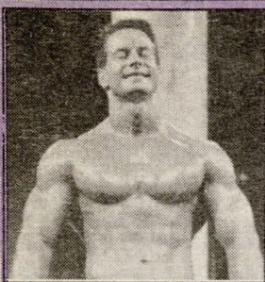


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Dan Rhonney is one of 36 Atlantans who brought medals home from the Gay Games.

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David Lynch's new movie is a big disappointment; ditto Jesus of Montreal.

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SOUTHERN**VOICE**

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August 30, 1990

COMING OUT IN COBB

Our self-admitted queer intown snob Debbie Fraker goes in search of gay and lesbian life beyond the perimeter

I walked into the bar. Two men with well-coiffed long black hair, dark tans, and tattoos sat with their arms around each other. Across the table were two more men, sedately dressed, in light cotton shirts and khaki slacks. They sat close with years-together casualness. At the end of the table was a crew-cut woman in hiking shorts, a t-shirt, and Birkenstocks.

I was in Marietta, and I wasn't the only queer in the house! In fact, this group had taken over the place, talking loud enough so that you would have to be deaf *not* to know they were gay.



EVERTT BENNETT

Changing times: same sex smooching in Marietta Square's gazebo.

Okay, I confess. I am a queer intown snob (QIS). Beginning research for this article, I asked myself, "Why would any gay man or lesbian *choose* to live in Cobb County?" But my assumptions that all Cobb County gays were safely in the closet and hard to find turned out to be wrong.

In fact, I learned something about the courage of coming out from some new friends—a lesbian who wears a crew cut in Cobb County; two women who posed kissing each other for our photographer on Marietta's square; and two couples of men camping it up and sucking face in the gazebo on the same square.

I spoke to about twenty gay men and

lesbians currently living in Cobb County. They were between the ages of 21 and 57, with incomes ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 (most falling between \$20,000 and \$29,000). Most had some college.

Only three people asked me not to use their names. Most say they are fairly open about their sexual orientation to friends, family, and business associates.

Many of these folks were also part of the newly-formed "Cobb County Group." One organizer describes it as a fairly typical suburban social club—but one that fills an important need for gay and lesbian social activities in Cobb.

My research was, of course, skewed by talking only to people who had

already expressed interest in being interviewed. The point of view that I heard did not represent any gay/lesbian Cobb residents of color, though one of the organizers of the Cobb County Group says there are interracial couples who attend group activities.

Why Cobb County?

Some gay Cobb residents have lived there all their lives. Others grew up in the 'burbs and moved back after a stint in Midtown or out of state. Still others moved to Cobb because it is peaceful, quiet, and safer. Yes, safer.

Almost everyone who lives in Cobb mentioned the lower crime rate. But they also expressed fear of being the

target of gay-bashing or hate crimes. One woman explained to me, however, that she felt less likely to be attacked in Cobb for being a lesbian than in Midtown—there, we make a larger target.

In general, gay and lesbian Cobb residents are in the suburbs for the same reasons straight suburbanites are there: more house for the money; to be near family; and to get away from the crime and traffic of the city. A few said they would happily move back to an Intown neighborhood—if they could afford as nice a home as they have in Cobb—but most are quite happy where they are.

Continued on page 5

METRO GAYS AND LESBIANS SWEEP DEMO CONVENTION CAUCUSES

Local media mum on LEGAL's most successful sweep in two years

by Ian Ginsburg and Andrea K. Brown

Atlanta—In a quiet grassroots "blitzkrieg," metro area lesbians and gay men have won the majority of seats in six districts to the Georgia Democratic Convention, to be held September 8th at the Georgia World Congress Center. The August 17 move was organized by LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Gays And Lesbians); it took even Democratic party veterans by surprise.

Openly gay/lesbian candidates and their friends took seats in three additional districts as part of the LEGAL action.

In Cobb County, three gay and lesbian delegates, not part of the LEGAL platform, were elected to the State Convention.

Delegates to the State Democratic Convention adopt party policy and legislative platforms, as well as nominate and elect state party officers and congressional district chairs. They are also charged with considering reports from convention committees, and acting upon other matters as the convention deems necessary.

Using a strategy reminiscent of its organizing in the 1988 presidential and DeKalb County Democratic Party caucuses, LEGAL focussed its efforts on being the largest and best-organized voting-bloc at the local caucuses. In the 36th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, and 55th districts, LEGAL took a majority of the delegate seats, with a total of 74 lesbians and gay men chosen as delegates—and 20 as alternates—to the state convention. LEGAL's original goal had been the election of 50 delegates.

The stunning victories in Fulton and DeKalb were preceeded by distributing slates naming candidates who supported gay and lesbian issues to candidates and their supporters at an organizational rally held the morning of the caucuses.

At the caucus sites in each State Senate district, LEGAL-friendly delegates were identified by yellow stickers; one or two LEGAL floor managers were present at each of the polling sites to help eliminate confusion. The paper balloting process was less than secret; in their one-minute speeches prior to the voting, some candidates made statements about their sexual orientation and/or their support of the lesbian/gay agenda, while others did not.

Members of a number of cooperative lesbian and gay groups—from Integrity and ACT UP to GAPAC, HRCF and AALGA—lent their support to LEGAL's efforts. Asked whether this was the beginning of a new era of cooperation between metro area lesbian and gay organizations, Pdraig McManus McLoughlin, president of LEGAL, commented that "working together and united there is nothing we cannot achieve."

Many of the one hundred plus participants at the early morning pre-caucus rally expressed their apprehension over their "unrehearsed quantum leap," as one LEGAL member described it, into mainstream Democratic politics. Some feared they would be overwhelmingly defeated, while others wondered if the Democratic Party had gotten wind of LEGAL's plans and would be sending party regulars "out in droves."

These concerns were laid to rest as the results from around the city became known at a post-caucus party held at the home of LEGAL's Rich Jones and Bob Briggs.

In District 40, Jones was one of 15 LEGAL candidates elected. He plans to run for a four-year seat on the Georgia



Delegates and supporters celebrate after their caucus victories.

BARBARA SNELL

Democratic Committee as 4th Congressional District Chair, which would put him in charge of the caucuses in that district. The election will take place at the upcoming State Convention, and, because of the large number of delegate seats taken in 6 of the 9 senate districts within the 4th Congressional District, his chances of winning are "very good," says LEGAL's McLoughlin.

As might be expected, LEGAL's action created some controversy. In many of the district caucuses lesbians and gay men—predominantly the latter—were pitted against black Democratic party regulars. (Notably absent from LEGAL's coalition were lesbians of color.) Though LEGAL was in fact doing nothing wrong procedurally by turning out large numbers to support its objectives, the strategy antagonized more than one black Democrat.

In the 40th district, Caucus Chairperson Francis Turner stated, "It's clear that LEGAL has come in here with your delegates and taken over. I think you need to think long and hard about the implications of these actions."

And long-time Democratic party activist Gloria Tinubu of the 36th district reminded newly-elected LEGAL delegates about the importance "of the Democratic party representing all peoples, races, creeds and colors."

"Despite this move and our election of openly gay members to the Fulton County Democratic Committee, none of these folks [who are complaining] have come to us and asked what our issues are, why we're doing all this organizing," responds Rich Jones, LEGAL member.

LEGAL's McLoughlin comments that it is so-much sour grapes. "We [LEGAL], according to party rules, graciously and without malice, won the majority of seats. If we took some of the folks by surprise, so be it."

McLoughlin, however, goes on to describe friendly interaction with some Democrats, including Congressman John Lewis' office and Scotty Greenwood, caucus coordinator at Party Headquarters, after the delegate elections.

At Georgia Democratic Party Headquarters, *Southern Voice* found two attitudes reigning, in apparent contradiction—a "Day After" sense of doom, and a blase "it's okay, you [LEGAL] had the votes" attitude. One high-up official who preferred to remain anonymous felt that LEGAL now represented a "sizable five to ten percent minority in statewide total delegates, depending on how many total delegates show up at the convention."

The source went on to say, "We've been alerted now and we'll be ready for them."

But, asserts McLoughlin, "We're here to participate, and even when we lose, it still makes a statement that we want to take our rightful place in Georgia Democratic politics."

GAY AND ARTS ADVOCATES MONITOR CENSORSHIP TRENDS

Jones insists his record is clear on arts funding votes

by Andrea K. Brown

Washington, DC—Votes to cut funding for Judy Chicago's "The Dinner Party" at the University of DC (UDC) campus (reported in the last issue of *Southern Voice*) may reflect where individual legislators stand on the hot issue of arts funding and censorship. This, according to Peri Jude Radecic, Legislative Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Georgia Rep. Ben Jones (D-4th) voted for the funding cut, along with 9 out of 10 of his Georgia peers; Rep. John Lewis (D-5th) was the exception.

The House voted in late July to cut appropriations for UDC in response to that institution's decision to fund the permanent exhibition of "The Dinner Party," a controversial feminist work.

"The vote of 297-123 [with the minority against the cut] mirrors almost exactly my count for those Members who are likely to reauthorize the NEA [National Endowment for the Arts] for five years without content restrictions," says NGLTF's Radecic.

Peter Ruzicka, press secretary for Ben

Jones, insists however that this "was not an art vote, but an education funding vote."

Jones, says Ruzicka, was "not voting against the right to display the art, but to establish a priority at UDC in terms of how it uses its funding." Ruzicka is referring to the debt—stated to be in the millions—that UDC owes to its faculty, due to funding shortfalls in the past. If the University holds off on its plans to cash the \$1.6 million in bonds necessary to install the artwork, the bill allows them to receive their full appropriation, according to Ruzicka.

Jones' representative also emphasizes the Congressman's record of votes supporting NEA funding and opposing restrictions. "As an artist himself—he is an actor—Jones feels very strongly about arts funding."

The Senate is expected to consider the DC Appropriations bill in September.

Meanwhile, gay activists fear that if federal funding of gay-related art is cut, gay and lesbian advocates could lose the momentum gained by their recent successes in Congress, with the passage of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act and the AIDS CARE bill. Votes on NEA funding and restrictions may reflect not just attitudes toward art and censorship but toward gay and lesbian issues and visibility in general.

The New York chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD/NY) is conducting letter campaigns through its Freedom of Expression project, as part of the effort to encourage funding the NEA without restrictions.

Letters have been written to the President's Commission on the NEA, urging members to "take a strong leadership role and stand firm against...expressions of homophobia."

■■■

West Hollywood—Censorship even more restrictive than that involved in the N.E.A. battle is at issue. A billboard disparaging Jesse Helms as an "Artificial Art Official" was removed by the advertising company that originally accepted it for display, because of its potential for controversy. The billboard, which featured a portrait of Helms "as an ugly white bureaucrat with a hole in his head," in artist Robbie Conal's own words, was on display for just a week before the National Advertising Company's (N.A.C.) national marketing director Jim Shaheen saw it, and ordered its removal.

Conal, who is a self-described "guerrilla artist," insists that this is the type of censorship he was critiquing with the billboard, which he paid for himself. A spokesman for 3-M, parent company of the N.A.C., insists the decision to remove the billboard was simply "a matter of judgment and taste."

■■■

As the September session approaches, readers are once again reminded that they can participate in a congressional telegram program organized by arts activists by calling 1-900-226-ARTS. The call costs \$4.50, and allows you to send messages to your Senators and Congressperson.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY AD CALLS FOR SPONSORS

National Coming Out Day will be celebrated with a full-page ad in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on October 11 according to organizers for the event.

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is "a call to action," on the anniversary of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987. The first NCOD ad in the *Atlanta J-C* was published in 1988.

This year, the advertisement will feature the late Keith Haring's drawing of a figure coming out of the closet, and, as did the 1988 ad, will include the names of those contributors whose "next step" includes coming out in a public forum.

Since the primary goal of the ad is to increase the visibility of gays and lesbians in this country, and by doing so, garner support for gay rights, the NCOD committee is hoping that enough money will be raised to buy a full page—\$11,000.

Send for a release form if you wish to have your name printed, or send donations to NCOD-Atlanta, 1579 F Monroe Drive, Box 215, Atlanta, GA 30324. Payment deadline is October 1.

MONTREAL GAYS AND LESBIANS PROTEST POLICE VIOLENCE

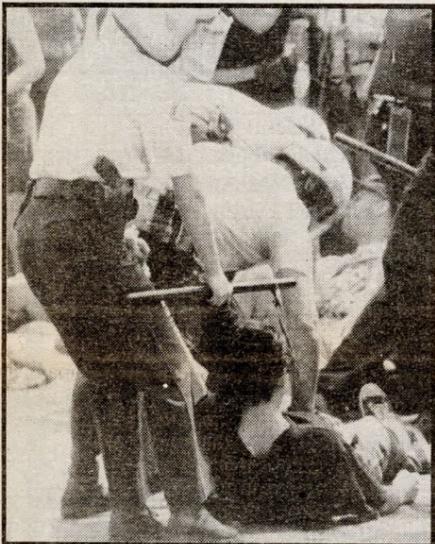
Massive brutality brings unity and demands from activists

by Andrea K. Brown

Montreal—A brutal police raid on a private gay party, and ensuing violence against those protesting the raid, has disparate elements of the lesbian and gay community here joining together to express their outrage.

According to Montreal's Lesbians and Gays Against Violence, a coalition formed in response to the recent incidents of brutality, law enforcement officers from Station 25 physically and verbally attacked approximately 300 people at a private party, in the early morning hours of July 15. Some 50 people were injured in the raid, and eight were arrested for allegedly assaulting an officer. Injuries included head wounds and sprains, according to Boston's *Gay Community News*.

About 900 demonstrators at a peaceful sit-in later that day called for the police to drop all charges against those arrested, conduct an independent inquiry regarding the incident, and provide lesbian/gay seats on the Montreal Urban Community (MUC) police force's Commission of Interracial and Intercultural Affairs.



ALFRED HEPWORTH

Montreal police attack a demonstrator protesting earlier police violence at a private gay party.

When the MUC did not fulfill its promise to address demands by noon the following day, 250 protesters staged a lunchtime kiss-in at Station 25. Police, dressed in riot gear, surrounded the protesters and then beat them, in full view of bystanders and members of the press. In the attack, 70 were injured and 48 arrested. The police reportedly used clubs, and hit demonstrators on their arms and abdomens.

Police later conceded that undue force was used during the party raid, and that there is a problem between the police and the lesbian/gay community in Montreal. Concrete promises of measures to address this problem have yet to be made.

Most of the organized response to the violence came out of ACT UP/Montreal, including a July 29 demonstration, with attendance of about 2,000. Lesbians and Gays Against Violence (LGV) has now taken over the organizing, and is keeping up the pressure on public officials and the MUC police force.

LGV has brought together "people of diverse political perspectives," says Patrizia Tavormina, one of the organizers of the group. The effort even has some lesbian separatists working with gay men, despite continuing problems with sexism and a lack of understanding of lesbian feminist politics, according to Tavormina.

Older gay men are the one group without a substantial presence in the united

effort, says Michael Hendricks, press coordinator with LGV. Further, Hendricks is unhappy with the city for addressing itself only to the Coalition for Sexual Minorities, which he claims is made up of older gay men "who want to be recognized by power, and try to present themselves as legitimate representatives of the community."

LGV representatives went to the opening session of the City Council on August 13 to question the Councillors and the Mayor about their lack of attention and response to the lesbian and gay community on the question of police brutality.

"They said they're waiting for the police report to be complete—then something will be done. They're trying to wait until it blows over," commented Hendricks.

But LGV does not intend to let things blow over. One avenue of action under consideration is a public hearing on the question with the Public Security Commission. PSC head, Lia Couzineau, seems to at least be "taking responsibility" for what happened, says Tavormina.

Of immediate focus is getting representation—one seat for a lesbian, one for a gay man—on MUC's Commission of Interracial and Intercultural Affairs. The Commission is having its symposium on intercultural relations September 16-18. Tavormina believes "this conference should be a turning point on where LGV and the police force stand."

Tavormina feels there is "a good chance to get representation on the panel," but adds that if seats are not created for lesbian and gay representatives, there are plans for further demonstrations.

GAY CRIMES REPORTED TO BE ON ELDRIN BELL'S AGENDA

Metro bias incidents continue

Atlanta—It's no secret that lesbian and gay activists have worries about newly chosen police Commissioner Eldrin Bell's widely rumored homophobia and roughshod enforcement methods. But Bell's statement that he would be "sensitive to addressing crime against the citizens of our gay community" has activists holding their tongues.

Several weeks prior to the announcement of Bell's appointment, members of the Mayor's Senior Advisor group reported that Mr. Jackson assured them that he had raised the issue of gay and lesbian concerns with all of the candidates for the Police Chief post. Jackson assured the advisors that all the candidates had voiced a willingness to have openly gay/lesbian officers on the force.

Within days after his appointment, Bell's background was the center of a controversy. A Georgia Bureau of Investigations report that, according to the Mayor, "did not produce anything new" on Bell was not reviewed by City Council members prior to their giving unanimous approval to Bell's appointment.

■ ■ ■
Bias crimes in metro Atlanta continue unabated. Since last issue the Police Advisory Committee has received reports of 10 bias incidents according to chair, Cathy Woolard.

The preponderance of these incidents have occurred in the area bordered by 10th and 14th Streets between Peachtree and Monroe where groups of men have been attacking gay men in the early morning hours.

"Walking alone, or even in groups, (in the early morning hours) in this area is a really bad idea," warns Woolard. "Call a cab or get a friend to take you home."

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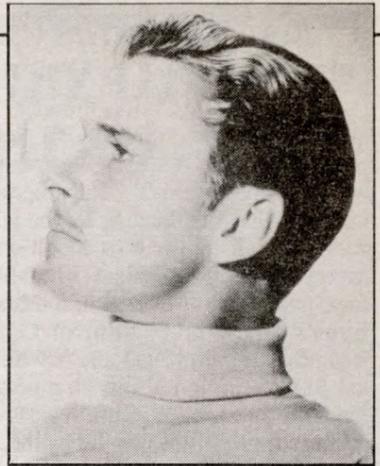
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BUSH SIGNS AIDS CARE BUT FUNDS ARE IN QUESTION

Washington, D.C.—As President Bush quietly signed the AIDS CARE Act into effect on August 18, AIDS activists are worried about approval of appropriations that would provide funding for the bill. It's very difficult to say how much will be approved given the problems in the Middle East, predictions of recession, and the likelihood of the invocation of Gramm-Rudman. If implemented, the bill will funnel \$881.5 million a year in emergency funds for the next two years, to areas of the country disproportionately hit by the AIDS crisis. Atlanta is scheduled for \$4.5 million in year one. The funding is vital in the provision of adequate health care services for the HIV-infected.

FLORIDA CHRISTIANS SMEAR GAY RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Ft. Lauderdale—The Christian Coalition of Broward County has begun a campaign against the inclusion of sexual orientation in a discrimination protection clause of the county's Human Rights Act. The question is to be on the ballot in the General Election on September 4. The coalition, brainchild of Pat Robertson, says the measure will guarantee greater legal rights to gays and lesbians than "average" people, and establish homosexuality as a "legitimate" part of the community. On a flyer, to be distributed in a door-to-door campaign, the group warns voters that the county could become "a haven for homosexuals and lesbians." United Citizens for Human Rights, a group campaigning for the amendment, says the coalition relies on these smear tactics, refusing to debate the issue openly and failing to follow laws governing such political campaigns.

RIGHT-WING PAC BLASTS BOYCOTTERS

The Conservative Campaign Fund—a small political action committee which has contributed at least \$10,000 to the Helms campaign—has filed complaints with the Federal Elections Committee (FEC), claiming a number of groups in support of the Philip Morris boycott are in violation of FEC laws for illegally attempting to influence the North Carolina elections. ACT UP/D.C., ACT UP/S.F., the Dallas Gay Alliance, the Dallas Tavern Guild, the Tarrant County Gay Alliance, Florida's Cure AIDS Now, and two ACT UP spokespeople are named on the complaints. The primary response from these parties has been to express pleasure that the Miller/Marlboro boycott is apparently having some effect. Meanwhile, in the Atlanta area, Smyrna activist David Greer is working to get ACT UP support in a leafletting campaign aimed at convincing metro gay/lesbian bars to stop serving Miller beer.

CHARGES AGAINST COP-BITER DROPPED

Chicago—The Cook County state's attorney's office has dropped two counts of "willful transmission of the AIDS virus" against a transsexual man who bit and scratched police officers while being arrested in March. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, the prosecuting attorneys realized they could not prove the virus could be transmitted from saliva to the bloodstream, after consulting medical experts. The case is reminiscent of Greg Scroggins, who also bit an officer during an arrest. Bruce Harvey, Scroggins' attorney, who is appealing the conviction, says new medical testimony can only be introduced if the appeal is won for a retrial.

MINISTER'S SUPPORT OF GAY RIGHTS LOSES HIM HIS JOB

Raleigh, N.C.—The Reverend Jimmy Creech, whose participation in a 1988 gay pride parade and support for gay/lesbian rights resulted in petitions demanding his removal as pastor at Fairmont United Methodist Church here, is now without a sanctuary. After two years of repeated calls for his resignation, and a decrease in contributions and attendance, the Reverend requested reassignment elsewhere. Anyone who wishes to support Creech—who, at the moment, is out of a job and a salary—and express thanks to him for his support of the gay community, may send donations/letters to the Jimmy Creech Appreciation Fund, P.O. Box 26284, Raleigh, NC 27611.

DUKAKIS VETOES RESTRICTIVE FOSTER CARE AMENDMENT

Boston—Governor Michael Dukakis vetoed a budget amendment earlier this month which could have restricted the rights of gays and lesbians to adopt, be guardians, or be foster parents of children in the state of Massachusetts. The veto came in response to public pressure and lobbying orchestrated by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. Ironically, the Coalition says, increases in restrictions began with Dukakis' 1985 decision to have two foster children removed from the home of two gay men.

IMPORT AND RESEARCH ON ABORTION PILL HALTS

Cancer specialist Dr. William Regelson denounced the unavailability of the French abortion pill, RU-486, in the United States, saying it denies "drugs to the living because of political activism regarding the

unborn," in a recent commentary in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Boycott threats by anti-abortion activists convinced the German-based company which imported RU-486 into the U.S. to cease shipments in April 1989. A National Cancer Institute study that was to research the drug's effects on AIDS patients never began because of difficulties in obtaining it for study.

LECH WALESA STREET SIGNS DISAPPEAR IN SF

San Francisco—Activists from the Queer Nation here held a demonstration on Lech Walesa Street (formerly Ivy Street) to protest the

Solidarity Union leader's reported remark that he would "eliminate homosexuals" from Polish society. Walesa, apparently grouped gays with drug users as socially undesirable, in a campaign speech. The demonstrators tried to remove the Lech Walesa Street sign and replace it with one that said Queer Street, but were stopped by police. But later that evening someone succeeded (see photo). The Polish Embassy issued a statement that same day claiming media reports of Walesa's comments were untrue.



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COMING OUT IN COBB

(Continued from page 1)

What's Cobb Like for Queers?

Calvin told me that he is sometimes afraid he will come home and find the word "queer" or worse painted on his house. So far his neighbors have been friendly, but Calvin is careful not to kiss his lover in the doorway as he leaves for work.

David is equally careful not to wear his gay t-shirts in the gym when he works out.

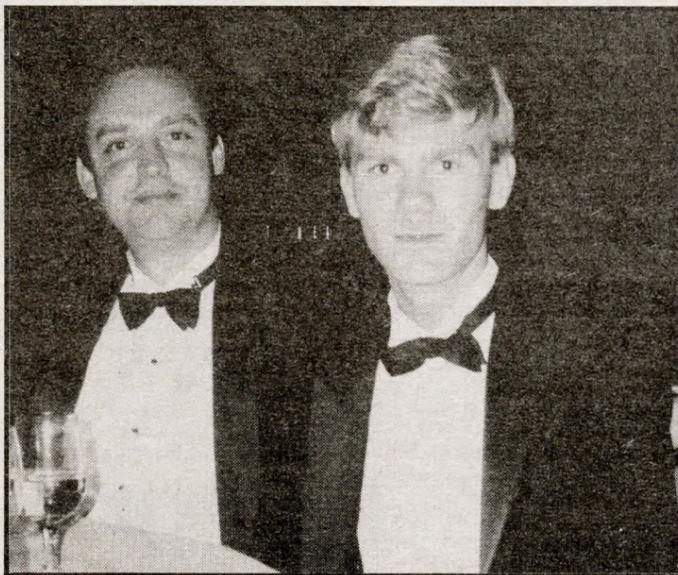
And where *does* a fellow go for dinner when he gets all dressed up? When Kent does himself up as Vicki Blake, he and Luke usually (but not always) go into Midtown to eat. But, Calvin complains, there aren't really any nice restaurants in Austell anyway.

Apparently, one doesn't wear one's leather paraphernalia from the front door to the car in Cobb either. Bruce and Tony remember that Greg Scroggins and Paul Murray were decked out in their leather when they were arrested, so when they want to strut their stuff, they find a place to change on the way to town.

On the other hand, Cobb queers don't have to get all dressed up to go to the grocery store. Admit it! How many of you would go to the Ansley Kroger without changing out of that old t-shirt you only wear around the house. Cobb residents say they feel liberated from the Midtown fashion police.

And Donna does have a pink triangle and a gay flag sticker on the back window of her truck.

For the most part, the advantages of living in Cobb have nothing to do with being gay. Remember what it was like to visit your grandparents in the country as a kid? To get away from constant traffic? To be in a place where you could talk to strangers without being afraid? And to even be able to leave the car unlocked?



Jon and David at an HRCF dinner; both are active in the Cobb County Group and were recently elected delegates to the Georgia Democratic Convention.

Straight people who live in the suburbs have always told me they were trying to establish a safe, wholesome space for themselves and their children. Though I didn't talk to any gay Cobb residents with kids, everyone expressed the desire for a safe, tranquil space in which to live.

What Are Your Politics?

Most of the folks I interviewed didn't often vote. When they did cast a ballot, however, gay issues were

very important to their decision-making process.

"If you had a choice, would you choose lower property taxes or repeal of the sodomy law?" received the resounding, unanimous response of "repeal the sodomy law." Well, of course.

How's Your Social Life?

By far, the most often heard complaint of Cobb lesbians and gay men was the lack of opportunities to get together with other gays. Midtown is only 20 minutes away, but that's not the same as living on a street that's 30 or 50 percent gay.

So far the answer to this problem has come from individual efforts like those who managed to find each other and get together at the restaurant in Marietta.

The Cobb County Group, however, is trying to provide a more broad-based solution to this problem. They encourage anyone interested to attend a meeting or party—emphasizing that it is a safe place for meeting other gay men and lesbians and that privacy is respected. It seems to be a flexible social option for anyone interested in meeting other Cobb County gays and lesbians—singles or couples. And, I am told, that at the last meeting there were close to

50 people.

So let's review what we've learned. There are middle class, suburban queers in Cobb County who are as out as any Midtown guppies. There are also biker dykes and leather queens north of the Chattahoochee.

And there are Cobb residents who remember when Cobb County used to be more country and less urban. Some of *them* are thinking about moving even further out, say to Cherokee County. My Goddess, we *are* everywhere!

BACK FROM THE 'BURBS

Not every gay man or lesbian in Cobb County is happy there.

Bruce and Tony, for example, plan to move into town in September—to be closer to gay businesses and activities, to be more involved in the intown gay community.

Samantha moved to Little Five Points several weeks ago. She wanted to be near the political activities that are so important to her and share in the strong sense of community she feels in town.

Bruce and Tony have lived in Cobb County for a year and complain of a feeling of negativity and racism there. Although they enjoy the suburban environs, they are concerned about the politically conservative attitudes of many Cobb residents.

Samantha, who is active with the National Organization for Women, had lived in Cobb for two decades. What bugged her the most is the "Dunwoody housewife circle" of East Cobb. She was frustrated that these women ignored and ostracized women who didn't fit their expectations. And concerned about the level of animosity she found toward "out" gays and lesbians. Samantha felt that—though she didn't consciously hide while living in Cobb—she unconsciously moderated herself.

Another woman (one of the few who asked that her name not be mentioned) left Cobb recently—primarily because her relationship broke up, but she would probably have left Cobb soon anyway for a home base more convenient to work. She was also frustrated that what was country ten years ago has become a boring suburban neighborhood. One reason she is afraid seems connected to her experiences



EVETT BENNETT

Samantha (R) moved to L5P after twenty years in Cobb; the "Dunwoody housewife circle" in East Cobb was too much for her. Lynne (L) remains a contented Cobb resident, active in organizing the Cobb County Group.

in Cobb. She wanted to be sure that readers knew that the Ku Klux Klan still marches regularly in Kennesaw.

The fact that Lynne wanted to emphasize the Cobb County Group's respect for everyone's privacy reminded me that there are still lots of Cobb gays and lesbians in the closet. And these folks make it clear that Cobb County is certainly not a haven for queers. But if you're in Cobb and you want to stay, you don't have to feel alone.

For more information about the Cobb County Group call 434-7826 or write: Cobb County Group, P.O. Box 675556, Marietta, GA 30067-0017.

—Debbie Fraker

CLOSE, BUT NO MIDTOWN

A look at gay politics, media and business in Cobb

"Anyone is welcome to live in Cobb County," echoes the sentiments expressed by both Smyrna Mayor Arthur Max Bacon and his Marietta counterpart, Joe Mack Wilson. "But," Mayor Bacon adds, "I think living in Cobb would probably take more of an adjustment for homosexuals than, say, living in Midtown."

Exactly what adjustments is Mayor Bacon referring to? Does he mean adjusting to the ignorance of most Cobb County politicians concerning gay and lesbian issues? Or could he be speaking of dealing with the dearth of gay-owned business and organizations in Cobb. But then his honor might be talking about adjusting to the "non-existent" policy enforced by Cobb County's media toward gay and lesbian residents.

Both Mayor Bacon and Mayor Wilson state that they are really not familiar with the lifestyles of homosexuals. In fact, during their terms in offices, both say they have never been confronted by any gay or lesbian issue.

(Three gay Cobbites did recently get themselves elected as delegates to the Georgia Democratic Convention. See page 2.)

"Of course I know that homosexuals do live in Cobb County, but they pretty much keep to themselves," says Mayor Bacon.

Mayor Wilson adds, "Cobb County is a quiet community with a lot to offer all residents. Gays will probably be attracted to Cobb County because we do have many different kinds of entertainment establishments here, such as malls and theaters."

But do these malls, theaters, and other businesses in Cobb County happily accept gay and lesbian customers?

A majority of the gay and lesbian residents in Cobb County interviewed for this article felt that businesses generally treated

them no differently from other residents. But according to one anonymous lesbian, "Gays and lesbians in Cobb County usually don't publicly display their sexual orientation."

Gay-owned businesses in Cobb? Few are publicly known. The owners wish to keep their homosexuality anonymous.

"Being gay has nothing to do with my business. For the sake of my business, I do not advertise my homosexuality," says one business owner whose clientele is about 95 percent straight.

What about the media in Cobb County? Are gay and lesbian issues being accurately covered?

The general feeling of the Cobb County media toward gay and lesbian residents seems to be that homosexuals do not exist. As a matter of fact, the only recent gay- or lesbian-themed article to appear in *The Marietta Journal* was a brief write-up of the Greg Scroggins rally held in July.

"Basically, *The Marietta Journal* and its affiliates cover stories that are relevant to residents of Cobb County. Since gay and lesbian residents of Cobb County do not vocally or visually identify themselves as an important percentage of the population, homosexual issues tend to go unreported," says Melanie Moore, a staff writer for the *Kennesaw and Acworth Neighbor*.

Finding a gay and lesbian newspaper or magazine in Cobb County is almost impossible; *Southern Voice* has only one drop point in Cobb. That's not because businesses are unwilling to have the paper, according to *SV*'s circulation manager Jana Tyson. The problem is a combination of the difficulty of serving the widely spread drop points that are available and the fact that gay and lesbian residents of Cobb are reticent to pick the paper up in public places on their home turf.

Living in Cobb—where you can breathe a little fresher air and revel about how low those mortgage payments are—is definitely not for every lesbian or gay man. On the other hand, Intown Atlanta is only a 20-minute drive away.

—K.D. Childers



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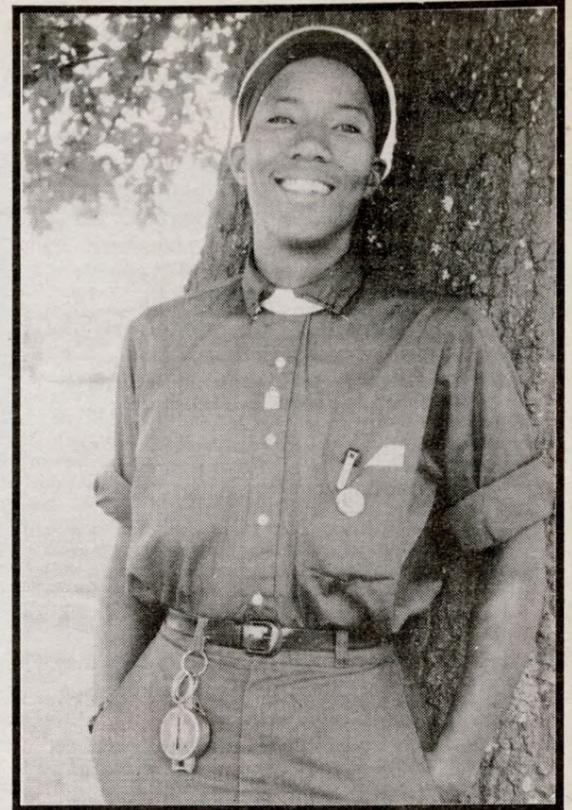
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EVETT BENNETT

Age: 31

Hometown:
Atlanta, GA

Occupation:
Volunteer for the
Hunger Coalition
of Georgia;
street minister

Plans:
To continue her
ministry to the
homeless.

SAIDAH: No Group is an Island

Saidah moves. You can never be sure where she will be next. In Woodruff Park with the homeless; at the condemned Imperial Hotel with its occupiers ready to hold a candlelight vigil and to go to jail; at gatherings of drug-damaged youth in shelters; marching in Selma, Alabama, to protest deficient education for black children—Saidah (pronounced "Sigh-ee") is going to be there, and she is going to be visible.

Saidah has an easy friendly manner, but tension is always evident just below the surface. Her voice is quiet and low; her style of speaking, detailed, careful, almost academic. Loose-jointed slim, dancer-like, quick in movement. She appears wiry and strong, but she is more physically frail than she looks. She's a bird of passage, a sparrow of the city streets.

Sandy Enos was born in Atlanta 31 years ago. She recently took the name of "Saidah" to indicate that she feels called to minister in a specific way to the homeless. She has done many different things in her life, including working as a truck driver. She attended Georgia State University, to major in philosophy and social work. But the traditional paths have never been for her.

At present she is a volunteer with the Hunger Coalition of Georgia. "We provide emergency assistance by putting people in touch with the churches, pantries, places where they can get food."

She started her street ministry in 1986. "I was working a 60-hour-a-week job, and I would go to Woodruff Park on weekends and minister to the people there. Then I set up an outreach center in an apartment building on Houston Street. People could come there for emergency help. We had Bible study, and it was also a place where I could have quiet time for me, where I lived, and where anyone who just needed to talk could come."

What has led Saidah to her present work as a minister to the homeless? "I hesitate to use the word 'Christian' because it's been so dissected, but I am a spiritual person, and the spiritual leader that I follow is Jesus the Christ. And the children of God are supposed to

minister to the poor and the hungry and the homeless."

Saidah participated in the takeover of the condemned Imperial Hotel: "Two weeks prior to the takeover, some people from the Existentialist Congregation and I went to a candlelight vigil to show support. I still had my own apartment then. Two days before the 4th of July, I went down there and asked them if I could become part of their organization. When I walked in, they asked me if I was willing to go to jail."

The mayor has since awarded those people a space at 234 Memorial Drive, but Saidah is no longer with the group.

She has, however, made a conscious decision to live as a homeless person. That decision comes from her desire to minister to the street people: "You have to go where the people are. 'Street' is a word I use to mean outside the conventional church structure. It might be a drug rehab center, or in Woodruff Park, or in a shelter."

Now she lives, as she puts it: "from pillar to post." She has stayed with her mother, with friends, briefly at the Union Mission.

Saidah regularly attends the First Existentialist Congregation in Candler Park. "It allows me freedom. I'm very conservative personally. When I went for the first time, I looked for signs of God: stained-glass windows, crucifixes. Then, after my initial shock, I realized I wasn't going to see God, but I was going to feel God. I get more freedom from the E Church than from any religious organization I have ever attended. The people have a heartfelt warmth and sincerity there."

About the struggle for gay and lesbian rights, Saidah says, "No group is an island unto itself. At this time in history, the problems of hunger and homelessness cut across all lines—class, color, sexual preference, gender, nationality. Because I'm a lesbian, I hope to bridge the gap. One thing I've realized is that gay people in extreme poverty experience less harassment than in the middle class. Drag queens in food lines are treated just like everybody else. Being poor overshadows all other differences."

—Charlene Ball

heterodoxy, n.
 the quality or fact of being
 an opinion contrary to that
 which is established or
 generally received.
 a monthly column by KC Wildmoon

ON BEING DIFFERENT

I was born different. It wasn't that I knew I was Queer early on—I never heard the word "homosexual" out loud until I was 18, and didn't accept that possibility for myself for almost a year. But I was different, all right.

I saw colors where there shouldn't be, heard voices when no one but me was around. I looked at my immediate surroundings, not as my whole world like the other kids I knew did, but as a small part of a huge world that I wanted to see. I saw the parts of my world and wondered what made them work. I looked inside things,

not just at them.

I kept these things to myself because nobody around me talked about anything like it. I tried to pretend I was just like everybody else because I was scared there was something wrong with me. I feigned interest in movies, TV, boys, bridal magazines, whatever my peers were into at that moment.

But I never felt it. I grew up in the fields of East Tennessee, climbing rocks and trees, wading in creeks, watching trains go by, most assuredly *alone*. I never fit in with any group, even though I tried.

My mother was the one who first said "homosexual" to me. She asked me if I was one. I laughed. But I wondered, Could I be different that way too?

Nine months later, I had the answer. For me, there was no agony over the discovery, just another thing about myself that made me different from the norm.

The amazing thing is that being Queer was the easiest of my differences to accept. Fifteen years after that, I am finally beginning to live comfortably with the rest of my differences, to accept the fact

that I don't see, or hear, the world like most people. And to not feel so damned alone.

I like being Queer. I even like the word, meaning odd, peculiar...it so completely describes who I am. The hard part of it has been recognizing the complete rejection of that part of me by so many people, sometimes even other Queers.

Sometimes I just simply don't understand. I can't comprehend why it should matter to so many people that I don't have sex with the opposite one.

I don't understand, either, when I hear Queers say things like "who I go to bed with is nobody's business but mine." On the surface, that's true. Who I choose to have sex with is a private matter, but get real. That's just a smokescreen, designed to keep secret a part of ourselves that makes us truly different. It makes us paranoid, keeps us from ever being all of who we are.

I know there are compelling reasons for hiding. But sometimes I think we are too cautious. Being Queer doesn't have to mean living a lie.

Look at Martina Navratilova, outed by an ex-lover before outing was cool. Margaret Court condemned her for being a poor role model. But other tennis players rushed to Martina's defense, and at a tournament a couple of weeks ago fans were wearing buttons that read "Martina Is My Role Model." I love that.

Being Queer, being different has shaped my view of the world. I've learned that being different from the majority isn't easy, and that some people can never live comfortably with that. I've also learned that being different can be dangerous. This knowledge has shaped my perceptions, sometimes subtly, sometimes profoundly. All of my experiences have done that.

Over all, I'm pleased with the results of my experiences. I have my doubts, my insecurities, moments when I wonder if it's worth it. I'm only human. But I want to be a role model like Martina. I'm happy being different, and I just can't keep it a secret any longer.

EGGS ON OUR FACE

Our editorial "Is the Journal Homophobic" in the last issue contained a significant error. We incorrectly attributed an Atlanta paper's editorial which said that some percentage of folks are naturally gay just as some are straight to the staff of the *Atlanta Journal*.

Not so. That piece was in fact written by Tom Teepen, the Editor of the *Constitution's* Editorial pages.

The root of the confusion is complex and will likely interest only media junkies, but here it is: a reader gave us a copy of the original editorial and said it had run in the *Journal*. In fact, it ran in the *Saturday Journal/Constitution*. The editorial pages of that paper are regularly populated by the likes of Dick Williams, so one would assume that the more conservative *Journal* editorial staff writes the unsigned editorials on Saturday.

Again, not so. The *Constitution* prepares those messages as well as the editorial epistles in the Sunday paper.

This was not always so; until a couple of years ago, the *Journal* had control of the Saturday editorial pages. The reader who told us that the piece had run in the *Journal* is an Atlanta native and was

unaware of the change.

Confused? You're not alone. We spoke to three J/C writers who were either unaware of, or totally bamboozled by, the papers' policy regarding their editorial pages.

The good news is that two readers have told us they are considering founding a local chapter of GLAAD; that, thank you, was the whole purpose of our editorial.

Another error last issue was crediting the photo of anti-arts censorship activists on page 4 to Patsy Lynch; Doug Hinkle of *The Washington Blade* took the photograph.

Our apologies to readers and the journalists involved for both of these errors.

Editor

AAA ERROR

To the Editor:

Your July 19 "Partners in Law" article contained an error regarding the AAA Automobile Club of Washington. The motor club has not yet been forced to comply with Seattle law and grant my partner an "associate" membership (at reduced

fees). Last year I won a "finding" against them through the Seattle Human Rights Department—the first step towards reversing the discrimination I encountered.

In an attempt to settle the case, AAA recently offered to grant associate membership to my domestic partner and to others in the city of Seattle, where the law is in effect. However, the club's attorney suggested I should not publicize the policy change in the general media. I have rejected this offer because a change without public notice cannot satisfactorily reverse the discrimination.

The Seattle ordinance is clear in its intent to protect not only married couples, but unmarried couples as well. My case is apparently the first in the nation to test this approach.

Such laws may be easier to pass than full-scale domestic partnership legislation. In fact, they may act as a first step towards domestic partnership registration since businesses who must open up membership may actually welcome city-wide definitions of domestic partners.

Sincerely,
 Demian, Ed.D.
 Editor/Publisher, *Partners Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples*
 Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109

MARVIN'S TWISTED

Editor:

You'll pardon me if I don't join Paul Varnell in licking the ass of "modern conservative movement founding father" Marvin Liebman, who recently came out at age 66 (#13, page 32).

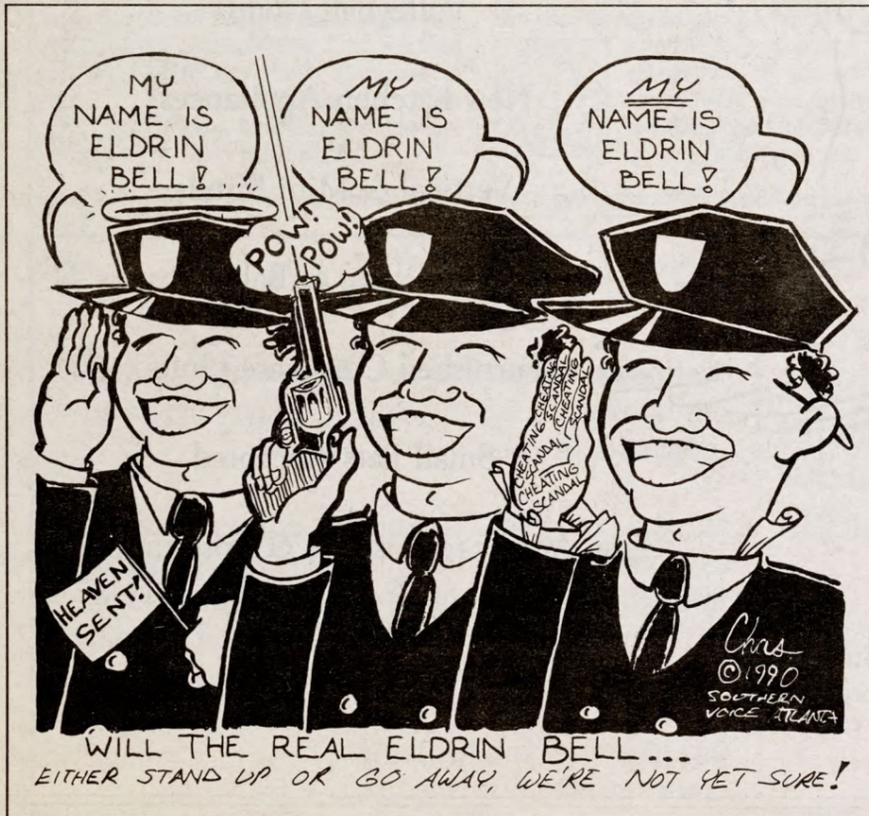
Here's a fag who spends his whole miserable life living a lie, pitifully sucking up to the very worst homophobes. And now we're supposed to be overjoyed that he's "one of us?"

I hate the modern conservative movement. And I have only contempt for the self-loathing queers who foolishly believe they are a part of it.

Conservatives were in power at virtually every level in the 1980s and did next to nothing about AIDS, while we buried tens of thousands of our own and witnessed the destruction of what we once called (it seems so long ago) "the gay lifestyle."

The next time you hear of yet another gay person felled by AIDS or some demented bigot's insane hatred, be sure to smile through your tears and thank Marvin Liebman and all the other twisted homosexual conservatives who daily toady up to our murderers.

Dave Goldman



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:

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 P.O. Box 18215
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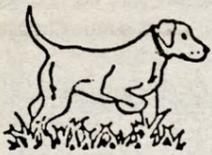
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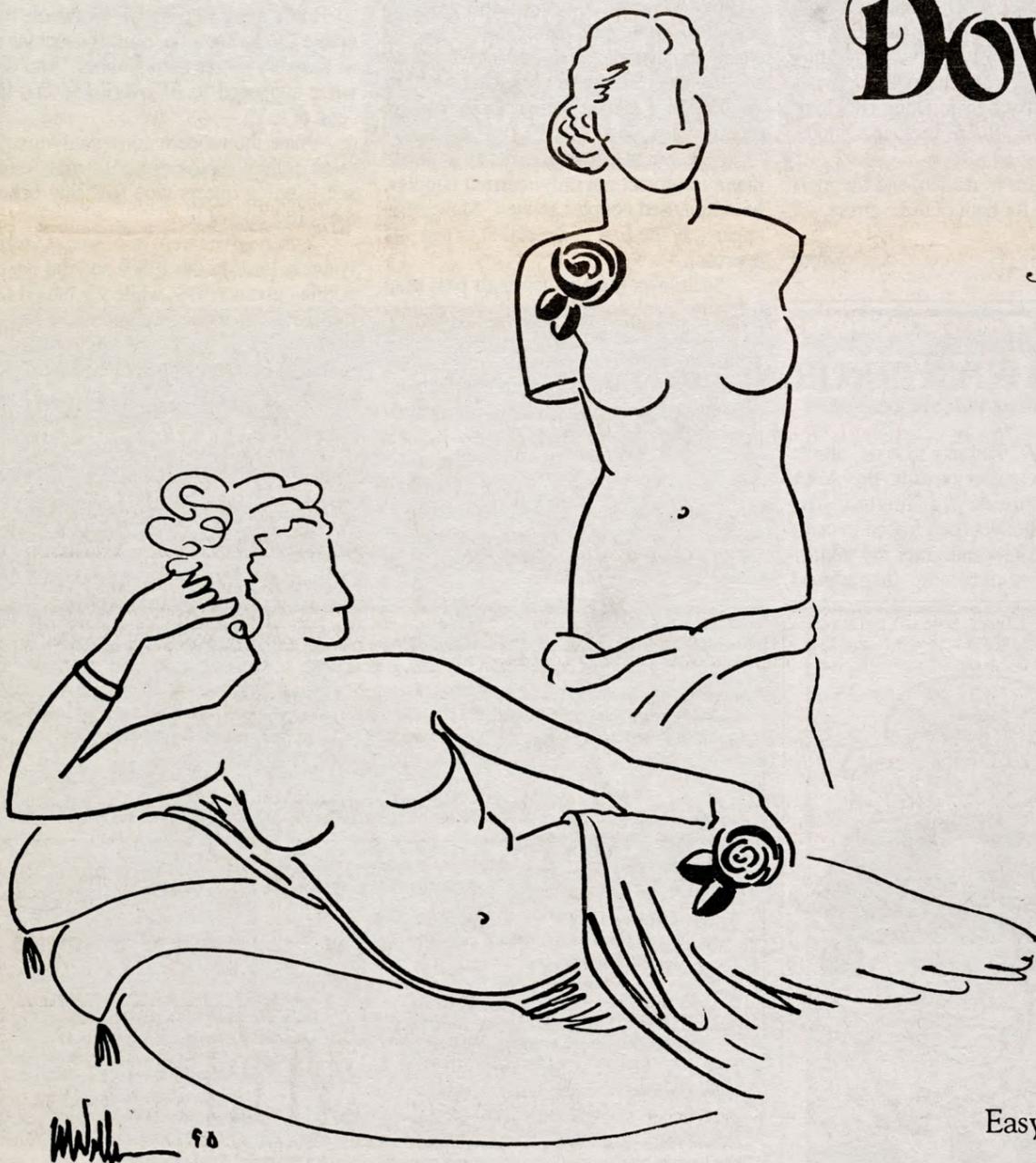


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Clumsy Hearts and Banal Saviors

by Terry Francis

Wild at Heart ★★ With *Wild at Heart*, David Lynch, one of the three or four most gifted directors at work in American movies today, appears diminished—seriously—as an artist.

But first, a word about the film's plot. Laura Dern and Nicolas Cage play a pair of lovers on the run from her mother (Diane Ladd, Dern's real-life parent), who's contracted a small-town mobster to blow Cage's head off.

The essential plot revelation concerns the reasons underlying Ladd's vendetta against Cage. The film takes on the structure of a road movie, and its filler consists of the adventures that dog Cage and Dern on their way to California, which the pair view dreamily as some sort of Emerald City.

Wild at Heart is a film that moves by fits and starts, with scene after scene spangled in Lynchisms, the visual and aural eccentricities by now trademarks of the director's work.

In fact, *Wild at Heart's* materials are so thin that the Lynchisms appear to be the film's principal reason for being. As the film runs on, the flaws accrue. The expository dialogue is the clumsiest I can recall in a Lynch film (he tells us what he's showing us); and a scene of a man on fire (part of a weak, recurring visual motif) is lifted

directly from Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander*.

The film also includes a scene that is unabashedly homophobic. Near the end, Cage is attacked by a gang of thugs whom he addresses with, "What do you faggots want?" They proceed to beat the hell out of him, and as he's lying in the street he has a magical vision. Upon waking, he apologizes to the street toughs for calling them "homosexuals," and runs away enlightened.

I repeat: in every sense, a step down in the artistic development of David Lynch.

Jesus of Montreal ★1/2 It turns out that 1990 is not only a wretched year for movies, it's also a hard time for Christ figures. Lothaire Bluteau—called Daniel in Denis Arcand's *Jesus of Montreal*—plays a softly handsome actor commissioned by a hypocritical Montreal priest to produce a Passion Play commemorating Christ's crucifixion. Daniel rounds up an assortment of his friends to act in the play, which will be performed outdoors at different stations, as in a medieval pageant. Arcand establishes the level of his allegory early on: Daniel recruits one of his actors from a well-paying job as a dubber of porno films. How's that for sophisticated irony.

The whole film, apart from a few bits of keen social satire, is sophomoric and self-impressed in the worst way. The Passion Play within the film is dreadful—a juvenile

rendering of a colossal moment in history. And the enclosing film condemns everyone in sight. *Jesus of Montreal* is a flat-footed expression of disgust: at theater sycophants, journalists, modern Christianity, advertising, lawyers, groupies, actors, medicine, the police, and so on. What gives the film the lie is that Daniel, clearly standing in for director Arcand, says, near the film's ludicrously melodramatic conclusion, that contempt really bothers him—this, after nearly two hours of a film expressing nothing but contempt.

The press kit for this film is a treasure: "Critics agree that Bluteau gives such a powerful performance that he leaves the audience with a dilemma: is Daniel an actor playing Jesus, or Jesus reincarnated as an actor?" Personally, I believe it's Jesus reincarnated. Only a deity capable of leaving this planet so benighted could deliver a performance as inept as Bluteau's.

Arcand, in his earlier *The Decline of the American Empire* and now even more with *Jesus of Montreal*, proves himself the holder of a sophisticated film technique. This film is beautifully executed. What's small is Arcand's ability to grapple with serious ideas, all of which here function on a level comparable to a banal high school production. I hope he discovers a good screenwriter soon.

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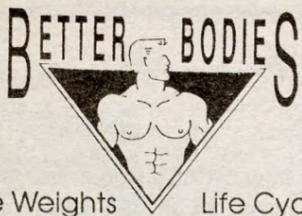
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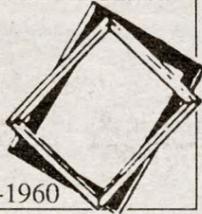


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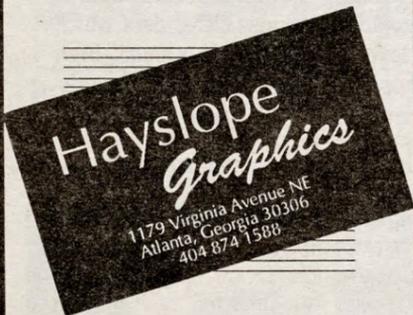
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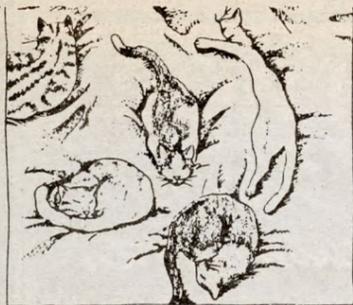
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Oct. 28-Nov. 4, 1990

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OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 4, 1990**

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Hello, I'm your new racket reporter. No, it is not a tennis column, nor a sequel to Bebe Emmerman's junk mail review. It is an honest view of this thing I affectionately call racket—probably most of you use the noun music.

The three most influential people in musical history for me are Roy Rogers, Bob Dylan, and James Brown. Bet *that* whets your interest.

My current stereo was found abandoned in an apartment on Buford Highway. Six months later I understand why. The little lights on the control panel don't flicker like they used to, and when the turntable comes on, you have to chase the arm because it wants to play the last song first. Compact discs? Forget it; there isn't a hole to plug one into my rig, and besides I'm just not ready. Only this year did I finally get a touch-tone phone.

Don't worry though, I'm not a hopeless oldies freak. In fact, I hate that "Under the Boardwalk" song. Truly it is important to be open to new music, so if y'all hear of any abstract country-fusion bands featuring a tuba section, give a holler.

Let me say polish isn't necessarily a virtue to me unless it is on a real chrome bumper. I have witnessed more than a few talented player's quest for it do irreparable damage to their ability to access their spirit and spontaneity. Give me somebody with a pulse! Vocal ability gets a little leeway with regards to polish because it is an extraordinary thing when a person—without picks, sticks, or buttons—can tra-la-la really well.

Fancy equipment doesn't impress me either. Who the hell wants a keyboard that simulates the cockpit of a stealth bomber? Just what this world needs, more buttons to push. What happened to pianos?

Girls in the Nose

In case you were wondering what the upcoming weather is gonna be like, the hot stuff is to continue slap dab until the first week of September. This is due to a band of Texas thunderstorms passing through the metro area that otherwise call themselves, "Girls in the Nose".

Moral Hazard fans can expect a similar commitment from these girls in terms of enthusiasm, warped senses of humor, and willingness to share with their audiences what passion looks like in *their* world.

They'll do two concerts on the way back home from Rhythm Fest; one at the Variety Playhouse Wednesday Sept. 5, the other at the Otherside Sept. 6.

Take One

Wherein S.V.'s new music writer Treble Yell tells us a bit about herself, bad Barry White and the even badder Girls In the Nose.



Girls in the Nose:
kickass lesbian rockers from the Lone Star State

This is a kickass rock thing; some of their tunes include originals such as "Menstrual Hut," "Prisoners of Pantyhose," and "Honorary Heterosexual Lesbian." After hearing the cut "Bite Me", I don't believe I would let any of them pet sit for me, but I might like a date.

Let's show some support for these gals. For more information see the calendar listings and an ad elsewhere in this issue or call 624-4882. Also, their ten song cassette is available at Charis and Wax 'n Facts.

Trivia Time

In the early '70s—in gay bars particularly—whose music would have the crowd up on the second note, leaving their Zombies melting on the table? Who was the incredible, smooth-one, the king of "aw baby" music?

You're right! It's Barry White and the Love Unlimited Orchestra.

Well, Barry came to town earlier this month. My inquiring mind wanted to know, what the heck is ol' Bare up to? Is he still a baritone? Has he lost a bunch of weight? And who is gonna show up for this?

The day before the show, I went down to the Fox to get tickets for me and my able-bodied companion, Gleena Wartmuller. I approached the security guard for *inside* information, hoping to arrange an interview. Now, maybe it was because I had my dog with me—or maybe because that security dude was interested in the Mr. Hotlanta contestant who buzzed by with a saddle slung over his shoulder—anyway, he said he didn't "know nothin' about Barry."

For the show I put my best foot forward, wearing my blue suede shoes and godzilla t-shirt with the "Dress to Kill" on the front; Gleena looked outstanding in her Turkish gypsy drag outfit. The crowd generally dressed colorfully and conservatively—except for a couple of trend setting guys in suitcoats, ties, Bermuda shorts, and kneesocks. They may have been off-duty mailmen, I don't know.

Barry is a big, tall man, which is one reason he could safely be so cordial to fans standing in front of the stage—giving them handshakes or one of those black hankies that he was slowly, seductively, and continuously patting his face with. Ain't nobody gonna snatch Barry White off no stage and make off with him out the side door. No, no.

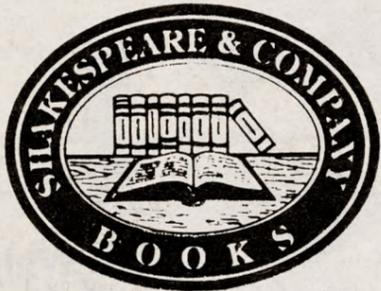
He started the set in a shiny, blue and gray suit; the thing could have been sharkskin or could have been latex, hard to tell. He changed outfits about three quarters through the show, possibly because he wore a hole in the left trouser leg near the top, if you know what I mean. No grabbin', but there was definitely a whole lotta rubbin' goin' on.

Oh yeah, about the music. The Love Unlimited Orchestra—10 violins (7 were women), two trumpets, a couple of trombones, two keyboards, a guitar, bass, drummer, and a percussionist—was great. The three back up singers—two women and a man—were terrific, bouncin and behavin, exhibiting great zesto, I mean gusto.

John Robert, the orchestra conductor, turned the stick over to Barry late in the show for one of my personal faves, "Love's Theme". Mr. Robert also played one mean trumpet solo and managed a great lefthanded snag of a mic stand that Barry had tagged while leaving the podium.

The crowd was very moved by the performance, as was evident by the smoochin' and cuddling going on. I got a little shy myself when Gleena started sucking my thumb. I'll bet, per capita, that more people get laid after a Barry White concert than almost any other on earth.

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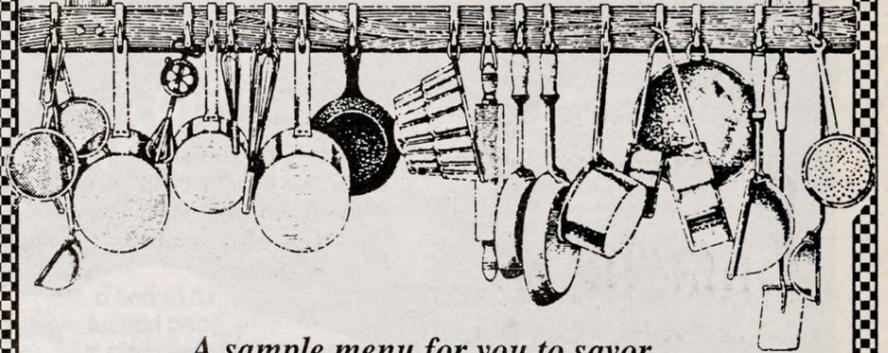
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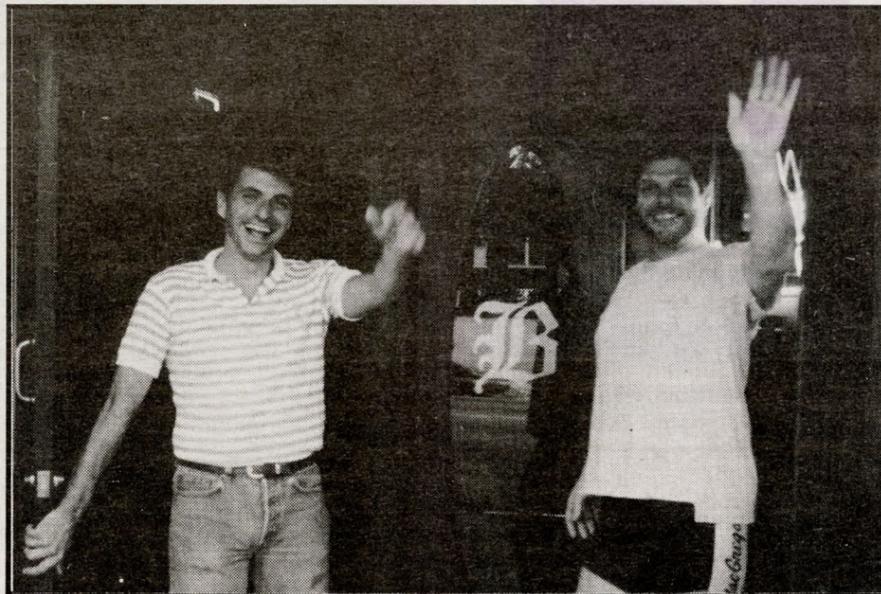
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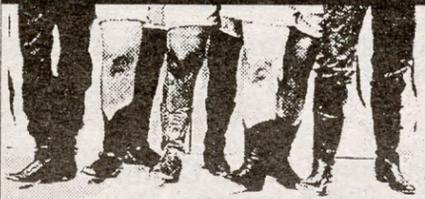
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"Brownie Broadway: Bound by Bone and Blood" is the sequel to Rebecca Ranson's one woman show. See it Sep. 5th and 9th at Seven Stages. The popular "Texas Two Stepping With the Girls" runs the 6th-8th, also at Seven Stages.

Art

LIFT EVERY VOICE. Thru Oct. 13. Influential African-American Atlantans from the past and present are featured in this unusual collection of rare photographs, artifacts, paintings and sculptures. Atlanta History Center Downtown, 140 Peachtree St., NE.

JAMES GROFF EXHIBITION. Aug. 31-Sep. 30. Established abstract painter and printmaker brings his dynamic color fields to the gallery in a large way. Trinity Gallery, Downstairs Gallery, 249 Trinity Ave. Call 525-7546.

Events

FOR THOSE WHO THINK THEY KNOW THE SCORE. Thurs., Aug. 30 at 7:30pm. Free and open to the public. Southern writer Julia Willis returns from living in exile in Boston to read from her hilarious new book: *Who Wears the Tux?* Charis Books & More. Call 524-0304 for info.

CHILDKIND YARD SALE. Sun., Sep. 2, 10am-6pm. An amazing collection of useful stuff will be sold to help give babies infected with AIDS day-to-day nurturing and parenting in a stable home setting. Your donation can make a difference. American Legion Post No. 1, 1097 Piedmont NE. Call Brenda Hamby at ChildKind, 246-0819.

BECOMING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP. Sat., Sep. 8, 1pm-8pm. Topics include traditional African religions, Christian African-American religions, and the ministry's work with the physically challenged and hearing impaired communities. A special outreach program for gays and lesbians who must live with multiple minority challenges. First MCC, 800 N. Highland Ave.; call 622-1154 or 872-2246.

NEXUS ANNUAL ART PARTY. Sat. Sept 8, 8pm-midnight. The eighth annual Artparty is an evening of art, food, performances, live music, and dancing. Funds will be used for Nexus' programming for 1990-1991 and to help raise money for the construction of its new building. At the Healy Building; call 688-1970 for information.

FORUM ON AZT, DDI AND DDC. Wed., Sep. 12, 7-8:30pm. An update on these three important anti-virals, sponsored by Atlanta NAPWA. Admission is free. At the Shire of the Immaculate Conception, 48 M.L.K Drive. Call 874-7926 for info.

OUTING: THE ETHICS OF SAYING IT IN PRINT. Wed., Sep. 12, 7:30-10pm. A workshop sponsored by Southern Voice. Free and open to all, but of particular interest to those in the media. At the Ponce de Leon Library, 980 Ponce de Leon. Call 876-0789 for more info.

Film/Video

DRAMATIC READING OF MY KNEW FRIENDS. Wed., Sep. 12, 8pm. Free. A new comedy screenplay by Gregory Kerns explores the problem of integrating the past with the present as Bennett Harris is caught between his black friends from college with his new white friends at his corporate job. IMAGE Film and Video Center. Call 352-4225.

WATUNNA & BEFORE WE KNEW NOTHING. Fri., Sep. 14 at 8pm. \$3/\$2.50/\$2. Watunna, a beautiful and hypnotic animated film by writer/director Stacey Steers based on creation tales of the Yekuana Indians of the Venezuelan rain forest explores the genesis of evil, night, sexuality, fire and food. Mythology at its breathtaking best. Shown in tandem with a documentary on the Ashaninka Indians. High Museum of Art, Hill Auditorium. Call Claire Reynolds at 352-4225.

Music

MONTREAUX ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL. Aug 31-Sep.3. Jazz, blues, zydeco, classical, folk, pop and opera will be heard around the city in this festival with an international flavor. Includes daylong free concerts in Piedmont Park August 31-September 1.

GIRLS IN THE NOSE. Wed., Sep. 5, 8pm. With Caroline Aiken. The "Girls" sing forth on their philosophy "Viva la Vulva" or "Feminism for the Fearless." At the Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. Tickets at Charis, Chrysalis, Wax N Facts & Wuxtry. Call 624-4882 for info.

GIRLS IN THE NOSE. Thurs., Sep. 6. This Austin-based 6-woman band has been described as "the B-52's meets Iggy Pop singing about lesbian-feminism." Their songs include "Menstrual Hut", "Bite Me", and "Prisoner of Pantyhose." \$5 at The Otherside, 1924 Piedmont Avenue. Call 624-4882 for info.

Opera

RIGOLETTO. Aug. 30, Sep. 1 and Sep. 3, at 8pm. Tickets from \$8 to \$55. One of Verdi's best operas takes its plot from the scandalous novel *Le Roi S'Amuse* by Victor Hugo. Sounding suspiciously like Dangerous Liaisons II, Rigoletto recounts the tale of a hunchback court jester caught in court intrigues and seduction. Woodruff Arts Ctr Symphony Hall, 1280 Peachtree NE. Call Woodruff Box Office at 892-2414.

Sports

SOUTHEAST WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice every Wed. at 6:30pm in Piedmont Pk across from Grady Stadium. No experience is necessary, spirit is. Call Beth, 761-8939 for more info.

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION. Sat., Sep. 1 & 8, 1pm. Come play or watch a game in which the word love has a major role. Glenlake Pk Tennis Center. Call 892-8335.

Theatre

FRANKIE AND ANGIE GET MARRIED. Open-ended engagement. A unique experience in theatrical happenings. Come and be part of a "mock" ethnic wedding complete with full Italian meal, champagne toasts, and wedding cake. Every good family wedding needs a few gay cousins to liven up the dancing. Rodeway Inn Midtown, 1470 Spring St. Call 249-6400 for more information.

ELIZABETH THE QUEEN. Aug. 29-Sep. 29. This Maxwell Anderson play is not about cross-dressing, but about the December/May romance of one of the most powerful women in history. Jessica Phelps reprises her award-winning role as the balding but beautiful monarch who ruled England for 45 years. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave in Marietta. For reservations, call 422-8369.

BROWNIE BROADWAY: BOUND BY BONE AND BLOOD AND TEXAS TWO STEPPING WITH THE GIRLS. Wed., Sep. 5 and Sun., Sep. 9. (\$8 in advance/\$10 at door)/Thurs., Sep. 6-Sat., Sep. 8 (\$10/\$12). Both at 8pm. The further adventures of Brownie Broadway are based on the life and changes of Rebecca Ranson. A unique chance for a close-up look at this interesting playwright. "Texas Two Stepping" is an entertaining musical with lots of booted lesbians playing Urban Cowgirls. Lots of laughs as they try to change partners. Seven Stages Performing Arts Center; call SAME at 584-2104.

TV

DEAUNDA PEEK'S MOST-FUN SUMMER PLAYHOUSE. Every Wed., 9pm; every Sat. 11:30pm on Prime Cable Channel 12. The inimitable Deandra's "Playhouse" replaces her "Teenage Music Club" for the summer. Vacation Bible School News and weekly installments of the sci-fi thriller "Frog Bride." There's nothing else quite like it in town.

THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR. Sun., Sep. 2 at 2pm. In this charming 1947 film, Gene Tierney has a spiritual relationship with Rex Harrison in a haunted English cottage. GPTV, channel 8.

P.O.V.: MOTEL. Sun., Sep. 2 at 11:30pm. In this interesting point of view film, the world of passion, loyalty, adventure and fate are exam-

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 12

ined in the microcosm of three motels in the American Southwest. GPTV, channel 8.

ALEXEISAYLE'S STUFF. Premieres Thurs., Sep. 6 at 11pm. 12-part series. From wildlife to waitresses, from Euclid to Ethel Merman, Sayle is on his personal quest for the reality of life in this Georgia Public Television exclusive. GPTV, channel 8.

Women's Festivals ■

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 good times. The location sounds lovely with 700 acres to enjoy everything from camping and hiking to moonlit hayrides and canoeing. For more info call (919) 682-6374.

Upcoming ■

THE COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA DIRECTED BY FRANK FOSTER. Sep. 7, 8:00 pm. The big band sound that moved the feet of a generation provides music that knows no time dimension. A blessed change from amplified guitars and singers who look like they combed their hair with a weed eater. Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. 249-6400.

SHORT MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY WOMEN'S WEEKEND. Sep. 7-9. Come camp and relax in wooded splendor. Short Mountain really lets you get away from everything. \$10 per day includes food and fun. For more information write: Short Mt. Sanctuary, Rtl 1, Box 84A, Liberty, Tenn 37095.

JAMBOREE. Sep. 13-16. Sponsored by the International Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Organization (IGLOO to those in the know) this annual gathering will be held this year in the Poccoonno Mountains. Sailing, dancing, volleyball—fun, fun, fun. Open to members of Friends Atlanta and Atlanta Venture Sports. Contact Larry Lucas, 875-0700 for info and/or to join if you are not already a member.

BROADWAY BOUND. Sep. 14-October 13. The third play by Neil Simon in his acclaimed autobiographical trilogy which includes Brighton Beach Memoirs and Biloxi Blues. In Simon's view, this is his best play and the one he would most like to be for. At Neighborhood Playhouse, 430 W. Trinity Pl., Decatur. Call 373-5311.

FEMINIST ASTROLOGICAL SYMBOLS IN YOUR CHART WORKSHOP. Sat., Sep. 15 from 9am-12pm. Mary Bailey-Rule provides the keys for women who are interested in unlocking the matriarchal mysteries of their star charts. With Partners in Health; call 881-6300.

POLITICAL SKILLS WORKSHOP. Mon. Sep. 17, 7pm. Learn more about how you can have an impact on this fall's elections. Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Tentatively set for the Decatur Holiday Inn. Call 373-6330 to volunteer or for info.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CHILDHOOD ABUSE, ADDICTION & AIDS. Fri., Sep. 21, 9am-4pm. This workshop is designed for mental health care providers and offers continuing education credits as well as information on how to better serve clients in these three areas of special needs. At Sheraton Century Center; call Jim Sacco, 727-2929 for more info.

FALL EQUINOX CELEBRATION FOR WOMEN. Sat., Sep. 22 at 7:30 pm. A discussion of the astrological and metaphysical signifi-

cance of this day which holds a special place in many ancient cultures. Followed by a guided meditation and social hour. Reservations appreciated. At Chrysalis Women's Center; call 881-6300.

HARRY CONNICK, JR. Sat., Sept. 22. An elegant evening under the stars. Chastain Park Amphitheatre. Call 815-0007 for details.

FALL MEDITATION CLASSES. Starting Mon., Sep. 24 (pm) or Sat., Sep. 29 (am). Mary Bailey-Rule brings her 20 years of teaching experience to classes which include basic relaxation techniques, focusing and concentration exercises, and creative visualization. Learn balance in a world where being self-centered is a good beginning. With Partners in Health; call 881-6300, ext. 62.

INDIGO GIRLS. Fri., Sept. 28. From the Pub to Chastain Park, the girls are really coming up in the world. Give them a warm welcome on their Atlanta return. Chastain Park Amphitheatre. Call 815-0007 for details.

MUSIC VIDEO REGIONAL RETROSPECTIVE. Fri., Sep. 28 at 8pm and 10pm. \$4/\$6 (members & students/non-members). A look at some of the people, places and themes that have figured prominently in regional music and music videos over the past decade. Includes many familiar faces to the Atlanta music scene. IMAGE Film and Video Center, 75 Bennett NW, Suite M-1. Call 352-4225.

YE OLDE ENGLISH FESTIVAL. Sep. 28-30. A fun fundraiser provides a time machine return to days of yore. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1790 La Vista NE. For information, call 634-3336.

SPALDING GRAY: MONSTER IN A BOX. Sunday, Sept. 30, 8pm. Writer, actor and performer, Spalding Gray returns for a second year performing a monologue about the dizziness that comes from too much possibility and Gray's struggles to maintain a balance of horizontal fame in the eyes of a world that thinks mainly in the vertical. Hyatt Regency Ravinia; 394-3447 for reservations.

I AM YOUR SISTER: FORGING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS ACROSS DIFFERENCES. Oct. 5-8. Workshops and cultural events based on celebrated poet/author Audre Lorde's 13 books. Explore the realms of how we may use our differences as a source of strength and power to create ongoing strategies for change. Boston. For info write: P.O. Box 269, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123.

SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LESBIAN AND GAY LEGAL ISSUES. Oct. 5-Oct. 8. Lesbian and gay rights in the legal arena are the subject of this conference that covers everything from public accommodations to health care to sodomy legislation. Lavender Law affects us all. At Radisson Hotel Atlanta; call Abby Rubinfeld at (615) 269-6778 or Jeff Peters at (904) 656-2024 for registration info.

CREATING CHANGE-A GATHERING TO SET THE POLITICAL AGENDA FOR THE GAY '90s. November 9-12. Workshop issues will include sodomy law repeal, hate crimes reporting, "outing," bisexuality and gay politics, mainstream and direct action tactics, domestic partnership and many more. Kate Clinton, popular feminist humorist will add a lighter note to this extremely important conference. Will be held in Minneapolis; Call NGLTF at (202) 332-6483 for particulars.

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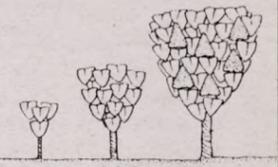
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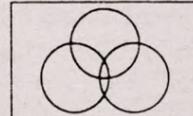


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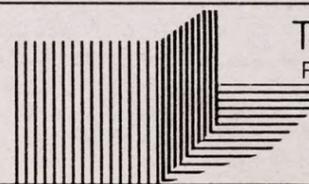
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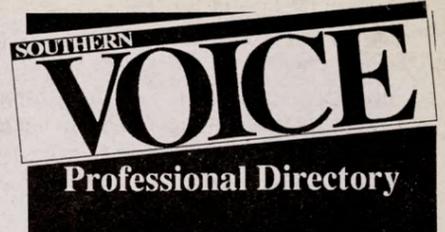
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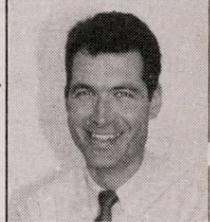
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TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

A primer on the FDA's drug approval process

by Jim Dean

Beginning this issue Southern Voice is pleased to be able to publish information gathered by the Treatment Advisory Committee of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People With AIDS. The next update will appear in issue #16 and focus on AZT, ddi and ddC.

Emotions run high whenever we hear of a new drug for treatment of an HIV-related condition. Trying to keep the terminology relating to new drugs straight (so to speak) and understand the myriad changes in guidelines gives me a major headache.

So, I volunteered to write this article to educate myself and hopefully help make this subject less confusing for *Southern Voice's* readers. The material condensed here is from an FDA Consumer Special Report. Operation of the Food and Drug Administration falls under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; it is the watchdog that is supposed to insure the safety of our drug and food supplies. The infamous National Institutes of Health (NIH) is its sister agency.

The FDA's newest drug development process is made of four major stages which, on average, require 100 months to complete. Understand, please that I am not advocating this process, but hopefully clarifying it.

First, there's Pre-Clinical. This stage covers the initial making of the drug and most animal trials. If the drug is seen to have the desired effect in the test tube, then animal trials begin. Two species of animals are used. Dosages and toxic effects are evaluated for the human trials that will follow. Pre-clinical's take 1-3 years, averaging 18 months, plus a 30-day safety review prior to any human testing.

This part of the process is very costly for the drug company; bringing a drug to market may cost \$65-125 million. All cost figures are created by the drug companies, however, and, as such, may be somewhat biased.

Some drugs prove too harmful—or not helpful—to humans during these trials. These drugs are shelved, but can be pulled out at a later date if an apparent need arises. AZT—developed as a potential cancer drug in 1964 and shelved due to ineffectiveness—was approved as an anti-viral agent to fight AIDS in 1987, three years after pre-clinical trials were resumed for its new purpose.

Before the first human takes a drug, certain information is required by the FDA. The drug company provides this information by submitting an IND, or Investigational New Drug application. The IND includes the results of all animal and laboratory research plus any information on prior human usage, either in this country or abroad.

The drug company must also submit a detailed report on: how the clinical trials will be conducted; how many people will be involved; how they will be selected; where the studies will be done; who will do the studies; how safety and effectiveness will be evaluated; and finally, what finding would require the study to be stopped or changed. Clinical trials may begin only after the FDA's approval of the IND.

The Clinical trials are usually done in three phases.

Phase I: Usually lasting several months, it is primarily concerned with safety issues. The volunteers, usually healthy, are given a variety of tests to discover what happens to the drug in the human body. Seventy percent of drugs make it through Phase I; failures frequently result from too much toxicity in too small a dosage to be of benefit.

Phase II: Focused on treating the disease and involving several hundred volunteers, Phase II judges the side

effects of the drug on health-impaired people. Trials are randomized and controlled, meaning the group being treated with the drug is matched with a group similar in make-up (i.e. sex, age, disease state). The matched groups receive either a placebo or the drug being tested, but neither the subjects nor the researchers know who receives which. This takes several months to 2 years; about one third of drugs make it through.

Phase III: These trials may involve as many as several thousand participants and generally last 1-4 years. Occasionally, a drug is proved so successful in Phase II that Phase III is skipped. This was the case with AZT. During its Phase II trial, only one individual receiving AZT died, compared to 19 taking the placebo.

The use of placebos and animal testing remains controversial and may be considered unethical in diseases like AIDS where the need for new therapies is so urgent.

Following the Clinical Trials, the drug is submitted to the FDA for approval. Review by the FDA and the drug company may last from 2 months to 7 years. By this point, the volumes of documentation on each drug may fill an entire room.

Because of pressure from both AIDS activists and medical communities, change in this process is being considered. AZT received the fastest approval ever given by the FDA, 4 months. But this was partially due to the drug's previous testing—Phase III was eliminated and the review process drastically reduced. The FDA is currently involved in an elaborate surveillance of studies on AZT in order to gather the information that would have come from Phase III studies.

Earlier this month, a committee of the President's Cancer Panel, charged with reviewing FDA procedures for approval of cancer and AIDS drugs, submitted a report which said "years" could

be cut from these procedures. The committee made a number of recommendations, insisting that the FDA exercise its "flexibility" to ensure AIDS and cancer patients access to drugs that may help them as early in the review process as possible. The committee indicated that FDA approval of a new drug should look at the potential for that drug to improve a patient's quality of life, not just its ability to prolong life.

Directory Provides Survey of AIDS Trials and Research

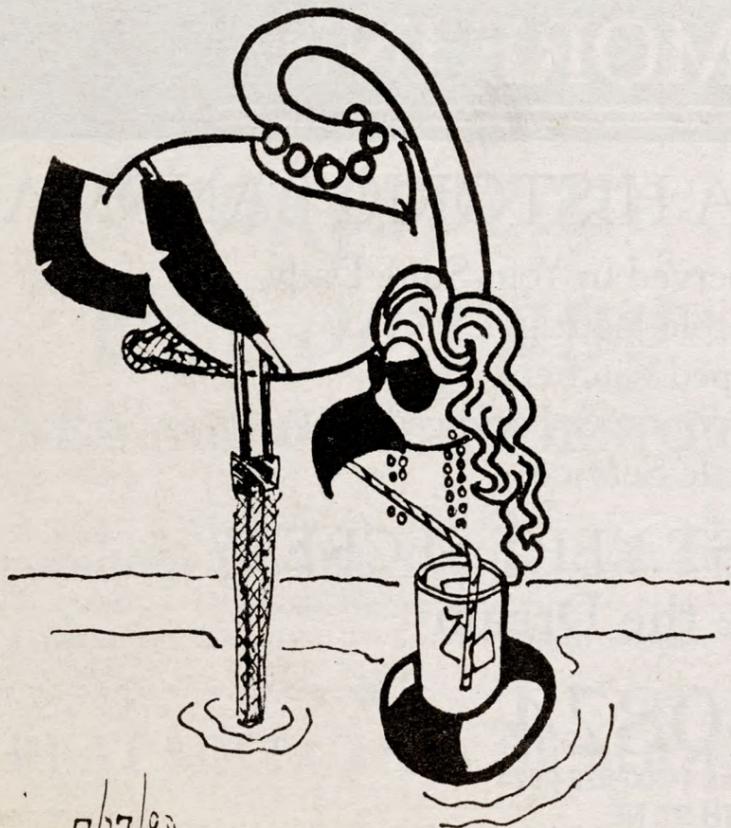
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In a format that is readable and accessible—though necessarily technical—the *AIDS/HIV Treatment Directory* lists trials of promising drugs that are currently recruiting new patients. It also includes listings of drug manufacturers, trial centers, informational resources and physician investigators all over the country.

The 120-page book also contains descriptions of numerous drugs, including trial results on their effectiveness and toxicity, and a glossary. Essays and articles by scientists at the forefront of AIDS research round out each issue.

The directory is provided free to people with AIDS who cannot afford the subscription. But anyone affected by the epidemic—researchers, physicians, and the friends, families and lovers of people with HIV—will find it informative and beneficial.

One year subscriptions are \$30. Contact AmFAR at 1515 Broadway, Suite 3601, New York, NY 10036-8901 for further information.



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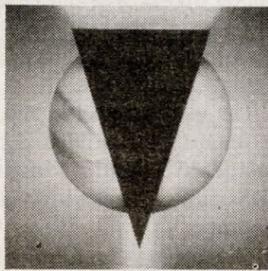
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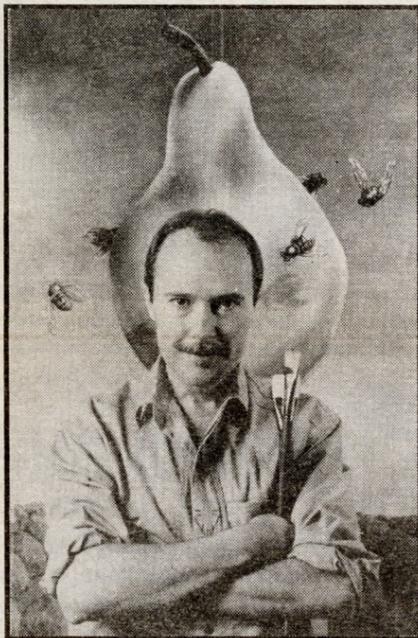
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You will find all this and much more at Stone Soup, tucked away on Virginia Avenue just off Briarcliff. Open daily from 10am-9pm (Sun. 10-6). Stone Soup offers a fast, friendly and relaxed alternative to the chain stores.

This friendly neighborhood store features a take-out delicatessen; sodas, mineral waters, juices; smartly displayed fresh produce with the best prices in town; groceries; natural foods; and more, including a large selection of imported and domestic beer and wine. Soon they'll be even more: pizza to go and a delightful salad bar.

Stone Soup began life as a co-op more than twenty years ago; even in the '90s it retains the charm, personality and casual atmosphere of that earlier time, when its customers were also its workers.

Making a Life of Art



WAYNE SCOTT SMITH

J.D. Isaacs with one of his surrealist paintings. Contact him at 378-4398 to view his his work or discuss a commission.

J.D. Isaacs left his job as an Art Director two years ago so he could paint full time.

"It's been a struggle at times just to keep my head above water, but it's been worth it," J.D. reflects. But he has definitely managed to keep himself busy, primarily by selling his paintings and doing commission work. When those pickings are slim he does freelance graphic design work.

Add J.D.'s line of greeting cards, aptly named Simply Said, and the work he does promoting and curating other artists' shows and you have one busy artist.

J.D.'s current interest is surrealistic painting, but he is happy to do commission art work in other styles and also enjoys working with clay. "Perfect Surrender", an AIDS theme series that helps him to deal with the AIDS crisis, is also a current interest.

Rounding out J.D.'s pallet are a substantial number of commissioned pet portraits.

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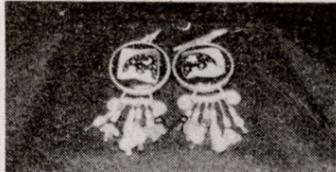
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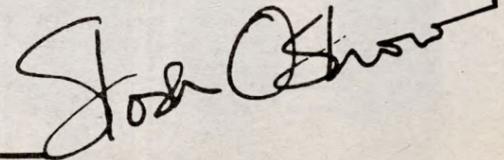
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with Debbie Unterman

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Debbie Unterman is an authorized Trainer by the Alchemical Hypnotherapy Inst. (AHI) of Santa Rosa, Ca., and a certified Examiner and Hypnosis Instructor with the ACHE.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ALCHEMICAL HYPNOTHERAPY & DEBBIE UNTERMAN:

Alchemical Hypnotherapy is a journey back to a better future. It's revolutionizing psychotherapy. As a practicing therapist and seminar junkie, I say Alchemy is the best therapeutic system I've discovered.

Cherie Fischer, RN, M.F.C.C.

Alchemical Hypnotherapy is an incredible tool for transformation. Debbie Unterman is one of the leaders in the field.

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Debbie Unterman is a vivacious, brilliant and compassionate Alchemist.

David Quigley, Author, *Alchemical Hypnotherapy*

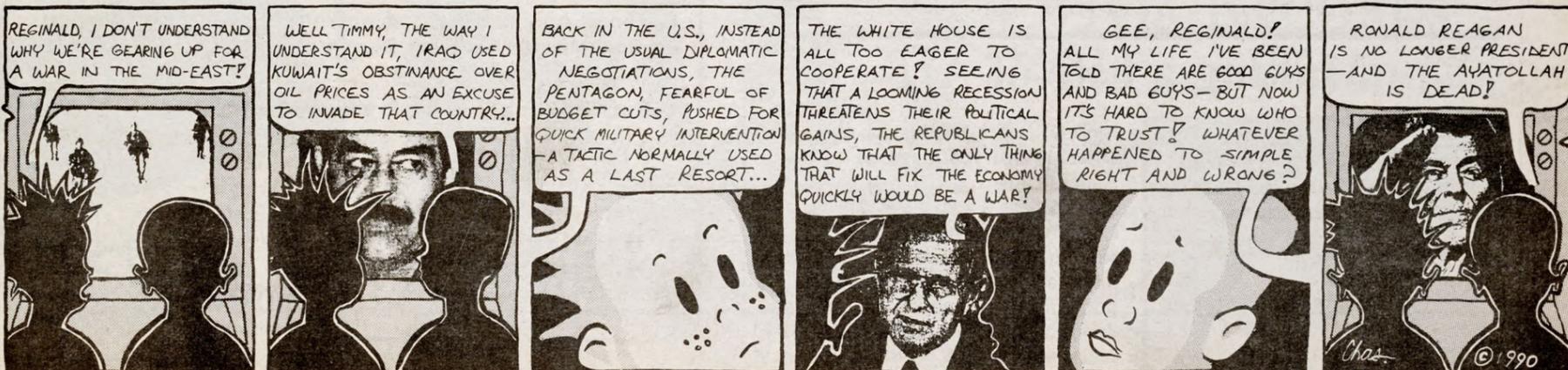
Call for registration and other information (404) 289-2343

Dykes to Watch Out For



Bittersweet

by Charles Haver



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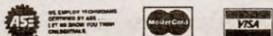
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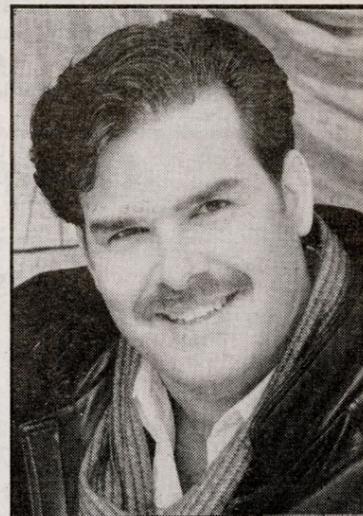
What everybody ought to know about...

Trademark Infringement

Atlanta—The 13 year old Sandy Springs hair salon, *The Cuttery*, must give up its name after a two month Trademark Infringement court battle with a Virginia based hair chain.

takes the name change in stride by focusing on education – learning the new styles and colors to share with the ever expanding client base of *Salon 5325*.

Joan Lass, owner of the former *Cuttery*, has chosen the name *Salon 5325* in reflection of the salon's street numbers on Roswell Road.



Tony Spear, Styles Director



After receiving a certified letter, Lass produced documentation showing the salon registered in 1977. The Virginia *Cuttery*, which plans to open 10 stores in Atlanta, registered its name in 1974.

Lass warns all potential business owners to apply for a National Trademark search before settling on a name. "It's well worth the money when starting a new business," she states, then estimates the cost of changing the name to be well above \$5,000.



The new *Salon 5325* will be consistent with the former *Cuttery's* emphasis on "contemporary, corporate images for men and women."

5325 Roswell Road
 256-3200

Styles Director Tony Spear Mon-Sat, evening appointments available

This is a Paid Advertisement

DISH

there's a fine line between telling the truth and talking trash

Dim Dish

Last issue Dish reported seeing Byllye Avery of the National Black Women's Health Project at the Fund for Southern Communities' 10th Birthday Bash. Ms. Avery received an award, but was not in attendance. Dish has made an appointment with the eye doctor.

Mayoral Advice

Joan Garner, the Senior Advisor to Mayor Jackson whose phone number we could not confirm for the last issue, can be reached during the day at 577-3178 if you have thoughts of import for Hizonner. Advisor Maury Weil can be reached at 378-2189; and messages for Jay Neely can be left at First MCC, 872-2246.

Martina on Sesame Street

Who says Martina Navratilova isn't a good role model for young people of the world? The Children's Television Workshop must think she's just fine. In a Sesame Street skit (which Dish just happened to catch) sports commentator Maria is interviewing Martina after an easy victory. However at the end of the match MN has problems conforming to the tennis tradition of jumping over the net (thus illustrating for the kids the concept of around, under and through). When asked why things got weird at the end of the match, Martina replied "It was very hot out there today," and "I had an off day."

Orchis, Orchis on the Wall

This month's "Metropolitan Home" (a magazine which continually treats gay men and lesbians with admirable



equanimity) contains a full page ad for a "Home Furnishings Catalog" from a company named Orchis. Take a close look at the above image from that ad. Get the picture? Dish tried to reach Orchis to get more facts, but got no answer. We'd love to see the rest of the catalog, but we're loathe to send our \$10 to a Pennsylvania Post Office

Box when no one is home. Call 215-543-5985 and see if you can get an answer.

Dish it Out

Southern Voice is pleased to sponsor a series of four workshops on various issues related to news coverage of the lesbian and gay community. The workshops will be held the second Wednesday of each month September through December. While they are intended primarily for *SV*'s staff and contributors, the workshops are free and open to the public. The first workshop "Outing: The ethics of saying it in print" will be held Wednesday, Sept. 12th from 7:30-10:00pm at the Ponce de Leon Library, 980 Ponce de Leon Ave. Call 876-0789 for information.

Deep Sixed by E-6

Reader William Meneely took a number of his collages to E-6 photo labs on 10th Street to have slides made of them to submit them to Nexus for its "Against the Tide" show of homoerotic art scheduled for late October. E-6 is widely regarded as *the place* for artists to have such work done. But lab manager Michael Penney found said pieces of art to be "off-color," "offensive," and "not in good taste." Dish eyeballed the collages and found them to be "funny," "whimsical" and "political." Mr. Penney told Mr. Meneely that he did not want to subject the "young ladies" who worked in his lab to such images. A (previous) regular customer of the lab says she thinks that E-6 regularly processes images of women that are far more erotic than any William's. "But", she adds, "that's no surprise is it?"

August 30 - September 12

RULING PLANETS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLOTH

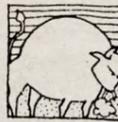
by Mary Bailey-Rule

The Sun and Mercury are both in the mutable earth sign of Virgo with Mercury retrograde until September 14, so be sure all communications are clear and concise. Avoid signing contracts or making long-term commitments right now.

ARIES- With Mars, your ruling planet, now in your 3rd house, you may feel the need for a short trip. Also a good time to communicate with brothers and sisters or to be involved with neighbors or neighborhood projects.



TAURUS- Jupiter has moved into your 4th house of home and family, expanding any situations there. Handle issues with parents, significant others or anyone living in your home early and remember to keep your sense of humor.



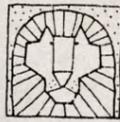
GEMINI- Venus joins the Sun and Mercury in your 4th house of home and family on September 7; be prepared to pay more attention to family situations. Let others know your feelings and absolutely avoid worry!



CANCER- Now that Pluto is moving direct in your 5th house of creativity and passion, you may feel more confident and expressive. This is a good time to start new projects, or take that art class you've been putting off.



LEO- With Jupiter now in your 1st house of self-awareness and personal appearance, you may want to delve into your inner being, update your wardrobe, or even get involved in sports or some physical activity to stay in shape.



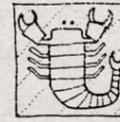
VIRGO-Happy Birthday! Venus joins the Sun and Mercury in your 1st house of self-awareness, personality, and appearance. If you are not happy with your physical self, get a check-up and sign-up for a fitness program.



LIBRA- Venus joins the Sun and Mercury in your 12th house of visions, dreams and the unconscious on September 7, so stay with your intuition and try not to take on too much extra responsibility at work. Get plenty of rest.



SCORPIO- Jupiter is slowing moving through your 10th house of career and status, making this a good time to look for new opportunities to express your abilities or even check out a new position. However, there is no need to rush.



SAGITTARIUS- Mars is now in your 7th house of personal and committed relationships, so you may find you are more involved and active with those near and dear. Just be sure you have some time reserved for your self.



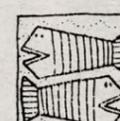
CAPRICORN- With Mercury retrograde in your 9th house of higher learning, you may want to sign up for a class related to career, or give yourself time to relax and reflect on priorities before fall activities begin.



AQUARIUS- Expansive Jupiter is now in your 7th house of close, personal relationships, so expect to be more focused on relationship issues and situations. Friends may provide wonderful, new opportunities for love and growth.



PISCES- With Venus joining the Sun and Mercury in your 7th house of close, personal relationships, be prepared for social activity. You may feel the need to contact old friends or schedule lunch with someone special.



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

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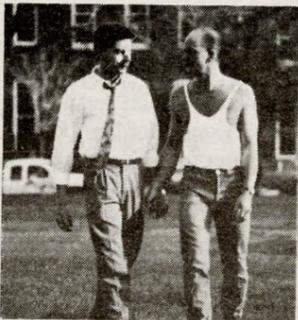
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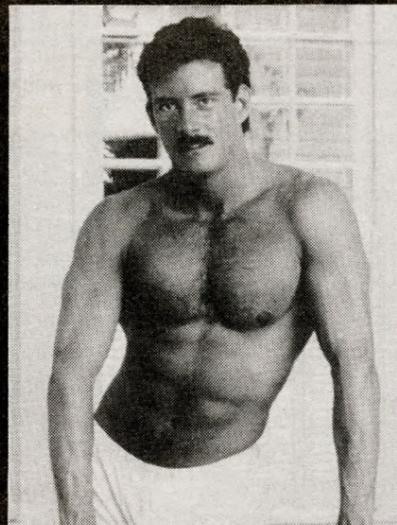
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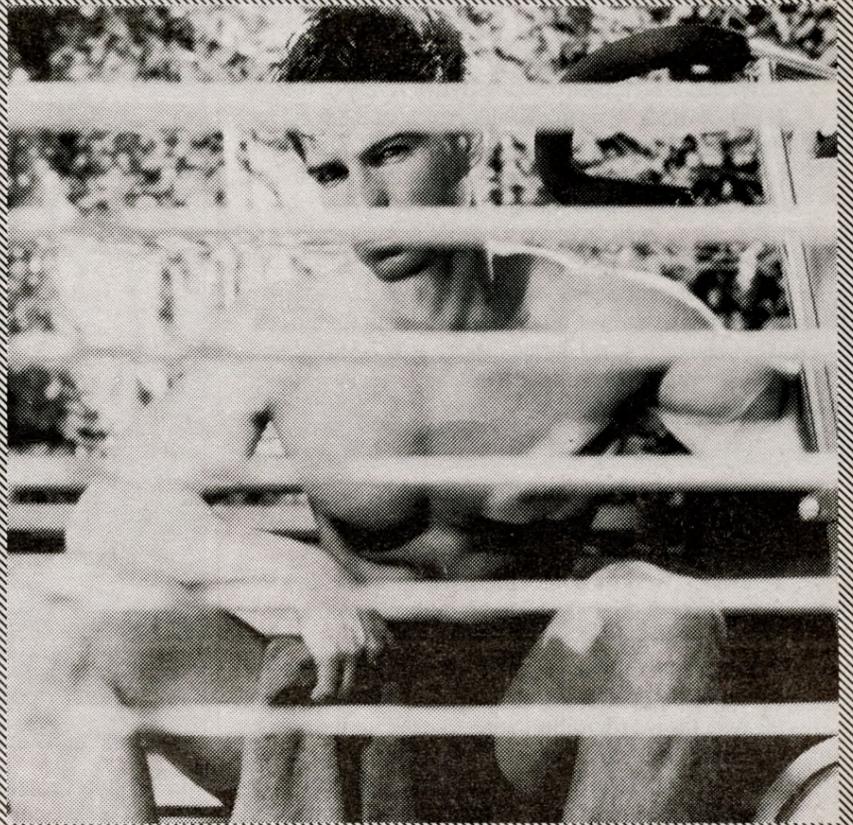
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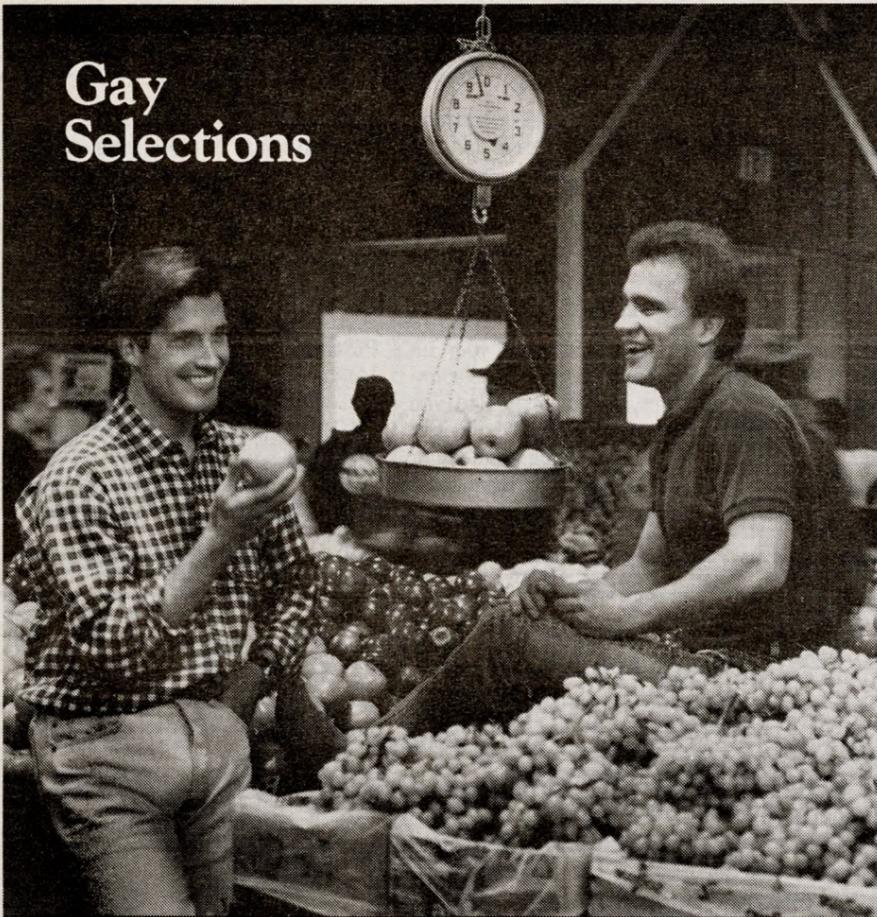
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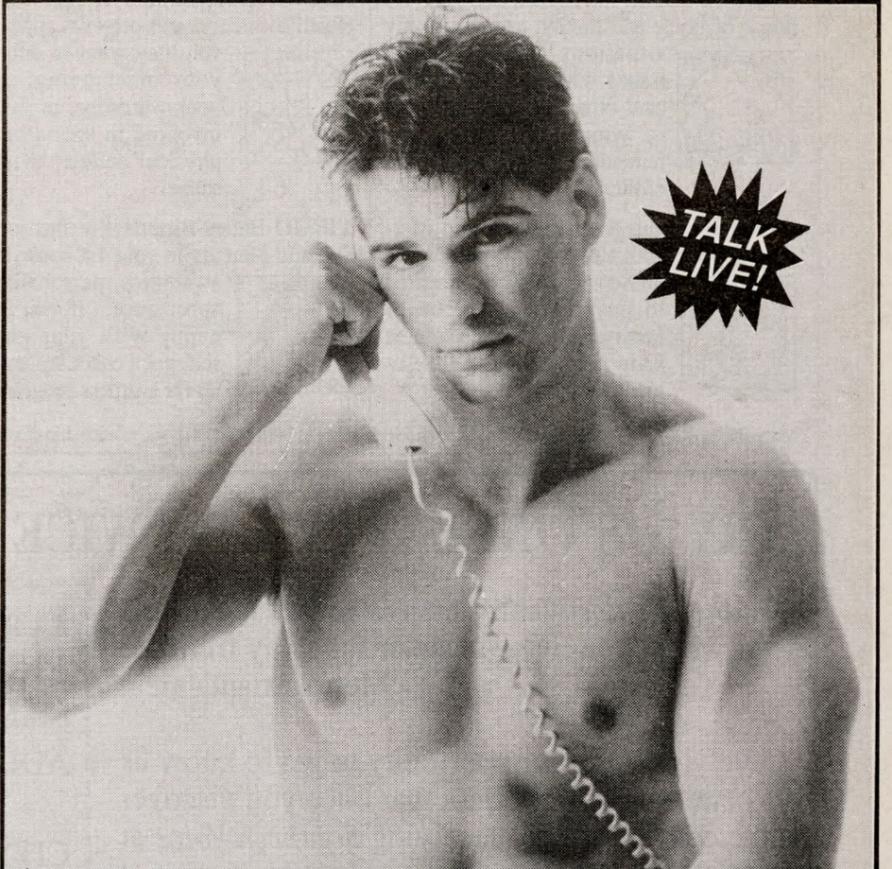
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CLASSIFIEDS

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

AID - GWINNETT

A support group for PWA's or HIV + men and women has been formed for those who could be more conveniently served Northeast of the Perimeter. • Dedicated to your personal needs of support with people who understand, can relate and who share similar trials • Address concerns, medical & social information as well as assistance programs, education & exchange of info. • Periodic guest speakers, dinners, socials and outings - Meeting every other Wed. (next is Aug. 29) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Gwinnett Medical Center Educational Dept., 701 West Pike St., Lawrenceville (just off #316) For more info: 995-3311 or 497-1540.

AID ATLANTA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Groups and Meeting Times:
PWAs I Wed. 7-9pm
PWAs II Sat. 4-5:30pm
Lymphadenopathy/ARC Mon. 7-9pm
Hispanics with HIV Wed. 7-8:30pm
Worried Well Tues. 6-7:30pm
Bereavement Mon. 7-9pm
Family, Friends & Partners I Mon. 7-9pm
Family, Friends & Partners II Wed. 7-9pm
PWA in the Family Wed. 7-9pm
AIDS Information Line: In Atlanta 876-9944, Toll-free: 1-800-551-2728

Support Group forming for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Living With AIDS. Contact Social Services, AID Atlanta at 874-6517 for more info. (V3#16)

Minority AIDS Service

- Carline - 753-5114
- Counseling
- Positive Living Support Group
- Buddy Plan
- Community Relations
- Bible Study
- Good News Awareness Ministry, Cathedral of Faith, 753-5114 (V3#14)

GSU TO OFFER GROUP THERAPY FOR HIV+ AND HIV- MEN sponsored by GSU's Dept. of Psychology. \$30 for all ten sessions (Wednesdays). No one turned away for lack of funds. An effort to better respond to the concerns and problems of HIV+ and HIV- men. Open format discussion, six to eight participants & two therapists per group. Contact Jim Burke at 404/584-8306. (V3#14)

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. (V3#16)

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

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 5-6:30pm. Karen Benjack-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.

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.(V3#15)

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.(V3#14)

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.(V3#16)

AIDS Care Coordinated is a new service for PWA's in need of housing and assisted living. Call for more info at 371-9433.(V3#14)

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.(V3#14)

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 294-9407.(V3#14)

STREET WISE SELF DEFENSE
Instructed by Ellen Teeter at the L5P comm. center Wed. nights beginning Aug 1st. Offering basics of the mart. arts and Street smart protection. Warren @ 607-8612 or Jessi @ 296-3702

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Atlanta Business and Professional Guild has a new networking group for the gay and lesbian community: Success Oriented Networking Group (SONG). Meets every other Wed. at 12:00 noon to provide a structured networking opportunity to its members. Each business type is limited to one member per category to eliminate competition from within the group. For more info about SONG contact the Guild office at 662-4202. (V3#16)

ACT UP, Fight Back, Fight AIDS. The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power meets on Tuesdays 7:30pm in room #6 of the Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. NE. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information call the 24 hour Voice Newsletter and Mailbox at 286-6247. (V3#14)

Recreational Co-ed Volleyball Sun 2-5 at Winn Park, Ansley. For more info call 875-0700 (V3#16)

AUDITIONS

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus Seeking Singers for 1990-91 Season Seeking qualified singers in all male voice parts for its 1990-91 season. Tenors in particular are needed. AGMC is a volunteer, semi-professional male chorus committed to musical excellence and community service. Auditionees should bring a prepared work and be ready to sight read unfamiliar works. Auditions are with the Musical Director; accompanist can be provided. Rehearsals are Thursday nights, 7:30 - 10:00. For more info or to schedule an audition, contact the AGMC Musical Director at 297-9779. (V3#15)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

SE PUBLICATION FOR SALE
10-year-old lesbian/gay newspaper, excellent reputation, established market, secure customer base, potential for growth. Serious offer only. 3421 M Street, NW, Suite 1023, Washington, D.C. 20007 (V3#16)

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Ornewood/Grant Park child care in home. Registered day care provider. 2-5 year olds. 2 meals & snack. Clean, safe environment. M-F 624-9768.

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Help Wanted. Full and P/T positions available at Back Alley Video. Stop by and fill out your application today. 2000 Cheshire Bridge Road. No phone calls please. (V3#16)

EMPLOYMENT

We pay top dollar for your cleaning expertise. Ann Duckworth Cleaning Service is looking for qualified individuals to fill full and P/T positions. Call Nora at 872-1754. (V3#16)

Looking for someone to help me distribute Shaklee Products, a company dedicated to health and a pollution free world. Great opportunity for independence. Solid training. Can start P/T. Call T. Willie. Shacklee Buckhead Center 261-0909. (V3#16)

NAPWA is taking applications for part-time peer counselor coordinator. Must be HIV+, self-motivated, knowledgeable about AID and HIV infection. Stipend. Contact Kathleen Brocket, Executive Director, 874-7926. (V3#15)

Health conscious, caring and ambitious? We are looking for 5 people interested in contributing to the well being of others while earning an excellent income. Full or part time. Call Debra Golden after 10am weekdays at 953-2649. (V3#16)

Receptionist position for smart dresser open for bisexual or gay female. Starting P/T to grow full-time. Flexible daytime hours. Call Rick at 315-7536 for an appointment. (V3#16)

P/T telemarketing position. 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Fun job with guaranteed income of \$100-\$120/week plus bonus. Briarcliff and Clairmont Area. 248-9115. (V3#16)

Executive Director - New Yorks Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD-NY) seeks E.D. for \$450,000 non-profit organization. Extensive budgeting, fund raising, public speaking and human resources management experience essential. Women, people of color urged to apply. Resume, salary, requirements to Search Committee GLAAD-NY, 80 Varick St., #3 E NY, NY 10013. No calls, deadline September 30. E.O.E. (V3#16)

Atlanta NAPWA is taking applications for a part-time secretarial position. Eligibility as a voting NAPWA member, working knowledge of word processing and dBASE applications required. For additional information contact Kathleen Brocket, Executive Director, at (404) 874-7926. (V3#14)

The Tower - We need a conscientious person to cover security on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Call after 3:30 pm Mon-Fri 688-5463. Leave your name and phone number. (V3#15)

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EMPLOYMENT

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FOR RENT

Excellent 1 BR apartment available in midtown duplex at 930 Charles Allen. Very quiet and private with amenities that include garage space, CA, carpeting, tiled BA & kit., monitored security, all window treatments, glass block, fully appointed kit., W/D, steamroom in bath, ceiling fans, etc. Unique design throughout. \$600/month + util. Dogs doubtful. 875-5139 shown by appt. only. (V3#15)

For Rent: Charming one BR cottage-style apt. in pleasant, older community. Easy walk to Lindbergh MARTA rail & ample shopping. Clean, quiet. Small pets OK. \$320-375. 237-7262 (V3#16)

Candler Park home for rent - 2/3 bedrooms with new carpet, refinished wood floors in L/R and D/R fireplace. Screened porch, big fenced yard, fuel efficient, burglar bars, CH/A, W/D. \$750/ month + util. 523-6094. (V3#14)

Decatur house for rent - Beautiful, spacious 2 BR/2 BA home. \$575 Rent to clean professional couple. 377-1028. (V3#14)

Poncey-Highland beautiful 3 BR house - huge rooms, fireplaces, hdwds, screened porch, garage. Large rent reduction if you're willing to let house be shown occasionally by realtor. Reduced rent \$675. Call 873-4087. (V3#14)

Midtown Condo - 2BR/1BA, New carpet & appliances, includes W/D & cable, off-street parking. \$575. 881-0600 (V3#14)

Grant Park apartment on quiet street. 1BR, newly renovated, CH/A. \$375/month. Busline. Nice. Call Tom at 577-0653. (V3#14)

FIXER UPPER AVAILABLE to someone with electrical and/or painting skill. Two BR remodeled kitchen/bath, screened porch, workroom, ceiling fans. Near Edgewood - Candler Park MARTA station. Available in the fall. M/F. No smoking. \$300. Respond to SV BOX 2316. (V3#14)

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ATTORNEY - No fee for initial consultation - criminal defense, drug cases, DUI, personal injury. 1st American Bank Tower, 34 Peachtree St., Suite 2200. Convenient to MARTA. (O) 522-7450, (H) 977-2085. BOB CITRONBERG. (V3#14)

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CLASSIFIED DIRECTIONS

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4. To Respond to a Southern Voice Box Number Is EASY - Put your reply in a stamped sealed envelope and write the box number on the lower left corner. Mail your reply envelope in a separate envelope to Southern Voice, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, Ga., 30316. We will forward your reply to the appropriate party.
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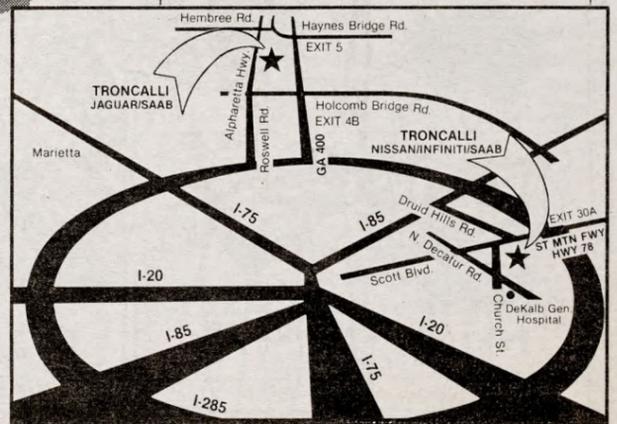


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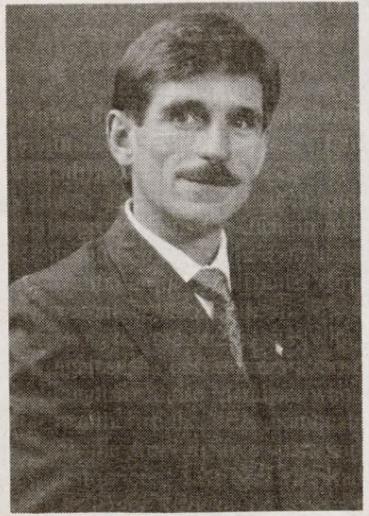


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GAY GAMES WRAP UP

Atlanta's softball team cops a surprise gold medal from L.A.'s Griff's

by Jim Marks

"This is not a movement about sexual preferences," said emcee Robin Tyler at the opening of Gay Games III. "This is a movement about the right to love."

Gay Games III, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, August 4-11, was an event about gay and lesbian people in a larger sense: physical but not just sexual, athletic but cultural as well. At its most idealistic, Gay Games III was about a visionary ideal, as Canadian MP Sven Robinson (quoting Judy Chicago) put it, a vision of a "new Eden" of sexual equality.

Those ideals were defined in a moving (if overlong) opening night ceremony Saturday, August 4.

But for the athletes, the games didn't really begin until the competition did. For the swimmers, that was at 8:00 Sunday morning as heat after heat churned up the Aquatic Centre's 50 meter lanes. Competition ended August 11, at the close of a men's soccer match, between the New York Rumlbers and Berlin Vorspiel. They called it a day after 120 dusty minutes of play—with Berlin eking out a 1-point victory, and a bronze medal.

The Games' steady growth over the years became palpable at the Triathlon. At Gay Games II in 1986, the triathlon had been held in the Berkeley Hills, miles distant from public transportation. In attendance were the athletes, a few friends and lovers, a scattering of volunteers and spectators, and no more than a half-dozen gay journalists and photographers.

But in Vancouver, the triathlon was a five-minute walk from the heart of the city's gay community. The competitors surged down the English Bay Beach in 3 waves—men 30 and under, 30 and over, and women—each group nearly as large as the entire 1986 field.

I was the lone District of Columbia witness to the Gay Games II triathlon. In Vancouver there were at least 20 Washingtonians cheering them on. They clustered around the finish line, going crazy when one of their own, Scott Barrows, came in first in his under-30 age group, and second over all. But the more things change, the more they stay the same: first place finisher Ian Nash from Melbourne, Australia, repeated his Gay Games II victory.

Swimming, an event run by the host English Bay Swim Team, displayed the same meticulous organization as the triathlon. Tennis seemed to be pretty much running itself. Soccer, too, was a complicated event smoothly run, both by organizers Francie Kara and Melanie Woodal and by gay head referee B.J. Millar. Robin Chambers presided over the potential chaos of the wrestling tournament—in which each wrestler is designated a new opponent immediately upon winning or losing a match—with a calmness that made it all look easy.

Other sports were not so lucky. Volleyball, the largest single sport, narrowly averted disaster. According to an official with the North American Gay Volleyball Association, two hours before the captains' meeting, Vancouver organizers confessed that they didn't know how many teams were coming, didn't know how to seed teams, and didn't have a schedule. There were also eight "ghost" teams—teams listed as participants, who never showed up—that further played havoc with a last-minute schedule.

Track and field was plagued by a host of problems, too. On Sunday the distance runners learned that only five, instead of the promised 20, University of British Columbia track officials would be on hand for the week's events. Track and field participants took up much of the slack.



M. J. MURPHY

There was one real fiasco—the women's ten kilometer run on Tuesday morning. Beginning over 30 minutes late, runners had to deal with a road unmarked in spots. Some women got lost or unwittingly took short cuts. To compound the problem, the men's 35-and-over heat began close to its scheduled start, meaning the lead pack of about 40 male runners encountered the lead women on the narrowest, most dangerous stretch of the race. New York's Sue Foster, the race favorite, had to run on heavily-traveled Boundry Road to avoid the crush of men on the path. The race was declared unofficial, and rerun on Friday.

It wasn't easy in the whirl of events to get a feel for how Vancouver was taking the games. The local press—*The Vancouver Sun* and the tabloid *Province*—ran fairly brief, colorless stories. *The Sun* ran a prominent Op-Ed box—complete with illustration—containing four anti-gay letters to the editor, and featured a gay-bashing and homophobic graffiti in a metro section story. Traveling all over the metro area, it was obvious the Games were bringing lots of gay visibility to Vancouver's tree-lined streets. *The Sun* reported the games would pump between 28 and 30 million (Canadian) gay dollars into the city's economy.

Perhaps the Vancouver media's coverage accounted for the treatment Games organizers gave the press, as if it was a necessary, barely-tolerated evil.

"I trust you are getting all that you need," Games publicist Doug Hughs said to me at Wednesday night's feather and leather International Fantasy Ball. Since communications director Sarah Temple had threatened to revoke my credentials for photographing the physique contest the night before, I was at a loss for words.

The physique contest was as much show as athletic endeavor. After the intermission, a group of men and

women in the lighter weight classes took up seats in the front rows. As one of the women, performing to classical music, hit "shot" after "shot" in her posing routine, they could be heard orgasmically murmuring "yes...yes" in tribute to her ability. Atlanta light heavy-weight Dan Rhoney's posing routine stirred up cries of "Dan! Dan! Dan!" from the excited audience.

Press was allowed into the International Fantasy Ball, even if it was firmly swept out an hour and a half later. Amidst the demons, drag queens and lady vampires, the man in the California Highway Patrol Uniform (his work clothes, he said) and the man in the Divine Miss M outfit (complete with sequined mermaid tail and motorized wheel chair), one caught glimpses of athletes (and parts of their anatomies) one had seen before in a different milieu.

Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters were also in attendance. A woman body builder's 10-year old son very proudly photographed his mom at the physique preliminaries. When Marcie Bodeaux of Crockett, California, completed the grueling triathlon, she celebrated with a three-way hug from her lover Mary Boston and sister Jean. Then Marcie, Jean and father Patrick proudly posed for a photo. At the closing ceremonies, Sara Lewinstein, the widow of Gay Games founder Tom Waddell, shared the podium with their daughter, Jessica, for the awarding of the Tom Waddell Memorial Cup.

Atlanta provided one of the two major upsets at the games. Our Atlanta All-Stars came from behind to beat Los Angeles' Griff's in the softball finale, handing Griff's its first loss all season. And in the soccer field, when Los Angeles eked out a 1-0 victory over San Francisco—due in part to brilliant work by goalie Frank Laanan in stopping a penalty kick—the San Francisco Spikes experienced their first ever loss in gay play.

At the closing ceremonies New York City was designated host of Gay Games IV. Members of the "New York in '94" organizing committee no doubt observed Gay Games III with an eye to their future task. If there were any practical lessons from the Games, they were that gay people are going to have to learn how to cope with the problems created by the movement's increasing scale.

The lack of forethought on making the entire event accessible to the press reflected a more complex issue—whether the games are a celebration primarily for the benefit of the athletes, or whether they are as much about making a statement to the world.

Whatever the bumps on the road to New Eden, there can be no doubt that for the athletes and cultural participants Gay Games III was an uplifting, exhilarating event. If Gay Games III left Vancouver drained and exhausted, it also made a deep impression upon the city's gay community. At the Fantasy Ball, I met Rose Garbutt, bare from the waist up save for a pair of suspenders, a leather cord around her neck and a leather cap. Rose is the chef at Doll and Penny's, an eatery that serves as the informal community center of gay Vancouver. She marveled at the line that had appeared at the cafe's door five days earlier, and remained. "Don't you guys ever run out of money? Don't you ever get hung over? Don't you ever sleep?" she asked.

And then she added that the invasion had "changed Vancouver, opened it up. You see girls holding hands—guys holding hands. I witnessed a fag bashing the other night, and the cops were there in three minutes. Four squad cars. Amazing."



Todd Yates, Fred Holland and Mike Holloway of Atlanta's gold medal softball team

JIM MARKS



Santa Cruz stirs it up in a game vs. Vancouver

M. J. MURPHY