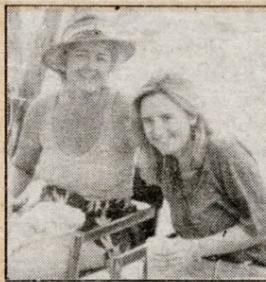


MEN MELISSA MONSTERS



An Interview with Franklin Abbott about men, intimacy, sex and other exciting stuff.

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An Interview with Melissa Etheridge about music, intimacy and MTV.

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An Interview with Dr. Frankenstein about men, intimacy and Melissa Etheridge... just kidding.

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SOUTHERN

VOICE

Vol. 3, No. 18 "Taking Pride in Our Culture" October 25, 1990

HELMS HATH NO FURY



...LIKE A NATION SCORNED

700+ Atlantans tell Jesse Helms what they think about his bullying and bigotry.



Page 6.

GA. TECH GAY/LESBIAN GROUP DENIED FUNDING

Atlanta—The Undergraduate Student Council of Georgia Tech has voted down a request for funds to help send the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA)—an official Georgia Tech Organization—to the Fourth Annual Harvard Gay and Lesbian/Bisexual Conference.

The bill—which would have granted the group \$482 for mileage to the conference and registration fees for four students—was defeated 37 to 17.

According to Stacia Smith, President of the Undergraduate Student Government, the bill was voted down on three accounts: opposition to allocating money for conferences in general; doubt whether GALA would bring anything of value back from the Conference to the Tech Student Body; and people who "probably voted on morality, as well." Smith concedes, "A few people just stood up and said

they just personally couldn't support the bill about GALA."

Smith emphasized that the original bill received favorable recommendations from the Joint Finance Committee, the President's Advisory Cabinet and the Graduate Senate.

According to Smith, other groups have been refused funding in the past, such as the Residence Hall Association of Georgia Tech. GALA, however, points out that other groups—the African-American Association and the Young Republicans—have received funding to attend conferences.

GALA's Treasurer, Shawn Badinger, says that each student pays approximately \$35 per quarter into a student activities fund and that two year-old GALA has never received any money from that fund. Based on the results of an official campus survey, Badinger says that Tech has "about 1000 gay or lesbian students.

That's \$35,000 a quarter we're paying into the fund; one request for \$482 doesn't seem unreasonable to us."

Badinger goes on to point out that homophobia is rampant on the Tech campus and, as a result, most lesbians and gay students are quite closeted. She believes that the group's trip to the conference will provide them with important knowledge about how to make the Tech campus a more comfortable place for lesbians and gay men.

Dr. Don Bratcher, Tech's Director of Human Relations, commented that "administratively we've been very supportive of GALA. It's sharing that support and bringing other students along that seems to be the problem...helping them understand it's a total human rights issue...that even if they don't agree with a gay or lesbian orientation—one doesn't at least deny advancement, opportunity, or access to [gay men and lesbians]."

GALA held a demonstration to protest the decision on Monday, Oct. 22. On Tues. the 23, after deadline for this issue, another bill with a similar request was submitted to the undergraduate Senate.



GALA members say that if this bill fails they will consider suing Tech under its non-discrimination clause.

PARK OUTPOST DRAWS FIRE

Gays complain of harassment from the officers in Piedmont Park

Atlanta—A well-intentioned attempt to soothe the jangled nerves of angry Park Dr. residents is having the opposite effect on some gay men visiting Piedmont Park.

Atlanta City Councilperson Mary Davis has received complaints from three gay men who said that they were (or felt) harassed by the guard(s) responsible for the security booth at the Park Drive entrance to Piedmont Park. One of those men and the friend of another also contacted *Southern Voice*.

The security booth has been in operation since the end of August. It was put in place in response to area resident's complaints of drug trafficking and prostitution along the only remaining vehicular entrance to the popular Midtown park.

Davis and Parks and Recreation Department employee Hilliard Lee say they both began receiving complaints about the problem in early March. Residents also contacted the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and local TV stations which gave their complaints extensive coverage.

The result was that Davis agreed to introduce legislation that would help the problem. She says her preferred response was to close the Park Drive entrance and reopen the gate on 10th Street.

Lee says that was unsatisfactory to his department because it would have cars driving through a long stretch of road in the park, thus destroying the pedestrian atmosphere and creating maintenance problems. The roads in park, a popular cruising area for gay men, were closed to traffic more than 5 years ago. Lee's recommendation was a four-month trial of a small guard booth, inside the park at the end of Park Drive, staffed 12 hours a day.

Davis said she went along with the Council's acceptance of the Parks Department's recommendations reluctantly. "I was concerned about this [harassment problems] from the first," says Davis. "The problem is crime, not cruising...that's not a crime...I'm appalled by it [the reported harassment]."

The worst of the reported incidents involves the guard demanding that two gay men get out of their car and not drive through the parking lot a second time. The guard then reportedly demanded that the two men never come back to the park.

Two other complaints involved the guard recording the license numbers or cars driven by single men; one reported that the guard photographed the rear of his car and the car of the man leaving the park behind him.

Both Lee and Davis claim that the legislation which established the outpost in the park did not call for any kind of surveillance—except for potential criminal activity.

According to Lee, the Parks Department



BILL MEDLOCK

contracted with a single individual who is responsible for staffing the booth, 12 hours a day, seven days a week. He is paid \$17 an hour—more than \$6000 per month—to staff the booth himself or sub-contract for the services of another retired police officer. Both Davis and Lee say that no provision was made to see that the person(s) hired were aware of the sensitivities of gay men who frequent the Park or the long history of police harassment of gays in the park.

Lee said that he believes the name of the man who was hired is William Suttles, but referred *Southern Voice* to Parks Department employee Bill Gary, who actually hired the officer and is responsible for his supervision. Gary did not return our calls.

Davis says she has sent a strongly worded letter requesting immediate action to Parks Commissioner Harold Morgan. She also requests that individuals who have or have had a negative experience with the officer(s) staffing the Park Drive booth call her office (330-6030) and report those incidents.

NLC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS PARITY GOALS

Grant funds arrive in "the nick of time"

by S.M. Clarke

Atlanta—Organizing for the first ever National Lesbian Conference—to be held at the Atlanta Hilton April 24-28, 1991—is proceeding on schedule. The event will be the culmination of two years of coordinating countless opinions, needs and logistics.

"We've had scathing letters [from lesbians] about holding the conference in a state with such sodomy laws, but Atlanta was chosen... to demonstrate our numbers, and our concern, and our power, and to challenge the system," says Mary Lu Lewis, conference coordinator.

Reflecting the conference's theme of "Diversity, Solidarity, and Empowerment," its steering committee set a goal of parity—50 percent lesbians of color, 20 percent disabled, and five percent elderly. Difficult? Yes. But the goal was attained at the steering committee's mid-September meeting in Atlanta. The committee's members also represent regional, religious, and socioeconomic considerations, as well as those in recovery from chemical dependency.

"It was very exciting... when we took roll and every category was filled," says Lewis. "There was a cheer that went up."

Preregistration packets are being distributed by mail, through bookstores, organizations, and media. A brochure with travel and hotel information will be available in November.

With attendance anticipated at 5,000, this unprecedented conference requires a long list of resources to help it run smoothly. "Money's at the top of the list," says Lewis.

Several endeavors are underway to raise the \$489,000 operating budget established for the conference at an April steering committee meeting in Kansas City. A second staff person, Bridget Collins, is concentrating on fundraising. Because about 75 percent of the conference expenses will be paid by registration fees, ad revenues and merchandise sales—all yet to be received—cash flow is a big concern.

The NLC has received a \$10,000 grant from the Chicago Resource Center; half paid the balance due to secure the space at the Hilton, the remainder will be put toward staff salaries and overhead for running the national office here in Atlanta.

"It was just in the nick," of time says Lewis. The NLC had missed one deadline with the Hilton and all conference plans were on hold pending receipt of donations or grant funds.

Collins has written an additional \$120,000 in grant requests and is working with several national gay male organizations to raise funds for the conference through a program called, "Brothers Helping Sisters."

In addition, there is the "Dollar-A-Dike," program. "We're asking every lesbian to stick a dollar in an envelope and mail it to us at P.O. Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031." Money from supportive men is also welcome. Registration forms are also available from the same address.

ATLANTA GETS TWO NCOD ADS

America celebrated its third National Coming Out Day (NCOD) Oct 11. *Newsweek*, *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, and *The Emory Wheel* all contained ads exhorting lesbians and gays to proclaim their sexual orientation. Tell it to a colleague, tell it to a friend, tell it to a

sibling, tell it to a parent. Tell someone. Let the world know our numbers.

Jim Hurt of the NCOD Committee in Atlanta felt *The A-J/C* ad went over well. The Committee hoped to place at least a quarter page and aimed at a full page. Enough money was raised to place an ad that covered 60% of page 5 of the Oct. 11 editions of the daily paper.

Hurt and committee member Mark du Pont say they were pleased with the cooperation given by the *J/C* staff. After the ad ran, *WGST* radio interviewed Hurt and du Pont, giving NCOD even more publicity.

Du Pont reports that the *J/C* received no letters or phone calls—pro or con—in response to this year's ad. The 1988 ad, he ads, generated 1200 responses to the paper.

The NCOD Committee had to submit their ad ad copy to an *A-J/C* review board and all whose names appeared in the ad had to sign affidavits giving permission for their names to be printed. Even openly lesbian/gay publications *Southern Voice* and *Etcetera* were required to sign releases.

"But," recounts du Pont, "they were wonderful about it, sending their courier all over town to pick up the releases that we needed. And the woman who worked on the ad didn't even get a commission [because the ad was a walk-in]."

When questioned about the process, the *A-J/C*'s Andy Murdock replied "This issue [the review board] has no more to do with gay or lesbian than it does with Democrat, Republican, abortion, [or] gun control... When names are being used with any advocacy position [such as] a political campaign [and someone takes a stance] — 'I'm voting for Joe Frank Harris', abortion, anti-abortion, or the death penalty — [then] it is necessary to make sure that people [whose] names that are in there actually authorize publication of their names in support of it. [This is] standard practice of any newspaper ad department."

Murdock recounted an incident from 1988 when an individual's name was published in association with a NCOD ad and that individual called after the ad ran and informed the paper that (s)he had never actually submitted her/his name for the ad. According to Murdock, the *A-J/C* was forced to print a retraction a few issues later.

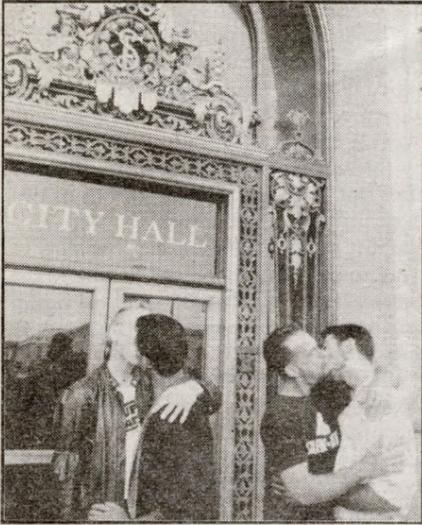
A source requesting anonymity says that Anne Cox Chambers—part owner of the company which owns the *J/C*—was "furious" about the full page NCOD ad which ran in 1988.

Emory's 100 member Lesbian and Gay Organization (ELGO) was pleased with the ad placed in *The Emory Wheel*. ELGO paid \$140 to place the half page. ELGO reports that *The Emory Wheel* staff was extremely cooperative and that the group received only a positive response from the student body.

NEWS

NIH TO INVESTIGATE GALLO'S AIDS RESEARCH

The National Institutes of Health has announced that it is opening a full scale, formal investigation into allegations of scientific misconduct by its best-known AIDS researcher, Dr. Robert Gallo. In a terse one-page announcement issued on October 5, NIH acting director, William Raub, said that he had determined that "certain issues" identified during an unprecedentedly long preliminary inquiry "warrant a full investigation." The action by Raub represents a surprising reversal of his previous position. While Gallo himself was not available for comment, Dr. Howard Streicher, who frequently functions as his spokesperson, told the *New York Times* that Gallo was "flabbergasted" that any evidence had been found of possible misconduct. Streicher claimed that the issues the NIH panel would be investigating were "trivial" and "historical and not ones of ethics or integrity or science".



"We're Here, We're Queer, Get Used To It!": An Atlanta chapter of Queer Nation, an organization dedicated to combating homophobia at the grass-roots level by promoting visibility of the lesbian and gay community, is forming. Its first organizational meeting will be held on November 5 at the Little Five Points Community Center. The meeting is open to the entire lesbian and gay community. In San Francisco, 40 people of Queer Nation recently stormed the San Francisco City Recorder Office in an attempt to obtain marriage licenses. The 40 lesbian and gay couples were refused licenses, but minister Richard Dalton of Lambda Christian Fellowship proceeded to marry the couples anyway in the City Hall Rotunda. Atlantans may recognize longtime Atlanta activist Warren Krause (with his lover David Robinson) on the right in the accompanying photo.

D.C. Gay and Lesbian Community Center (GLCC) Closes: With a debt of almost \$50,000, the Washington, D.C. Gay and Lesbian Community Center (GLCC) will close its doors, possibly forever, at the end of November, according to *The Washington Blade*. The Center houses both the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League and the Lesbian and Gay Switchboard as well as catering to about a dozen other groups. Bob Roehr, GLCC Board President, claims it's difficult to sustain the GLCC in D.C. because several national gay organizations reside in the nation's capital. These organizations are generally political and get quite a bit of publicity. Roehr claims it is difficult for the GLCC to compete for funding.

GLAAD Chapter Forming in Atlanta: The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is an organization dedicated to combating homophobia in the media and elsewhere by promoting visibility of the lesbian and gay community and organizing grass-roots responses to anti-gay/lesbian bigotry. The Atlanta chapter of GLAAD will hold its first meeting on October 29th at 7:00 pm at the Peachtree Branch of the Fulton County Library (across the street from the High Museum). Women and people of color are particularly urged to participate.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Rejects Offer of P.M. Money: NGLTF has joined the boycott against Marlboro and Miller products, subsidiaries of Philip Morris. The boycott is in protest to Philip Morris' donations to the Sen. Jesse Helms. NGLTF also recently rejected Philip Morris' invitation to apply for a \$10,000-\$15,000 grant designated for AIDS advocacy. Jaime Grant of NGLTF added, "If Philip Morris were truly concerned with AIDS, it would not support individuals who pose the greatest impediment to ending the epidemic." Write Philip Morris' CEO Hamish Maxwell at 120 Park Avenue, New York City, New York, 10017. In Georgia, Club One of Savannah has joined the boycott against Philip Morris along with local eateries Parkside and Cafe Provincial.

ACT UP forms a chapter in Helms Country: On October 13, the day after the Atlanta anti-Helms demonstration, 33 women and men formed the first ACT UP chapter in N.C.: the ACT UP/Triangle Area (Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh). Among the group's first actions are joining the Marlboro and Miller boycotts. Harvey Gant's campaign staff has expressed concern that any radical activity so close to election day may alienate moderate, undecided voters which comprise about 7%-9% of those most recently polled. The Triangle group will join other ACT UP chapters in Atlanta on Dec. 3 for a protest at the CDC.

Oral Sex is a Significant AIDS Risk: According to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, a recent medical study reported that 15% of 82 men who tested positive for the AIDS virus claim to have no other risk outside of oral sex with ejaculation. AIDS organizations have always maintained that oral sex with ejaculation is an AIDS risk, but the new study demonstrates exactly how high that risk is. Dr. Winklstein, one of the authors of the study and a professor of epidemiology at the University of California's School of Public Health, says the virus could enter the bloodstream through small breaks in the oral mucous membranes.

Lesbian Elected President of Atlanta NOW: Atlanta activist Samantha Claar is the first open lesbian to be elected president of the Atlanta chapter of the National Organization for Women. Earlier this year NOW National elected its first openly lesbian vice-president, Rosemary Dempsey. "NOW is a great place for lesbians," quips Claar, "because you get accused of being one whether you are or not!" Claar adds that she plans an outreach for more members to the organization.

Lesbians and Gays Dance at Disneyland: On September 15, lesbian and gay couples danced on the Tomorrowland Terrace at Disneyland in commemoration of Andrew Exler's having been thrown out of the park 10 years ago for same-sex dancing. Exler sued and, in 1984, won, successfully reversing Disney's 1957 policy barring same-sex dancing. By-standers reported overhearing homophobic remarks made by an on-duty security guard during this anniversary dance and Exler has demanded a written public apology from Disneyland. Disneyland representatives have not responded.

Prison Authorities in Ft. Worth Reconsider Gay Wristband Policy: According to *The Gay Community News*, officials of the Tarrant County, Texas Jail are reconsidering their policy requiring lesbian, gay, and bisexual inmates to wear a particular color wristband. According to prison officials, the policy is designed to alert prison officials of who is lesbian, gay, or bisexual in order to protect the inmate from the other prisoners' blatant homophobia. The Tarrant County Gay Alliance (TCGA) met with prison officials on in early September to discuss the policy with the concern that it may increase the risk of victimization. Only 49 of the 3,000 prisoners wear gay wristbands.



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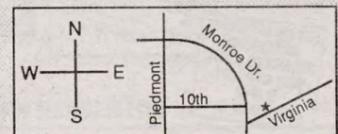
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AIDS LOBBY GROUP FACES FUNDING CRISIS

*HIV testing of Medical workers said to be hot issue
for upcoming legislative session*

Atlanta—The Georgia AIDS Coalition (GAC), which has taken on the responsibility of "assuring that there is a rational voice on AIDS issues in the [Georgia] legislature" since 1986, cannot afford to hire a lobbyist for the '91 session.

"We are not vested in doing this [lobbying]," says coalition member Pat McCrary. "But if we don't do it, I don't know who will."

The coalition has grown steadily in size and budget until this year. It is generally credited with passage of Georgia's relatively progressive Omnibus AIDS Bill. In the '90 legislature, GAC opposed 11 bills: only one passed—H.B. 1789, which allows for non-consensual HIV testing of certain groups.

Non-consensual testing of healthcare workers is likely to be the hot AIDS topic in the legislature this year according to Peter Whiteside, chairperson of the Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition (GAPAC), which has committed \$2500 to GAC's '91 budget.

The Georgia AIDS Action Committee (GAAC), which has control of a small bequest from activist John Howell, has agreed to match GAPAC's contribution. Even so, the group will still be \$3000-\$4000 short of the \$8,000 needed to match last year's payment to GAC lobbyist Gil Robison.

Robison's lobbying style has been the topic of some controversy, but McCrary says that the veteran activist has not applied for GAC's '91 lobbying job.

According to Whiteside and McCrary, GAC's budget shortfall is the result of the

withdrawal of three members of the coalition (NAPWA, Project Open Hand, and Helping Hands) and the inability of remaining coalition members (AID Atlanta, the ACLU, and the Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights) to commit to funding the group's efforts.

"GAC was never intended as a fundraising organization," says McCrary, "we just don't have people to do this."

Donations or inquiries may be sent to Georgia AIDS Coalition, c/o NAPWA, 98 6th Street, Atlanta, GA 30308.



Headline coverage given to a case in which an HIV infected dentist is claimed to have transmitted the virus to one of his patients is at the root of calls for legislation that would require HIV antibody testing of medical personnel.

Last July the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a report reviewing the possibility of HIV transmission from doctor to patient during an invasive dental procedure. The report was issued in response to discovery of a Florida woman who had contracted HIV and could not establish a source of infection except for having had dental surgery, 24 months earlier, by a dentist who had HIV.

The report addressed the possibility of transmission, and an editorial note concluded that likelihood of transmission between the doctor and patient were slim. The editorial note asserts that, first, it was never established that the patient was not HIV-

positive at the time of the procedure or that the patient was ever actually exposed to the doctor's blood. In fact, the patient recalled the doctor was wearing gloves and a mask.

The report failed, however, to identify what type of gloves the surgeon was wearing. Medical gloves are made of three different materials: polyethylene (PE), polyvinylchloride (PVC), and latex. In a study conducted by Edward L. Gershey, Director of Laboratory Safety, Rockefeller University, "both PE and PVC were frequently penetrated by virus. PE had a 40% failure rate, and PVC a 22% [failure rate]". Latex gloves were superior to PE and PVC gloves, but even they had a 1% to 2% failure rate.

According to the CDC, the dentist acknowledged occasional needle sticks "with narrow-gauged needles used to administer local anesthetic." But, he recalled no needle sticks after his diagnosis with HIV.

The CDC reports multiple interviews with the patient which do not indicate any other possible risk factors, but admonishes that the risk factors "involve sensitive personal behaviors that may not be revealed in an interview".

Next, the CDC cited the discovery that the DNA strains between the doctor and patient were highly similar. But, they noted, DNA sequencing for this procedure is new, and therefore, perhaps not perfect. Critics of this procedure have noted that the CDC took samples only from the patient and doctor and ignored collecting samples from the general area. Perhaps that particular strain was indigenous to all those who were HIV infected in the immediate area. In response, the CDC has agreed to do DNA tests on 100 HIV cultures collected from the area.

The patient developed pharyngitis 4 weeks after the dental procedure which "is consistent with an acute retroviral syndrome following HIV infection." But the patient lacked the usual other symptoms such as

fever, rash, etc.

The final inconsistency in all this is that, had the patient been infected by the dentist, then it would have taken only two years for her to develop full-blown AIDS, an unusually short time for the disease to develop. According to the CDC report, only 1% of all infected homo/bisexual men and 5% of all blood transfusion recipients develop full blown AIDS within 2 years of infection.

Little of this qualifying information made the papers; even less appeared on TV, but headlines of the possible transmission of HIV from a doctor to patient created a sensational AIDS scare. The CDC said the woman was infected by the surgeon with "virtual certainty" which was "confirmed" by the similarity of HIV strains. Shortly after that, the press released reports of two more patients of the dentist who were HIV antibody positive, ignoring the possibility of other routes of infection and adding to the general consensus that HIV-infected health care workers are potentially dangerous to their patients.

Receiving almost no mainstream coverage—and in direct contravention to the suppositions of the CDC in the Florida dentist's case—is a study [also released in July] by a group of MDs and medical personnel [Ban Mishu, et al] examining the patients of a general surgeon who died from an AIDS-related condition in January of 1989. An examination of 2160 of the surgeon's patients since 1982 demonstrated that only one patient was HIV-positive, and he confessed to having used intravenous drugs regularly and having frequented prostitutes.

In addition, the National Institute of Dental Research (NIDR) is conducting studies which so far indicate that saliva inhibits the growth of HIV, suggesting that the contraction of HIV through dentist—patient contact, in the absence of broken skin, is indeed very unlikely.

HONDA HERITAGE

As a response to the difficult transportation problem in Japan in 1946, Soichiro Honda attached a small army surplus gasoline engine to the side of his bicycle. This solution worked so well that Mr. Honda was soon building a small number of motorized bicycles for the general public in Japan. When the surplus engines ran out, Mr. Honda decided to make his own engines, thus establishing the Honda Motor Co., Ltd., in 1948.

Honda Motor Co., Ltd., soon began to produce full-fledged motorcycles, including the famous 98cc two-stroke Dream in 1948.

By the end of the 1950s, Honda motorcycles were starting to be very successful, both in sales and in international racing.

Encouraged by the success, Honda Motor Co., Ltd., decided to expand in 1963. The first Honda automobiles were small, nimble sports cars that established Honda as a manufacturer of durable cars with lively performance.



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To Vote, or Not to Vote: Is Apathy the Question?

Believe it or not, there really are some important races where your vote can make a difference

Why bother to vote? If that's your question, please turn to page 8 and read Samantha Claar's comments before proceeding here.

Georgia's 1990 general elections seem to be generating about as much excitement in the lesbian and gay community as they are in the larger community—precious little.

But there are some important races to be decided on Nov. 6. There are several excellent candidates whose election is far from a done deed. Perhaps even more important is that some of these good candidates are facing opponents whose policies or voting records are about as attractive as those of Jesse Helms. Georgia's abortion law may not be safe if these reactionary folks are elected; certainly the sodomy law will not be repealed if many of them hold office. And it doesn't take much imagination to see how they'll vote on progressive AIDS legislation.

So how should you cast your vote? The Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition's recommended slate appears below this article. That's one way to decide who's on the right side of the issues that they questioned candidates about.

The quickest, easiest answer to the "how to vote" question is to punch the slot for a straight Democratic ticket; that's a different number in each county, but it's right up front in your voting book. The unfortunate fact is that neither GAPAC's nor the National Organization for Women's political action committee could find a single Republican to support in this election. And, in the spirit of being a non-partisan group,

GAPAC tried really hard to do just that according to its Chair Peter Whiteside.

Yes, even Zell Miller—despite his endorsement by the National Rifle Association—still appears to be a better bet than Republican Johnny Isakson, at least on lesbian/gay, women's and AIDS issues; Miller is pro-choice, for sodomy repeal and for funding the high-risk insurance pool. Neither candidate has any visible support in the lesbian and gay community and NOW doesn't even give Zell the courtesy of a mention in their slate, but he certainly appears to be the lesser of two evils.

Pierre Howard over Matt Towery for Lt. Governor is an easy call. Howard is endorsed by both GAPAC and NOW and is better than just correct on most of the issues of both groups. Towery paid convicted felon Oliver North \$20,000 to come to Georgia to campaign on his behalf. If that's not enough to scare you into voting, you probably shouldn't be reading this newspaper.

Ben Jones is an obvious choice over John Linder in the 4th Congressional District. NOW is not the least bit enamored of Jones, but he gets good marks from HRCF; Linder is (quietly) pro-life and his campaign told us that they might use Jones' pro-lesbian/gay/arts votes against him in the waning days of the campaign.

All DeKalb County voters have a chance to make a significant change in the old-crony system that too often dominates the DeKalb County Commission. Jackie Scott is enthusiastically endorsed by both NOW and GAPAC. She has agreed to push



Jackie Scott, enthusiastically endorsed by both NOW and GAPAC

for strong hate crimes legislation in DeKalb; her election will be a big boost to the Council's pro-neighborhood faction lead fearlessly by **Sherry Sutton** who is running unopposed. GAPAC found Scott's opponent Pete Brown "uninformed" and "somewhat evasive" on their questions. Brown is said to have the support of arch homophobe Chesley Morton. Yuk.

Also notable in DeKalb: **Rita Valenti in State House District 52** is opposed by Clayton Fowler. GAPAC's interviewer remarked that "...his [Clayton's] personal belief system would not allow him to support gay or lesbian issues." Valenti is a nurse who is pro-active on women's, gay and lesbian issues.

Both GAPAC and NOW endorse Steve

Henson in State Senate District 55. His opponent, David Bell told GAPAC that he would not increase AIDS funding, that he is pro-life and thinks that the sodomy law is "just fine." David Bell is quite plainly a ding-dong.

The hot race in Fulton County is **State District 40** where **Penn Payne** is challenging incumbent Mike Egan. Both GAPAC and NOW are pushing hard for Payne on this one; her positions on all the issues are excellent. Mr. Egan is wishy-washy on AIDS issues, thinks heterosexual sodomy is ok, but that the law should stand for lesbians and gays. On abortion Mr. Egan hauls out that old saw, "I'm personally opposed, but..." "But," hell! There are enough gay men and lesbians registered in District 40 to elect Payne; the question is "will they bother to vote?"

In **Fulton's State House District 30** **Nan Orrock** is the clear choice over opponent Eddie Brewster, a political opportunist who talked about "poking women" (honest) during his GAPAC interview! Observers consider the popular Orrock a sure bet, but her defeat would be a sad day for law-making in Georgia.

Judy Moye in State Senate District 34 gets a recommendation from GAPAC and a conditional OK from NOW because of her less-than-acceptable stand on parental notification. Her opponent Lynn Westmoreland is, however, strongly anti-choice.

A number of other excellent candidates are running unopposed: **John Lewis in the 5th Congressional district**; **Cathy Steinberg (S-42)**; **Jim Martin (H-26)**; **Cynthia McKinney (H-40)**; **Doug Teper (H-46)**; **Mary Margaret Oliver (H-53)**.

Finally: The wording for proposed **Constitutional Amendment #3** make it look like an environmental measure that will produce more tax revenue. Wrong! Vote against #3; the present system for taxation on standing timber is far from perfect but this is not the answer to repairing it.

GAPAC

GAPAC, Atlanta's Lesbian/Gay political action committee is proud to offer its slate of candidates for the November 6, 1990 general election.

GAPAC's recommendations are based on interviews, questionnaires, and other sources such as records of incumbents and input from community activists and others involved in Georgia's political scene. Not all candidates would grant an interview, some filled out our questionnaire. When neither was available to us we tried to use credible secondary sources. You will see a notation following each candidate's name on the slate indicating the source of information that was used.

Questions were developed from suggestions obtained from our community last winter. They focus on the issues of particular importance to the Lesbian/Gay community; issues that are seldom addressed in the non-gay media. Questions asked were in the areas of **AIDS, INSURANCE, PRIVACY (sodomy reform and choice), and HATE CRIMES.** Each set ended with general questions on the candidates awareness and sensitivity to the subject of homosexuality, and how this might affect their position on our issues. GAPAC hopes the information on this slate, and accompanying articles in the gay media will help you in deciding where candidates stand on lesbian/gay sensitive issues.

Gay-Pac (How it sounds is what we are)

Georgia's only Lesbian and Gay Political Action Committee

GAPAC regrets that it can not cover more races, but we are limited to those races for which we have volunteers.

GAPAC provides all materials and training and would especially like to cover races in the more suburban and outlying areas. Those of you living in these areas who are interested, call us for the next election. For your information, in the July primary, 64% of the candidates GAPAC recommended won their races. However, GAPAC does not recommend candidates based on their ability to win, but more importantly, how they stand on our issues.

**See you at the
POLLS
NOVEMBER 6
1990
Let Your Gay
Vote
be counted !**

\$ Continued progress through your support \$

GAPAC, in cooperation with community organizations and leaders has worked to lobby on a range of issues from AIDS to sodomy reform. The next legislative session will be even more crucial as together we fight proposals for forced HIV testing and continued repression of our basic human rights. Take this opportunity to support GAPAC in its efforts to protect your rights as citizens of Georgia. Please send your contribution of:

\$15 \$30 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

To: **GREATER ATLANTA POLITICAL AWARENESS COALITION**
PO BOX 8420
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30306
368-7420

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ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE h (____) _____ - w (____) _____

STATE RACES

GOVERNOR
Lt. GOVERNOR
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

GAPAC SLATE

Zell Miller (D) - Acceptable ,o
Pierre Howard (D) - Recommend ,q,o
Unrated due to lack of information

FULTON COUNTY

STATE SENATE 34
STATE SENATE 40
STATE HOUSE 30
COMMISSION #3 AT LARGE

Judy Moye (D) - Recommend ,*
Penn Payne (D) - Recommend ,*
Nan Orrock (D) - Recommend ,*
C. Milton Farris (D) - Recommend ,*

DEKALB COUNTY

STATE SENATE 55
STATE SENATE 49
STATE SENATE 52
COMMISSION AT LARGE

Steve Henson (D) - Recommend ,*
Chris Mitchell (D) - Recommend ,*
Rita Valenti (D) - Recommend ,q,o
Jackie Scott (D) - Recommend ,*

* - Based on interview q - Based on questionnaire o - Based on other sources

HELMS STAYS HOME

Family Concerns Ministries calls for establishment of "little platoons serving God"

by Gary Kaupman

Atlanta—Friday, Oct 12. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) told television reporters that he had to cancel his planned speaking engagement in Atlanta today because of work on the budget. According to Nancy Schaefer (president of Family Concerns, the right-wing Christian group he was scheduled to address), the homophobic Senator from North Carolina was forced to stay in Washington because he was slaving away on sandbagging the National Endowment for the Arts' reauthorization.

But neither excuse produced much sympathy from the 700-plus people gathered outside First Baptist Church on Peachtree Street. Photographer Andres Seranno (who created the infamous "Piss Christ") was seen walking dejectedly away when it was announced that Helms was not inside the church, but an ear-shattering cheer rose from the crowd when protest organizer Jack Pelham suggested that the real reason Helms was not in Atlanta was because he was not willing to confront the angry crowd. Fists raised, the demonstrators' cheers turned to chants as they screamed, "Stop Helms, Stop the Hate."

Atlanta activists had learned about Helms' planned appearance at the 1990 Family Concerns Conference and Brunch a scant three weeks before. ACT UP/Atlanta moved immediately to plan a protest beginning at 9 a.m. Another group—the Stop Helms Coalition, headed by Jack Pelham and David Greer—agreed to establish a coalition of lesbian/gay, women's, arts, civil rights and peace and justice groups which would hold a lunch time rally.

Planning for both actions went smoothly until Pelham requested that the city close

4th Street between Peachtree and Cypress because of the large size of the expected turn out. When the city refused to issue the permit, Pelham—represented by the ACLU's Michael Hauptman—filed suit against the city, which then agreed to grant the permit in return for Pelham's dropping his suit.

On the eve of the demonstration it appeared that only the torrential rains being produced by Tropical Storm Marco would prevent a large and enthusiastic turn out. But the weather Goddess smiled and Friday morning dawned clear and cool.

By 9 a.m. ACT UP had more than 40 pickets in place in front of the church. In the day's only difficulty with police, Officer Chambers demanded several times that the group change its location in order to "prevent greater conflict." Armed with a variety of signs, the group chanted, "Racist, sexist, anti-gay, Jesse Helms go away;" "Jesus hates hypocrisy;" "Nancy Schaefer spreading lies, we will not be paralyzed;" and other rhymes almost without stop.

Once most participants in the conference had entered the church the picket moved back to the front of the church where it remained and grew until the protest ended at about 1 p.m.

While protesters made their anger known outside, inside the church a group comprised of mostly "middle-aged women and ministers" gathered and listened to speeches from Schaefer, Dr. Richard Land—Executive Director of the Christian Life Commission, and Joe Knott—a lawyer from Raleigh, N.C. filling in for Helms.

"Their theme was consistent," said a conference attendee who requested anonymity. "Everyone referred to the fact that Christians

had been forced into the political realm because of the decline in the morality of society."

"God doesn't make people homosexual or drug addicts or murders, they result from wrong choices," Rev. Charles Stanley told the attendants in a prerecorded video tape.

Confirming Stanley's beliefs was a "man in his late 20's, early 30's," added the anonymous source. "This man, his name was Jimmy Snow, told us that he was 'out of the lifestyle' and that he had developed a program for 'recovering homosexuals'. People applauded enthusiastically after he spoke."

Also making a presentation was a "couple from Birmingham" who had produced an anti-gay video "that used the same stupid scare tactics as 'Reefer Madness' [a 30's morality film which portrayed marijuana users as depraved, crazed individuals unable to control the actions.]" The couple plans to distribute the video to churches and even hopes to get it broadcast on television.

"They used the same tactics again in a workshop on 'What you know about AIDS in the home and in the church.'"

Blanche Griggs—who the program lists as an R.N. and Ph.D.—told the group that in WW II "they had to give condoms to the troops and now they have to give them to Junior High School students" implying that such distribution caused people to be sexual and furthered the spread of disease.

Griggs went on to present a "military style VD horror show of slides of opportunistic infections associated with HIV"; she told the crowd that she had two additional slides—one of a vagina and one of an anus—that conference organizers asked her not to show. "In other words, they were censored," quipped the attendee.

"Little platoons serving God can make a difference," Schaefer told the group, continuing the military metaphor as she discussed her plans for individual church chapters of Family Concerns Ministries throughout the Southeast. One such chapter has already been formed, its founders received

an award for their participation in Ms. Schaefer's war of immorality.

Back outside the question of morality was probably best addressed by ACT UP's Jeff Graham who read a statement during a die-in that covered most of the Peachtree sidewalk with bodies, "Jesse Helms these are the lives you have taken, these are the bodies of the more than 80,000 fellow citizens that have died at your hands...No Jesse, you are not a moral leader. A genuine moral leader would not let the death toll from a disease such as AIDS climb at such an alarming rate. A moral leader would not call a medical condition an act of God, and gleefully cheer as people dies at the rate of one every seven minutes..."

In the the brief silence that followed Graham's reading, protesters moved quickly through the forms that lay on the sidewalk and outlined them with chalk. The chalk marks remained long after the last protester left the church.

Shortly after the die-in groups of protesters began appearing as regularly as the MARTA trains pulled into the North Ave. Station; many were students—their mouths tied with black gags—from the Atlanta College of Art. By noon the crowd had swelled to near 700, some listening to speakers and performers while others continued the now block-long picket in front of the church.

Supporters in cars responded gleefully to signs which said "Honk if you hate Jesse," seeing the positive response that the honking generated, several participants climbed into their cars and drove continuously around block waving signs and American flags.

Finally demonstrators circled the church, joined hands and chanted "Keep the hate inside." Given the vehement rhetoric that our anonymous source and the press later reported, stronger actions will surely be necessary if the Schaefer-Helms style hatred that has been spawned inside these institutions is indeed to be contained within their walls.

Time Is No Longer An Obstacle To Earning Your Degree.

A degree may be exactly what your career needs. But it's probably the last thing your schedule needs.

Fortunately, there's one college that offers degree programs designed for working adults that considers the time available to working adults. They're the Field Experience Programs of National-Louis University, offering unique ways to complete your degree while keeping your life in balance.

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Address _____

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Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

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*Must have a minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours.

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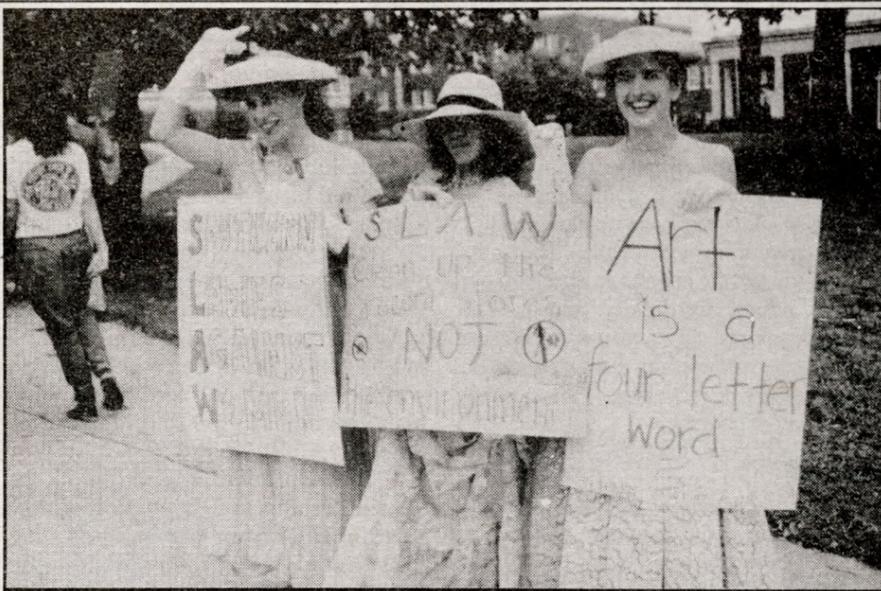
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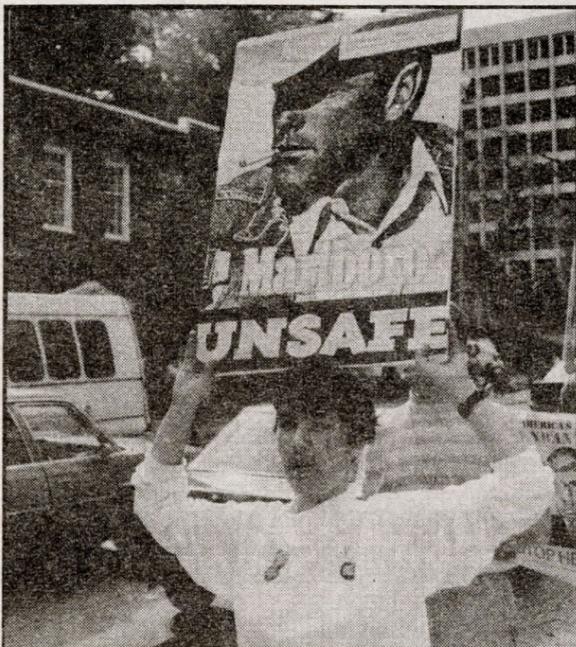
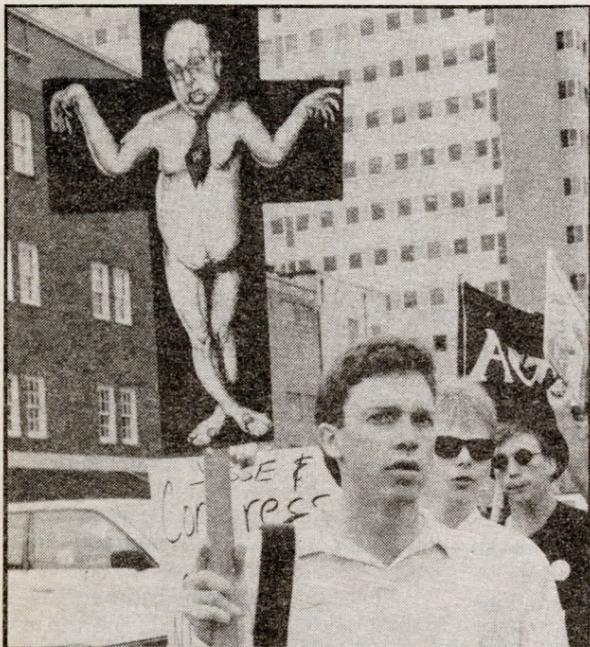
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The next Experience is November 9, 10 and 11. For more information, to attend a guest event, or to register, call 873-9616 today.



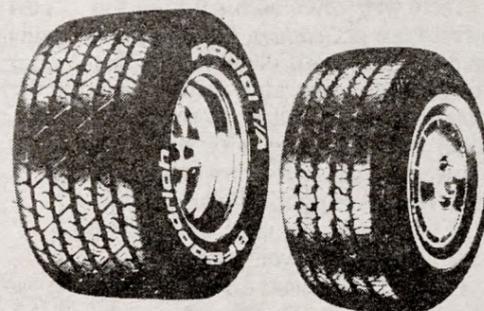
Atlanta

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GUEST EDITORIAL

SICK OF POLITICAL RHETORIC!

I am so sick of campaign rhetoric. I am assaulted by the same style signs tacked around, stuck in yards, quick names, quick slogans requiring no thought. The same tired promises, the attempt to appeal to our morals, ethics, and family values. The unending promises of no tax increases, better police protection, better education programs, more recycling. But, nothing right away of course.

I truly believe that 90% of our elected officials in the Georgia House and Senate are there for prestige—the power brokering that comes with "tenure."

I did my first stint at the Legislature when we submitted 23,000 pro-choice petition signatures. During committee

meetings and lobbying days my estimation of our elected officials continued to plummet. The highlight was speaking to the Senator chairing a committee on abortion. I approached him, shook hands and offered that with all in our state that needed fixing, it was really outrageous that he and his fellow public servants (men) had to waste their time on abortion legislation when *they* would never have to endure a pregnancy.

"That's a matter of opinion, isn't it?" he replied, turning to a colleague as they moved off down the hall and muttering "these damn women, you just can't please them."

How much easier, how much more

enjoyable to attend the "Repeal the Sodomy Law" demonstration. Or to work the Arts Festival and get petitions signed. How tempting sometimes to say ——— it, stay home and read one of those books I've been looking at for months. Or catch a SAME production, or comb the cats, or take my granddaughter to the Zoo.

So why vote? Why do we continue to try so hard? Why keep digging our heels in and continuing to struggle? Because my friends, if we don't, they win by default. We can't work only outside the structure—we must work on the system from the outside *and* the inside.

More women are running for public office this year than any in my memory. Good, strong, persevering women. And there are a "few good men" (no pun intended). Short of dragging our friends in the legislature outside and then blowing up the whole building—with the majority

of the pompous behinds in it—we don't have the option of doing nothing. There are primary races this year that were won and lost on a few votes. Senate District 40 where Penn Payne is challenging homophobic, anti-choice, incumbent, Mike Egan is a good example of where a few votes *will* make a difference.

So squint past the signs, deafen yourself to the rhetoric, and do the one thing that our foremothers devoted their lives to that has so far endured...*women get out and vote!* Vote for women and feminist men—but never, ever think that your vote doesn't count. At the state and local level it does indeed!

by Samantha Claar, President,
Atlanta Chapter of The National
Organization for Women

FROM THE SALES DEPARTMENT

Ho, Ho, Ho, WHERE SHOULD YOUR MONEY GO?

No one has the power to change anyone else's mind. We can only offer our information or feelings and hope that common sense plays its part. But before you go out to spend your hard earned wages on holiday gifts, please read this information about *Southern Voice* advertisers.

We know that some of you hate advertising. There is something insidious about it. We each grew up with t.v.'s heinously heterosexist and homophobic images stabbing at our reality and with the constant pressure to buy, buy, buy. The push to purchase really cranks up during the holiday season making intelligent consumer decisions even more difficult. With our fingers on the volume knob, we want to offer you some information about our advertisers so that you can make the decisions that are best for you.

We are able to publish *Southern Voice* because of the advertising that we carry. Put simply, we are financed by the businesses that are represented in these pages.

There were seven such advertisers in the first issue of *Southern Voice*, back in March of 1988—each one believing that through the news and information *Southern Voice* carried in its pages, the lesbian and gay community would be empowered with self-knowledge and pride. They were right. We have grown to 127 advertisers and more information for and about you and your community.

Please don't assume that all of those 127 advertisers made the decision to advertise in *Southern Voice* based on their desire to empower our community. For many of those who help pay for these pages, "Tapping into the gay market" was smart business. And in smart business, there's no place for homophobia.

In our two-plus years of selling this newspaper—and thus, you the lesbian and gay consumer—we have been rejected (you have been rejected) by a number of businesses, the names of which would surprise you. There are businesses that many of you frequent which would "not spend a dime in a publication like that." They can't even say the words "lesbian" or "gay," and come up with creative excuses about budgets and timing and "We advertise in *Creative Loafing*. Isn't that enough?"

No, it's not. What you get when you decide to purchase from a *Southern Voice* advertiser is more than a product or service; you get the assurance that your lifestyle is respected. You and your beloved can buy a car together, shop for shoes together, buy a dress or a tie no matter what your gender, and not fear that someone will be looking down their nose or giggling in the back room.

To make a list of the businesses that you support but which *don't* support would fill us with joy, but it would not allow for what we know is possible: change. People do change and we do carry advertisers who at first said "no" and then—with information, time and experience changed—their views enough to get over the homophobic hump.

There is a certain pioneering spirit in our sales team. A *Southern Voice* ad rep is often times the first ever *out* lesbian or gay man that a business owner has ever met. We take that responsibility seriously. And though our experience with the dread "cold call" may be more frigid than most, selling *Southern Voice* is empowering to

the individual salesperson because we are a representative of the community. Each one of these businesses has gone through the process of buying advertising from an *out* lesbian or gay man. In essence, each of our advertisers has won a non-homophobic stamp of approval.

We have a long way to go to before we've delivered to you the cream-of-the-crop in every facet of the consumer strata. How would you like a bank that accepts your lifestyle as readily as it does your money? Or a travel agency, carpet cleaner, cosmetic surgeon, roofer...the list goes on. We would like your help. If you know of a business where you are out and treated well, call us and we'll do what we can to bring them more business like yours.

There is a catch to our job; by asking you to say, "I saw it in *Southern Voice*," we're asking you to come out to a stranger and maybe a straight one at that. But if these advertisers are not told that their money is working for them they will stop advertising and there will be no more *Southern Voice*. Lesbian and gay consumer activism is impossible if you are a closeted customer. We urge you to make *buying out* an empowering part of your coming out.

Hearing about you from our advertisers makes our job joyous—we're looking forward to an especially happy holiday season.

MISCELLANY

We're Moving!

On October 31 we will gather our computers, phones and files and move just down the block to 1189 Virginia Avenue. We're proud that our new space has actual offices; and room for the staff to stretch our legs without tripping whoever is walking past our desks.

The new subscription and administrative phone number is 874-1588. Advertising (display and classified) numbers are 876-1819 and 876-1831. Editorial's phone remains the same, 876-0789. Our post office box remains the same.

Volunteers with strong backs are welcome to stop by on Sat. Oct. 27 and help us carry file cabinets down the street. Call 876-0789 for specifics.

Partners and Movies Next Issue

A last minute influx of advertising forced us to cut Terry Francis' movie reviews and our on-going series on statistics from the Partners poll from this issue. Both will return in issue 19.

Obituary Policy

Southern Voice prints short (100-150 wd) obituaries and photographs free of charge. Please call 876-0789 if you have any questions.



MARLETTE ©1990
NEW YORK NEWSDAY

LEONARD BERNSTEIN
1918-1990

VITAL STUFF

Dear Southern Voice,

Thank you for putting out such a great paper! It isn't perfect, but then what is? As far as I'm concerned it's a vital part of our community.

One thing that really concerns me is that I don't see much support for Southern Voice from gay businesses that advertise in other publications. It seems strange that bars and other businesses will place huge ads in *Etc.*, *Guide* and the *Midtown Times*, as well as *Creative Loafing*, but not in *Southern Voice*. I wonder why this is? I know it's not because no one reads *Southern Voice* because practically everyone I know reads it.

While I don't know much about the world of journalism, it's pretty obvious that if a publication is to survive they must have advertising. Atlanta is big enough to support more than one gay publication, and *Southern Voice* provides news and information that we as a community desperately need. Bar guides and gossip columns are fun and important to us, but we need more than that in order to be strong and vital. I look forward to supporting businesses that support *Southern Voice* and, in turn support Atlanta's lesbian and gay community.

David Thorpe

Mr. Thorpe raises an important point. If every gay-owned business (or gay/lesbian bar) which does not currently advertise with us took out a quarter-page ad in each issue, we could add 4-6 pages of news or other information of interest to the community. Our sales staff has called on these businesses, they know our rates and they know our phone number. Perhaps readers like Mr. Thorpe will encourage the establishments which they patronize to consider advertising in SV.—Ed.

These notes contain confidential information, especially the diagnosis of the patient. Diagnosis of AIDS, HIV+, PCP, and other obvious opportunistic infections are plainly visible to anyone going by or into the patient's room.

A patient's visiting employer, fellow employee, friend or family member who he/she does not want to know his/her diagnosis can easily just read it off his/her wall chart.

This could easily result in loss of job, loss of insurance, family support, ostracism, or worse. The right of PWA patients' confidentiality at Northside Hospital is being violated.

If you agree with me that Northside Hospital is negligent in protecting PWAs' rights of confidentiality, please express your concern to them at 851-8000 or write to Northside Hospital, 1000 Johnson Ferry Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30042.

Sincerely,
Henry Robertson

LIKES VEE'S WORDS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I thoroughly enjoyed the piece *In Lesbian Color* by Ms. Vee Burns in your September 13 issue of *Southern Voice*, and would like to know where can I write and extend my gratitude, in hopes to find out more about her research.

Respectfully,
Maria Johnson
Flor, MS

We have passed your letter on to Ms. Burns.—Ed.

BAD ATTITUDE

Editor:

Cliff Bostock's attitude [Viewpoints issue 17] is the reason that more lesbians and gay men like myself don't come out. Constructive anger is one thing, but what Bostock suggests we "live with" is abuse.

Anonymous by Request

TOWARDS AN OLYMPIC SOD SQUAD

Who says good ideas never come out of conferences? This one came from participants at the Lavender Law Conference and we think it's mighty fine.

The summer of 1996 will see the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's onerous decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*—for those who've been living in a haze, that's the one that upheld Georgia's draconian sodomy statute.

The summer of 1996 will also see the Olympic Games in Atlanta. And it will have been nine long years since the '87 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Hmmm.

Planning for the '87 MOW took about two years—600,000 attended. That suggests that if we started planning in, say, the spring of 1993 that we might get a similar—or even larger—number of lesbians and gay men to come to Atlanta for the Olympics...and for one very large and loud protest against sodomy laws.

The city will be swarming with international media and we all know how the media yearns for local interest stories to round out their coverage of events like the Games.

Athletes and spectators from all over the world will be in Atlanta for the Olympics—many of them from states and countries where progressive governments already realize that they have no business trying to legislate how people make love. Surely they will want to join our raucous protest.

In fact, we suspect, the only folks who are likely to be displeased with this creative bit of activism are the self-styled morality mongers in the Georgia Legislature. The ones who are concerned that Nancy Schaefer and her cohorts will shake their lacquered hairdos in disgust if our law makers were to legalize anything other missionary sex in the Peach State.

But the boys down at the Capitol do have an option. If they don't like the idea of our holding an Olympic-sized sodomy bash right here in Atlanta, concurrent with the Centennial of the Olympiad, they could just repeal the sodomy statute. But they'd better do it by '93. The 1996 March on Atlanta for Sodomy Repeal is going to take a lot of planning; and once organizers set the ball rolling, there'll be no turning back.

AIDS CARE CRISIS PLANNING

Both Candidates for Governor seem to be hell-bent on giving Georgia a lottery. The fact that lotteries are an incredibly regressive form of taxation rankles our soul. But obviously neither Mr. Isakson nor Mr. Miller are particularly concerned with progressive social agendas.

The state's portion of the lottery—about \$200 million annually it is estimated—is meant to fund the state's woefully under financed education system. That, says conventional wisdom, is the only way to get the idea past all those stick-in-the-mud South Georgia legislators who think anything more intense than a game of horseshoes at a church social is the devil's work.

But even those south Georgia legislators know that there is a health care crisis looming in the wings. As AIDS begins to appear more and more in minority and rural populations, the state is going to be forced to assume an increasingly large bill for the kinds of health care costs that are already threatening to bankrupt systems in New York and New Jersey.

If the legislature were to allocate, say, 15 percent of the state's share of the lottery to an indigent AIDS care trust fund, Georgia could avoid a budget crisis—at least one related to AIDS—in the mid- and late-90s.

There's a whole range of details to be worked out here, but we think the idea is both creative and feasible.

And those of us who so dislike the lottery would be a lot more likely to play the game if we knew at least some of the proceeds were being used in such a progressive way.

WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY...

It's ironic that the problems in Piedmont Park (see page 2) should come to light in the same week when a city park is being dedicated to the memory of veteran activist Ray Kluka—a man who worked tirelessly to see that rights of gays and lesbians were respected.

Dedication of the park—a triangle at the intersection of Greenwood and Monroe—came in a moving ceremony last Saturday. This is the second Atlanta park named for a gay activist taken from us by AIDS; the green space at the intersection of Barnett and Virginia was dedicated to John Howell about 18 months ago. The day after the dedication to Ray, a group of Living AIDS Memorial Park volunteers gathered in John's park to plant pansies, share memories and eat lunch.

It's easy to fantasize that, had John or Ray been alive, the current mess in the park would never have happened. Both were longtime friends of City Councilperson Mary Davis and active in their respective neighborhood associations. Surely Ray or John would have seen to it that the persons hired to staff the booth in the park were sensitive to the issues of the gay men and lesbians.

It's a nice fantasy, but Ray and John are gone and no one has come forward to fill their shoes.

All this points out a much larger problem: Atlanta's gay and lesbian community has no established liaison/lobbying relationship with city council. (Or with the Mayor's office, the Fulton County Commission, or the DeKalb Commission, or the City of Decatur) Various individuals—John and Ray frequently among them—have shouldered these responsibilities in the past. GAPAC and LEGAL have both been involved in this process from time to time. So have the Gay Center and MACGLO.

If one uses the very successful Human Rights Campaign Fund—combining a PAC, a lobbying arm, and a constituent pressure group—as a model, these tasks should be the provenance of GAPAC. But GAPAC has barely been able to solicit enough money and energy to do a nominal job as a PAC.

What's the problem? A combination of apathy and territorial issues we suspect.

What's the solution? How about a series of no-holds barred brainstorming sessions with as many political activists as possible in attendance. The goal might be something like "establishing a lobbying and/or constituent pressure group(s) in Atlanta."

It is possible that this process might yield naught. But even in that unlikely event we would be no worse off than we are now. And surely those working on our community's numerous political agendas would have a better understanding of each other's points of view.

Ray and John would, we suspect, like the idea.

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Editor:

I wish to call attention to Northside Hospital's policy of placing patient's nurses notes right outside each patient's room door for any visitor or anyone else to see and read.

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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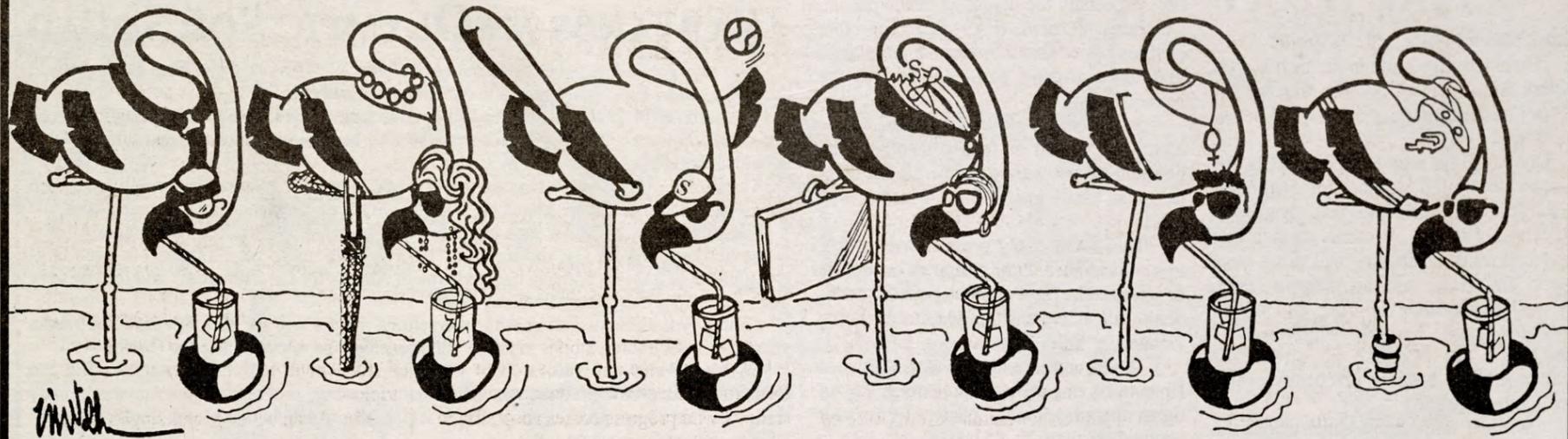
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Men & Intimacy

The first part of a two part interview about men, intimacy, sex and pornography with author, editor and psychotherapist Franklin Abbott

Southern Voice: Frank, in October and November there are several conferences dealing with "Men's Issues"—from homophobia and straight men to sex workshops to gay male spirituality—in or near Atlanta. Why here and why now?

Franklin Abbott: For a long time Atlanta has been a place where gay men have gathered and worked on our cultural identity. Some of the first faerie gatherings were held in this part of the country, even before they were called faerie gatherings. We are the urban center where support for Running Water Farm and Short Mountain Sanctuary in Tennessee has generated over and over again. *RFD* (a magazine for rural gay men) has been in the Southeast for about 10 years; it is a wonderful place for gay men to explore a vision of what it's like to be different. As far as resources for gay men, I can't think of a better place to live, in this region or in the country.

SV: And the conference near Asheville, N.C. is an outgrowth from this?

FA: The Gay Spirit Vision Conference comes strongly out of that Southern tradition. Some difficulties forced the selling of the land at Running Water, and the owners decided that the money from the sale should be used to expand on the work done there over the years, manifesting itself in a somewhat different form. The conference seeks to create a safe place for gay men to come together by themselves and talk about who we are and what we want.

Something profound happened for me the first time I was in a place with just gay men outside a bar. We knew we were not going to have to interact with others—we were self-contained. There would be no women to go to either for nurturance or conflict, no straight people to play off of. When that happens, something very magical occurs that is hard to put into words, but it has given me a profound appreciation for who I am as a gay man.

I learned that I have to create an identity for myself that comes out of who I am rather than what I'm not. The polarizing way in which gay people are somehow seen only in opposition to straight people limits us. When we ask "Who am I?" we can find that out best with each other. I highly recommend the weekend to all gay men who are trying to understand themselves more fully.

SV: Another of these workshops is very sexually oriented, even including both straight and gay men.

FA: My understanding of the tantric massage work of people like Joseph Kramer is that it is based on the work of Wilhelm Reich and involved the concept of an entire body orgasm instead of merely a genital one. It's aimed to get people in touch with how their genitals are a part of their bodies. A lot of men, gay and straight, walk around with a kind of pinball existence, bouncing between their crotch and their head—they're either in one or the other. We do have more body parts than that, and anything that can be done to "connect the dots," so to speak, is a healthy thing.

SV: Tell me about the workshop you and Lanier Clance are doing in November.

FA: We want gay people to bring a straight friend or vice versa, because we want to work toward an understanding and appreciation of difference. Some gay people are so pissed off at straight people for ignoring us or treating us badly that it is hard for us to appreciate the work they're doing, like raising children. Whenever people from different backgrounds can come together, create an open dialogue and learn from each other's differences, it makes our society much more interesting. That's why I

think integration has been so incredibly enriching for society.

Also, as gay people, we are bicultural—we know straight culture and we also know our subculture; straight people don't know ours. Like black folks—who in the kitchen knew what white folks were like—while the white folks in the dining room didn't know what black folks were up to. Our straight friends often need some educating and the workshop offers a place where it can be done enjoyably.

SV: How has Atlanta changed over the years you've been here?

FA: I've been out and active in Atlanta since 1978, and the difference between now and 12 years ago for gay people is absolutely astounding. When I worked on the precursor to the Gay Center's helpline, there were no physicians who were willing to let us list their names. There were one or two psychotherapists who were out as gay people. The atmosphere has changed radically.

When I look today at places like Montgomery and Birmingham and

Columbia, S.C., I see the beginnings of a blossoming there. Maybe more gay people can begin to lead lives of integrity in those places. Part of the emergence of those places as real cities will be the emergence of a gay community. That always happens first.

SV: It's been said that without its gay community, Atlanta would have the urban soul of Birmingham.

FA: True. Also, you wouldn't call it activism, but we have done a huge amount of work in revitalizing all the in-town neighborhoods. Atlanta owes us a great deal.

SV: Do you see a "higher purpose" for the archetypal Southern Gay Male in Atlanta? Should he be ACTing-UP? Doing drag? Organizing political fundraisers? Restoring neighborhoods?

FA: First of all, I think each of us has to come from where we are. There is a value to the guys in the suits raising money for politicians—they are connecting to the system and making our political presence known. There is also a value to the guys in their "Silence = Death" t-shirts shouting at legislators. That's a different type of consciousness raising; so are the "guys" who go down and perform drag at Lavitas. Each of these men is making a contribution.

People ask me if drag queens should march in gay pride marches. "Isn't this a negative reflection on our community and wouldn't it be better if we all wore suits?" they ask. But when we talk about the gay community, we're talking about a very pluralistic group of people. I think that instead of continuing this awful argument about what's right or wrong in terms of strategy, criticizing each other because the Human Rights Campaign Fund is different from

ACT UP, we should say "Gee, isn't this nice, that we have people who can work in different ways to affect the public consciousness and our community's consciousness."

One of the things gay men owe to themselves is to have an awareness of their history, from whence we've come, to give us a sense of who progress comes about. There was Harry Hay, who co-founded the Mattachine Society—his was a radical departure from living in silence and fear.

Those were drag queens who started throwing rocks at Stonewall. Since then, we've

reached the point where six or seven thousand of us can march down Peachtree during a gay pride celebration. What has happened in the intervening years to make it change? Our task is to look at what has happened and to own it, because there are many reasons to be proud of being gay. There has been a tremendous amount of courage displayed over the years.

SV: Back to the idea of Men's Issues—anti-pornography is considered a

Women's Issue. Should it be a Men's Issue, also?

FA: Well, yes, in some ways I think so. One of the things that women complain of in heterosexual pornography is how it objectifies them and makes it easier for men to treat them as objects to be manipulated and used. In my last anthology, *Men and Intimacy*, I have an essay where I deal with gay male pornography, which I think needs to be looked at differently from heterosexual pornography, it's too easy to get into the mind set where you close down Robert Mapplethorpe exhibits.

SV: That's a tough issue, since for years, people have attacked gay men, using pornography. What different standard do you use to judge gay male pornography?

FA: The main trap for gay men is that pornography accentuates the notion that we are hypersexual beings. Since none of us measures up to those pornography images anyway, it makes us consumers of sex rather than participants. I don't think it's wrong to have erotic videos and magazines, and I wouldn't presume to define the line between erotic and pornographic.

One question a gay man might ask himself: "Does looking at magazines and videos enhance my sexual, emotional, intimate being with other men, or does it short-circuit it and prevent it from deepening?" Gay men may have a need for pornography, because it is so hard for us to maintain our eroticism in such a homophobic society. Maybe videos and magazines should be used for a sort of "erotic maintenance."

SV: What are the challenges of editing an anthology like *Men and Intimacy*?

FA: One of the things I've tried to do in both my anthologies is to integrate many different male perspectives. Gay, straight

and bisexual men all contributed to *Men and Intimacy* and *New Men, New Minds*. We have to create a dialogue with each other to help each other out. There is valuable stuff from all of those perspectives, because as gay men, we've all had intimate connections with straight men—most of our fathers were straight. We need to understand them to understand ourselves.

The other challenge is how to put together a weaving of ideas. I really pursue themes in my books, where one article introduces or plays off of the next, so that someone can profitably read consecutively from page 1 to the end. You come out with a broader and deeper understanding of the subject.

SV: As an editor of anthologies which includes gay, bisexual and straight authors, is there a common thread that you see among what they write about.

FA: Yes. Lots of men of all types are recognizing that most of what we have learned as men is not very useful to us and is often toxic. They want to know who to begin to build something different.

Biology has programmed four basic reactions into men—one is to run, one is to fight, one is to fuck, and one is to eat. Men, using their testosterone rush, can often overcome better judgment and just "act," which was important in a hunting culture, where you either overcame your fear of wild animals, or your tribe didn't eat. Gay men today, however, need to learn to deal with men in other ways than fighting; they need to learn that there is the other opportunity—namely, to make love to them. Straight men could stand to learn that too, even though they need not do it in a genital way.

Part two of this interview will appear in our next issue.



If you're interested in information on any of the workshops or conferences discussed in this interview, here's how to contact the organizers.

"Celebrating Gay Spirit Visions—a Convocation of Gay Men to Explore and Create Their Spiritual Destiny on an Awakening Planet" will be on The Mountain at the Highlands Camp and Conference Center, 841 Highway 106, Highlands, NC 28741, Nov. 2-4. Speakers include Harry Hay, Franklin Abbott and others. Cost is \$142.50, including room and board. Call (704) 526-5838.

Body Electric School of Massage will be in Atlanta for workshops Nov. 17-19. Cost is \$195 and includes 4 hours of instruction. Register by calling John Ballew at 659-5175 or calling the School directly at (415) 653-1594.

"Coming Out to the Edge: A Workshop on Differences for Gay and Straight Friends," conducted by Lanier Clance and Franklin Abbott, will be presented at the First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive, on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 11AM to 4PM. Bring a straight friend. Cost is \$30 per pair. Call 378-5570 for reservations.

Also Franklin Abbott will read from and sign copies of his new anthology *Men and Intimacy* at Borders Book Shop (3655 Roswell Road, at Piedmont) on Thursday Nov. 8 from 7-8:30PM. Call 237-0707 for details.

Franklin's anthologies, *Men and Intimacy* and *New Men, New Minds: Breaking Male Tradition*, are published by The Crossing Press and available at bookstores or by calling 1-800-777-1048.



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Halloween's Marrow

There's more than fun at the root of our fascination with October 31

By K.D. Childers

Witches flying through the air, carved pumpkins glowing evilly in the dark, and demonic spirits floating about conjure up images of Halloween's past and present.

Within the lesbian and gay community, Halloween may be the most popular and celebrated event of the year. We eagerly anticipate the traditional week long array of parties, contests and bar promotions celebrating the holiday, *our holiday*. And the amount of money, time and preparation we spend on costumes and celebrations may be enough to put a big dent in the national debt.

But it seems almost ironic that a gay man or lesbian would want to celebrate the holiday considering Halloween's strong association with witches and their craft and the havoc that has been wreaked upon us because of that association. In his book *Witchcraft and the Gay Counter Culture*, Arthur Evans discusses the age-old custom of accusing individuals caught practicing homosexual acts—or promoting homosexual ideas—of being witches. Because witchcraft was considered heresy, thousands of early lesbians and gay men were publicly ridiculed, tortured and even murdered.

Some of the more noteworthy homosexual torture and travesty in the name of religion listed in Evans' book include:

- 399 BC—The Athenian philosopher Socrates is condemned to death for corrupting young men and believing in gods the state doesn't believe in.
- 1114 AD—Peasant heretics are uncovered at Bucy-le-long and accused of practicing ritual lesbianism and male homosexuality. (From this date on, charges of ritual same-sex acts become commonplace in heresy trials.)
- 1438—Pierre Vallin of la Tour du Pin is tried for witchcraft. Under torture, he confesses to giving himself body and soul to a male demon.
- 1460—A popular tract appears accusing the witches of Arras with lesbianism and male homosexuality.

- 1484—Pope Innocent VIII accuses witches of having sex with both male and female demons and gives full backing to a mass witch hunt in Germany.

- 1589—King Henry III of France is accused in an anonymous pamphlet of being a homosexual and a witch.

- 1615—The reputed witch Gentien le Clerc of Orleans confesses to ritual lesbianism and male homosexuality among his co-religionists.

- 1625—Paul Laymann, a Jesuit, publishes his *Theologia Moralis*, in which he says that sodomy and adultery are crimes that lead to witchcraft.

- 1661—Florence Newton of Ireland is charged with



EVETT BENNETT

Party time! On Halloween night Stacia Fernandez will perform her one-woman show at Upstairs at Gene and Gabe's as a benefit for the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People With AIDS. A costume contest precedes the show at 8p.m. Tickets are \$15; call 874-7926 or 874-6145. Pictured with Ms. Fernandez is NAPWA Executive Director Kathleen Brockel and board members Jimmy Justice, David Willis and Bert McDowell. Our thanks to Costume Architects who dressed the gang from NAPWA.

kissing and bewitching a young servant women.

Today, at least part of society has realized that being gay or lesbian is not necessarily a characteristic of witches, though many who practice witchcraft are indeed lesbian/gay. But some fanatics—under the blanket of "Christianity"—still consider homosexuality to be an act of heresy and have kept alive their homosexual "witch hunts."

What is most frightening about today's "witch hunts" is the force generated by self-righteous members of society to suppress lesbians and gays and force us into conforming with "norms" of heterosexual society. This force is so powerful and generates so much fear that many of us choose to settle for the security of social acceptance rather than a lifestyle based on the freedom of self-expression.

Thus Halloween is the only opportunity that many have to express themselves creatively, in public, and without fear of social ostracism. With a Halloween costume on, the invisible barriers to gay and lesbian individuality and sexuality come crashing down. That Halloween costume allows the wearer to be bolder, freer and more uninhibited. Its too bad that when the festivities end, the Halloween costumes are put away and replaced with a conforming "costume" designed by societal pressure.

In addition to providing a great excuse to play and party, Halloween offers us a chance to remember. Remember our sisters and brothers who were tortured and murdered for their sexual orientation under the guise of religion. Remember the centuries of suppression, the demands to conform to the thoughts, beliefs and sexual practices of the mainstream. And a chance to think about the fact that suppression and bashing continue today.

Enjoy the holiday; costume yourself with pride and abandon. But when you put away your Halloween drag, try to keep a little of the holiday spirit with you for the rest of the year. Be a little bolder and freer with your self expressions and you sexuality. Wear your sexual identity and with pride year round. Be yourself.

Hom-o for the Holidays

Halloween horror for those who'd rather sit on the sofa than disco 'til dawn

by David Salyer

Born with an insatiable sweet tooth as a child, I looked forward to Halloween more than Christmas. Even when my mother destroyed the effect of my costume by making me wear a sweater, the sheer joy of running door to door and filling my plastic pumpkin with pounds of candy made everything all right. My parents considered therapy for me the year I tripped over the bottom of my ghost costume and spilled the entire contents of my pumpkin into a neighbor's yard.

Parents today probably imagine that every neighbor is the next Norman Bates. Face it. October 31 has lost its innocence. The dictionary still says Halloween is celebrated by children who go in costume from door to door begging treats or playing pranks. I haven't passed out a treat in years and any prank would pave the way for an appearance on *People's Court*. The most frightful thing about Halloween now is that Santa Claus has already reared his over-commercialized head before it gets here.

Still, Halloween can be saved. Maybe not as a child's holiday, but certainly as a gay and lesbian celebration. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Chanukah too often are times of demanding familial obligations, but surely nobody has dinner with their nuclear family on Halloween.

If you live where kids will be out trick or treating, then by all means dress up. Carve a pumpkin with a friend or your mate. Maybe even do some decorating and throw a little party for the tiny goblins and mutant ninjas on your block. One doesn't

have to be a drag queen to enjoy dressing up. Circle those suburbs and beat back your face. Translation: buy garish clothing from heterosexuals at yard sales and apply garish makeup.

Maybe you provide personal care for a PWA. How about decorating their place or getting some friends to dress up and drop by. Better yet, read them a scary short story by Edgar Allen Poe or get everybody to tell their favorite ghost stories. You can even check out an audio book-cassette from the library for them. A number of horror titles are available.

If you prefer a stay at home on Halloween then consider renting a horror movie and cuddling up on the sofa with a bowl of pop- or candycorn. You could rent one of those perfunctory slice and dice pseudo-thrillers in which the wholesale slaughter of America's youth is bluntly thrust in your face with all the subtlety of a head-on collision and the entertainment value of an autopsy, but I urge you to forsake Freddy and Jason. I don't particularly like teenagers either, but this is ridiculous. So, when you head for the video store this Halloween in search of a visual treat to pop in the VCR, consider a title from the following list of 13 cult, camp or classic creepshows.

The Changeling (1979) This is the way to make a haunted house movie, Mr. Spielberg. The pleasures here are simple, but effective. George C. Scott has an Oscar calibre confrontation with a ghost and solves a compelling mystery. This one made my spine tingle the first time I saw it. Honest.

Blacula (1972) Exactly what you're thinking, a black version of Dracula. You have to laugh when two flaming interior decorators buy a locked coffin in Transylvania and bring it to modern day Los Angeles, thus unleashing a black vampire on the world. Lively and energetic with several good shocks. The film exploits the Dracula myth, gays and blacks (probably in that order); those offended by such please take note.

The Fearless Vampire Killers (1967) Roman Polanski's eclectic mixture of humor and horror features gay and Jewish vampires, the late Sharon Tate, and the director himself as one of the "killers" trying to destroy a family of bloodsuckers. Lots of fun.

Asylum (1972) Four tales of madness satisfyingly linked together. Familiar faces and clever special effects. If this one doesn't make you think twice about going to the basement, nothing will.

Tales From the Crypt (1972) Long before the HBO series, this film based on the old E.C. comic books provided quite a few unsettling moments and some laughs, too. And here's your opportunity to see what Joan Collins did before *Dynasty*.

It's Alive (1974) "It" is a murderous mutant baby that's ugly as hell and prefers human blood to milk. Delivers the shocks, although, I've seen toddlers almost as frightening in Kroger.

Frogs (1972) Reptiles on the rampage. Features eternal hunk Sam Elliott and a wheelchair-bound Ray Milland trapped on an island with some cranky wildlife. Dumb, creepy fun confirming some actors will do anything for a buck.

The Stepfather (1987) Psycho guy marries widows in a desperate attempt to live out twisted "Father Knows Best" fantasy. And it doesn't take much to bring out the mass murderer in him. One of the most

thoughtful and engrossing thrillers of the '80s.

Freaks (1932) Very bizarre movie featuring real-life freaks in a tale of revenge among sideshow performers. Nightmarish climax is worthy of much discussion. Hard to believe it was made in the '30s.

Who Slew Auntie Roo? (1971) Perfectly awful, but reasonably ghoulish flick with Shelley Winters as a wealthy madwoman who lures orphans to her home. It's supposed to be an update of the Hansel and Gretel story, but it's more interesting as an example of just how far Shelley sunk before *The Poseidon Adventure*.

The Evil Dead II (1987) Skip part one. This is a genuine camp horror classic with a loony style and wild special effects. Evil spirits run amok at an isolated cabin in the woods. It's been done before, but never so enthusiastically.

Strait-Jacket (1964) Long before Faye Dunaway bellowed "Christina, bring me the axe!" while impersonating Joan Crawford in *Mommie Dearest*, Joanie herself portrayed an axe murderer in this film. A pretty tame shocker by today's standards, but heads do roll. And why do so many aging actresses end up in this kind of schlock? Is this what Meryl Streep has in store?

Rosemary's Baby (1968) Satan wants a son, so he impregnates Mia Farrow when she passes out after eating Ruth Gordon's chocolate mousse. Call me skittish, but if I heard satanic chanting coming from the apartment next door, I'd move. Even if I lost my deposit.

No VCR? My best friend Trish would be happy to dress up as Eva Peron and belt out "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" from any balcony inside the perimeter. Now, that's scary.

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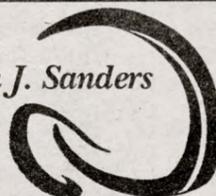
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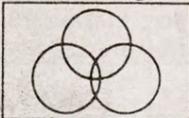
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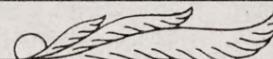
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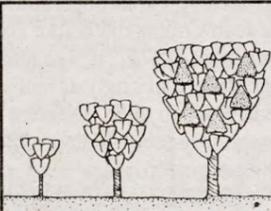
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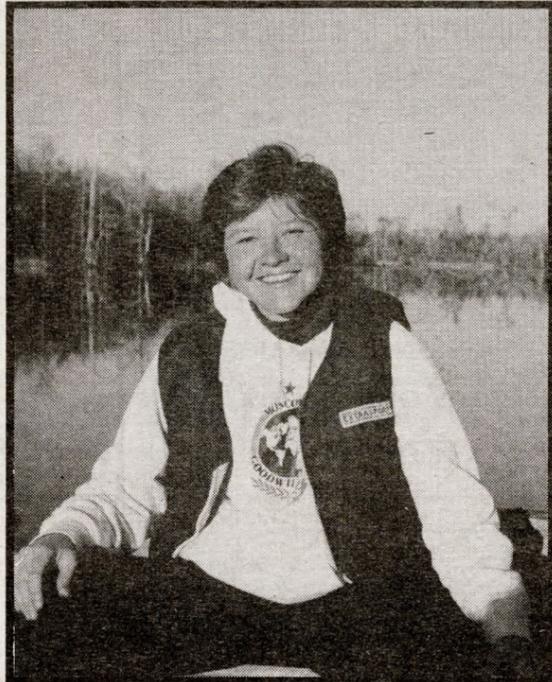
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OUT LINES

Age: 32
Occupation:
 Author/editor,
 graduate student
How long in Atlanta:
 5 years
Favorite thing about Atlanta:
 Trees! All the green
Favorite book:
 "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek"
 by Annie Dillard
Favorite vacation spot:
 the Okefenokee
Personal goal: To live as authentically as possible
Favorite quotation: To say "I love you" means—let the revolution begin!



CHRIS LAHOWITZ

BECKY BUTLER: Creating Ceremony

Becky Butler looks as though she would be at home in a church, temple, abbey, or ashram. Sureness and clarity emanate from her; the gentleness and firmness of someone committed to a vision. She is petite, small-boned, with light brown hair, light blue eyes, and a soft, lilting, careful voice.

She is 32, a former associate producer at TBS, the daughter and granddaughter of screenwriters. She grew up in Mexico and Italy, lived in Los Angeles, attended Harvard where she studied filmmaking. Becky comes from a background of intellectual activity and commitment—her parents were blacklisted during the McCarthy era and her childhood was spent with them "dodging subpoenas."

She left TBS three years ago to go to graduate school at the University of Georgia in social work. At the same time, Becky began collecting material for a book, *Ceremonies of the Heart: Celebrating Lesbian Unions*, that has just been published by Seal Press.

"I put up flyers in women's bookstores all over the country, and some overseas. I sent notices to women's journals. And I got really wonderful responses. They were all so beautiful, and they were such statements of courage and love and commitment. Each story was unique."

One problem Becky had not anticipated was achieving racial and cultural balance. "When I started out, I thought very naively that if I got the word out as broadly as I could, the responses would be perfectly balanced. And of course they weren't."

So she got in touch with black lesbian organizations and tried to find Asian lesbian groups. Some of the lesbians in the book put her in touch with other lesbians of color. "If I had anything to do differently, I would have done active outreach much earlier."

There's a completely different kind of diversity in the ceremonies themselves. "The different spiritual traditions that the women drew upon were so diverse." One couple had a Quaker ceremony, another an almost traditional Catholic wedding, others incorporated elements of traditional Jewish ceremonies, still others drew upon Wiccan or Buddhist forms.

Becky acknowledges that the book has changed her: "One of the things that the book made me realize is that what changes the world is not famous people doing great deeds. It began to feel that the way the world really changes is when individuals take steps like the ones described in the book, going out there in ways that may

seem small, but that really are enormous. Individuals coming out, and coming out to their families, and coming out to their communities. That is what changes things."

The ceremonies meant different things to different couples. "For some, it was connected to spiritual paths. For others, it had more to do with community. For some, it arose from a desire for the rite of passage. As lesbians we don't get the rites of passage that heterosexual women do."

For Becky and her partner Patty, one of the most powerful parts of the ceremony was preparing for it. "You have to figure out what the relationship means to you both. We started out in very different places. We each wrote what we wanted in the ceremony, and when we read what the other had written we couldn't believe it! Then we arrived at a shared vision of it—and also arrived at a shared vision of the relationship."

"When you decide to have a ceremony of commitment in a lesbian relationship, you have to decide what it's going to look like and what it's going to mean. And the process of deciding what the ceremony means and then creating it is incredibly powerful."

Becky speaks earnestly about her spirituality: "It's the most important thing in my life. For us, the ceremony came out of acknowledging the relationship as part of our spiritual path. That path is the well-spring of the book."

Lesbian commitment ceremonies need not imitate heterosexual forms. "...from my own experience and from the experiences of the women in the book, having a ceremony of commitment does not feel like a way to fit into the heterosexual mainstream. If anything, it's the opposite. It calls up a tremendous amount of courage to do it. And it can be a profoundly political act. When two women are involved, a ceremony is not going to perpetuate the power imbalance between men and women as a heterosexual wedding can. When there are two lesbians, it changes everything."

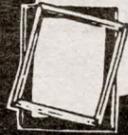
Becky feels strongly about the value of such commitment ceremonies: "When two people are committed to each other, and are in love with each other, and want to make a life together, there is an innate desire to want to create a visible manifestation of that relationship and of that love. That's what these ceremonies of commitment are. They are taking the relationship that is between you and making it visible in the world."

—Charlene Ball

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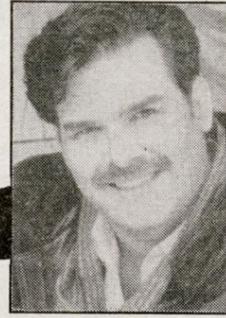
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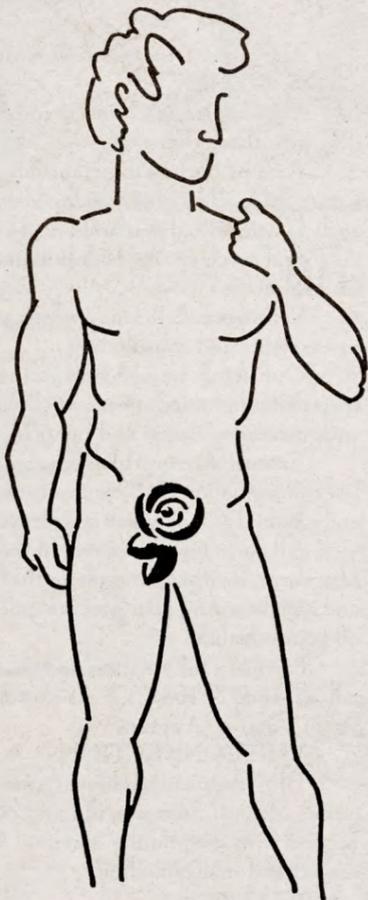
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COMMENTARY

Throwin' Rocks at Your Grandma

It would be a shame to let our flair for theater impede the progress our guys had to die to initiate

by Treble Yell

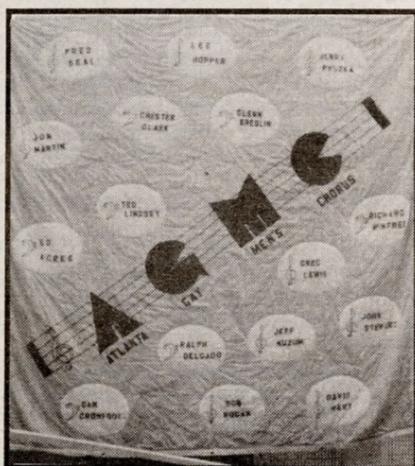
Six thousand people dropped by the Woodruff Gym at Emory University October 6-8 to view the International AIDS Memorial Quilt. That is 6,000 out of 2-1/2 million that reside in the metro area. Reports said more than 2,000 people gathered at Underground Atlanta at 7 a.m. on a single *weekday* morning to hear the announcement of the winner of the Olympic bid. American priorities are, overall, predictably disappointing; survival of the fittest wins again, it seems.

Americans collect on overpasses to wave our military troops goodbye. Many of those same people keep their arms raised when the lesbian and gay community marches past raising our quilt in proud remembrance, only to

long as we are doing our oppressors the favor of dying, we are fooling ourselves to think anybody's going to stay up late figuring out how to end this disease. To belie the magnitude of gay involvement, to commit this invisible crime in the name of social acceptance is foolish as well as sad. What I am wondering is if these "mainstreaming" efforts aren't putting this quilt and its founding fathers back in the closet as yet another bad side effect.

The Quilt, every square inch, did, does, and will always bear witness to one of the most touching love stories in history. No ritual need accompany it as it speaks for itself most completely. Melancholy background music and lengthy unfolding ceremonies, both standard fare at the Quilt's displays, manipulate emotion. I believe another word for it is propaganda. This has caused concern and discomfort to many amongst our ranks. How is it, time and time again, The Names Project's media and educational tactics omit words like "gay," "love," and "sex" from their scripts? And can small white children with AIDS really do our talking for us these days? Do they have the power to communicate the emotion of the community which has surrendered the most to this disease? Not that I don't appreciate the generous courage of a boy like Bartt Lykins, understanding the incredible energy it took for him to act as a spokesperson for Atlanta's segment of the quilt display. But the gay community created this quilt because 98% of the names on it are our gay brothers. Let us not forget people like Harvey Milk and others who have rallied beyond that magnetic shame-based reality to a self-accepting lifestyle, the openness of which *changed* attitudes, invited love, and gained respect.

The closet has played a big hand in this AIDS deathtrap, and ironically, AIDS has played a big hand in opening that closet door. It would be a shame to let our flair for theater impede the progress our guys had to die to initiate.



EVETT BENNETT

Homeboys lost: A quilt dedicated to members of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

clinch their fists and holler "sinner." Sometimes it is hard to believe acceptance of our lifestyle has grown, but it has—within ourselves and the world at large.

The Names Project's goal these days is to mainstream, make sure people understand AIDS is *not* just a gay disease anymore.

Why? They think if the general public comes to *truly* believe this maybe they will express some interest in preventing and curing AIDS. As

OBITUARY

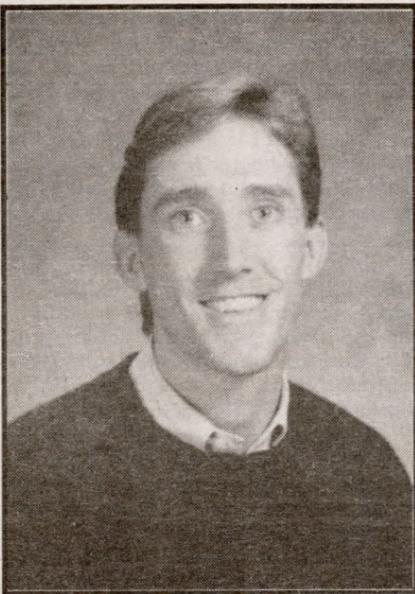
Roy T. Baldwin

August 2, 1957–September 21, 1990

Originally from New Orleans, LA, Roy moved to Atlanta in 1981. He worked with autistic children at Wesley Chapel School for the past six years. He was a brave soul and fought a valiant fight. I have never known a finer individual. Our world is a much better place for his existence and all who loved him will miss him dearly and he will live on forever in our hearts.

He was my lover, best friend, pal, confidante, partner-in-crime, and better half. He taught me a great deal and I will always be grateful. My life for the past nine years has been exceptional because of him. My heart aches at his passing and I know that he will always be with me.

Contributions in Roy's memory may be mailed to Wesley Chapel School, 2670 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, GA 30903. Please mark Attn: Roy Baldwin Memorial Fund.



"Those who knew Roy, knew him. Those who didn't, would be inspired."

Roy is survived by his lover, Steve Anderson.

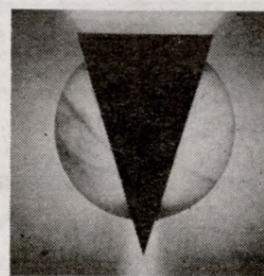
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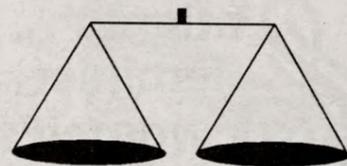
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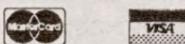
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Art

THUMB GALLERY EXHIBITION: LONDON TO ATLANTA. Thru Oct. 23. A multi-medium showing of some of the best new contemporary British artists direct from Soho to the South. At the Wynfield House, 178 Peachtree Hills. Call 231-9255 for info.

THE EARTHFACTORY SHOW. Weekends, thru Oct. 28. For sheer size and scope and cutting edge diversity, no art event in the Southeast comes close to this. And better than chocolate (is there such a thing?) is a huge installation piece by Lesbians for Just Desserts. Proceeds will benefit the Georgia Environmental Project. In the old Hastings Seed Building, 434 Marietta St. For info: 297-9977.

TOTEMIC OBJECTS. Thru Nov. 10. A transdimensional show of spiritually derived crafts features artists such as James Baxter, Woody Brooks, Lainey Papageorge, Tsonakwa, David Van Nostraud, and Yolaikia. Illumina Gallery, 1529 D Piedmont at Monroe. 875-7617.

OH, THOSE FOUR WHITE WALLS. Thru Nov. 14. A unique display in which the artists, the medium and the message collide to comment on the display of art as well as the current public funding controversy. At the Atlanta College of Art Gallery, Woodruff Arts Center, call 898-1157 for info.

AGAINST THE TIDE: HOMOEROTIC ART IN THE AGE OF CENSORSHIP AND AIDS. Thru Nov. 24. Images of love among lesbians and male bonding are sprinkled liberally in this exhibition that deal specifically with sexual politics, gender identity, and the impact of AIDS. Definitely funded without Jesse's help. At Nexus Gallery, 57 Forsyth St. and Tula Art Center, Bennett St. Call 688-2500 for info.

ANDY WARHOL'S CELEBRITIES. Thru Jan. 6. 45 lithograph portraits of everyone from James Dean to Einstein. An exclusive show to be seen only in Atlanta. Where else would you find Mickey Mouse, Mick Jagger and Santa Claus on the same bill? At the High Museum; 892-3600 for info.

THE JOHN L. JACOBS JAPANESE PORCELAIN COLLECTION. Thru Feb. 24. Ceramics dating back to the 1600's provide a remarkable look at the originals that became the yardstick of porcelain perfection. In the High Museum. For more info, call 892-HIGH.

Events

RHODES HALL HAUNTED HOUSE. Thru Oct. 31. Everything you always wanted in a rental property in Amityville. Bring a date and hope it scares the pants off 'em. If nothing else, you can always hold hands in the dark. At Rhodes Hall, 1516 Peachtree. 881-9980 for info.

COSTUME DANCE. Sat. Oct. 27, 8pm-midnight at the E Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. A chem-free celebration, dance and costume contest that's a fundraiser for the National Lesbian Conference sponsored by ALACC and ALFA. Tickets at Charis and the NLC office. Call 627-5619 (voice or TTY) for info. \$7 in advance; \$10 at the door. Wear something special.

CEREMONIES OF THE HEART: CELEBRATING LESBIAN UNIONS. Thurs. Nov. 1, 7:30pm. A look at creating new ceremonies to celebrate lesbian relationships in all their myriad forms. See Outlines in this issue for more info. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland, 524-0304 for info.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW. Sat. Nov. 3-4, 1-6pm. "At Home with Mums" will tell you everything you always wanted to know about America's most underrated homecoming flower. The special section of bonsai mum trees is a unique opportunity to view a seldom seen art form. At the Atlanta Botanical Garden. 876-5659 for info.

Film

FROM MY GRAND MOTHER'S GRAND-MOTHER UNTO ME. Sun. Nov. 4, 2pm at the Hill Auditorium. Family values and cultural heritage are transferred through the stories told from one generation to another in one family in Murray County, GA. Shown with "Gullah Tales." 892-HIGH for info.

Fundraisers

HALLOWEEN PERFORMANCE BENEFIT. Wed. Oct. 31, 8pm. Stacia Feernandez performs "Next...That's Me" to raise money for the National Association of People with Aids. Upstairs at Gene and Gabes, 874-7926 or 874-6145 for reservations and info.

LEGENDARY PARTY 1990. Sat. Nov. 3 at the Hotel Nikko. A black tie affair to benefit the Shepherd Spinal Center. 352-2020 for info.

TOUCHTONES. Sun., Nov. 4 at 6 pm. A bedazzling benefit for Childkind which offers support for children with AIDS. Jerry Farber with appear as a special celebrity emcee along with local chanteuse Liz Spraggins. Also on the program will be jewelry of exceptional beauty for your bidding pleasure. Hotel Nikko Atlanta, 3300 Peachtree Rd. Info at 246-0819.

Music

JOYCE AND JACQUE AT ATLANTA SHAKESPEARE TAVERN. Thru Oct. 26. The dulcet duo entertains Fridays at 11 pm with songs from their upcoming album "Higher Ground." 499 Peachtree St., \$5. 874-9219.

JENNIFER BEREZAN. Thurs., Oct. 25, 7:30 pm. From folk to rock, the passionate voice of Jennifer awakens the listener to anger at injustice, hope and personal power and healing. Our Canadian cousin is a real ear-opener, both spiritually and politically. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave., 524-0304.

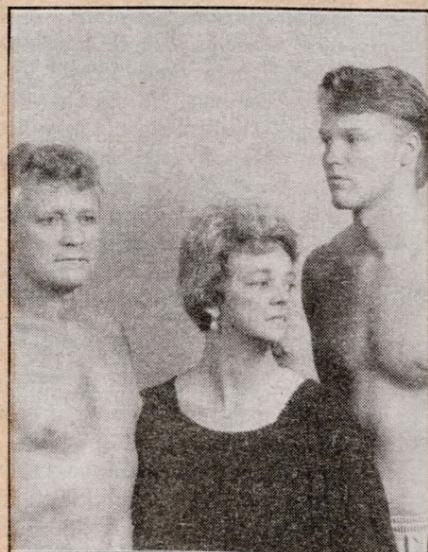
MICHAEL HEDGES. Sun. Oct 28, 8:15pm. This new age guitarist is a long way from classical cords, exploring the possibilities of fretted neck. At Center Stage, 1374 W. P'tree. 249-6400 to charge tickets; 874-2232 for info.

MELISSA ETHERIDGE. Fri. Nov. 2, 8pm. The woman has a voice that Janis Joplin would have envied. Hear her in person and become a fan for life. See interview this issue. Dreams So Real opens. Fox Theater. TicketMaster locations or the Fox Box Office or call 249-8300.

NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE BENEFIT CONCERT. Nov. 3, 7-12 pm. Gypsy Heart, Ann Duckworth, Sharon McMullen, Felicia Malone and Lee McCellan headline an evening of music to be remembered. See article this issue. South Side High School, 801 Glenwood Ave., SE. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 373-0000.

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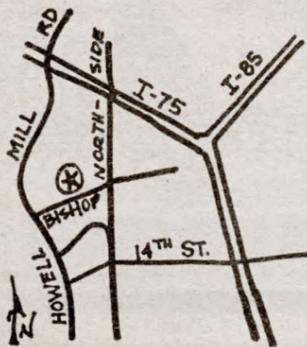
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OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 7

FRONT RUNNERS. Wed. Oct 24, 31, Nov 7, 6:30pm in Piedmont Park. Also every Saturday 9am at the Chattahoochee River off Powers Ferry Rd. Call Shelton Haynie (622-0739) or Lynn Patterson (438-1421) for info.

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION. Sat., Oct. 27, Nov. 3 1pm. Come play or watch a game in which the word love has a major role. Practice will change to indoors at Eastlake on 17 Nov when the newly formed women's division will start separate practice times. Glenlake Pk Tennis Center. Call 892-8335.

CHATTAHOOCHEE TENNIS CLASSIC. Mon. Oct. 29-Sun. Nov. 4. See the best racketeers from the southeastern region as they volley it out singly and in mixed doubles. Call David Black, 399-5010.

TV

SEASONS OF LIFE. Sun. Oct 28, 6pm on Channel 8, GPTV. A new 5-part series on the 5 seasons of growing up and growing older. Part 1 covers conception to age 6 and promises new insight into our own growth cycle measured against the lives of other real people.

THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: INSANITY ON TRIAL. Mon. Oct 29, 9pm on Channel 8, GPTV. The concept of "in one's right mind" is explored against the backdrop of President Garfield's assassination and the trial which followed. Ron Vawter (Sex, Lies and Videotape) plays the assassin Charles Guiteau.

FRONTLINE: BROKEN MINDS. Tues. Oct 30, 10pm on Channel 8, GPTV. If you think a libra has trouble making up their mind, catch this special on schizophrenia to get an inside look at the mental illness which has long baffled science and society.

DEPRESSION. Fri., Nov 2, 7:30pm; Sat., Nov 3, 5:30pm on Channel 8. Learn more about the causes and treatment of clinical depression and perhaps improve your own life outlook in the process.

Theatre

STEAMBATH. Thru Oct. 27. This unusual dark comedy takes place in a co-ed steam room. Recommended for adults as things quickly get hot and steamy in this Bruce Jay Friedman piece. Presented by the Theatrical Outlet, 1012 Peachtree St., Midtown. 872-0665.

EASTERN STANDARD. Thru Nov. 17. A frothy romantic comedy set against high rise perplexities. It is a sign of the times that bag ladies are playing such important roles in today's theatre. See Review in this issue. Horizon Theater, on the corner of Euclid and Austin Aves. in Little 5 Points. For reservations, 584-7450.

ELEEMOSYNARY. Thru. Nov. 18. The title means "charitable" which is probably necessary when three generations of mothers and daughters live in the same house. Theater in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. Tickets, 422-8369.

YELLOW CAKE AND OTHER JUST DESERTS. Thurs., Oct. 25-28 at 8:30pm. From the talented and subversive folks of ACME Theater comes a comic presentation of a bakers' cake conspiracy is sweet, delicious and often scathingly funny. Don't miss it. Presented by NEXUS at Actor's Express, 280 Elizabeth St. For info and reservations, call 688-1970.

GLASS HEARTS. Fri. Oct 26-Sun. Nov. 11; Thurs-Sat, 8pm, Sun. 5pm. Bill Bagwell's newest play is an examination of bi-sexual relationships loosely based on the life of John Cheever. Directed by Patrick Gaffney; presented by SAME. At 14th Street Playhouse, Juniper and 14th streets. Call 584-2104 for info and reservations.

THE DREAMER EXAMINES HIS PILLLOW. Fri. Nov. 2-30; Thurs-Sat, 8pm, also Sat. at 5pm. A touching, romantic fable masquerading as an urban battle-of-the-sexes written by John Patrick Shanley, author of "Moonstruck" and "Joe Versus the Volcano." At Actors Express, 221-0831 for info and reservations.

FIVE GREAT SONGS FROM FIRST GRADE. Sundays, Nov 4-Dec. 2, 2pm & 5pm. A suite of dances choreographed to some of the best music from the late sixties and early seventies. Dance and dialogue offer a look at growing up in another time which was not so long ago and far away. At Actors Express, 221-0831 for info and reservations.

Upcoming

CELEBRATING GAY SPIRIT VISIONS. Fri., Nov. 2-4. A convocation of gay men to explore and create their spiritual destiny on an awakening planet. For brochure, write to Conference, 16 Stuyvesant Rd., Biltmore Forest, NC 28803, or call (704) 274-5671.

CHARIS' 16th BIRTHDAY. Sat. Nov. 3, party 1-6pm; sale 10:30-6:30. One of the best women's bookstores in the country celebrates sweet sixteen with a sale/party. Good food,

good friends, good times. If you come it'll be perfect. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland, 524-0304 for info.

SHAY YOUNGBLOOD. Thurs. Nov. 8, 7:30pm. The hot Ms. Youngblood returns to read from her novel-in-progress. Whatever she reads, this woman can shake the mess out of my misery anytime. At Charis Books, 419 Moreland, 524-0304 for info.

ROBERT CUNNINGHAM IN CONCERT. Fri. Nov. 9 at 7:30pm. Harold Sharpe (on flute) and Darrell Harris (on oboe) join Rob who composes and plays (on piano) some very, very fine music. At the Piano Gallery of Atlanta, 2140 Peachtree Rd.

CREATING CHANGE-A GATHERING TO SET THE POLITICAL AGENDA FOR THE GAY '90s. Nov. 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.

JANET METZGER: BETWEEN THE SHEETS. Fri. Nov 16-18. The talented and versatile Ms. Metzger entertains us with fantasy, wonder, adventure, anger, despair and love in this musical potpourri containing everything from cabaret to contemporary art songs. Cynthia Davis plays along on piano. At the First E Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive. Advance tickets (\$8) at Charis, Wuxtry, and Let The Music Play! and at the doo. (\$10).



"Eleemosnary" is not about lesbians, but there are some powerful women to be seen in this drama at Marietta's Theater in the Square.

CHALLENGING RACISM AND BIGOTRY: THE AGENDA FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE 90'S. Nov. 16, 17 and 18. Human rights advocates from across the Southeast come together to learn, plan, and strategize together to promote constructive, non-violent responses to hate violence and the white supremacist movement. For more information, call the Center for Democratic Renewal at 221-0025.

SACRED SEX SEMINAR. Nov. 17 and 18. Learn things about sex they never taught you in gym class. A spectacular approach to safe sex can be fun. For men only. For brochure and information, call 659-5175.

THE 3RD ANNUAL MARQUIS D. WALKER HUMANITARIAN BANQUET. Fri., Nov. 19, 8 pm. This award banquet held by African-American Lesbian Gay Alliance is one of the most important events of the year for the city's black gay and lesbian community. "A Vision of Love" is this year's theme; Kenny Leon is the keynote speaker. For information, call the African-American Lesbian-Gay Alliance at 349-3739.

ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS. Sat Dec. 1, 7pm and 9pm. To hear them is to love them. Fine voices blend in musical selections that are usually uniquely feminist and occasionally funny. Moving music and the best chance to see Atlanta's loveliest lesbians both on stage and in the audience. At Southside High, 801 Glenwood Ave. Advance tickets (\$8) at Charis, Atlantis Connection and The Boy Next Door, or \$10 at the door. Call Charlene at 523-7455 for info.

NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE. Apr. 24-28, 1991. 5000 lesbians from all over right here in Atlanta. The conference needs dollars now, so early registrations are welcome. Write NLC, PO Box 1999, Decatur, GA. 30031, or call (404) 373-0000 for info.

Glass Hearts

by Bill Bagwell



Photo - Bonnie Palter

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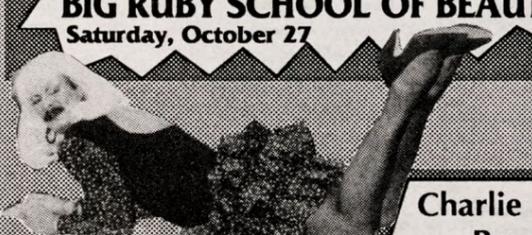
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Eastern Standard Combines Sitcom and Authentic Affection

Horizon's production offers bite and soul via a smashing ensemble cast

by Dave Hayward

Eastern Standard perfectly straddles the fence between the '80s and '90s. Ongoing all-American woes are deftly represented either in characters or conversation, including living through the decade of the plague—with the accent on thriving.

Although playwright Richard Greenberg's razzle dazzle cleverness can be obnoxious, he also writes to the heart of a human being and to the core of our denial of AIDS, city squalor, and high-rise crime by entrepreneurs. The finesse of Horizon's production under director Rosemary Newcott relays both Greenberg's bite and soul via a smashing ensemble cast. *Standard* sets a high one for the new season.

Eastern at first seems a sitcom as caricatures of '80s urbanites go through their uptown café routines: I hate my job; my maid rips me off; I love a sleazebag; and oh dear I'm afraid I'm dying. A vitriolic bag lady upsets their infatuation by haranguing their "insipid" actions. Segue to a Hampton's beach house, where everyone doffs their attitudes thus risking some authentic affection.

It's exciting to see an actor grow: Harold Leaver—here as Keith Haring prototype Drew—just gets better and better. Holding Atlanta's patent on playing acidic wasps in *Zero Positive*, *Laughing Wild*, and now here, Leaver provokes catharsis as well as comedy when he nurses his newfound lover



KATHRYN KOLB

Peter (Brad Sherrill) through the threat of early death. Equally gut-wrenching, pretty boy Sherrill also delivers sly, sad irony when he conjures up the musical beds of the 70s: "We'd click on like magnets, you'd see someone and say, 'There's my evening.'"

Rebounded on "more times than a basketball court," David DeVries delights as hapless architect Stephen who rails "I am urban blight!" at the monstrosities he creates, in *Eastern's* best single performance. Close on his heels is Rebecca Williams as bag lady Mae, a Caribbean earth mother

objectly lost in the gutters of Manhattan.

Teresa DeBerry is fun as a big-hearted waitress whose eagerness makes her an easy mark. As DeVries' lady love, Mary Ann Newcott looks the part in Yvonne Lee's apropos attire, but Newcott must further explore her conflicted character to really persuade.

Think, laugh, grieve, see *Eastern Standard*.

Eastern standard plays Thurs.-Sat at 8pm and Sundays at 5pm through Nov. 3 at Horizon Theatre. Call 584-7450 for info and reservations.

SAME Premieres Bagwell's Glass Hearts

"Bisexuality is a measurable fact according to Masters and Johnson and chic, so long as it concerns rock stars and the outrageous. When it emerges in the life of an American Pulitzer Prize winner known for his patrician image, it takes on a new and different light," says playwright Bill Bagwell.

Bagwell became fascinated by that light more than two years ago while reading about John Cheever. He started work on a play and "three other humans started talking for themselves. It became clear that the play is about more than John Cheever. It's about all of us. I know people in precisely the same position as Cheever and the characters in the play. Artists, lawyers, housewives... people whose passions are not dictated by majority opinion."

Hearts is set in 1979 and, says Bagwell, is not about another eternal triangle but rather about three people who decide to be together in a way that allows them to work out a number of problems. Nobody sacrifices, adds Bagwell.

The cast is comprised of Rebecca Ranson ("Brownie Broadway", "Mr. Universe"), Greg Hall ("Friday's Thanksgiving", "Dreaming With An AIDS Patient"), and Theo Harness ("Cloud 9", "Ponce De Leon-The Play"). Patrick Gaffney—playwright, director and theatre critic—is the director.

Glass Hearts runs Oct. 25-Nov. 11 in the Genesis Theater of the 14th Street Playhouse—the former Academy Theatre. Tickets (\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door) are available at Charis Books and More in Little Five Points, and E.D.'s Gourmet Records in Ansley Square. For more information, or to make reservations, call SAME at 584-2104.



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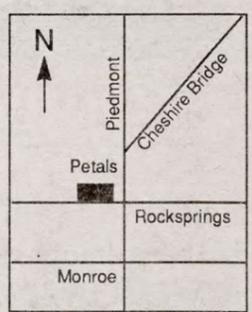
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Atlanta Has Venus Envy and Harmonious Homegirls

by Gail Reter

Atlanta is becoming more and more a cultured city. Performing arts, in particular, are available with amazing dimension in style and scope. Nowhere is this more evident than in the enclave of the local gay music scene where "A Pension for the Frivolous" might open for a "Save the Sodomy" 5-piece conga band, or any combination in between.

Venus Envy is an eclectic vocal group that has lately been the center of much celebration and accolades. They were recently awarded the \$1,000 grand prize in The Otherside's talent contest. Members Patrick Hutchison, Dik Holland, Nan McElroy and Jay Rogers have sung together and separately in many situations. While their following has been mainly gay, they feel a need to perform for other audiences, too.

"It's important," says Patrick, "that the usual stereotypes are not promoted. Gay people should feel good about their lifestyles and a group such as ours lets people see something besides a heterosexual couple image."

The music performed by Venus Envy is as varied as the background of the group. Patrick laughs and says they sang a good deal of country-western because the first place they played was a country hoedown. Now they have added swing and rock to an ever-increasing repertoire. Most of the music is sung to an electric piano or pre-taped accompaniment, but sometimes they break away and let their voices alone tell the tale.

The only problem with the group is that they are not performing in any public venues until December, but they are certainly worth keeping an ear out for. Venus

Envy is available for private parties—keep them in mind for your next coming out ball.

You'll have better luck catching some harmonious homegirls at the upcoming benefit for the National Lesbian Conference to be held on November 3. An outstanding array of local ladies will be tuned up to entertain. South Side High School has not seen so many talented women at one time since the Feminist Women's Chorus last played there. It makes my nipples hard just thinking about it.

The performers that have been chosen reflect the social consciousness of the approaching April conference in the wide variety of their musical tastes. Seldom have Atlanta lesbians and gay men had the opportunity to hear so wide a variety of tunes under the same roof.

Social consciousness may not be what one expects from a bluegrass/country band, but Gypsy Heart is hardly your average Hee Haw fare. They walk the fine line between new and traditional in an area where cross-over has been strictly frowned upon.

Their music tells individual stories, but they are not written in the traditional longing or yearning stereotypes of WKHX. Yet like the traditional songs, they are meant to be listened to with the heart as well as the head.

"Ain't Justified" is an especially powerful song from the nimble fingers of Louisa Branscomb. It tells of the moment in which a battered woman stands up for herself and draws the line. It is a song of empowerment and lead singer Kathleen Hatfield brings it to both fear and strength in the face of adversity. "Kathleen's voice is like a healing hand," says Louisa. I



Louisa Branscomb and Kathleen Hatfield are Gypsy Heart

know for sure that their harmonies are enough to raise the hair on my arms and bring a tear to my eye.

Joining Louisa and Kathleen—Gypsy Heart's core duo—for the November 3 concert will be Paula Burgess on bass, Sally Benzur on fiddle, and Valerie Koonz on the dobro.

And if you want something completely different, wait 'til you hear Ann Duckworth's new group. Ann sees her music as pop with substance, or commercial music with a positive message. Her band members include some familiar faces—Cindy Diamond and Anne MacDonald are well known as former Scallion Sisters. Ann's group is practically a

family reunion and I look forward to hearing the new music that Ann and Cindy have been writing that is currently under consideration for publication.

Sharon McMullen approaches music from another altogether different angle. Hers is a polished sound, rubbed fine by years of working with gospel groups and choirs. Born into a family of ministers and musicians, Sharon perfected her techniques at Wednesday night choir practice, and has now branched out into everything from blues to jazz. Her commanding contra-alto voice should be well set off by the concert piano back-up booked for the event.

Felicia Malone, too traces her musical roots back to the Black church. She was discovered not too long ago singing in someone's living room. Since then she has made several appearances and has just returned from a gig in Boston. She sings a capella African-American music a la Sweet Honey in the Rock from whom she draws her inspiration.

Last and by no means least, the benefit will include Lee McClellan. Lee's love song in "Texas Two-Steppin' with the Girls" was enough to make you have wet dreams. She sings everything from Basia to ballads beautifully and often solos with the Feminist Women's Chorus. She has also opened for Kate Clinton and will certainly round out a first-rate evening of homegirls.

Tickets will be available at Charis. See the calendar for details, or call 373-0000 for more information. Men are also welcome at this fundraiser, so please come and be one of the Brothers who support Sisters.

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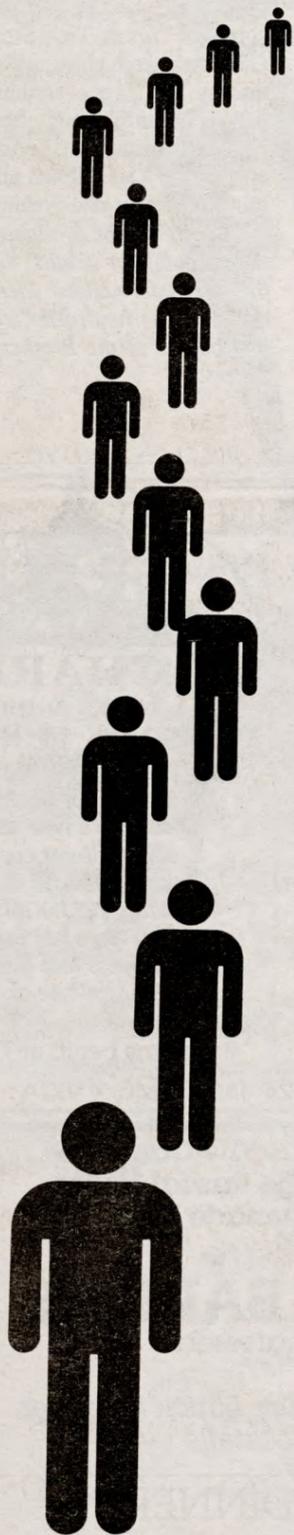
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indicate your attendance at this workshop, please call 1-800/433-
4584 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern Time and ask for the
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Protecting the Right to Choose

Patients must be given the opportunity to examine treatments and make choices for themselves.

by Ron White, M.D. and
Kathleen Brockel, Atlanta NAPWA
Treatment Advisory Committee

On September 26 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Georgia Department of Human Resources hosted a workshop to examine the establishment of a task force to investigate fraudulent AIDS therapies. Workshop participants, including members of the Atlanta NAPWA Treatment Advisory Committee, debated important issues about the composition and mandate of such a task force. These issues, however, were secondary to the central issue—an individual's right to choose his or her own course of treatment.

It was apparent from the conference that most bureaucrats and consumer protection groups believe access to controversial and experimental treatments should be limited. During a panel discussion at the workshop, Atlanta NAPWA President Bert McDowell and Vice President Chip Rowan (of the AIDS Legal Project) espoused NAPWA's philosophy of self-empowerment and the right of individuals to make informed choices regarding their own treatment program.

NAPWA recognizes the need for consumer protection and supports an individual's right to bring complaint in cases of fraud, personal injury and/or malpractice. But the discussions at this workshop crossed the line from consumer protection to breach of personal freedom—particularly with respect to alternative AIDS treatments. True informed consent

demands that patients be viewed as health-care consumers who have the right to all information pertaining to the treatment in question. People who are well informed and have researched the benefits versus risks for treatments should have the right to choose whether or not to participate in experimental, alternative or non-scientifically based therapies. This right is especially important to persons who have exhausted all avenues of approved treatment options.

principal investigators are responsible for this tragedy. It is important to note that there was no lack of volunteers willing to participate in such research—research which would likely yielded answers rather than questions.

Underground Compound Q trials involving humans were similarly halted, primarily because of (unknown) perceived risks determined by regulatory agencies. Pressure from people living with HIV and advocates—along with the inevitable

Shockingly, such activities as yoga, visualization, and self-realization are being scrutinized by some individuals and agencies as "fraudulent" therapies. These and other activities are known to increase an individual's sense of well-being. Although such alternative therapies may not alter T-Cells or other "indicators of disease" the prospect of denying these as legitimate treatments is disturbing.

The right of an individual to choose his or her own course of healthcare must be protected. The FDA's attempts to do otherwise smack of "Father Knows Best" with an Orwellian twist, and most certainly do not contribute to self-empowerment of people living with HIV. Unfortunately, for most of us, the hard cold facts are that treatment options are dictated by financial resources, rather than health and wellness considerations. This is all the more reason for persons living with HIV to become knowledgeable healthcare consumers, so that we spend our precious time and money on those therapies we determine will most benefit us.

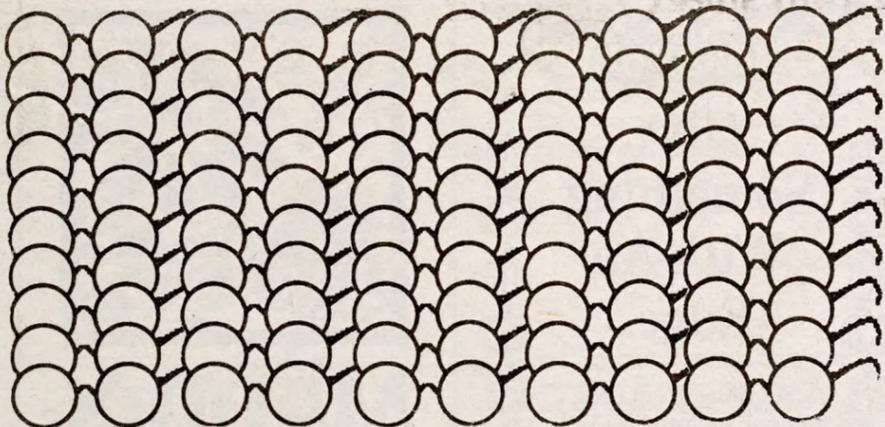
Atlanta NAPWA Treatment Advisory Committee has hosted forums on hyperthermia and Compound Q. Video tapes are available for viewing. If interested please call 874-7926, Mon.-Fri., Noon-5 pm. The Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at NAPWA offices. Meetings are open to interested participants. Our next Open Forum will be on Ozone Therapy on November 8, 1990, 7:00-8:30 pm. Call NAPWA for location and panelist information.

Shockingly such activities as yoga, visualization, and self-realization are being scrutinized by some individuals and agencies as "fraudulent" therapies...

The recent controversy surrounding hyperthermia offers an excellent chance to examine various issues pertaining to individual freedom of choice in treatment. In this case a potential treatment in the beginning stage of investigation was labeled a cure by the media. Yet dispute within the scientific community coupled with unorthodox research methods by investigators led to mass confusion among people with HIV as to the validity of the treatment. This potentially beneficial mode of treatment has now been all but dismissed without true investigation as to safety and efficacy; both regulatory agencies and the

underground use of this product—resulted in the formation of community based trials. These trials have subsequently been approved by the FDA.

This unprecedented development of underground trials into clinical research trials is yielding valuable information about the efficacy of this treatment. Had Compound Q proponents followed the straight and narrow path of traditional treatment approval, early access to treatment would have been denied to those who are more than willing to use such therapies and essentially may have nothing to lose by doing so.



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DISH

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

NLC Wish List: Dish stopped by the National Lesbian Conference office last week to pick up a registration form and found that the conference is in need of a number of things (in addition to money). Call Mary Lu Lewis at 373-0000 if you can contribute any of the following items: a ceiling fan, air cleaner filter, electric stapler and pencil sharpener, paper cutter, computer and compatible modem, remote telephone, lamps and chairs, desks, electronic pagers, water cooler, fax machine, space heater, plants and artwork, commercial carpet that is wheelchair compatible, railings for wheelchair ramps, bookcases, and file cabinets. Helping hands are also needed, from someone who knows how to set up an on-line accounting system to someone willing to work on bulk mailings.

Eco-No-No: The Oct. 7 issue of the Atlanta J/C contained an article about Raquel Martinez a woman matador(a). Ms. Martinez told the article's author that being a Mexican lady bull basher was as difficult as trying to be a woman and get a slot on an NFL team. Dish suspects that Ms. Martinez' career ambitions would offend both lesbian ecofeminists and Victor Kiam. Now *that's* quite an accomplishment!

Lucky 13: Dish offers Hearty Congratulations to S.V.'s long-contributor, cartoonist Charles Haver. His "Bittersweet" cartoon strip is now appearing in 13 lesbian and gay papers around the country—from Hartford to Albuquerque to Chicago to D.C.



RINK PHOTO

Folsom Street Fantasy: Dish's most favorite pastime at the Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco a few weeks ago was this booth where, for a nominal sum, one could throw a dildo into the mouth of a large Jesse Helms poster. Good clean fun. If only we'd had such a diversion at our recent anti-Helms demo! S.F.'s Miller beer distributor was sponsor of the F.S. Fair; a sign to this effect hung across the top of a local theater building. Adding a bit of texture was another sign, strung from the theater's marquee, which promoted the Miller/Marlboro Boycott.

For Art's Sake: The Oct. 10 issue of The Dekalb News/Sun is home to a letter from one Andrew L. Frahler protesting Jon Ludwig's puppet show at the Arts Festival. Asks Andy, "By whose definition is sodomy considered an art?" Get real dude. Not only is sodomy an art, its a very old and fine one. And check out the Against the Tide show at Nexus and TULA if you don't believe that sodomy can be seen in art. Mr. fuddy-duddy Frahler, we are told, is the Director of Development of Family Concerns Ministries. Dish wishes he would concern himself with developing some good sense.

Leather Largess: S. California residents and leather afficianados Dennis Seifert and Howard Hawley were in San Francisco a few weeks ago during the Folsom Street Fair. Concerned citizens Seifert and Hawley were taken aback by the number of homeless folks wandering the streets of Mecca so they decided to take 70 or so of their less fortunate brothers and sisters to lunch. They decided on a branch of Carl's Jr. restaurant near Civic Center Plaza as the appropriate place for their act of largess. The restaurant's manager at first asked that the gaggle of diners take their burgers outside because "we have an open salad bar and we are concerned about fleas and ticks from these people." The Carl's Jr. chain is the subject of a lesbian/gay boycott because of the policies of its ultra-conservative ownership. Good work Dennis and Howard!

October 25 - November 7

RULING PLANETS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLORETH

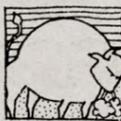
by Mary Bailey-Rule

The Sun enters Scorpio on Tues., Oct. 23 following Mercury on the 22nd, then Venus on the 25th making for an intense two weeks. Set your clock back one hour Sun. night.

ARIES—The Sun, Mercury and Venus have all entered your 8th house of self-mastery and transformation indicating a time for evaluating your motives and personal drives. Also keep your IRA and taxes up to date.



TAURUS—The Sun, Mercury and Venus are all in your 7th house of personal relationships creating opportunities to make new friends and gain new insights into existing relationships. Transformation is the key word.



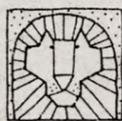
GEMINI—With Mars in apparent retrograde motion, this is a good time to reassess the way you assert yourself, how you deal with and express your anger. If you are carrying around a lot of tension, find ways to relax and unwind.



CANCER—The Sun, Mercury and Venus are now in your 5th house of creativity and passion. Make time for creative projects and fun activities. Be sure you get plenty of exercise and unprocessed foods. Be aware of dreams.



LEO—The Sun, Mercury and Venus are emphasizing your 4th house of home, family and parents. If feeling tired or run-down, nurture yourself by setting aside quite time. Deal with tensions at home immediately.



VIRGO—With Mars retrograding in your 10th house of career and vocation, you may need to reassess your goals and reconsider how you feel about your responsibilities at this point. If you are dissatisfied, consider other options.



LIBRA—If you feel like you are in a rut, then it may be time to travel, take an arts or language course and, at the very least, do something you've never tried before. Physical exercise is also important right now.



SCORPIO—Happy Birthday! If you feel it has been an intense year, then take time to celebrate the beginning of a new cycle of growth and activity. Think about how you want the coming year to look and feel.



SAGITTARIUS—With the Sun, Mercury and Venus sitting in your 12th house of your higher self and the unseen, be sure to pay attention to your dreams and intuition. Try keeping a dream-log or journal for the next few weeks.



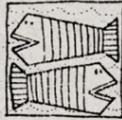
CAPRICORN—With Jupiter in your 8th house of self-mastery and personal transformation. Take personal time for relaxation and reflection. A good time to focus on feelings and some healing and releasing work.



AQUARIUS—With Jupiter in your 7th house of personal and committed relationships, you have wonderful opportunities to meet new friends and expand the older friendships. Allow yourself to express inner warmth.



PISCES—If you are feeling dissatisfied or a little bit restless, it may be the perfect time for a fun trip or an arts class. Be sure to exercise, eat right and drink lightly for the next month. Keep your toes on the turf.



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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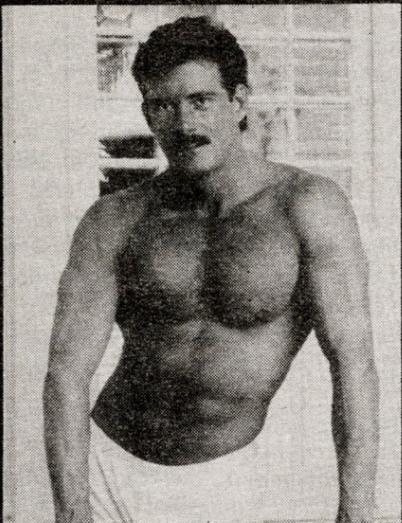
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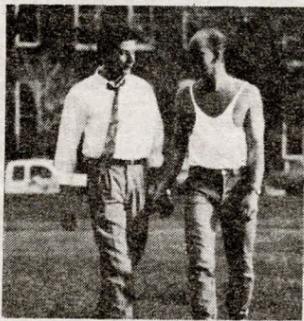
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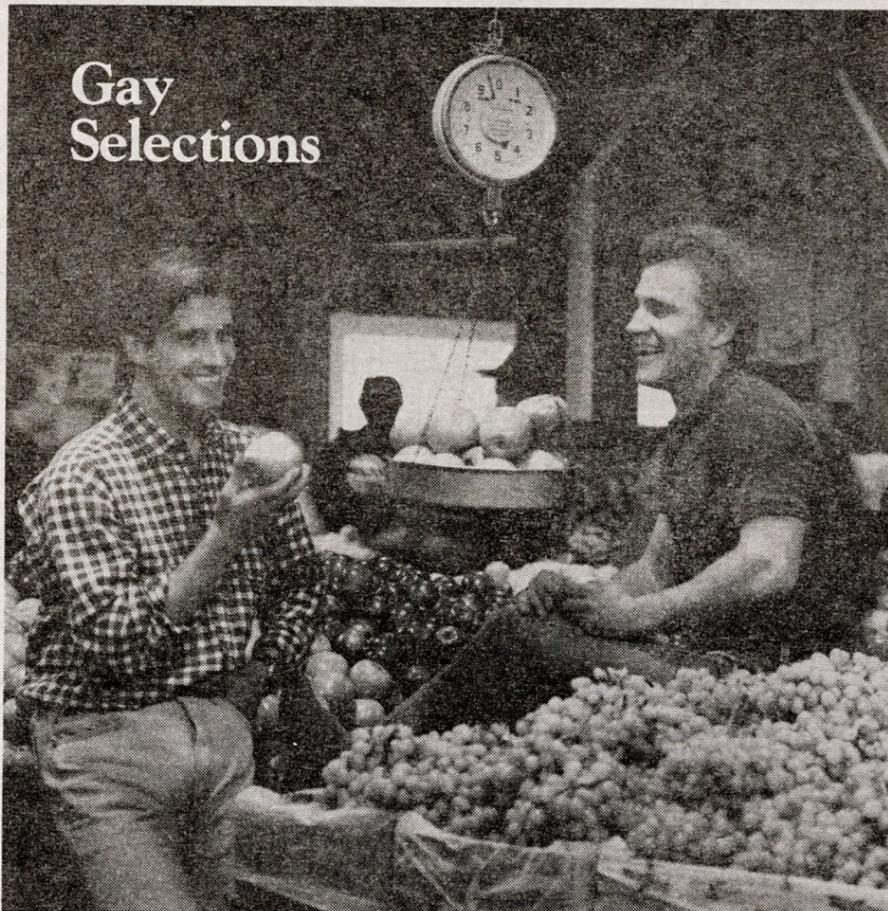
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CLASSIFIEDS

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

HIV+ Men's Support Group seeks new members. Group has been meeting weekly for three years. Interested persons should not be newly diagnosed, but seeking support living with ARC/AIDS. Call Dr. Sally Herbert at 659-5215 or Dr. Jon Rubenow at 874-1848. (V3,#21)

PONCE MANOR - AN ASSISTED LIVING HOME DESIGNED TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED OF ALTERNATIVE HOUSING AND SOME LEVEL OF SUPPORT. Twenty-four hour/Seven-day staffing. In-house care - management - medication monitoring - three meals/seven days - utilities furnished - private and shared rooms - furnished and unfurnished rooms - resident banking service - convenient location - monthly rental - no deposit - various rental payments accepted-Social Security, SSI, SSDI, VA, Private Pay, Donations. 876-7454 for further info. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING. (V3,#20)

Unitarian Universalist AIDS Services - Free counseling, emotional support, referrals, for people with AIDS/HIV and their loved ones. Call Joe Chancey, 688-6163. (V3,#18)

PROJECT OPEN HAND which provides meals to PWA's NEEDS volunteers to do cooking, driving, office work and fund raising. It's a true service to the community and an opportunity to work with and for wonderful and caring people. Call Mon-Sat 8-2, 525-4620.

AID ATLANTA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS
Groups and Meeting Times: PWAs I Wed. 7-9pm
PWAs II Sat. 4-5:30pm
Lymphdenopathy/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.

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

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.

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.

Get the word out! Advertise in the Southern Voice Classifieds!

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

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

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

* AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLACK LESBIAN ANTHOLOGY seeking quality, unpublished POETRY (any length or form) and FICTION (including plays & experimental pieces). All topics and genres desired: work, family/community, friendship, parenting, religion/spirituality, aging, body image, food, TV, money & class, violence & fighting back, apartheid, being closeted/being out, health & illness, the armed forces, racism & sexism, rap, roles, education; humor and satire, horror, science fiction, mystery, period pieces, AND MORE! All work must be authored by Black Lesbians! Send poetry to Terri Jewell, 211 W. Saginaw, #2, Lansing, MI 48933. Send fiction to Stephanie Byrd, 705 E. Seneca, #7, Ithaca, NY 14850. Please send SASE with each submission &/or inquiry. DEADLINE: February 15, 1991.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for submissions and participation of local artists and craftspersons in Southern Arts, Media and Education Project (SAME) second annual ARTS FOR PRIDE FESTIVAL Sunday, December 2, 1990 12-6pm. Inman Park Trolley Barn. For more info on this art auction and Holiday Craft Fair call SAME 584-2104. Limited space. Deadline November 2, 1990. (V3, #18)

Articles Wanted AID Atlanta needs furniture & other items for PWA's. We need TV's, microwaves, phones, beds, sofas, lamps, dinette sets, etc. Please call the Furniture Bank at 355-8463. Tell them you have a donation for AID ATLANTA.

15th Annual Atlanta Film & Video Festival - Call for Entries Festival to be held May 8-12th at IMAGE and the High museum of Art in Atlanta. Any independently produced media work created after Jan. 1988 qualifies for entry; the categories include narrative, documentary, student, experimental, and animation. Over \$7,000 in cash or equipment rental prizes will be awarded this year. Entries must be 16mm or Super 8mm film (video OK for preview) and 3/4" or 1/2" video. Deadline Jan. 4, 1991. \$25 application fee for individuals/non-profit org., \$40 for distributors/for-profit business (add \$5 for all out-of-country entries). For application forms or info please send SASE to IMAGE Film/Video Center, 75 Bennett St., Suite M-1, Atlanta, GA 30309. (404) 352-4254.

Submissions Wanted: Optimum physical, mental and spiritual health. An anthology by, for and about women. Focus on any aspect of wellness and illness at any stage of your life. Personal stories, fiction, poetry and essays sought; artwork welcome (line art only). Queries/letters of intent to submit due February 1, 1991. SASE to Susan T. Chasin, c/o Visibilities, Dept. WI, PO Box 1258, Peter Stuyvesant Station, NY, NY 10009-1258. (212) 473-4635.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Submissions- Women living with AIDS and HIV, an international anthology documenting the voices and visions of women living with AIDS and HIV. Including but not limited to: pages from diaries, autobiographical, dreams, fiction poetry, letters, photographs, drawings, paintings, essays, tape recordings...languages other than English welcome. Send submissions w/brief biography and contact address by April 1, 1991 to PO Box 471, stn "C", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6J3P5 or by FAX to (416) 340-6521. Info-write or call (416) 594-1445. We prefer copies rather than risk damage to originals. (V4)

A call for Submission from Art Services to photographers & artists in the gay & lesbian community. Do not send originals, Art Services is not responsible for lost photos or art work. Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope with your submission. Art Services Submissions Dept., Six West, 32nd Street, Penthouse, New York, NY 10001.

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

Shambhala Training, Meditation Center - Develop your awareness, awaken your natural connection w/life itself. A clear mind, gentle heart and a sense of humor are qualities which we all desire. 1518 Monroe Dr. Atl. 876-6954

CHILDCARE

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

ELECTRICIANS

SHORT BUSTERS! Do you have an electrical problem? Are you a little apprehensive about installing that ceiling fan safely? Need an Electrician for some re-modeling work? Having trouble setting up or wiring a home computer, stereo system, or VCR? Call BENTLEY ELECTRIC at 876-3558. (V3,#22)

*EMPLOYMENT

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,#18)

Help Wanted Cleaning Homes - Up to \$400/wk. Car required. 578-1313. (V3,#19)

Hair Stylist - Come work at Hairanoia - a growing business that offers you the opportunity to grow with us. 2000 Cheshire Bridge Rd., Cheshire Point. 321-5775. (V3,#20)

HOT WAX, Atlanta's premier 50's & 60's Showband is auditioning for tenor vocalists with dancing & comic ability. For audition call 325-2660. (V3,#18)

Wait person needed with good abilities & attitude. Great hours. Must be sharp! No weekend work or late nights. Call Steve at The Southernaire 373-1070. (V3,#21)

100 People Needed Immediately!!! Work in your own home. No humiliating uniforms, no on the job harassment! Send \$2.00 and SASE to: Blue Ridge Enterprises, 3583 Suite O, Chamblee Tucker Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341 (V3,#20)

No nonsense way to earn over \$500 per week. "Successful system" is looking for individuals to work from your home. No exp. nec. For details 753-9033 ask for DeLorenzo. (V3,#19)

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\$40,000/yr! READ BOOKS and TV Scripts. Fill out simple "like/don't like" form. EASY! Fun, relaxing at home, beach, vacations. Guaranteed paycheck. FREE 24 Hour Recording. 801-379-2955 Ext. GE182B. (V3,#18)

Actors/Models - 5'0" up. If selected receive a free photo session and roll of film toward your portfolio. Beginners considered. 594-0062. Credits: Island Wear-Chevy - Alpha Sportswear - Cairo Sun Products - Caribbean Sportswear - Beach Buns.

Next Deadline: Oct. 30, 1990

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For more information call
(404-876-1831)

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

CLASSIFIED DIRECTIONS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

Terrace Apartment-Private Grant Park home. One bedroom, small den, screened porch, large kitchen, laundry available. Cozy, quiet, safe, wonderful energy. On bus line. Prefer no-smokers, dogs, children. \$350 + utilities. Judie 627-8507 (V3,#18)

Emory-Decatur Apartment, 2 BDR, 2 Bath, recently renovated in quiet neighborhood. 10 minutes to downtown Atlanta. Energy efficient, very private and managed by owner. You must visit to appreciate it. 377-6278 (answering machine). Avail Oct. 15 \$700 (V3,#18)

Cozy 1 BR loft apt. Incl. private side entrance and secluded back yard. Located in quiet neighborhood. Walking distance to Piedmont Park. \$475 + security deposit. Utilities included, partially furnished. No pets. Ask for Jeanie (H) 873-6809, (W) 872-2459. (V3,#18)

FOR SALE

Cute Cabin in North Georgia Mountains on 3.5 acres. Includes electric appliances and wood stove. Must see to appreciate. Only \$25,000. Call Trish or Cyla 373-8380. (V3,#18)

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Free consultation/referral. Need legal advice? I can help by offering legal advice free over the phone, or refer you to another lawyer if you have a question in an area that is not my specialty. Also brochures available. Call 872-5325. (V3,#19)

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.

Free consultation/referral. Need legal advice? I can help by offering legal advice free over the phone, or refer you to another lawyer if you have a question in an area that is not my specialty. Also brochures available. Call 872-5325. (V3,#19)

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

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

LOOKING FOR...

Needed - Retired woman needs heavy duty yard work and tree removal. Can pay small fee. Call before 9:00am. Mrs. Moody 377-4874 (V3,#18)

PERSONALS

Black Lesbian wants to meet others for sharing good/bad times, laughter, caring, etc. Prefer women who like travel, beach, theatre, quiet times & more. Interested? Write me SV Box 2329. (V3,#19)

Come See the New England Foliage now and show me Atlanta Dec. 1-4. Doctor from India 37, 5'10". 175, topman seeks GWM 25-35. Cultured, educated, professional, adventurous & stimulating. Letter & photograph. Habib, Box 9634, Suite 106, Boston, MA 02114. (V3,#20)

Sort of new to town. GWM, 32, 5'8", 145# healthy HIV+, seeks friends to party with and an imaginative top to date. Tell me what you like. (V3,#19)

GWF, 36. I like to be outside, take walks and speak from my heart. Animals, music, rainstorms, and red wine are favorites of mine. I believe life is an adventure designed by a divine intelligence with a great sense of humor. Are you an attractive caucasian lesbian who is older than 33 and younger than 50? Are you intelligent and financially secure? Are you free of your "ever-so-painful" past? Do you possess a spirited soul and an open heart? Does this resemble the twisted paths that you wander? Why not write me an informative note about yourself. (SV Box 2327) (V3,#18)

Personalized Introductions for Gay Men and Women
• Explore new possibilities for quality relationships.
• Meet people with compatible interests. For a confidential interview and pricing details, call: New Avenues 881-8030. (V3,#19)

BiWF 29, heavyset, 5'8" brown hair, Big Blue Eyes. Fem. Pretty affectionate, likes life, good sense of humor. Looking for aggressive, affectionate, honest, pretty GWF 25-40 who likes herself and life. For friendship send photo and phone to SV Box #2324. (V3,#18)

GWM 53 - physically fit - I live a comfortable lifestyle - This ad is directed to a GWM, 19-25, 5'6"-5'10", 130 - 165, a little submissive but still a stand-up young man - who will give a non-hindering peaceful, fairly honest relationship - in return for quality care, financial aid and maybe a little direction - just a short note with picture of your smiling face - I'm real, you be too - write E-Z Mark SV Box#2326 (V3,#18)

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Emory area, two professional females seek stable, petless, smokeless, drug-free female to share 3 BDRM, 1 1/2 bath house w/hardwood floors, W/D, dishwasher, LR, DR. \$220/mo. + 1/3 util. 325-1750 before 10:30 PM. (V3,#18)

GBF and SWF looking for a female to share a 3 BDRM, cozy house on East Lake Drive. \$250 + utilities. Cats and furniture welcome. Non-smoker. Call 404-378-7297. (V3,#18)

GWF (smoker) seeking female housemate to share Grant Pk house on quiet street. 4BR off - street parking; conv. to busline. Pets nego. \$275 + 1/2 util. Prefer professional/mature GF. Avail immediately. 627-7387 antytime. (V3,#18)

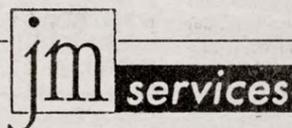
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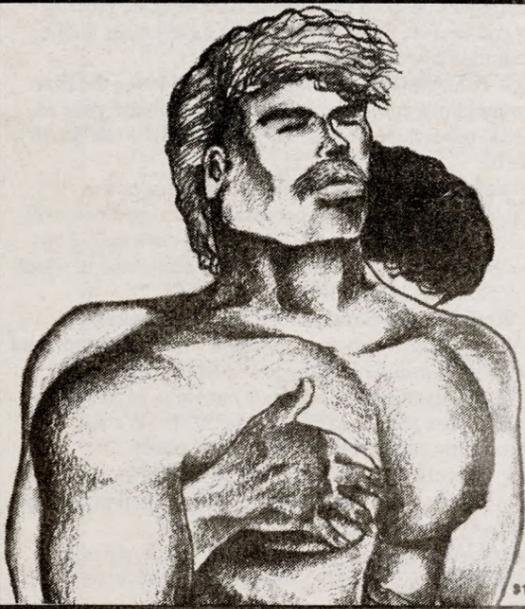
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Having Lunch Alone? Too much TV? Want to meet new friends and have community? Enjoy new activities? Join the day program at Common Ground for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program operates Monday-Friday, 10:30-3:30. Call 874-8686 for information.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

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

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Come to Seagrove Beach Florida. Cozy cottage for rent: furnished w/antiques, wicker and art. Sleeps 8, 2 min. walk to sugar-sand, quiet beach; great in the fall; dog pen, modest rates. (205) 263-5970 (V3,#18)

THE OLD MILL - Bat Cave, NC. Come be lulled to sleep on the banks of a rushing mountain stream in a GAY-OWNED BED AND BREAKFAST near Asheville. Mention ad when calling (704) 625-4256. (V3,#23)

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

TRAVEL

Fort Lauderdale - Exciting New Gay Resort, Club Caribbean Resort - 4 bars, treetop disco, Café Martinique Restaurant, swimming pool. 48 Rooms include A/C, Cable TV, Private Bath, and a refrigerator, for reservations 1-800-366-7299; 2851 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306

VIDEO

Full length video movies for sale. Variety of gay titles. Call 377-2312 (V3,#22)

VOLUNTEERS

Need Volunteers for a charity event. Call 944-3551 for details. (V3,#19)

AID ATLANTA needs your help!!

We need committed people to help with renovation of Collins House and other maintenance tasks. 872-0600 - ask for Sherry. (V3,#18)

VOLUNTEERS

Want to help the environment? Volunteer for the Georgia Environmental Project. Put your ideas to work - anything from office work to research. Call 521-3731.

SOUTHERN VOICE CIRCULATION.

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

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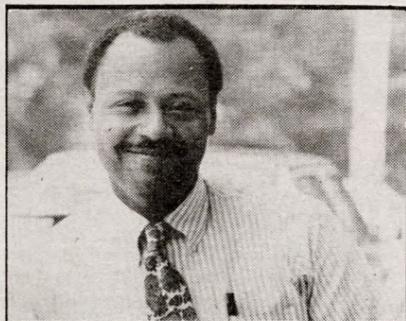
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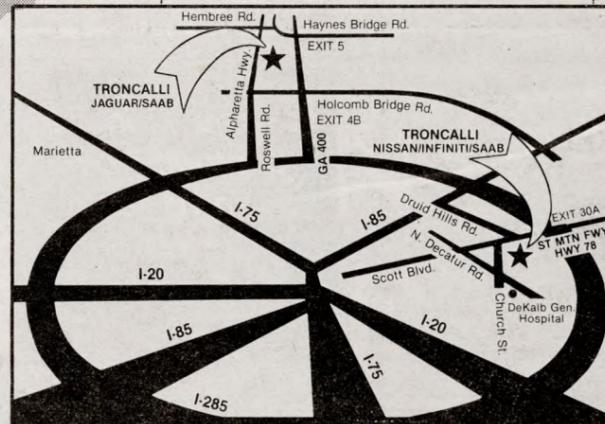


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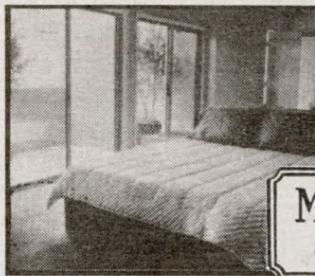
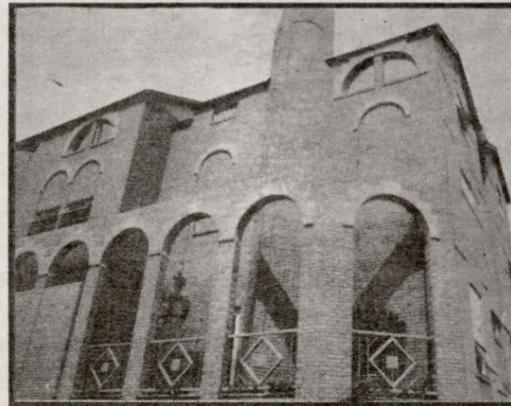


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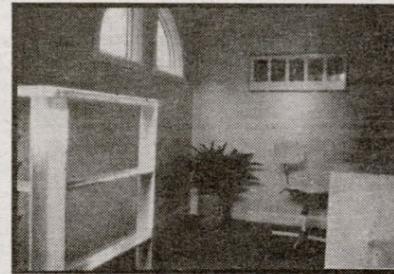
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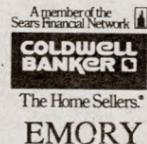


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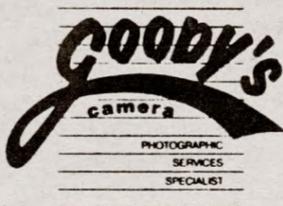
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"Passionate Is What I Want To Be"

I really tried to land an interview with Melissa Etheridge for Southern Voice. I met her at Rhythm Fest and she told me she'd love to do it. Just call my publicist, she said. So I did. I was told to call her management team in LA, called "The Group." Is that just too California or what? After several long distance phone calls, ranging from cajoling and threatening to sweet and innocent, the word came. ME's manager had decreed No Interviews, except for major dailies. I guess you'll see one in the A-J/C in conjunction with her Nov. 2 concert at the Fox.

I was crushed. I had so desperately wanted to ask her "Melissa, has anybody ever done you right?" During our very brief (we were both working) conversations at the Fest, Melissa told me she was excited about the material for her new album. Her set at the Fest was almost entirely new songs, and I can tell you, she has been done right.

Anyway, to go along with this fun pic taken on Lookout Mountain, we're reprinting an interview from the Windy City Times in Chicago a few months ago. Enjoy.

—KC Wildmoon

Jennifer Robles: Do you think *Brave and Crazy* got a fair shake from radio as much as your first album did?

Melissa Etheridge: I don't think there was as much [airplay], no. Radio sort of balked at it. The record is gold-plus. It's almost platinum, so it did as well [commercially] as the first album. Everyone got behind "Bring Me Some Water" and "Similar Features" [from her 1988 debut album], but then again the first album didn't get a break over a pop contemporary hit radio, just as *Brave and Crazy* didn't.

JR: How many videos have you done, and why do we rarely see them?

ME: I have seven videos. If you want to see them, call MTV. There's so much business in the music business. [MTV] looks at numbers before they look at videos. All of my videos have been played at one time or another on MTV. It may be 3 a.m., but they've been played. None of them very heavy, because I haven't got that heavy radio action like other artists have.

JR: Are you trying to get more radio play?

ME: I've built such a following live and by word-of-mouth that my albums have sold. I can sell out large halls and arenas. With the next album, which will be out in about a year, I think they're just going to have to play it. I haven't written anything for radio and I don't make my music to be played on radio, but I think radio play is something that will have to be.

JR: How do you balance the road with your personal life?

ME: Well, I take each of those times as they come. The personal times are important to me, and I have to schedule it real closely. You have to prioritize certain things, which is strange for me, but you have to do it. That way I get

the fullest in everything that I really desire in that time.

JR: Is there any room for spontaneity?

ME: Sure there is. There's spontaneity out here on the road. All of sudden I'll look [at the schedule] and say, "Oh, I have a day or two days, I'm going here. I'm gone." I did that, I went out to the beach last time I was in Los Angeles, just drove up to Malibu, which is like 45 minutes from L.A. I drove up there and spent the night.

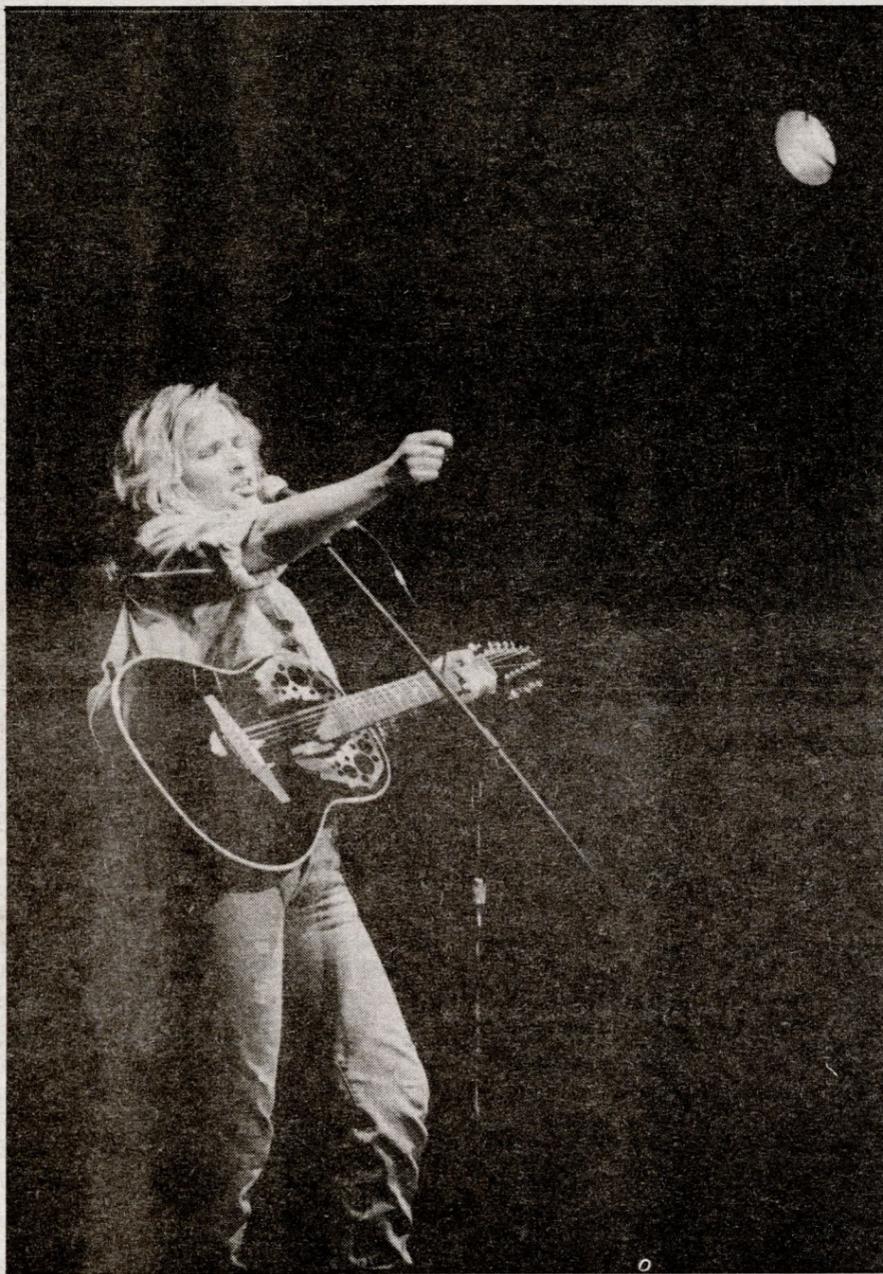
JR: When will you be recording the

gone through?

ME: A lot of maturity. A lot of changes in goals, let's say. Before it was, "I want all this," and now it's, "Wait a minute, I don't want all that, I want this." I want quality, not quantity. I'm looking for that in my personal relationships.

JR: I guess you've been asked this many times before, but people want to know who you're romantically involved with, men or women.

ME: Yes, I do get asked that a lot. I pretty much draw the line. I do sing



KIM COTTER

next album?

ME: In February.

JR: Do you have any idea what direction it will take?

ME: Yes. I've written a lot of songs already for it. It's still going to be very personal songs—that's just the way I write. I'm coming to grips with a lot of things in my life. I'm 29 years old now, and I've gone through some big changes in the last year, personally and professionally. You're going to find that in the music, in the words. I'm also trying to stretch musically, not just play an acoustic 12-string, but play my electric 12-string, electric six-string and piano. I have a piano at home now that I've been writing on. I'm playing different musical things to hopefully go the next step in my career.

JR: What kind of changes have you

about my personal relationships. That of course is a very big part of my life, but it's something that I have to keep personal for my own sanity right now. I'll deal with those bigger things when they come later down the line. But for now I choose to keep that part of my personal life personal.

JR: Sounds like your music can transcend gender, age, race.

ME: And I do that on purpose. I write personally, but generally. I try to write as personal as I want to, but to have whomever relate to it and make it their own and send it to their girlfriend, boyfriend, whatever.

JR: What kinds of qualities do you have to have in close relationships?

ME: That's changing. I used to be in all open relationships, but I just wasn't being very satisfied or fulfilled. Now

it's honesty and communication. Those are the two things that have to be there. Beyond that there has to be a lot of room for growth, a lot of support on both sides and a lot of fun.

JR: I've noticed in interviews—and it comes out in your music too—that honesty is a premium and you hold to a one day at a time philosophy, both of which are the basis of 12-step recovery programs. Is that part of your life?

ME: I've never been in a 12-step recovery thing. I've never been addicted to any substance, fortunately. Thank God. But I'm surrounded by people who have. I work very closely with people who are in recovery. I've had relationships with people who've been, so it kind of rubs off on you after a while. A lot of it I've discovered on my own. It just makes sense, especially taking it one day at a time. When you're shooting for big, huge goals you start to realize that it's just one day, one step at a time.

JR: Have you ever considered working with Bonnie Raitt?

ME: Bonnie is a very good friend. She was going to play slide guitar on "Chrome Plated Heart," and at the time I thought I wouldn't ever be able to play slide guitar in concert so I said, "no, we'll wait." She's often asked me to throw songs her way. I would love to work with her. She's truly one of the greatest people in this business. She's a great personal friend, and I can't say enough about her.

JR: How did you get to be such a crafty songwriter? You have a great ability to write music and poetry.

ME: I started writing when I was 10, which was a long time ago. It's always been a place I could go, and it's very safe. After the initial gift and talent, there's a responsibility to be disciplined with it. What I've learned in the last couple of years is that there's a certain amount of magic, but after that you really have to go for the word. You have to edit, craft it. You have to be able to say, "Hey, I can say that better."

JR: Who do you bounce new music off of?

ME: A lot of it I'll do myself. Kevin [McCormick, her producer and bass player] is really good for bouncing stuff off of. I do a lot of work with him. The people who are closest to me, my very, very close, special people I'll play for. They're honest. They don't have to say anything. I can tell immediately by their reactions if they love it or only like it.

JR: One word that's used to describe you is passionate. Is that sometimes a negative thing more than a positive?

ME: No. I think that's great. The negative comes in when they start saying that I'm just a broken-hearted, complaining woman who had a bad relationship. That's when they fall short of really what I'm trying to express. Yeah, passionate is what I want to be. I think there needs to be more of that in the world. If I can somehow keep it alive, then I've done something.