any particular metropolitan area by calling 1-800-673-9093. 8 am-11 pm EST daily.

Painting & Decorating - Conscientious workmanship and reasonable prices. 352-9004. (V3,#7)

Discover your Astrological Mates. Send \$3.00, a SASE, and your birthdate to ZODIAC MATING, 4203 Briarcliff Gables, Atlanta, 30329 for a listing of your best and worst-suited mates. Based on the Chinese Zodiac. (V3,#7)

SHY GUY!! Don't know where to ask? Don't be caught empty-handed. Aim for safe-sex in the 1990's. Get your condom 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,#7)

TRAVEL

Travel too much to do your own laundry? We'll do it for you for 50¢ per pound. Same day service if in by noon. Claire's Clean Clothes, 1830-E Piedmont Ave. (at Rock Springs), 875-4108.

Escape to the Mountains. Mountain Rest, SC. New Contemporary A-Frame, designer interiors, fully furnished, waterfront, sleeps up to eight, complete privacy. \$600.00 per week for four people. For further information and details call; during business hours 803/638-9583, after business hours 803/638-6242. (V2,#25)

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- Over 25 Gay Categories
- Private Voice Mailboxes
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- Gay Owned

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\$1.45/min. More Info: (305) 565-4455, Ext. 3995

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288-9415

"THE SILVER FOX"

Does Dick Williams piss you off? ACT UP/Atlanta is organizing an action to ZAP Dick and stop his homophobic ranting. If you would like to help us in this effort, call 286-6247.

SAME Wants You! - Volunteer meeting/Brunch first Saturdays, 10 am - 12, at the office, corner of Euclid and Austin. For more information call 584-2104. (V3,#7)

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.

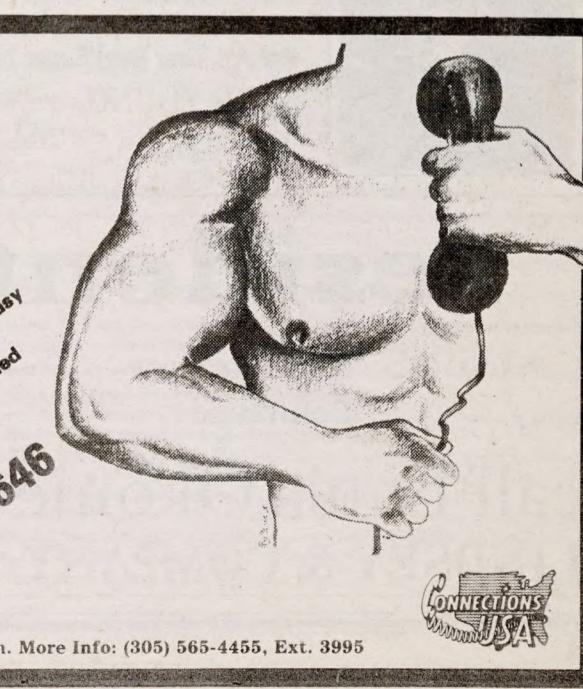
Atlanta Gay Center is looking for people to help with an HIV/AIDS Library due to our successful STD clinic. Call Joe at the Atlanta Gay Center. 876-5372 or Ron at 371-0819.

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.

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.



**CONNECTIONS
USA**

REAL ESTATE

Dixie covers Candler like the Dew!

365 Glendale 3 BR., 2BA., double size lot, great house for renovation. Systems in good shape. \$93,000.

1297 Euclid Duplex

Rent combined will make mortgage pmt. Priced to sell at \$85,000.

Great Starter Home

Decatur Agnes Scott area. \$69,900.



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Home 524-4002
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Many singles & artists have! If homes are too pricy in Little 5 Points-Candler Park-Lake Claire. 3 BR 2 BA CH/A, full daylight basement, extra acreage, w/barn. Located NW Atlanta. \$75,000. Adjacent rental house only \$45,000.

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Owner wants an offer-has moved out of town-1.5 stories featured in Beautiful Homes & Gardens. Master suite w/ 18x18 master bath.

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NEW HOMES I've got 2 great ones!

DECATUR-Wonderful Victorian features kitchen overlooking large entertainment area and deck.

Other goodies too.

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complete reno, spectacular kit/great room, master suite, walk in closet, marble BA, w/ garden tub/shower, new systems, roof, deck, \$250,000.

EMORY/CDC/V.A. HOSP

Brick ranch, dramatic reno, vaulted ceilings, skylights, sunroom, offered at \$127,500.

EMORY/CDC/ EXECUTIVE PARK
on quiet street, 3BR, 1.5BA, lg kit, 1.5 acre lot. Only \$114,900.

RICK STUCKEY
321-4461 OFFICE
876-4474 HOME

757 Charles Allen Dr., 149K, owner anxious, rent, lease, purchase, - or bring offers. Craftsman Style bungalow, renovated. 3BR, 2BA great roommate plan, hdwd. floors, 10ft. ceilings. Call Tenley for details. 438-7713. (V3, #8)

MOVING TO ANY U.S. CITY?
Gay men & Lesbians will be referred to a Realtor familiar with the local gay community in any particular metropolitan area by calling 1-800-673-9093. 8am-11pm EST daily. (V3, #7)

Tell them you saw it in Southern Voice!



"This sign could be in your yard too."

ellie elimon
Realtor
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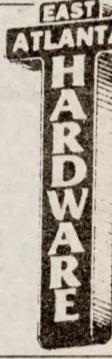
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2 STORY VICTORIAN-on nice lg lot, loaded w/ stained glass, hdwd flrs., high ceilings & fpcls. Needs some TLC. Debbie Jones-Kelly 688-1222/588-1886.

EAST ATLANTA- \$39,900 2BR cottage. Needs some paint and TLC. Gordon Wells 688-1222/624-3174.

HUGE PRIVATE LOT: 2BR/1BA w/ den, deck, in Smyrna neighborhood. \$60's. Joe Wilkins 688-1222/627-0921.

GRANT PARK VICTORIAN lg kit, heart pine flrs., landscaped, screen porch, fenced, C/A. \$90's. Tina Harris-Harris 688-1222/688-6888

UNUSUAL 2 LEVEL HOME-quarry tile kit & great rm, great location in Ormewood Park. Pamela Porter 688-1222/522-2817.

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REALTORS

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3/2 Victorian reno. Possible owner finance or lease purchase. Motivated seller. \$89,900.

HOME WITH INCOME

\$109,900. 3/2 reno; deck; fenced yard. 1 bedroom apt. w/ kitchen downstairs. Gorgeous!

FEDERAL TERRACE BRICK BUNGALOW

3 BR., 1 BA., reno. in progress. Reduced \$9k to \$49,900. Bring an offer!

REDUCED TO \$47,500 IN LAKEWOOD HTS. Adorable 3 BR. home near Grant Park has new central heat, garage, and more!

MIKE YOUNG
874-2262 OFFICE
873-1253 HOME

REDUCED \$10K!!
Victorian Redo;
3 FP's Wet Bar;
Hi Ceilings;
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3 BR/1.5BAs;
Only \$89,900!!!

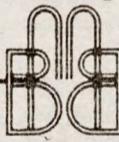
DARLING FRAME/STONE
Bungalow; 3 BR;
CH/A; New kitch/BA; Corner lot;
Carport, \$79,900.

nikki marmo
233-4633 OFF.
872-3811 RES. BUCKHEAD

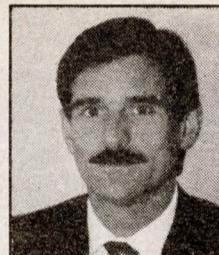
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Glass block windows, pickled floors, new systems, new kitchen & baths.

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Buddies 'n' Pals 'n' Partners

A gay dating service

A Hunt/Storck Group Companies, Inc.

Local Maryland 301-383-6144
Nationwide 1-800-344-PALS

Who are we?

Formed in 1986, **Buddies 'n' Pals 'n' Partners** is a computer dating service. Our goal is to help you meet someone compatible, both socially and sexually, as a friend or a lover.

How does your service work?

When your application is received it is entered into our computer system, the computer assigns you a client number. It then compares each of your attributes to those of all the other clients currently in our data base, eliminating those members having too many traits you have classed as undesirable and retaining those that meet your requirements.

The report you receive will contain the following information about your matches: A client identity number, a mini-profile listing all the attributes the client used to describe himself, as well as the authorized contact information provided by the client. Our double screening process ensures that you meet the other clients' requirements.

Your client number is used to allow us to verify your identity when you call our office, *you are the only one who should know this code.*

How much does it cost?

Our service fee is currently \$35, which includes a one time processing charge and your print-out of the top 15 matches from our current data base. As well, you automatically receive a **six month membership** during which other members may be matched with you; they will receive the authorized contact information you have provided. You can know of these matches *only when they contact you.*

You may also order our **MatchPlus** service for \$55.00. This fee includes 30 client matches and a 6 month membership for MatchPlus service customers. You may update your contact information at any time *without charge.*

What else do I need to know?

Members agree that the information they provide is complete and accurate. As well, that any information they receive from us is confidential, *for their personal use only*, in accordance with the objectives of the service.

We reserve the right to decline applications for any reason, if an application is declined a full refund will be issued. We also reserve the right to terminate any membership without refund if the information provided is found to be deliberately incomplete, untrue or deceptive.

How do I fill out the Application Form?

We know you hate reading instructions, but in order for us to provide you with the best possible service, please read these instructions carefully before filling out your Buddies 'n' Pals 'n' Partners Application Form.

At first 191 questions may seem a bit overwhelming, but, in fact, filling out the Application Form is really not that difficult if you follow these four steps:

STEP 1: Fill in the section entitled **Membership Information** (For office use only). Enter your name, full mailing address, zip code, phone number. (*We* will contact you by phone only if you include a phone number here). A mailing address is required for sending match lists.

STEP 2: Complete the **Contact Information** section and sign the disclaimer. The contact information you provide here will be given to members who match with you. The contact information should include your first name and phone number or a contact address. Use this section to tell members something about yourself, information that would not normally be included in the mini-profile. The use of this section is entirely up to you. However, giving out work phone numbers or home address is strongly discouraged!

STEP 3: The Boxes on the left hand side of each column are *used when the indicated attribute applies to you.* Check at least one box per section, only one box in sections which are mutually exclusive (i.e., Age, Height, Hair, Location).

STEP 4: The words **YES, OK** and **NO** to the left of the attribute name describe the type of person you would like to meet. Circle **YES** when the attribute is *strongly desired* in a match. Indicating a **YES** will never disqualify a potential match. Circle **OK** if it doesn't matter one way or the other. Circle **NO** if you would *not like* this attribute in a match. A **NO** acts as a vote against the person, it does not automatically disqualify them.

Computerized Application Form

Contact Information

Option 1: Contact information written below will be given out to members matching up with your profile. Contact information should include your first name and a phone number or some contact address. Work numbers and home address are discouraged!

(please print) _____

Disclaimer

By signing I agree that neither the computer dating service nor its agents has any liability and cannot be held responsible for any actions of its members as a result of the release of the authorized contact information indicated above. I also state that I am of legal age.

Signature _____

Date _____

Dear Buddy: Please read the instructions carefully so that your match list is not delayed due to errors on your application. Your application must be complete or it will be returned to you for correction. For best results, please indicate at least one of your own traits in each of the main sections of the application form (i.e. Age, Build, Race).

Membership Information

Please provide the following confidential information to help us service your membership. (All correspondence to members is mailed in plain envelopes.)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Fill out the form completely and mail, along with a check or money order for \$35 payable to **Buddies 'n' Pals 'n' Partners, P.O. Box 13326, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.**

Note: Mailing address required for sending match lists. Please allow one to two weeks for us to process your application.

Geographical Area

YES OK NO Atlanta area
 YES OK NO Remaining 404 call area
 YES OK NO 912 call area (Ga.)
 YES OK NO 704 call area (N.C.)
 YES OK NO 919 call area (N.C.)
 YES OK NO State of South Carolina
 YES OK NO State of Alabama
 YES OK NO Nashville/Knoxville/615

Type of Relationship

YES OK NO Lover (monogamous)
 YES OK NO Lover (nonmonogamous)
 YES OK NO Buddy (sexual)
 YES OK NO Buddy (platonic)
 YES OK NO One night stand
 YES OK NO Romantic fling
 YES OK NO Affair
 YES OK NO Pen-pal

Age Range

YES OK NO 18-21
 YES OK NO 21-25
 YES OK NO 25-30
 YES OK NO 30-35
 YES OK NO 35-40
 YES OK NO 40-50
 YES OK NO 50+

Build

YES OK NO Bodybuilder
 YES OK NO Muscular
 YES OK NO Average
 YES OK NO Slim
 YES OK NO Stocky
 YES OK NO Heavy
 YES OK NO Very Heavy

Height

YES OK NO 5'6" or less
 YES OK NO 5'6"-5'9"
 YES OK NO 5'9"-6'
 YES OK NO 6'-6'3"
 YES OK NO 6'3" or taller

Hair

YES OK NO Black
 YES OK NO Dark Brown
 YES OK NO Light Brown
 YES OK NO Auburn
 YES OK NO Red
 YES OK NO Strawberry Blond
 YES OK NO Blond
 YES OK NO White, gray
 YES OK NO Bald

Eyes

YES OK NO Blue
 YES OK NO Green
 YES OK NO Gray
 YES OK NO Hazel
 YES OK NO Brown
 YES OK NO Black

Facial/Body Hair

YES OK NO Smooth
 YES OK NO Clean Shaven
 YES OK NO Mustache
 YES OK NO Beard
 YES OK NO No body hair
 YES OK NO Smooth chest
 YES OK NO Hairy chest
 YES OK NO Very hairy

Race

YES OK NO Caucasian
 YES OK NO Asian oriental
 YES OK NO Black
 YES OK NO Latin
 YES OK NO East Indian

General Appearance

YES OK NO Very goodlooking
 YES OK NO Attractive
 YES OK NO Average
 YES OK NO Below average
 YES OK NO Yippie preppie
 YES OK NO Young executive
 YES OK NO Mature executive
 YES OK NO Trendy
 YES OK NO Collegiate jock

Dress

YES OK NO Casual (t-shirt, jeans)
 YES OK NO Sometimes sloppy
 YES OK NO High fashion
 YES OK NO Semi-formal
 YES OK NO Drag

Occupation

YES OK NO Financially independent
 YES OK NO Self-supporting
 YES OK NO Nonself-supporting
 YES OK NO Unemployed
 YES OK NO Student
 YES OK NO Office clerical
 YES OK NO Service/hospitality
 YES OK NO Sales
 YES OK NO Construction
 YES OK NO Technical
 YES OK NO Self-employed entrepreneur
 YES OK NO Managerial
 YES OK NO Professional
 YES OK NO Health Care
 YES OK NO Entertainment arts

Substance Use

YES OK NO Smoker
 YES OK NO Non-smoker
 YES OK NO Heavy drinker
 YES OK NO Social drinker
 YES OK NO Non-drinker
 YES OK NO Non-drug user
 YES OK NO Light drug user

Personality

YES OK NO Assertive
 YES OK NO Easy-going
 YES OK NO Outgoing
 YES OK NO Publicly affectionate
 YES OK NO Not publicly affectionate
 YES OK NO Shy reserved
 YES OK NO Very masculine
 YES OK NO Fairly masculine
 YES OK NO Somewhat feminine
 YES OK NO Very feminine
 YES OK NO Closeted

Social Activities

YES OK NO Spectator sports
 YES OK NO Working out
 YES OK NO Movies
 YES OK NO Live theatre
 YES OK NO TV/video
 YES OK NO Concerts
 YES OK NO Arts events
 YES OK NO Dining out
 YES OK NO Parties
 YES OK NO Bars/dancing
 YES OK NO Cooking
 YES OK NO Travel
 YES OK NO Camping/hiking
 YES OK NO Sailing/surfing
 YES OK NO Skiing
 YES OK NO Tennis/racquetball
 YES OK NO Swimming
 YES OK NO Cycling
 YES OK NO Music
 YES OK NO Photographer
 YES OK NO Painting/art

Beliefs

YES OK NO Catholic
 YES OK NO Protestant
 YES OK NO Jewish
 YES OK NO New age
 YES OK NO MCC
 YES OK NO Very religious
 YES OK NO Somewhat religious
 YES OK NO Not religious
 YES OK NO Politically liberal
 YES OK NO Conservative
 YES OK NO Social democrat

Sexual Preferences

YES OK NO Kissing
 YES OK NO Cuddling
 YES OK NO J.O.
 YES OK NO French/active

Special Considerations

YES OK NO Sensory speech handicap
 YES OK NO Movement handicap
 YES OK NO Have no privacy
 YES OK NO Have no transportation
 YES OK NO HIV negative
 YES OK NO Bisexual
 YES OK NO Transsexual



MAN-2-MAN COAST-2-COAST

TELEPHONE PERSONAL INTROS

NAMES & NUMBERS
FOR
DIRECT CONTACT!

1-(900)- **463-2222**

\$1/min. • \$2 first min. • Must be 18 or older

NAMES + NUMBERS =ACTION!

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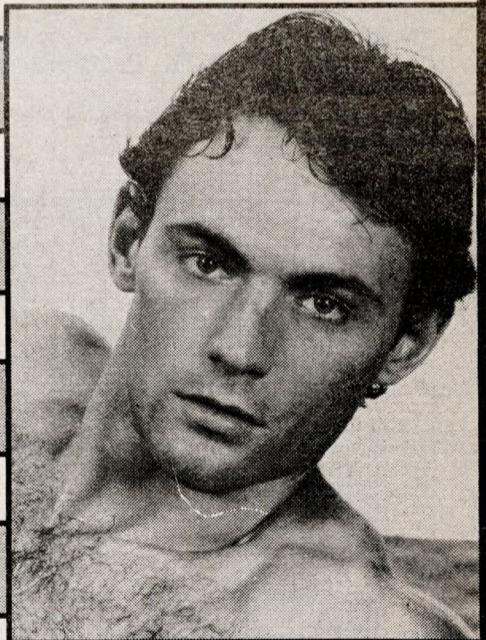
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\$1/min. • \$2 first min. • Must be 18 or older

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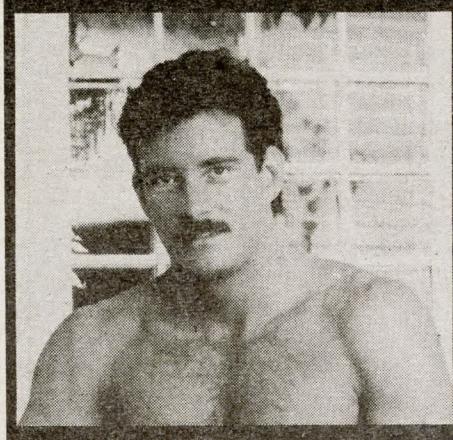
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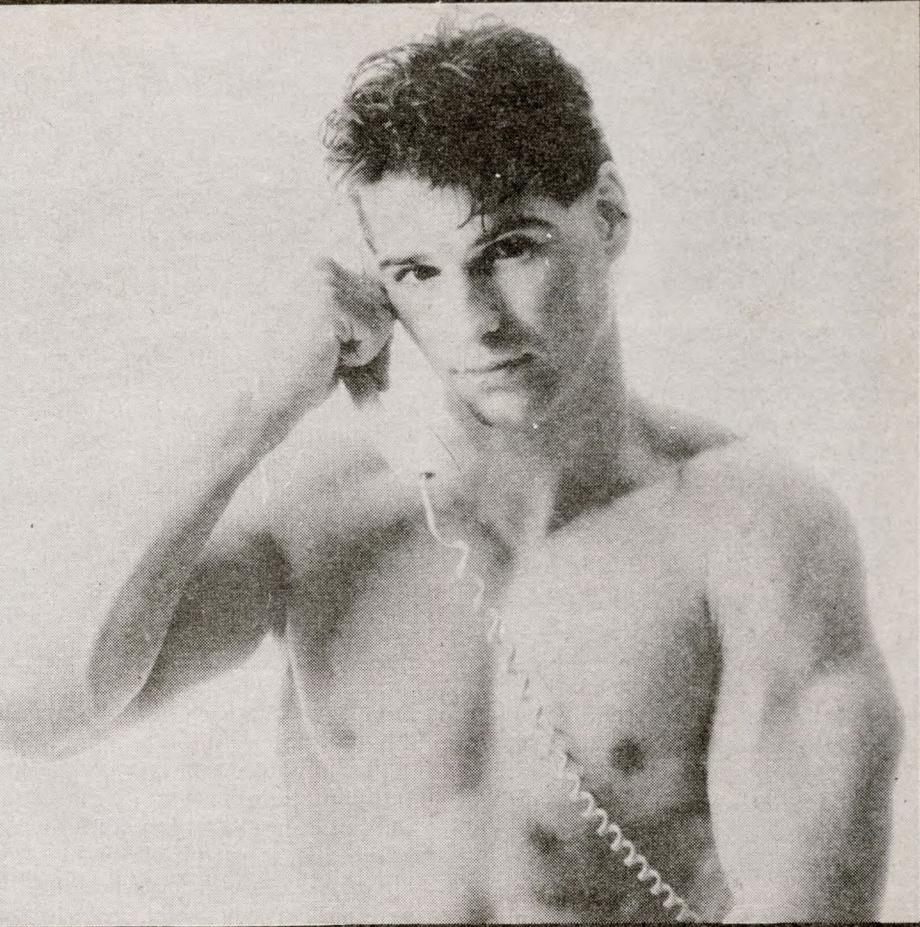
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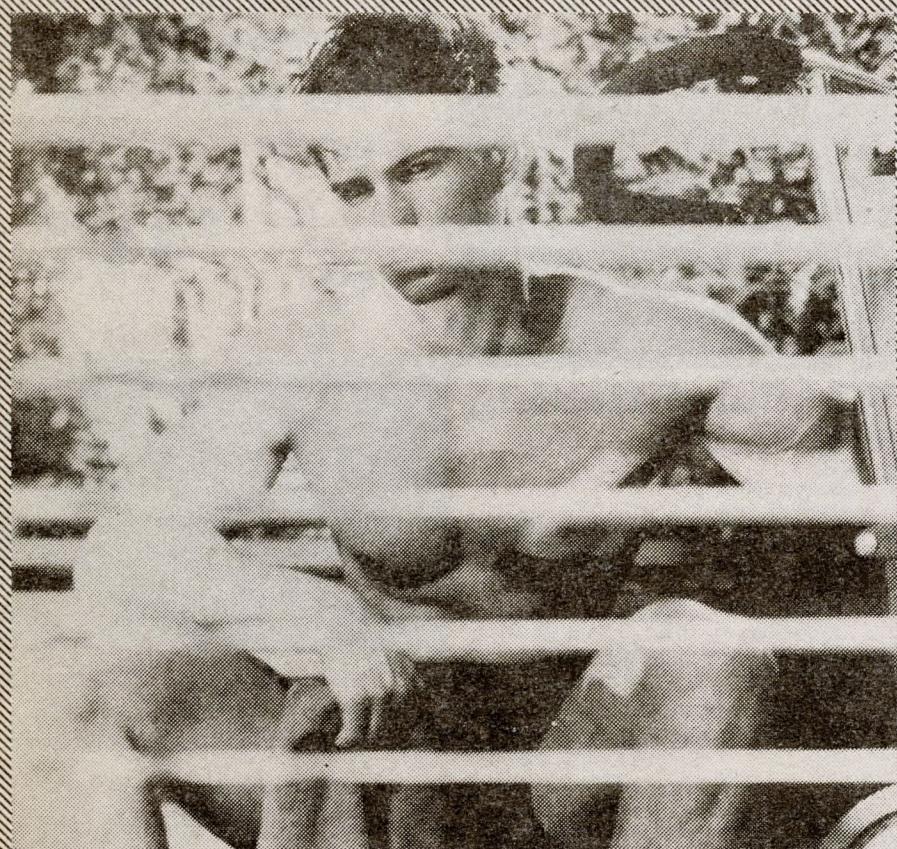
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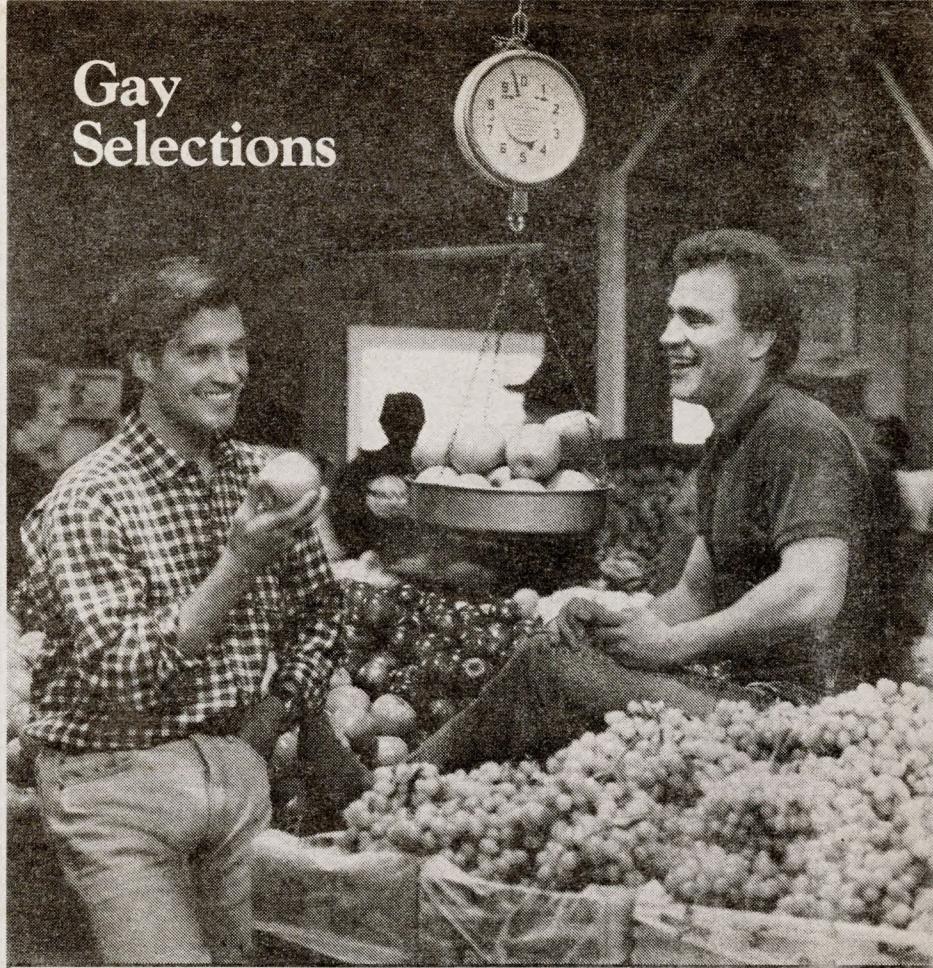
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NEWS

Barbara Bush Comes Out Against Anti-Gay Discrimination

by Cliff O'Neill

Washington—First Lady Barbara Bush, in a letter to the leader of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, has personally come out against anti-gay bias, saying that "we cannot tolerate discrimination against any individuals or groups in this country."

The memo, dated May 10 and written on White House stationery, came in response to a personal letter from Paulette Goodman, president of the national P-FLAG group.

"Thank you for your letter and for sharing your work with the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Inc.," wrote Mrs. Bush. "You sound like a caring parent and a compassionate citizen."

"I firmly believe that we cannot tolerate discrimination against any individuals or groups in this country," she added. "Such treatment always brings with it pain and perpetuates hate and intolerance. I appreciate so much your sharing the information about your organization and attitudes. Your words speak eloquently of your love and compassion for all gay Americans and their families."

The letter from Mrs. Bush marks the first statement ever from a First Family member speaking out directly against anti-gay discrimination.

"I'm absolutely delighted," stated Goodman, responding to Mrs. Bush's letter. "I knew that if she had the opportunity to read my letter she would respond, because she is a caring person."

Goodman, however, expressed concern about publicizing Mrs. Bush's letter, fearing a backlash from anti-gay forces. Goodman, when asked for comment, was not aware

*First lady responds to P-FLAG; calls for
"compassion for all gay Americans and their families"*



that a copy of the letter had been leaked to this reporter.

"I don't want to exploit this," she stated. "I hope people will not use [this letter] to bait the extreme Right, because that would be extremely counterproductive."

Gay and lesbian activists, however, were quick to point to Mrs. Bush's letter as another in a series of signals from the White House speaking out against all forms of discrimination.

"I think it is certainly a pleasant surprise to see the First Lady use the same kind of language her husband, the President, has used to describe their opposition to discrimination against any group of people in the United States," stated Greg King, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "I was particularly pleased to see Mrs. Bush to use the expres-

sion 'gay Americans and their families,' which clearly suggests she understands we are part of the fabric of American life and that lesbian and gay Americans do indeed have families whom we love and cherish."

Gay and lesbian activists in recent months have been surprised by and receptive to a handful of positive gestures from the Bush White House towards the gay and lesbian community.

In the past few months, Bush has given his first major speech on AIDS, calling for compassion for people with AIDS and passage of an AIDS anti-discrimination law; met with openly gay people with AIDS; spoken out against attempts to "censor" art; and invited members of gay and lesbian groups to the official signing of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

Also in the past year, White House offi-

cials have met with AIDS activists and members of a gay Republican group.

These gestures, however, have not gone unnoticed by anti-gay forces on Congress who, according to *The Washington Times*, have vehemently opposed the White House outreach to the gay and lesbian community.

According to the *Times*, anti-gay Reps. William Dannemeyer (R-CA), and Robert Dornan (R-CA) protested the gestures to White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, who reportedly promised them that the invitation to the signing ceremony was a one-time only occurrence. Dannemeyer and Dornan are reported to be currently lobbying Sununu to have the President find an issue with which to oppose the gay and lesbian community.

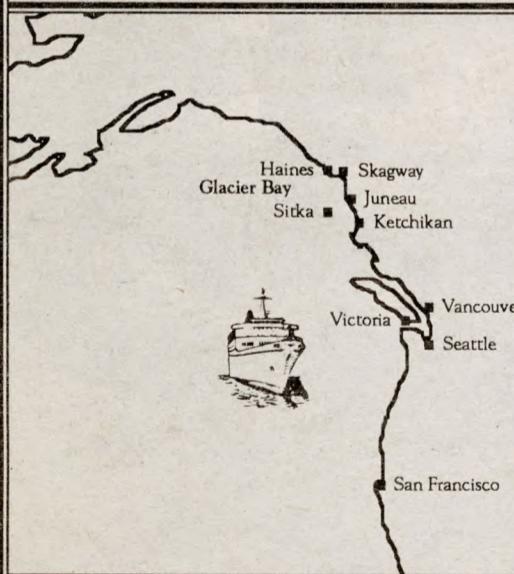
However, with the Americans with Disabilities Act—which includes the AIDS anti-discrimination law—poised for final passage by Congress, Bush may soon be faced with the prospect of inviting gay/lesbian and AIDS groups, which have lobbied for the bill, to the White House for another signing ceremony.

In published reports, White House spokesperson Alixe Glen has stated that the President was aware the invitations were offered to gay and lesbian activists, adding they were extended in order to be inclusive of all groups mentioned in the bill.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act mandates that the Justice Department collect and publish statistics of crimes motivated by bias based on race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

HRFC's King suggested that gay men and lesbians write the White House to support Mrs. Bush's statements and the President's actions toward the gay community.

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