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Vol. 4, No. 1

"Taking Pride in Our Culture"

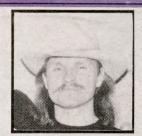
February 28, 1991

LAUGHTER



Cartoonist Alison Bechdel is coming to Atlanta to help celebrate our 3rd anniversary.

LEVI



Country & Western dancing is hot. And getting hotter.

LEATHER

Yes, Sir! Mr. & Ms. Southeast Leather are coming to town.

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CRACKER BARREL WAFFLES ON ANTI-GAY POLICY

NGLTF exerts pressure; activists wait for response

by Gary Kaupman

Douglasville, GA- On Fri., Feb. 15, Cheryl Summerville heard a rumor that her employer, Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, had instituted a policy of firing its gay and lesbian employees. When she went to work the following day, the rumor proved true: Summerville, a cook employed for eight months by Cracker Barrel, was fired because she is a lesbian.

"I told them I'd heard there was a new policy [about gays]," said Summerville. "At first they said that it didn't apply to me because I worked in the kitchen and because I was a woman." One of her supervisors told Summerville that her understanding was that the policy was targeting gay men who worked as waiters.

Wylie Petty, 21, and two gay male coworkers at the Tifton Cracker Barrel may be the first employees to have been fired under an undated policy statement from the chain which operates 90 restaurant/gift shops in the Southeast and Midwest. That statement reads in part: "It is...inconsistent with those in our customer base, to continue to employ individuals in our operating units whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values which have been the foundation of families in our society.

Petty says that the three men were fired in "late January." Petty had been employed by Cracker Barrel for 15 months and says that all his evaluations had been positive company's rating scale. "That's just one step below the level where they send you out to other stores to train new employees," he said. One of the other men fired was a "Par 4."

A Cracker Barrel employee who asked not to be identified said she was told the anti-gay policy was instituted when an irate customer wrote to the company complaining that two male employ-

and that he was a "Par 3" employee on the unreturned, Southern Voice reached Bridges who said, "we will not comment where we will not get a fair hearing." He then asked what kind of newspaper Southern Voice was. In reply to the answer "lesbian and gay," Bridges said "No further comment" and hung up.

Bridges did fax a copy of the company's anti-gay policy to Jack Hayes of Nation's Restaurant News but refused to discuss the matter further with Hayes.

"It is...inconsistent with those in our customer base, to continue to employ individuals in our operating units whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values which have been the foundation of families in our society."

ees in the Tifton store were kissing each other in view of the customers.

Petty says that he and his lover, who worked at the same store in Tifton, "never kissed each other at work." He added that the store manager had warned the two men they needed to be careful "not to show affection at work" but otherwise knew nothing of the rumored complaint.

Neither Georgia, nor any of its municipalities, have laws which prohibit firing someone based on their sexual orientation. There are also no laws prohibiting two people of the same sex from kissing.

All Cracker Barrel employees have been instructed not to discuss the policy with non-employees and refer inquiries to Bill Bridges, Vice president of Human Resources, at the company's Lebanon, Tenn. headquarters.

Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force had better luck getting Bridges to speak to him, "Initially he went into what I would call a controlled corporate mini-panic," said Bray after speaking to Bridges on Feb. 21.

Bridges called Bray back the next morning and told him that he had spoken to Cracker Barrel C.E.O. Dan Evins and they had decided "the policy stands, we have no comment.'

Bray says he assured Bridges that NGLTF wanted to work with Cracker Barrel towards a solution. But if the company persisted with its anti-gay policy, Bray said NGLTF would launch an attack using litigation, the media, government pressure and grassroots activism to fight

At 4p.m. that same afternoon Bridges After repeated phone messages went faxed a statement to NGLTF which reads

in part, "Our recent position on the employment of homosexuals in a limited number of stores may have been a wellintentioned over reaction to the perceived values of our customers and their comfort levels with these individuals."

'We're preparing a statement," said Bray. "We want to continue to work with Cracker Barrel to right a very terrible wrong.'

Southern Voice has now confirmed that Cracker Barrel has fired at least six employees because of their sexual orientation. Reports that as many as nine employees of Charlotte area stores and one man in Tallahassee have also been fired have not been confirmed by the individuals con-

Queer Nation/Atlanta was scheduled to discuss possible actions against Cracker Barrel on Monday night after this issue went to press. Call 286-2355 for more information.

Billy Adams owner of Billy's bar in Tallahassee, FL, says that he will help organize an action against Cracker Barrel in that city. Call him at (904) 574-3355 after 4pm.

Cracker Barrel's address is P.O. Box 787, Lebanon, TN. 37088-0787; phone (615) 444-5533. Bill Bridges is the V.P. of Human Resources. Dan Evins is the

Cracker Barrel is the corporate underwriter for WABE's broadcast of A Prairie Home Companion on Saturday nights. WABE's phone number is 827-8900.

Dreams, Questions and Answers

An update on the The National Lesbian Conference

by Debbie Fraker

Some herstory: Though she is no longer directly involved in its coordination, Michelle Crone was one of the founding mothers of the National Lesbian Conference. In 1986 she attended an international lesbian conference in Geneva. Crone says that it was through this conference that she began to realize lesbians in this country "don't have a clear focus on who we are and what our agenda is." She and three other women-Kay Ostburg, Joyce Hunter, and Urvashi Vaid-began working on the concept of a national conference for lesbians.

After the 1987 March on Washington, plans for the conference crystallized and more lesbians became involved in plan-

Throughout the process Crone and the other originators have had certain priorities in mind. Among them was the concept that the conference should not have a set agenda or be organized by a major, national organization. It was to be what lesbians from across the country made it, needed it to be, with as little as possible

predetermined by the organizers. This may explain the apparent lack of organization evident in the process and which is drawing comment from many lesbians as the April date for the event approaches. Despite the slow pace on many fronts, Crone and NLC staff members are determined to stand by their original operational strategy as the only appropriate one for a lesbian conference.

"In the beginning, we said 'This is a very noble experiment.' I hope it's going to work," Crone candidly admits. She followed up with, "It's very important to make this a grassroots project. In the process of organizing, we got women in three piece suits and women in full crystal regalia. We asked ourselves, 'How do we make this a safe place for all lesbians?"

Crone says she has high expectations for the conference. "The vision of this conference is that everyone's voice is respected. There is no head set on it other than making sure the diversity is there. I hope that a lot of women show up." When asked about her other concerns about the conference, Crone added, "I hope that the Atlanta community is functioning as a tight knit group to provide for the needs of women coming to the conference."

Crone and N.C. activist Mandy Carter are co-producers of the Friday night dance and Saturday night concert during the Conference. These are not official NLC events, but what the organizers refer to as 'related events." The cost for the dance and concert will be in addition to conference registration fees, but Conference participants will be eligible for tickets at a 50 percent discount.

Unlike at the Conference, performers and stage crews at these two events will be paid. But due to the expense of using the Civic Center, where the dance and performances will be held, "What we had to do is get everybody to work for a percentage of the door. We hope they can make enough to cover travel costs.'

Yer Girlfriend, a Kentucky-based band, will play at the Friday dance. Saturday's Concert performers: Teresa Trull, Alix Dobkin, Lea DeLaria, Gail Reter, the Washington Sisters, Sue Fink, Karen Williams and Two Spirited/Thunder People, the first all-lesbian Native American dance troupe.



Michelle Crone hopes the NLC will be "a forum to see how we can learn to deal with our differences, instead of trying to kill each other because you eat white sugar or red meat or have a boy child."

Continued on page 14

HIV TEST POLICIES ON FRONT BURNER

CDC, Georgia AIDS Task Force and legislature look at the issues

by Patrick Garvey

Atlanta—Whether health care workers should be subjected to mandatory testing for HIV antibodies, and be required to divulge the results to their patients, was the subject of a highly publicized conference sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control on Feb. 21-22. Medical professionals, healthcare advocates, AIDS activists and journalists from around the country listened intently to the two days of testimony. The CDC will now solicit written comment on the question for 60 days and then issue new guidelines for healthcare worker testing.

CDC's guidelines are not law. But individual states, which do make such laws, generally rely heavily on the government agency's recommendations. The CDC's current guidelines include the use of protective masks, gloves, and goggles.

The meeting comes in the wake of major media coverage given to a Florida dentist who is believed to have infected three of his patients with HIV. Two weeks ago the CDC issued a report that suggested that the chance of healthcare worker to patient transmission is somewhere in the 1 in 500,000 to 1 in 2.5 million range.

Ruth Finkelstein Sc.D., Director of Research of D.C.-based AIDS Action Council feel the CDC is at the brink of ground-breaking decision concerning this country's current AIDS policies. "Five years ago, when parents were demanding students infected with the HIV virus be removed from public schools because they were frightened their children would get AIDS," she said, "the CDC stepped in to assure them that AIDS could not be contracted from toilet seats or mosquitoes. The CDC is at another such juncture of protecting the rights of people with AIDS."

Comments from David Barr, Assistant Director of Policy for N.Y.C.'s Gay Men's Health Crisis, were typical of those opposing testing. "The most effective protection against HIV transmission in the workplace is the proper use of infection control procedures," he said. "Measures which call for the testing and restriction of infected workers are inappropriate, discriminatory and will adversely affect the public health."

Comments from Sanford Kuvin, MD—of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases—were typical; of those who want testing, "Blood is a two-way street. All health care workers and patients should be tested. Why? because of the 'right to know', and the 'duty to warn'....It's just like terrorism, if we check people at airports then we cut down on 96% of all terrorists. Similarly, if you routinely test for AIDS, you will

eliminate the vast majority of these carriers from infecting others."

A staff attorney with the ACLU's National AIDS Project, Chai Feldblum, urged the CDC to make decisions reflecting the actual risk that may exist and not be a reflection of public perception or hysteria. "You must issue guidelines that are consistent with the law and not single out people with HIV [since HIV+ individuals pose no immediate health threat to the public], unless you can show legal justification for that deferment. We [the ACLU] cannot find any justification."

At the end of the conference, CDC Director Dr. William Roper confirmed the concensus of those who spoke, "I haven't heard many participants speaking in favor of routine or mandatory testing..."

The Georgia AIDS Task Force—the group charged with advising the legislature and governor and HIV-related matters—held its quarterly meeting on Fri., Feb.22. About 35 Task Force members crowded into a conference room of the Ramada Inn to discuss the implications of healthcare worker



Jamie Cohen demonstrates a syringe with a retractable needle at the CDC's hearings on HIV testing of healthcare workers.

For updated information on the status of AIDS legislation call the Georgia AIDS Coalition Hotline 286-2106

and patient HIV testing and the bills concerning AIDS currently before the legislature.

Task Force members voted unanimously to oppose required HIV antibody testing for healthcare workers. Edna Flemming Killum, the meeting's moderator, concluded that although there is no need for mandatory testing, "the Task Force recognizes the risk to patients [of contracting HIV through a health care worker], and recommends that any healthcare worker in a high-risk area, or working with high-risk patients, should seek voluntary HIV testing."

Joseph Wilber, M.D—director of the Georgia Department of Human Resources AIDS program and a member of the Task Force for four years—said that he has never been more disturbed about what's going on in the Georgia legislature regarding HIV issues. Three bills which would severely infringe on the rights of the HIV infected are currently under consideration.

H.B. 690 would legally define AIDS as a venereal disease, and, like syphilis and gonorrhea, require tracing of sexual partners for all people diagnosed with AIDS. H.B. 741 would release the identity of children infected with HIV, or any communicable disease, to their teachers, principal, school nurse and superintendent of schools.

"The bill has no purpose," commented Georgia AIDS Coalition lobbyist Jeff Corrigan. Pointing out that virtually all the diseases listed, except HIV, are ones which would keep children out of school anyway. Both bills are in the House Health and Ecology Committee; Corrigan recommends calls to committee chairman Buddy Childers (656-5141) urging him to kill the bills.

H.B. 554 would require involuntary AIDS testing for anyone accused of committing an AIDS-transmitting crime—rape, aggravated sodomy or incest—and that the results be given to

Continued on page 9

UGA ENACTS SEXUAL ORIENTATION POLICY

It prevents discrimination by students and staff, but not business or the Military

by Patrick Garvey

Athens—The University of Georgia has adopted a policy protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination, but it doesn't apply to the ROTC or businesses that recruit on the Athens campus. The military legally discriminates against lesbians and gays.

"This policy does not apply to the University's relationship to outside organizations," the policy passed by the University Council on Feb. 11 said, "including the federal and state government, the military, ROTC, and private employers. However, the University encourages external users of university facilities to observe the principle of equal opportunity and non-discrimination."

The University's president, Knapp, told Southern Voice in October that telling the state and federal government, along with private businesses, not to discriminate based on sexual orientation would raise "serious legal questions," and risk losing the support from many important outside institutions.

"The real question is whether it is appropriate for this institution, through internal policy, to attempt to cut off these entities [the Department of Defense and private businesses who discriminate based on sexual orientation] from access to our campus programs and graduates. I do not support such an action," President Knapp said.

The University Council stated in the policy that sexual orientation was an irrelevant factor in determining one's personal merits, and shall not be a basis for making decisions relating to education, employment, or access to programs, facilities, or services.

Members of the Athens Gay and Lesbian



AGLA's Lawson Sullivan

Association are pleased with the policy's language, although it is not comprehensive.

"I'm really happy about it," Terrance Heath, of AGLA, told the University's student newspaper *The Red & Black*. "At least now there's some protection on campus, even if the policy has the waiver in it."

The co-director of AGLA, Lawson Sullivan, was even more forgiving. "In terms of legal problems," she said, "I can't blame the University for not wanting to go up against the military. I understand the constraints they're operating under."

The UGA Law School—because it is a member of the American Association of Law Schools, which has an extensive sexual orientation anti-discrimination policy—does prohibit the military and private discriminatory private firms from recruiting its students.

REST STOP STING NABS ACTIVIST

DOT willing to drop charges, but Gwinnett will prosecute

Atlanta—A well-known local activist and openly gay staff member to the Fulton County Commission Chairman says the Department of Transportation "set him up" in his Jan. 30 arrest for soliciting sodomy at an I-85 rest stop in Gwinnett County. Gary Stephen Cox was invited into a rental truck by a DOT officer in disguise, and subsequently arrested for making a reference to oral sex.

Mr. Cox, of the Fulton Department of Family and Children Services, and working with Michael L. Lomax to help administer the Ryan White AIDS CARE funds, is pursuing legal recourse for what state Transportation Commissioner Hal Rives admits was a "sting" operation engineered against Cox.

After speaking to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution about the case, Mr. Cox has not made any public statements on the advice of his attorney, Margie Pitts Hames. Southern Voice was unable to reach Hames for comment on the case.

The sting was prompted by a December incident at a Gwinett rest stop when Mr. Cox, returning to Atlanta from South Carolina, says he stopped to use the restroom. An unidentified DOT attendant entered the restroom questioning Cox and then telling him to leave adding that he "didn't like my kind," Cox told the J/C.

Cox says he sent a written complaint to the DOT and response came soon after from a "Charlie from the DOT," asking Cox to return to the rest stop to point out the man who harassed him.

Cox returned on the night of Jan. 31, where the DOT officer pretending to be a traveler waved him over and asked whether his name was Gary. According to Cox, the man invited him into the truck, and asked him "something really offensive, as to my sexual practices...I said something vulgar (a reference to oral sex) that I guess he misconstrued as a solicitation."

"The next thing I knew, he's taking out his DOT badge and arresting me," Mr. Cox told the A J/C.

Mr. Rives said that the DOT had begun an investigation of the December incident and that he was willing to drop the charges relating to the Jan. 31 incident in return for Cox not suing the DOT. But the Gwinnett Solicitor said that he still intends to prosecute.

MAYNARD MUM ON QN'S REPORT CARD

Atlanta—More than three weeks after receiving a grade of "F" for his failure to take substantive action gay/lesbian/AIDS issues, Mayor Maynard Jackson has still not replied either to Queer Nation—which issued the challenge—or to this paper which has made repeated requests for a response.

"We're offended by the Mayor's flagrant disregard for our concerns," said Queer Nation's Lynn Cothren. "It reflects a level of arrogance and disrespect far greater than we suspected."

Because Southern Voice shares Cothren's concerns, we will begin printing the "Maynard and Michael Report" in each issue of this paper. The report will document any action taken on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men and people with AIDS in the past two weeks by either the Mayor's office or by Fulton County Commission Chairman Michael Lomax.

This issue's report:

Action taken by Mayor Maynard Jackson on lesbian/gay/AIDS issues in the past two weeks: None

Action taken by Fulton Commission Chairman Michael Lomax on lesbian/gay/ AIDS issues in the past two weeks: None

GOOD NEWS ON DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

•In San Francisco the scene was romantic and festive as gay, lesbian and heterosexual lovers marched into City Hall on Valentines Day, the first day the new law allowing unmarried couples to formally register themselves in the city as "Domestic Partners." The measure that was voted into law last November is mostly symbolic, recognizing lesbian and gay couples as "nontraditional families." Many plan to use their formal registration to gain access for their partner to a wide variety of family benefits and discounts including medical insurance, frequent flier programs and even health club memberships.

•Three gay/lesbian city supervisors in San Francisco have gone further to propose a resolution making the city a sanctuary for sexual minorities. It would put the city on record as a "place of refuge for sexual minorities (defined as lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals) in need of asylum." Although the measure is purely symbolic, Carole Migden, one of the supervisors proposing the resolution, told the San Francisco Sentinel that it was the "function of the government to lead and to recognize its responsibility to fight for and

protect the basic human rights of its citizens."

•Minneapolis has passed an ordinance which will make it the only midwestern city to allow lesbians and gay men to register as domestic partners. The three-pronged package, sponsored by openly gay city council vice president Brian Coyle will include sick and bereavement benefits, formation of a Family Diversity Task Force and a Domestic Partnership Registry and visitation in health care facilities for gay and straight employees. "More than anything [the Domestic Partnership victory] will have an inspirational affect on the lesbian and gay community," said Ann DeGroot, Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council's executive director. "So often we don't win, but this victory [conveys] that there's always hope." A lesbian couple was first to register under the new law; two gay men followed. •The Dean of an Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle says he's ready to offer the sacrament of marriage and bless gay and lesbian couples living in what he calls "monogamous, faithful, holy and life-giving relationships," according to the Associated Press. The Episcopal Church has not authorized marriage ceremonies involving gay or lesbian couples in Seattle, or any other city in the country. The Rt. Rev. Vincent Warner predicted the topic would be primary on the agenda when the 2.5 million member denominations holds its general convention this summer. Rev. Peter Moore of Seattle says "ignorance of sexuality" in the church will prohibit approval "in the foreseeable future." Lending credence to Moore's observation, the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama last weekend voted to ordain as priests only those who are either celibate or married. While it is possible for lesbians and gay men to be the former, marriages of same-sex couples is not legal in the U.S.

Back-Door Censorship in Dallas: The Dallas, Texas Police Department has used an obscure Texas law drafted to prevent videotape piracy to pillage several adult bookstores and retail video outlets. Officers filched all videos which did not bear the title of the video and the name and address of the distributor—carrying off some 40,250 X-rated movies. Establishment owners and civil liberties advocates are accusing the cops of using the labeling law as a cloak for censorship-retail establishments that don't conform to the labeling laws, but do not sell or rent x-rated videos, were spared the department's seizures.

ACT UP Investigation Nixed: San Francisco Police Chief William Casey denied the city's newly-formed Civil Disturbance Section's request to begin investigating ACT UP/San Francisco. "I tore [the request for permission to investigate protesters] up. There was no articulable evidence in what they presented to me to warrant the investigation into ACT UP, or any other group for that matter," Casey told Keith Clark, a syndicated writer. ACT UP members participated in a number of protests at the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War, including one where the Bay Bridge was shut down twice.

Boston Hate Crimes up 80%: Reports of hate crimes in Boston increased 80% in the last two years, according to Boston Police Department statistics. The 273 cases of civil rights violations involved assaults, threats and harassment of people based on their race or sexual orientation. Sgt. Detective William Johnston told the Associated Press that these numbers represent the people who reported the violations, saying it represents only a small portion of hate crimes in the city. A hate crimes bill that records the number of crimes in Georgia was proposed in this year's General Assembly, but shot down by Georgia legislators.

Fundamentalist Homophobia on a Global Scale: The International Lesbian and Gay Association's request to be recognized as a nongovernmental organization in the United Nations has been put on hold. The U.N.'s Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, consisting of delegates from 19 countries, announced its postponement after the delegate from Libya called ILGA "sexually immoral," and vowed never to approve its admission. Quoting passages from the Koran, Libyan Delegate Abdussalam Serguwa called ILGA's goals contrary to the Islamic "law of life," which he said dictates traditional family values. Lisa Power, ILGA secretary general, said in a press release: "Lesbians and gay men are everywhere around the world, and we will continue knocking on the U.N.'s door until they

Dallas Drops Miller Boycott: Some 20 gay bar and club owners in Dallas have begun restocking Miller beer in their establishments, despite a nationwide boycott that organizers in San Francisco and D.C. say is still in effect. The Dallas Voice said that owners believe Tom White, a Dallas Miller distributor, wants to work closer with the gay and lesbian community, and they believe further community support is forthcoming. Michael Petrelis of ACT UP/D.C., however, urged all lesbians and gays to continue the Miller boycott because of beer manufacturer's parent, Philip Morris Inc., still funds Sen. Jesse Helms. "Let everyone know, the boycotts are not over," he was quoted in Etcetera magazine as saying.

Money For Health, Not War: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has issued a formal statement opposing U.S. military action against Iraq, saying the war detracts attention and funds away from the fight against AIDS, anti-gay violence, youth suicide and breast cancer risk for lesbians. "... In a matter of days," notes the statement, "the military operations in the Gulf cost the equivalent of the entire 1991 appropriations for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency Act...We need money for health not war."

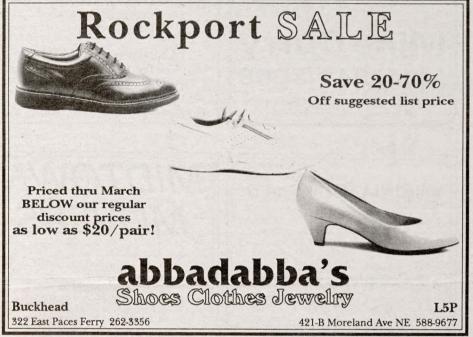
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P.S. Look for it next issue. For information call 876-1819.

TACKLING THE LEGISLATIVE LONG ROAD

The vote is in: homophobia won

by Gary Kaupman

On Monday, February 11, the Georgia House of Representatives stripped the Hate Crimes Bill of the words "sexual orientation and "HIV status" by a vote of 103-60. Then, adding insult to injury, they defeated the gutted bill by a similar margin. But you probably already knew that.

Here a a few facts surrounding the defeat of that bill and the sodomy repeal bill that you may not know:

•When Rep. Henry Bostick of Tifton spoke in *support* of the Hate Crimes Bill he told his fellow solons, "...I don't know any queers, but we've got to do something to stop people from beating up people." Bostick's demeaning language was only the tip of an iceberg of homophobia that emerged from the floor of the House as the bill was debated.

•Rep. Debra Mills of Marietta, who had gay men and lesbians supporting her campaign and who attended an HRCF campaign skills workshop, voted to strip sexual orientation from the Hate Crimes Bill and then voted against the diminished bill.

•Reps. Jay Walker, David Irwin, Curtis Jenkins, and Henry Bostick promised lobbyists that they would vote to send the sodomy repeal law out of committee and on to the House floor. They changed their minds at the last minute, effectively killing the bill for this session.

•Despite continued campaign protestations of support on gay and lesbian issues from the Mayor, neither hate crimes nor sodomy repeal were on the

City of Atlanta's legislative lobby list.

•The vote on hate crimes broke strongly along racial and gender lines lines—people of color and women generally supportive. Two of the three people voting to send the sodomy repeal bill to the floor were black women.

•Rep. Billy Randall, chair of the Special Judiciary Committee who offered no help on sodomy repeal, has introduced a bill that would repeal the laws which criminalize adultery and fornication.

•Last year lawmakers bemoaned to vote for hate crimes or sodomy repeal because ACT UP had made such a spectacle with their demonstration. In 1991, after a whole year of behind the scenes schmoozing, lesbian and gay lobbyists set upon the legislature dressed in coats and ties, armed with facts and figures, wearing smiles, and behaving as if they dedicated disciples of Emily Post.

The list goes on and on, ad nauseum. The net effect of a year of working within the system is not encouraging.

It's obvious that the amount of work required to pass legislation as simple as hate crimes will be monumental. Sodomy repeal—which advocates were confident would clear the House this year and the Senate in '92—now seems as distant as Isle of Lesbos. Several other things are obvious:

•Political activists must agree that they will transcend personal political differences to work together. That done, they must embark on a campaign to make activism attractive to a much larger segment of the community.

•Activists who have been working inside the system must make it clear to Gov. Miller, Lt. Gov. Howard and Speaker Murphy that we need and expect their support for the enactment of laws which protect us.

•A statewide organization or coalition must be formed—the Florida Task Force, though far from perfect, might be a model. Money must be raised to pay a lesbian/gay lobbyist. A statewide version of GAPAC is needed. In the same vein, LEGAL chapters need to be developed in other cities. The homophobia of many of our enemies in the legislature is based in an "I don't know any queers" mentality that can only be cured by their gay and lesbian constituents.

•Phone and letter trees need to be organized; right wing forces used these tactics (sometime dishonestly) to insure defeat of hate crimes. Such organizing isn't complex, its just hard work.

•Openly gay/lesbian officials must be elected. As good as our non-gay, lawmaking friends may be, they will never be able to represent us or our issues as well as we can. Electing women and people of color must be a priority, too.

•Some brave, creative lesbian and gay Republicans need to form a Log Cabin Club; many of our issues can be approached sanely and constructively from a conservative point of view.

This, alas, is only the beginning of a more extensive game plan that can no longer be ignored.

Tell Zell

Activists call for deluge of phone calls to the Governor to express outrage

A coalition of Atlanta activist groups headed by Georgia lesbian and gay Democratic Club, LEGAL, has declared Wednesday, March 6, 1991 "A Day of Outrage in Georgia."

The group is asking members of the community to call Governor Zell Miller at 656-1776, and let him know that you are outraged that 103 legislators voted against a Hate Crimes Bill—after the added insult of removing sexual orientation and HIV status from the bill. And that you are incensed that the Georgia Legislature failed to repeal Georgia's archaic and discriminatory sodomy statute.

The coalition has requested that callers flood the Capital phone lines between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Let the the Governor and the 103 Legislators who committed a hate crime by voting against H.B. 376 know that our issues will NOT go away. That you will NOT be silent. And that you are OUTRAGED!

If 656-1776 is busy, call 656-6870, 656-1794, or 656-1790.

Let Zell know that there will be no more 'business as usual' as long as the fundamentalist minority carries more weight in the state house than the pro-privacy, anti-hate crimes majority.

Co-sponsoring organizations for the Day of Outrage are: ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter, ACT UP/Atlanta, the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance, Etcetera Magazine, the Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition, the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation,

Southern Voice and Queer Nation/Atlanta.
For more information call LEGAL at 286-7476



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be talking, too.

GUEST EDITORIAL

OUR RIGHT TO BE

Several years ago, I attended a showing of works by local artists. While browsing, I stumbled across one of the most powerful pieces of work I have ever seen, a sculpture of an American Indian in traditional headdress. It was made of wood, paper and clay with what seemed to be real, brightly colored, feathers. Even more powerful than the sculpture itself was its title: "My Right to Be".

For every oppressed group of people the right to be uniquely who we are sexually or culturally has been stripped away. African-American lesbians and gays feel pain of racism *and* homophobia daily. It is a feeling of being under constant attack

from a society that has been structured and operates under the laws (written and unwritten) of white males. It is a feeling of being under constant attack from a Black community which has internalized the poisonous thoughts of an imperialist system. A system which breeds and supports the oppression of anyone who does not fit within the boundaries of the "larger" society.

Just as our rights as individuals and as a distinct community have been taken away, it is up to us to reclaim them. Black gays and lesbians are beginning to fight our oppressors. There has been a change in our mind-set about how WE will live OUR lives. The celebration of Afrocentric values coupled with the surge of pride in our sexual natures is bringing about a significant movement to wipe away the boundaries that so many of us have been forced and conditioned to exist within

Already this is evident with recent events like the pro gay/lesbian article that appeared in *Ebony* magazine last year. The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's decision not to allow *Essence* magazine get away with refusing to run a previously approved ad for their '91 national conference. And, in the last few weeks, the outrage expressed to city officials at the senseless murders and physical abuses of the men and women in our community.

We are asserting our right to live and celebrate our lives in peace!

Black gays and lesbians are taking a

stand on issues that effect our lives. We are claiming ground and standing firm on issues we strongly believe in. No longer will we take the violation of our rights as human beings lying down. And WE will decide OUR own courses of action when we have been discriminated against and angered. We are refusing to follow anyone else's plans that make us tokens and do not have our best interest in mind.

We are a community tired of watching our brothers and sisters die from benign neglect and violence, our women and men harassed and our culture thought of as "primitive."

We are mobilizing ourselves to use a collective voice in sharing and progressing with those who genuinely care about our issues, struggles, and joys as proud lesbian/gay African-Americans.

-Patrick Bell

CORPORATE HATE CRIME

The homohating employment policy of Cracker Barrel restaurants (see page 1 of this issue and page 2 last issue) is one of the most blatant cases of corporate antigay/lesbian bias to come down the pike in living memory.

The language of the policy change offered by Cracker Barrel last Friday—combined with the absolute disdain with which Cracker Barrel's Bill Bridges treated those who have tried to talk to him about the policy—makes it abundantly clear that this battle has just begun. But, because Cracker Barrel is so up front about their bigotry, this is a battle that offers all sorts of opportunities for the lesbian and gay community.

Every one of the fired employees with whom we've spoken said "I thought it was illegal to fire someone because they are gay." Or words to that effect. Ditto almost everyone else with whom we've spoken about the subject. The fact that it is perfectly legal (in all of Georgia and in most of this country) to fire someone for no reason other than the fact that they are a lesbian or a gay man is a travesty.

We invite readers to imagine themselves in the shoes of the Cracker Barrel employees who were fired. See how it feels. And then see if it doesn't make you angry enough or frightened enough to want to participate in some way in prosecuting the perpetrators of this corporate hate crime.

APALLED AND

BEWILDERED

Dear KC Wildmoon,

I read your column in Viewpoints under the name of Honors and Recognition (Vol. 3, No. 25). I myself was out and out appalled and bewildered. Your letter was very candid, but that is not what upsets me. Your bigotry, yes I said "Bigotry." Are you angry because you didn't win or are you at a loss by seeing gay men, lesbians, and of course drag queens (sic), as you would put it, are getting along and socially accepting each other.

KC we should cherish the times when all forms of gay lifestyles accept and respect each other. There is no room in this community for prejudice and unfeeling people. We read enough material in the straight media that puts us down, for flaunting our lifestyles. For you to ridicule these people at the Omni Awards is a gross injustice.

You say the awards are a popularity contest, how do you know when you don't as you put it, "Intermingle with bar folk." Insulting the winners and entertainment shows a poor sign of bad sportsmanship.

I guess as the saying goes, people hate what they don't understand. You are a woman, that much has already been cleared up, but what I want to know is are you a gay woman? Lesbians I've met in the past simply don't act the way you portray.

People with selfish attitudes and archaic thinking have to be out there in the world, and no one will put you down for wanting to live in an all woman culture. But do not attack women who get along with their fellow brothers and sisters, or for that matter enjoy female impersonations and such. Sounds like to me KC could definitely use a good time. As I said before in times of unrest and sexual discrimination, as we gay individuals must learn to live with each other, and not destroy our community as a whole with silly self-motivated editorials. If you didn't like the nominations, if you

didn't like the show, then next time to keep yourself from being patronized, keep your torn jeans and hang-ups about other gay people at home, with your own culture, because I assure you no one will mind or get upset.

Ashley Nicole A Hormone/Silicon Tit Female Impersonator

POLICY CHANGE?

Dear Editor

As you can see from the inclosed letter "writing the editor" worked. Mr. Martin has agreed to change the A.J.C. obituary policy. Please continue the excellent work in keeping the gay and lesbian community aware.

Ray Mims

Mr. Ray T. Mims Jr. Atlanta, GA

Dear Mr. Mims:

We are changing our policy to allow acknowledgement of gay and lesbian

companions in obituaries. Thanks for sharing your insight into this issue.

Sincerely Ron Martin, Editor The Atlanta Journal/Constitution

Pat Hussain of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Defamation tells us that as of Feb. 22, the A-J/C has not finalized their new guidelines. GLAAD has been talking to Pam Fine, Editor of the Metro section, who told Hussain that decisions on what words to use to describe gay and lesbian survivors, how to handle AIDS related deaths, and what to do about saying that memorials to a gay/lesbian or AIDS related organization are requested are still on the table. A quick note to Mr. Martin or Ms. Fine (PO Box 4689, Atlanta, GA 30302) couldn't hurt. —Ed.

MISCELLANY

Reader Terry Kelsey (whose letter about racially offensive decor in Blake's appeared in our last issue) reports that the management of that bar has told him that the material has been removed.

We apologize for the fact that our regular Outline is missing from this issue. It will return in issue 2.



heterodoxy,n.

the quality or fact of being an opinion contrary to that which is established or generally received.

a monthly column by KC Wildmoon

OF WORDS AND WEAPONS

So I was driving to work the other morning, and the day-glo colors on the plate glass window caught my eye. The house was a small one, on the corner, and angled so that it pointed almost squarely in my direction. There were two peace symbols, and the words "Beat Bush Into A Plowshare."

The juxtaposition of symbols and slogan left me with a queasy feeling, as if somehow violence and hatred are only wrong when someone else is doing them. That it's a personal decision, that killing or maiming is right when you are personally affronted. I'm not talking about self-defense here. I'm talking about a sickness that pervades our society so deeply that we think nothing at all of it.

Let's call it the I'm-Right/You're-Wrong Syndrome.

We all have a little bit of that in our blood, myself included. That's fine—we all need to be able to make judgments, decisions, for ourselves in order to function. But IRYWS takes that normal process further into an attempt to force everyone else to admit their errors and submit to the obviously superior judgment of the IRYWS sufferer. If all else fails, force will do nicely to accomplish that end.

Never once do those of us who suffer from IRYWS consider that we may be wrong. Or, god forbid, that someone else could be right. Disagreement is absolutely intolerable. Cajoling, bullying, and sniping follow simple persuasion in rapid succession. Countries locked into IRYWS end up at war. We end up in battle camps doing the community equivalent of war.

Consider the consequences of two or more people in the throes of this disease coming together to discuss any issue. This is sometimes known as Consensus.

We mistake shouting each other down for discussion. We believe we've won when we've battered our opponent into submission, using sorties of vicious language to weaken our opponent's position.

Should we lose, the punishments begin. Public accusations, lawsuits, rumor and innuendo are weapons at our disposal. If none of that works, we can always beat the sucker into a plowshare. Or a bloody pulp, whichever would be more effective. And there'll be plenty of people around to tell us how right we are, because nobody wants to be the next one to suffer that fate.

Nations build bombs, not to keep the peace, but to ensure our position as right and to punish anyone who disagrees. We take each other to court, not to correct injustices, but to win, and inflict as much

damage as the law will allow. Retribution, retaliation, revenge—all of those spell a regression to self-centeredness, deep into a disease so thick in our hearts that we don't even know we have it.

The sad part is that holding on to this myopic view prevents us from even a glimpse of The Big Picture. Truth is, my Friends, it's rarely as simple as I'm-Right/You're-Wrong. In fact, more often than not, it's turned out that we're all right. And we're all wrong.

This morning I drove by that house on the corner again. I noticed the change immediately. The peace symbols were still there, but the only word left was "PLOWSHARE." A much better sentiment, I thought. I don't know what happened, but I'm going to believe that whoever painted that window thought it through and wanted to look beyond himself just a little bit. Plowshares have nothing to do with Right And Wrong. Neither does Peace.

HEARTENED AND DISAPPOINTED

Dear Editor,

I was both heartened and disappointed to read the columns by KC Wildmoon (Heterodoxy) and Patsy Lynch (D.C. Journal: Lesbian Ladies) in the Jan. 31 edition of Southern Voice. Heartened, because I love for lesbians to speak out, in all our diversity. Disappointed, because I think both showed a narrowness, or lack of insight, with which I profoundly disagree.

To KC Wildmoon, who sneeringly referred to the "gay women" who "maybe like strippers," I want to say: GET A GRIP. Sure, there are women who like strippers. There are gay women, lesbians, queer girls, whatever they choose to call themselves, who are strippers. And if your culture is so narrow that you repudiate them (as well as Bar Folk, people in "skins of dead animals," and whoever else fails to meet your exacting standards of correctness) off the bat, that tells me that your culture is mighty small, awfully homogeneous, and disturbingly smug.

Patsy Lynch's conclusions about 'lesbian ladies' do not ring true for me. As a lesbian who sometimes wears dresses (and

STILL ONE THING

THAT REMAINS THE

SAME ...

even—shock—heels), I have found that I wear them to women's bars at my peril. In my experience, the more femme I look, the more likely I am to be grabbed on, hear insulting assumptions about my intelligence and sexuality, and have people address my partner in lieu of us both. Lesbians might well be "united in our appreciation of women," but this is not enough. We are still divided by (among other things) the sexism which is alive and well, right here in the Lesbian Nation.

Finally, many thanks to all of you pumping it out at *Southern Voice*. We need you.

Lawson Sullivan Athens, GA We have been picketing Delta's ticket office on K Street in Washington DC for about a month. My lover carries a sign and I pass out copies of the letter; I generally give out about 100 copies a day.

We have talked to an employee rights attorney here in town who looks like he could handle the case, but whom we can't afford at the moment. We've also requested Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund to help us, but we're not holding our breath. We are, however, continuing to do all we can to make a public issue of the way that Delta uses the unfairness and the complexities of Federal pension law to discriminate against its employees. Thank you for helping us do this.

Gary S. Matthews Washington, D.C.

C. rrox Corre

James Fox, Jr., Superintendent Fulton County Schools 786 Cleveland Avenue Atlanta, Georgia 30315 Dear Mr. Fox:

While I believe your policy to discourage bigotry by prohibiting "racial, ethnic, religious or gender related slurs in schools" as reported in 1/8/91, Atlanta

Constitution, is commendable, I am appalled that "sexual orientation slurs" is omitted. This adds insult to injury. In my experience with kids, including my own, "fag, faggot, queer, etc." are among the more often bigoted slurs. The American Psychiatric, Psychological Association and Academy of Psychoanalysis have gone on record urging discrimination against gays be corrected where ever possible. As a member of two of these, and a parent, I must ask you follow Tacoma, Washington's example and add "sexual group/sexual orientation" to your anti-bigotry policy.

Edward O. Nix, M.D.

Fox's Reply

Dear Dr. Nix:

I am in receipt of your recent litter regarding the Fulton County Board of Education proposed policy against bigotry. This policy speaks to any form of action that is designed to produce the intent or effect of disruption to the school program. This policy naturally speaks not so much to content of statement, but to the intent and effect.

Thank you for your thoughts.

Sincerely, James H. Fox, Jr.

PROTESTING DELTA'S DAMAGE

To the Editor:

Thanks for printing my letter about the problems that I've had with Delta Airlines. We've been able to get a couple of other papers, the *Baltimore Alternative* and the *Gay Community News* in Boston, to print it also. Having somebody take us and this matter seriously really made a difference.



Viewpoints is intended to provide a continuing forum for the lesbian and gay community. We encourage you to share your ideas, comments and feelings on these pages.

Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than two pages. We are happy to offer anonymity when letters are printed, but all submissions must be signed. Please also give us your phone number in case we have questions. We reserve the right to edit for space. Mail your letters to:

Southern Voice/Viewpoints

Southern Voice/Viewpoints P.O. Box 18215 Atlanta, Georgia 30316

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

VOICE

Publishers: Christina Cash and Leigh VanderEls Executive Editor: Christina Cash Editor: Gary Kaupman

Display Advertising: Jessi McVay, Liz Hill,
Richie Thomas, Bill Medlock
Classifieds: Cleve Seay
Circulation: Jana Tyson, Manager

Circulation: Jana Tyson, Manager Distribution: S. Albano, S. Brown, A. Akins, ELGO, E. Poderatzky, D. Sullivan, M. Martin, Shyne, L. Okonewsky

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Iris Ruskin, Skye Mason, Sheila Broughton
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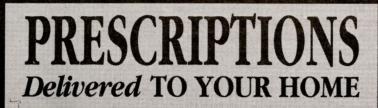
ORGANIZATIONS



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AIDS ORGANIZATIONS

AID Atlanta—Non-profit agency providing services to people with AIDS, families and friends. 872-0600. AIDS Info Line-876-9944 (Atlanta);1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). Answers about AIDS, referrals, etc., by trained volunteers staffing lines 9am-9pm daily.

AIDSCHAIM—Congregation Bet Haverim (Atlanta's

Reconstructionist synagogue serving the the gay and lesbian community) sponsors a predominantly gay support group for those affected by the AIDS crisis. Meets 1st & 3d Thurs., 7:30pm at AIDS Interfaith Network, 1053 Juniper St. Info 642-3467.

St. Into 642-3467.

First MCC AIDS Ministry—Spiritual and emotional support for PWA's and Families. 872-2246

The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—Meets 2d Mon. of month, 874-8969.

National Association of People with AIDS/ Atlanta - A political, social, and educational organization confronting the AIDS crisis. Membership open to all individuals with AIDS, ARC or who are HIV positive. 874-7926.

The Names Project/Atlanta—A National AIDS Memorial. Meets Tuesdays, 6:30pm at All Saints Episcopal Church. 286-6263.

The Names Project Quilting Bee-For those interested in creating a panel or helping others working on a panel. Thurs. 7:30pm at First MCC. 872-2246.

Project Open Hand Atlanta —Prepares and delivers meals to people with HIV illness. Volunteers needed for organizing, kitchen and delivery. 525-4620.

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus-A community-oriented chorale group of women's voices. Membership open to all women interested in singing. Practice each Sunday.

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—Community-oriented chorus of male voices. Membership open to all interested singers and non-singers alike. 627-7830.

Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc—Arts and media as tools for exploration, education, and change in human rights, especially those of the lesbian/gay community. 881-0817.

DIRECT ACTION/POLITICAL

ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—Working for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the metropolitan Atlanta area. 523-6201.

AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—Direct action group with the purpose of fighting homophobia, AIDS, sexism and racism. Meetings held Tuesday at 7:30 PM Little 5 Points Comm. Center. 286-6247.

BIAS Crime Hot Line Line—To report all bias/hate crime incidents and police abuse. 286-BIAS.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation— Works

to lessen public expressions of homophobia, especially in the media. Meets First Mon., 7pm at Peachtree Library.

Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition-Meetings vary. The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene.

Human Rights Campaign Fund—The nation's largest Lesbian & Gay political + lobbying organization. Field office, 373-6330. Annual dinner committee, 365-8766.

Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians—
A voice for lesbians and gays in the Democratic party.
Mtgs. on 3rd Mon. of the month. 7pm at P'tree Library.
286-7476.

Queer Nation—Direct action countering homophobia and educating the public. Meets 2d and 4th Mon. at Little 5 Points Comm. Center. 286-2355.

Atlanta Business & Professional Guild—A service organization of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. Meets 2d Tues. 662-4202.

Fourth Tuesday—A networking organization for lesbian professionals and entrepreneurs. Regular dinner meetings

on 4th Tues. Also special events. 662-4353. Success Oriented Networking Group—Structured networking for gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals. Meets every other Weds. 662-4202

SPIRITUAL

All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—Serving metro Atlanta with positive Christian support for lesbians and gay men. Services 7 pm every Sun. at 575 Boulevard, SE. 622-1154.

Circle of Healing—Open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. at First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. 378-5570

Congregation Bet Haverim-Reconstructionist Synagogue serving the Gay and Lesbian community. Services every Fri. at 8pm at AIDS Interfaith Network 1053 Juniper St Shabbat Seder 2nd Fridays monthly at 7:30pm. 642-3467. First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta — A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment. Same sex Holy Unions performed. Sun. at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM Also Weds. 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. 872-2246.

Gay Catholics of Georgia and Friends—Support group for lesbian/gay Catholics and friends. Meetings and activities vary. 390-0739. Integrity—Ministry of Gay Episcopalians 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. 7:30 PM. All Saints Episcopal

Church, 3rd floor of Ellis Hall. 642-3183. Lambda Light—A meditation group for lesbians and gay men. Meets weekly. 872-9088.

Lutherans Concerned/Atlanta—A Christian Ministry for Lesbian and Gay Understanding, 636-7109.

Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns—Gays and lesbians gather over light foods to celebrate their

Presbyterian heritage. 373-5830.

Atlanta Team Tennis Association-Men and women's divisions . Friday nights and Sunday afternoons at Eastlake Tennis Center. 622-GAME.

Atlanta Venture Sports-An association in which the membership enjoys recreational, social, educational, and sports activities. 242-4899.

Friends Atlanta—A social, recreational, and educational group for gays and lesbians. 662-4501.
Front Runners/Atlanta—A running/walking/social group for lesbians and gay men. Weds. 6:30pm in Piedmont Park

and Sat. 9am at Chattahoochee and Powers Ferry Rd. 622-

Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—For gay men who enjoy nude outdoor and social activities. Not a sex club. For info send SASE to: GANG, PO Box 7546, Atlanta, GA

Hotlanta Soccer—Practice every Sunday at 3pm in Piedmont Park. Beginners, men and women are welcome

Hotlanta Volleyball—Serious and amateur players are welcome to join. in tournaments and Clinics held to learn and practice new techniques. 875-0700.

S.E. Gay Rodeo Association—For cowboys and cowgirls across the south. A number of activities, including a rodeo, are in the planning stage. PO Box 8262, Atlanta, GA 30306, 874-6556.

S.E. Harlequins—Women's rugby football team practices every Wed. night and Sun. afternoon. No experience is necessary and new players are always welcome. 659-6916 or 761-8939 for info.

SERVICE/SUPPORT

Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee—
Responsible for annual pride celebration. Meets the 1st Mon. of each month at 2069 The Page (2069 Cheshire Bridge) and the 3d Thurs, at Ponce Library (980 Ponce de Leon) at 7pm. All are invited. 325-4435.

Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—A lesbian feminist organization which welcomes lesbians of all races, religions, political orientation, economic status, occupation and degree of openness. 2d Sunday of each month. 6:00 PM. PO Box 5502, Atlanta, Ga. 30307.
Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—A non-profit,

non-partisan, organization created to support the right to reproductive freedom for all people. 239-8016.

African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—A political and social organization for black lesbians and gay men.

Meets 1st Sunday of each month. 4pm, Ashby and Gordon Streets. 349-3739. Athens Gay and Lesbian Association-Contact P.O. Box 2201 Athens 30612-0201 or call 404/549-9368.
Atlanta Couples Together—Social organization to sup-

port positive aspects of gay and lesbian relationships. Events and meetings vary, 365-2455.

Atlanta Gay Center. Offers services for lesbians and gays

men as well as educational out-reach to society as a whole. 63 12th St., 876-5372; Coming Out Group 4pm Sat; Young Adult Support Group 6:30pm Tues; HIV+ Group Fri. 8pm, Sun. 6pm; Clinic 6-9pm Mon., Tue., Wed. Black and White Men Together—A gay inter-racial organization of the company of the

nization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be over-come . 794

Codependents Anonymous-Lambda—A 12-step program of recovery from codependency for gays and lesbians. Meetings Tues. & Wed. at 8 PM and Sun. at 7pm.

The Cobb County Group—Monthly social and frequent recreational activities for those who live in Cobb. 438-

Chrysalis Women's Center-Provides social, educational and informational programs and services for the community. Lesbian discussion group meets 7:00 every Friday; Support group for lesbian mothers meets 6:00 every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays; Support group for married lesbians meets 6:00 every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 881-6300.

Delphi—A fratemity of gay men. P.O. Box 14591, Atlanta, GA 30324.

GA 30324.

Gay Help Line—Phone, 6pm-11pm, daily. 892-0661.

Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—Addresses unique issues that lesbian and gay drug addicts deal with in their recovery. Meets Mon. & Fri. at 8pm in education building of Grace United Methodist, Ponce de Leon and Charles Allen. 237-6262.

Lesbians in Fun Endeavors—Bringing professional gay women together for the fun of it, giving them the opportunity to make friends and enjoy a wide variety of events.

Lesbian Support Group-Discussion group open to all lesbians. Every Friday. 672-7387.

Gay Fathers Association—Support group meets 4th Fri. 296-8369.

The Group—Support for gay and bisexual men who are or who have been involved in marital-type situations with women, 892-0661.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays-Committed to help parents of lesbians and gays and too help change attitudes so all gay people can live with dignity and respect. 3d Sun., 3-5pm at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. 296-0830 or 875-9440.

Women of Wisdom—A social and service organization that aims to facilitate women meeting with women in a comfortable atmosphere. Meets at Chrysalis Women's Center monthly, date varies. 723-1112. or write P.O. Box 451065, Atlanta, GA 30345—1065.

ZAMI—Women who work together as friends and lovers, a support group for women of color. Meets 2d Fri. of each month at Charis Books. 315-7684.

Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—Meetings every Wed., 7:30pm, Room 362E, Dobbs University Center. Emory Univ. 727-6692...

Gays & Lesbians United for Equality-Kennesaw Community College's group is in the process of formation.

Georgia Tech Gay and Lesbian Alliance—Weekly meetings. 676-0183.

Ga. State Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance-Support group for the gay and lesbian community at Ga. State. Meeting/activity times vary call. 378-1370.

S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—Networking group for lesbian and gay student groups. 634-2524. Young Adult Support Group—For men and women 14-24, meets at Atlanta Gay Center, 63 12th Street, 6:30pm every Tuesday. 876-5372.

A Slice of Lesbiana

Coming to Atlanta – Alison Bechdel: Her life and 'toons

by KC Wildmoon

Alison Bechdel is coming to town. You he has a block of marble, and in that is an know Alison, or maybe you don't. But you probably know her work. She draws Dykes To Watch Out For, that little slice of Lesbiana that appears in the "Keep Refrigerated" section of Southern Voice every issue. To help Southern Voice celebrate our third birthday, Alison is bringing "Dykes To Watch Out For: The Slide Show!" to the Variety Playhouse on March 6. More about that later. SV recently spoke with Alison from her new home in Grand Isle, Vermont, about the slide show, Dykes, and cartooning.

Alison says that as a child in Pennsylvania, her main activity was drawing. "I drew people. Even cartoony kinds

of drawings. It's hard to make that distinction looking at a child's drawings, but mine were cartoony in the sense that I would show funny stereotypes of people in funny situations."

In college, Alison learned that cartoons weren't really art, that they "didn't count." "I just called them drawings," she said. After graduation, though, Dykes To Watch Out For began as funny sketches of people in the margins of letters to friends. She numbered the panels, and gradually developed

the steady characters we know from the

strip.

"A lot of people accuse me of spying of those characters. on them," Alison said of those characters. A lot of people all over the country believe that, but then it's not realistic that Alison could be spying on the entire lesbian community. Yet Mo, Harriet, Clarice et al continue to show us our own lives in

"I talk to people to know what's going on in the community. That's what I want to write about...I stew on it, see if anything's happening that I need to address. I spend time with the characters and try to sense what they might think or how they might react."

But Alison says the players in Dykes aren't alive in her head. "I don't really understand it. In a way it's very much beyond my control. Yeah, I created them. It's almost like they're people who have (their own) lives. Or like Michelangelo - incredible sculpture. All he has to do is chip it out in the right way and it'll be there. I don't really think of (Dykes) as something I make. It's something I [Alison pauses, and then laughs] channel.'

The Dykes characters have recently been attending anti-war demonstrations, and in an upcoming segment Mo dreams she is Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf. "I try to balance current events with the personal lives of the characters," Alison said. While a few strips are dealing with the current world situation, "I'm resuming entertainment programming now."

Alison has produced three Dykes To Watch Out For books, and of course the

annual Dykes calendar, all published by Firebrand Books. After working for gay/lesbian publications for nine years, she recently quit her job with Minneapolis' Equal Time to devote all her energies to the cartoons.

"Dykes To Watch Out For: The Slide Show!" began 2 years ago when Alison was set to tour and do booksignings with her first collection of Dykes strips. Most authors also do readings from their work along with signing sessions, but Alison

and Firebrand realized this wouldn't work. "I can't do a reading from a cartoon book. It's really dumb," she said. "I have to be

So Alison concocted the slide show. "It's gone through several changes. It's a slide show about me," Alison told us. "It's about my work, how I've developed as a cartoonist. I basically talk about how I started doing this comic strip. And why I

Dykes has been a part of Southern Voice since the paper's inception in 1988. Alison Bechdel and "Dykes To Watch Out For: The Slide Show!" will be at the Variety Playhouse on March 6 as part of the paper's third anniversary celebration. Venus Envy opens at 8 pm. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door, and available at all TicketMaster locations & the Variety box office. 524-7354 for more information.



Test Policies Cont'd from page 2

the victim. The "arrest and test" bill passed the House by a huge majority on a hand vote. It is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee; Quillian Baldwin (656-6578) is chair of the committee. Corrigan urges readers to call and tell Baldwin to kill the bill.

Wilber says he fears the bill will pass adding, "We feel this a bad law. We also feel that it is not constitutional. But if it passes we want to narrow it down, to make it less dam-

The AIDS Task Force voted to oppose all three bills.

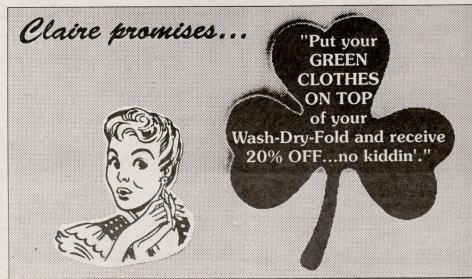
Bert McDowell, president of the Atlanta chapter of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), and member of GATF, said he was pleased with the decisions made about bills, but didn't feel a lot was accomplished on the overall issues of testing. "The Task Force has put this [mandatory/non-confidential/reportable testing] on the table for the past two meetings. I think they should deal

with this, because public health agencies and the CDC should enforce universal precautions,

For updated information on the status of AIDS legislation call the Georgia AIDS Coalition Hotline, 286-2106.

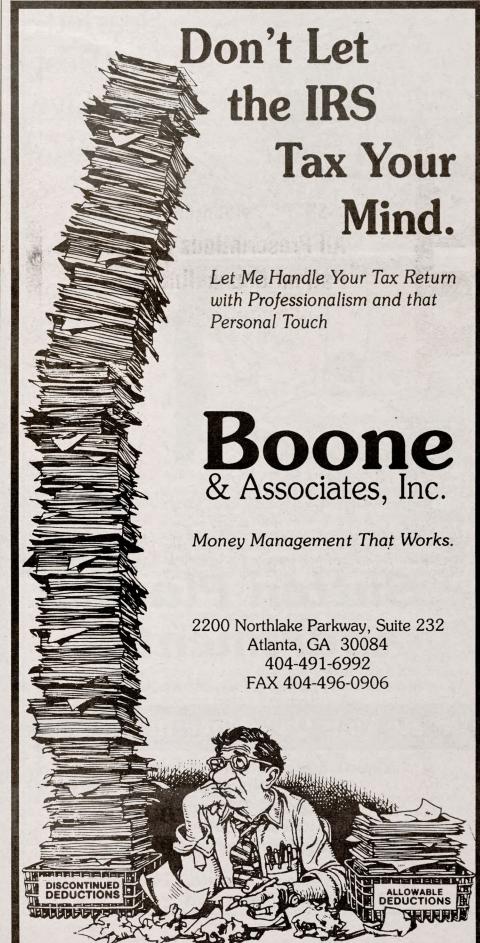
Members of NAPWA were conspicuously absent from the second meeting of a proposed Georgia AIDS Fraud Task Force on Thurs. Feb 21. "Our biggest concern is that it will limit alternative treatments," said executive director Kathleen Brockel. "they [the U.S. Food and Drug Administration which is attempting to establish similar groups around the country] just haven't established a need."

The 20 plus healthcare workers, administrators and activists present seemed to heed Brockel's message when they agreed that the name of the group [to be decided at a future meeting] will not include the word "fraud." The group also agreed that it would focus on education and that its first outreach would be the issuance of three "fact sheets" on AZT, Compound Q, and the risks of HIV transmission in oral sex.



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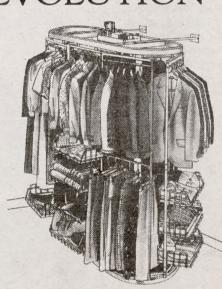
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Willing 91

Pure Poetry: Gay Men Look At Love and Death

In the past eighteen months six gay men have published volumes of poetry that are noteworthy. Read as a group they reflect the cautions and concerns of contemporary gay men: love and death predominate as themes.

Three are featured here; three in the next issue of Southern

Assotto Saint's Stations explores the painful territory that gay men reckon with on account of AIDS. Born and raised in Haiti, Saint, who is also a playwright and performance artist living in New York, connects the fear of death with other kinds of suffering in other times and places. His writings can be full of pathos as in "De Profundis" or blithe as in "Hosanna." Stations is published by Galiens Press.

DE PROFUNDIS for eleven gay men in my building

his shades of blossoms ties that thread-thin silver bells bracelet always laced round his left wrist late-night strolls through the chelsea with mimi carmen aida his poodles the summer-long peach tans come-on-boy-let's-dance glance at the cockring torrid tales of travels strangers of all colors nested never long studio of strobes walled by books opera disco he craved french fries kiwis gin i tried to see anything but his casket gorged by the ground the tears were for myself one day i shall be in this darkness

HOSANNA for reverend charles angel, jr.

birds of a feather coo spread their wings at the edge of the world they soar stretching themselves to god

Mark Ameen writes in dayglo graffiti. Ameen's The Buried Body might best be read in the subway late at night or in a noisy restaurant. His images are flashy and he seems unimpressed with any particular one of them. This is the story of a very fast life.

SONNET No. 3

How well I have learned the magic motion Of recoiling from those who affect me, Of finding those who offer devotion And thereby will not deign or neglect me. Shall I accept the dare? Or must my life Remain inept in order for my art To go anywhere? An intellect's knife That is, a volley ignoring the heart,



ROBERT GIARD

Assotto Saint's Stations explores the painful territory of AIDS

Handed down through the long generations Of scholarly, delusional powers Uprooting the finer fibrillations Of each oblique reporter's strange flowers.

I will never say never but will ever prowl; Restrain not by decorum my deep chthonic howl.*

*"Howls restrained by decorum" Walt Whitman

Published by Amethyst Press, The Buried Body contains parts of Ameen's first collection, A Circle of Sirens.

Paul Monette wrote Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies For Rog as a response to the death of his lover Roger Horwitz in 1986. In his preface he says the writing of these poems kept him alive. They are grief finely wrought and it is hard to imagine anyone who has ever suffered the loss of a loved one not being moved by the agony and sweetness, rage and bitterness that Monette evokes so personally and so well.

for hours at the end I kissed your temple stroked your hair and sniffed it it smelled so clean we'd washed it Saturday night when the fever broke as if there was always the perfect thing to do to be alive for years I'd breathe your hair when I came to bed late it was such pure you why I nuzzle your brush every morning because you're in there...just like the dog the night we unpacked the hospital bag and he skipped and whimpered when Dad put on the red sweater Cover my bald spot will you you'd say and tilt your head like a parrot so I could fix you up always always till this one night when I was reduced to

sweetest pea over and over spending all our endearments like stray coins at a border but wouldn't cry then no choked it because they all said hearing was the last to go the ear is like a wolf's till the very end straining to hear a whole forest and I wanted you loping off whatever you could still dream to the sound of me at 3 P.M. vou were stable still our favorite word at 4 you took the turn WAIT WAIT I AM THE SENTRY HERE nothing passes as long as I'm where I am we go on death is a lonely hole two can leap it or else or else there is nothing this man is mine he's an ancient Greek like me I do all the negotiating while he does battle we are war and peace in a single bed we wear the same size shirt it can't it can't be yet not this just let me brush his hair

MANIFESTO

unsolicited Adam S diagnosed 9/85 and lucky calls to say all sickness is selfinduced and as I start to growl oozes selfbeatification taking a course in miracles he says and I bark my way out of his wee kirk and savage his name from the Rolodex another triumph of self-love like metaphysical sit-ups a washboard ripple on the prefrontal lobe doubtless the work of Mrs. Hay baghwan of the leper set Pooh-bear in hand purveying love-is-you with an anchorlady's do and Diane Arbus eyes straight-faced told a reporter people in train wrecks bring it on themselves But what if somebody gets the virus from a transfusion WHAT ARE THEY DOING NEEDING BLOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE pounces Lady Hay... every sucker in the CU's to blame see there are no microbes just self-loathing come sit in a ring with St. Louise and deep-throat your pale sore body lick your life like a dog's balls and repeat after me I AM A MIRACLE why do I care about all this who does it harm shouldn't the scared and solo have a shot at rewarding it off six months a year by dint of mellowness well yes and no we need the living alive to bucket Ronnie's House with abattoirs of blood hand in hand lesions across America need to trainwreck the whole show till someone listens so no they may no coo in mirrors disbarring the fevered the choked and wasting as losers who have not learned like Adam the yoga with which to kiss their own assholes every tent revival mantra is one less bomb tossed in the red-taped labs

In "Gardenias" Monette says "pain is not a flower pain is a root" and if he is right then those who read these poems will know all too well what lied under the ground of the anguish of losing. Love Alone is published by St. Martin's Press.

People in Trouble

This ambitious novel of ideas tackles most of the thorniest concerns confronting the lesbian and gay community

by Deborah Monroy

Materializing from a deserted side street, he surprised me. A man of solid build, towering at about 6'6", with the face of a battered angel, he insisted on some spare change, and when I refused, he answered, "Please, miss, I'm homeless."

I gave him all the change in my pocket. When he grabbed my hand, and bowed over me, saying thank you, he came too close.

I pulled away and crossed the street before the light changed.

-"The Journal of Hope"

What hope is there, for solving or even confronting the crisis of homelessness, the increase of poverty, or the increasing devastation of AIDS within our cities? Easier to give a little spare change and walk away, and to continue to read about these issues in the newspapers, than to face the failure of empathy that they represent.

Heroically, Sarah Schulman grapples with all of these concerns in her latest novel,

People in Trouble (E.P. Dutton, NY, 1990). This is not a story of hopelessness, for Schulman portrays very specific responses, via her characters, that she offers as prescriptions for acts of every day empathy, and empowerment.

The novel is held together by the entanglements of Molly, a lesbian who sits in earnest; Kate, her bisexual, cross-dressing lover; and Peter, Kate's husband, a man who remains wedded to male heterosexual privilege in spite of it all.

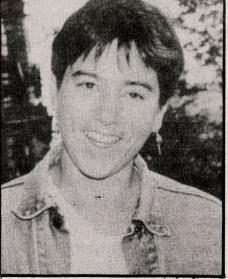
Their story begins during a hallucinatorily hot NY summer. Trying to conduct a "run-ofthe-mill illicit lesbian love affair," Molly and Kate stumble over the homeless on their way back from a night at Kate's studio. They give away all the spare change they have. "What you see on the streets can drive you mad," thinks Kate, a painter of peachy beauty.

Yet she is mostly oblivious to the suffering around her. Molly calls her attention to the fact that Kate's apartment building is losing its gay occupants: when the partner who holds the lease dies of AIDS, the owner is able to evict the surviving partner and release the space at a higher rent.

The issue of AIDS takes center stage quickly in People in Trouble. The novel proposes the empowerment of group action, including some very innovative, even criminal, acts of affirmation. At one point, activists gather up the charge cards of terminally ill AIDS patients and turn them over to the homeless, who are encouraged to charge food items against forged signatures of the dying. Members of JUSTICE, a group modeled after ACT-UP, coordinate this action; they take over the grocery store as staff to serve the homeless.

The portraits of those coping with AIDS are compelling. In an interview in Women's Review of Books (July 1990), Schulman tells about the months she devoted to crafting new vocabulary so that she could describe AIDS patients and the disease itself without the usual media prejudice or despair.

This novel is not an exhaustive treatment of any of the themes that compel the writer. It is a provocative effort to embody alternatives to the usual human tendency toward social indifference and inertia. The author's sense of urgency in desiring to convey so much in so few pages sometimes leaves the reader wanting fewer characters with more depth, or fewer of those swift, disorienting



shifts in point of view.

Yet, I suspect that together with the novel-'s political consciousness, Molly and Kate's most ungoddess-like romance will engage your attention and hold your interest. I recommend People in Trouble as an ambitious novel of ideas which tackles almost all of the thorniest concerns confronting the lesbian and gay community.



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FILM COMMENTARY

"The Silence of the Lambs"

by Terry Francis

At college I had a composition instructor whose system of grading involved the use of a slash. Thus, a grade of A/C+ meant that the substance of a given paper, the thought and reasoning in support of its thesis, were of an exceptionally high order; but the technical proficiency of the work–spelling, punctuation, structure—were merely adequate, something less than good.

Often I feel the same way about movies—especially American movies. In the films of no other country is the disparity between substance and technical command so prodigious as it is in American movies.

Which leads me to *The Silence of the Lambs*, Jonathan Demme's film of the Thomas Harris novel (selectively adapted by Ted Tally), about a trainee FBI agent (Jodie Foster as Clarice Starling), whose assignment is to interview a man locked away in a prison for the criminally insane.

It turns out the man is a courtly, piercingly intuitive psychiatrist named Hannibal Lecter who is a serial killer with a taste for human flesh—he's nicknamed Hannibal the Cannibal. He may have knowledge of, or a connection to another serial killer, called Buffalo Bill, currently on the prowl for women victims whom he murders and subsequently flays for their hides for reasons that, in the film, passeth understanding

What is this film thematically about? What is its purpose? Why does it exist?

These are some of the questions we ask of art. And shortly after seeing *The Silence of the Lambs* I came across Norman Mailer's cogent and moving essay on the forthcoming Bret Easton Ellis novel *American Psycho*, about a young, surfacely run-of-the-mill Wall Streeter who tortures and dismembers women for aesthetic amusement.

Mailer, who argued that the book should probably be published if only on the strength of his opposition to censorship, hated *American Psycho* to the point of intolerance.

The book failed as art, Mailer said, because it never serves "as our reconnaissance into all those jungles and up those precipices of human behavior that psychiatry, history, theology, and sociology are too intellectually encumbered to try." Fiction, he went on to say, should bring back alive all "forbidden and/or unavailable experience."

Crucially, the artist's abilities must be in proportion to her

or his thematic concerns. American Psycho, Mailer contended, was the work of a writer missing those requisite gifts. As a result, for him, American Psycho amounted to nothing beyond behavior abstracted from personality for no intellectual or moral purpose, reducing the book to the level of a slasher movie.

The Silence of the Lambs is something more than a sophomoric accounting of the bloody machinations of a serial killer, whose soul, whose compulsions, we never come to know.

But not that much more. Probably *The Silence of the Lambs* strikes some people as a better film than it really is because in the last year or so our senses have been fairly assaulted by the moronic (anything starring Julia Roberts, *Ghost*, and so on).

Beyond that, Demme and his lucid cinematographer Tak Fugimoto have realized the film in an elaborate layering of textures: this is evocative filmmaking of a highly skilled order. Scenes are shot up-close, lit expressively, edited incisively, and unusually well-scored.

But after one has praised the icy perfection of Anthony Hopkins nearly spiritual rendering of the brilliant and sadistic Dr. Lecter, and admired the feline precisions of Jodie Foster's Clarice Starling, whose cool detachment is the tactic of a rigorous, educated mind, what more to the film is there?

Most books, plays or films never give us even this much. Yet *The Silence of the Lambs* gives us so much that it's a shame the film doesn't find ways to deepen its concentration on the colossal aberrance of the minds of its complementary terrors.

We never make that journey Mailer spoke of into "forbidden and/or unavailable experience." We never traverse the jungles of human potentiality. So that although *The Silence of the Lambs* gives us extremely well-executed chills and the pleasures of first-rate acting, it never terrifies us on a moral level, it never links us to its horrors in a way to suggest that the potential for such carnage dwells within each of us.

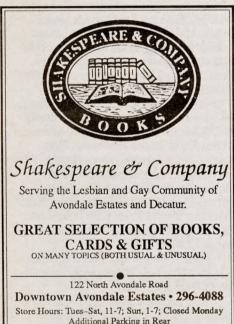
Film art has scaled this precipice before: Bunuel's great Los Olvidados and Lang's M are but two examples. There is the prickly matter, too, of one of the psychopath's sexual orientation, or lack thereof. But this film doesn't strike me in any way as homophobic. Indeed, it goodheartedly, if rather clumsily, goes out of its way not to offend.

All the same, the film's intention to fascinate us and give



us chills, comes to partial fulfillment. Give it an A-/C, and a standing ovation for Anthony Hopkins' Hannibal Lecter, a cannibal of immense natural eloquence and sterling social grace, who occasionally succumbs to his compulsion for a human liver accompanied by a fine wine.

A controversy has arisen that suggests Demme's film is homophobic and ought to be boycotted by lesbians and gays. Among the offended, GLAAD, OutWeek, and David Ehrenstein, film critic for The Advocate. Alas, no heterosexual group has formed to protest that the character of Hannibal Lecter condemns and stereotypes all heterosexuals as murderous cannibals. What these groups ought to be protesting, I think, are the lack of films featuring gays and lesbians as recognizable human beings. The planet survived The Last Temptation of Christ. I suggest we shall survive Demme's film, despite the protestations of a new, emerging middle brow in the gay and lesbian press.



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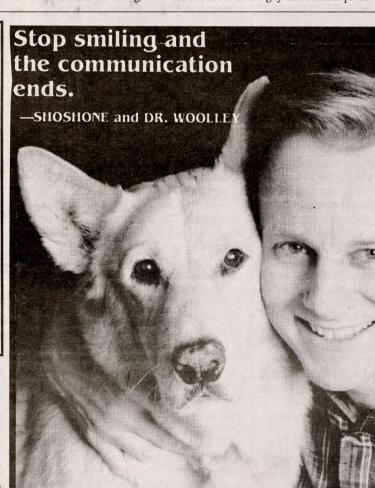
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Dreams, Questions and Answers

An update on the The National Lesbian Conference

Cont'd from page 1

"When we started the conference, I think we had really fine visions of what we hoped it would be. We worked really hard to see that this would be different from other gatherings we have had."

Crone is adamant that the conference be "a forum to see how we can learn to deal with our differences, instead of trying to kill each other because you eat white sugar or red meat or have a boy child."

"We are not taught to deal with differences," Crone concluded. "If we don't figure out ways to validate our differences, we will not be a force for change."

Some concerns: Researching the National Lesbian Conference was a frustrating experience. The NLC office is *not* an organized place. But remembering Crone's comment about the very need for the conference (that lesbians as a group "don't have a clear focus on who we are and what our agenda is") makes the disarray more understandable. And Conference Fundraiser Bridget Collins says, "It looks chaotic, but stuff is getting done."

But, based on press releases and interviews, conference planners appear to have spent more time discussing ageism, racism, ableism, and classism than planning the conference schedule or doing outreach to the Atlanta community for participation, housing, and other types of conference support. One decision was apparently easy to make: to avoid the appearance of taking sides on food issues, the NLC will not be involved in serving food of *any* kind.

Many lesbians voice concern that the NLC will be paralyzed by "purist" attitudes. The possibility that the Conference will be controlled and even stagnated by lesbians who feel that "political correctness" is nothing more than taking whatever position opposes "the patriarchy" has not been ruled out. Lesbians and the NLC need a goal to work toward rather than just an evil to rail against.

But I have registered for the conference. Why? Because if lesbians who gripe about not wanting their politics controlled by the purists don't go it's possible that the only thing accomplished will be more resolutions declaring the patriarchy inherently evil—not news! And a national organization will be formed to tell us we shouldn't subscribe to *On Our Backs*, shouldn't eat meat, shouldn't work for corporations, shouldn't reproduce male children...

Am I missing anything?
Oh yes, of course we should *never* enjoy leather restraints. Lesbians are tired of hearing "shouldn'ts" from other lesbians. We hear that often enough from our fathers. So I am going to the conference because the only way I can see that we will ever find unity as a Lesbian Nation is if we get past our differences, sit down, look

each other in the face, and talk to each

That said, what follows may sound like cheerleading. Maybe. Despite all my reservations (and from the dozen-plus women interviewed for this article), I still have high hopes for the Conference. The highest of those hopes is that every single lesbian who told me she didn't think the NLC would respect her needs will go to the Conference and see to it that her needs are met. Because if the Conference doesn't hear about *your* needs, any national organization created by it won't be able to represent you. Or me.

Some answers: The National Lesbian Conference will take place in Atlanta, April 24-28. You probably know that already. But if, like most Atlanta lesbians, that titbit doesn't quite slake your thirst for knowledge about this historic

event perhaps the answers that NLC organizers provided to the following questions will help.

•Why do Atlanta lesbians seem to be so uniformed about the NLC?

"That, to me, has been our poorest area," Mary Lu Lewis, Conference Coordinator, responded candidly. NLC has added a local PR person to their volunteer staff. The Mobilization Committee is also available, at your invitation, to visit your group's meeting and answer questions about the conference.

•What is the purpose of the conference? Will the NLC establish a new national lesbian organization? If so, what will that organization be?

"The National Lesbian Conference officially began at the 1987 March on Washington," says Lewis. The NLC is intended to create a national lesbian agenda and assign that agenda to a national organization. Asked what that organization will be, Lewis shrugs, "I don't know. Deciding that is the purpose of the conference." The only expectation Lewis admits to is that it will be an advocacy organization. "It's a very, very exciting notion, having an advocacy organization around lesbian issues. The visibility will improve our opportunities for increasing our civil rights."

•Is it true that the performers will not be paid for their performances? What about presenters and other conferences workers? How will this effect the quality of the performers the conference is able to draw?

Performers, speakers, and presenters at the conference will not be paid. NLC's explains in a press release that this was based on principles which "proscribe a forum where all lesbians are equal, where the contributions we have for each other's lives are not measured by the standards of an hierarchical, classist society."

One Conference originator, Michelle Crone, says this was not always the plan. She explains that, in part, this decision was a result of the commitment to make all NLC events free to registered participants. Crone hopes that, in lieu of paying performers, "the showcases will encourage lesbians who are seeking national exposure to take part."

"We definitely will not have any stars," says Lewis. "We will have lesbians who are excited about having a national stage to perform on rather than women with name recognition. But then entertainment is not our real focus."

Showcases will include local artists Boink Dee Deek and Funny That Way, as well as comediennes Ann Seal and Evelyn Green, and singer and acoustic guitar player Laura Berkson. More than 30 performers sent press packs and tapes to conference organizers, but Deborah Padgett, coproducing the Showcases with Michelle Martin, says most have not yet responded after their follow-up contact—which included the information that perform were not being paid. Padgett is hoping to hear from more local lesbian performers, adding that performers are automatically registered without paying fees, though she hopes some may choose to donate to the conference.

•What is the conference budget? How much has been raised so far? How many women are expected to attend the NLC, and how many of them have registered so far?

The total projected budget for the conference is \$470,000. According Conference Fundraiser Bridget Collins, a little over \$100,000 has been raised in the past two years. She says, "We are looking for \$360,000 from registration fees."

Conference organizers originally projected that 5,000 women would attend, that number has been officially reduced to

3,000, but not everyone agrees. "I think they will be surprised, more than 5,000 will attend," says Collins. She bases her optimism on response, so far, from lesbians with disabilities. These women, who must plan ahead, have already made housing reservations in numbers greater than anticipated.

As of mid-February, a few more than 200 women had registered for the Conference.

•Talk on the street says that the decision not to pay performers results from the fact that fundraising for the conference has been very difficult. Is there a chance the conference will not be held?

Lewis and Collins both resoundingly assert that the Conference will take place. "We are looking at possibilities for cutting down on some of the location and space costs," says Lewis. Organizers also recognizes that cost will be one of the most difficult parts for lesbians attending the conference, especially those coming from other cities. They are encouraging Atlanta lesbians (and gay men) to open their homes for conference attendees who need a place to stay and cannot afford hotels.

•How have the fundraising programs
—Dollar-a-Dyke and Brothers for
Sisters—done so far?

According to Collins, Dollar-a-Dyke has only raised a few hundred dollars, but "it has been fun." The NLC office has received single dollar bills with notes from rural towns all over the country, "where you know there is one lesbian who has heard about the conference." There is a Bahamian dollar bill tacked to the bulletin board in the office that can't be spent, but is nonetheless appreciated. Brothers for Sisters has been a little more successful (but then gay men aren't saving up to pay the registration fee). "Gay men have been very generous," says Collins adding that in Birmingham a group of female impersonators did a drag show and donated the proceeds. The exact amount raised? Not avail-

•How will NLC organizers make the conference a safe place for all lesbians to explore our diversities? Will we feel accepted for our differences or will some of be made to feel that we are not "politically correct" enough? Is the conference going overboard to be inclusive?

Lewis admits that "the concept of inclusivity seems to almost breed exclusiveness." But Lewis and Crone both insist that the Conference can only be as diverse and effective as the lesbians who attend.

Crone suggested, "If they're eating white flour and sugar, then they should bring a banner saying so and create a space for women who eat white flour and sugar." The point Lewis and Crone both stress is that *all* lesbians are encouraged to participate and make the Conference their own. Collins succinctly replied, "There has to be a time when the lesbian stripe is added to the rainbow coalition, regardless of whether we all agree on everything."

•What about the sacrifices some of us are being asked to make? How serious is environmental illness, and why shouldn't I wear my perfume, or smoke, or drink at the Conference?

"The conference has taken upon itself the concern to provide as much safety for lesbians with disabilities as possible, with the hope that other lesbians will be willing to accommodate for this period of time," says Lewis.

She and other conference organizers reiterate that lesbians with disabilities have typically been excluded, whether intentionally or not, by the "temporarily able-bodied." Concerns about extreme physical reactions to chemicals in the air came up at the March on Washington. "Because of the March being outdoors, many were able to



SHEILA BROUGHTO

NLC Coordinator Mary Lu Lewis

get involved in activism for the first time," says Lewis. Following the March, lesbians living with environmental illnesses were involved in the planning stages of this Conference. Organizers are particularly proud that lesbians are on the forefront of dealing with this issue. "One goal of the conference is education," Lewis emphasizes.

•How will the conference support lesbians in practical ways, specifically issues like lesbian mothers, lesbians who have chosen traditional religions and are proud of their spiritual heritage and traditions, or lesbian relationships and sexuality?

According to Lewis, a lesbian rabbi will be conducting two workshops at the conference, one specifically on religion. There will also be at least one workshop for Catholic lesbians. Other workshops confirmed include: Lesbian and Bisexual Dialogue; Safe Sex for Lesbians; Baby Dykes; Midwifery; and Goddess Rituals. Caucuses will be formed to represent older lesbians, lesbians of color, lesbians with disabilities, lesbians in recovery, Catholic lesbians, and others.

A press release issued on Feb. 14 lists the following confirmed workshop presenters: Wilmette Brown; Julie Dorf; Elana Dykewomon; Leslea Newman; Hilary Rosen; Sonia Johnson; Joyce Hunter; Terri Jewel; Adrienne McGnatt; Kimberly Melton; Bonnie Morris; Torie Osborn; Lavinia Pinson; Uzenile Poindexter; Sadie Rakushin; Zantua Rose; Kate Rosenblatt; Patricia Tavormina; Vera Whise; and Barbara Zoloth.

•Aside from the fact that it is being held in a city, how is this conference different from a festival?

"We're turning it around to focus on learning, planning, sharing, and politics with entertainment being secondary," says Lewis.

•If there is a surplus of money at the end of the conference, where will the money go? If there is a deficit, how will it be paid?

According to Lewis, the NLC is an ongoing, non-profit organization which will continue to exist after the conference as a national lesbian organization and will be responsible for whatever expenditure or raising of funds is appropriate.

To register for the NLC, call the office at 373-0000 and ask for a registration packet. Or go by the office at 1649 McLendon Ave. and introduce yourself, especially if you have time on your hands to help out. A work exchange program is also available. The NLC has information meetings every Thursday from 7-8 pm at the office. Or, invite the Mobilization Committee to visit your group. Register as early as you can, the conference needs the cash flow!

REVIEW

Life, Art and the Southern Family

For entertainment and the comic shock of recognition, Hungry to Bed is one hot ticket

by Dave Hayward

The premiere of Hungry to Bed is an important event for both Atlanta's gay community and its arts scene. Journal-Constitution arts writer Steve Murray emerges as one of the city's strongest playwrights with his frequently hilarious send-up of the all-American South and the monkey wrench a gay son throws into a particular family's well-camouflaged works. As a flat-out comedy Hungry to Bed triumphs but there is little revealing drama or illumination of the complexities of gay life.

Carolyn (Annette Coleman) is the earth mother of the piece, a girl from Ellijay both attracted to and repulsed by her worldly life in Atlanta. One discomfort centers around her son Sandy's (Stephen Petty's) gayness, an issue she won't address outright. Though there is progress of sorts when Carolyn confides she dressed her boyfriend in drag one evening and sighs, "You probably know this already, Sandy, but some men should not wear blue eye shadow!"

That rueful remark sums up Murray's ironic voice, deliciously funny and even genuine. Directed by her own openly gay son Chris Coleman in Hungry, Annette Coleman reveals, "I've said some of what Carolyn says to Sandy in my own life, and I've thought most of it." The reality of a gay man directing his mother adds subtle poignance to *Hungry*, especially in the uneasy truce Carolyn and Sandy strike over his identity.

Carolyn's and Sandy's other significant relationships are also strained. In Murray's

most rococco twist, Sandy is an eager surrogate father-to-be for his roommate Yoli's (Leesa Carter) embryo, courtesy of Sandy's ex-lover Eric who seduced Yoli one inebriated evening. With Eric expatriated to Miami, Sandy yearns to create his own unique family. Sandy's good intentions, coupled with his immaturity and impulsiveness, well capture the twinkie behavior of young men who love everyone while airily trampling the feelings of those they love.

Carolyn is contending with the breakdown of her marriage to Sandy's stepfather Ben (Frank Roberts), for reasons Murray doesn't make entirely convincing. Cheap laughs crop up here, when Carolyn fights off Ben's affections with "My body is my own to do with what I like, I read it in Redbook." Frank Roberts fills in the gaps with one of his customary stellar performances, a blend of pouting lover, infatuated husband and surly but finally reconciled stepfather.

Likewise Leesa Carter is just right as Yoli, a punk tough with a soft center, uproariously funny in her reactions. Stephen Petty plays the narcissistic Sandy to a fare-thee-well and is quite vulnerable in some moments with his stage mother. Yet Petty can be as self-indulgent as his character, at first swishing to needle his stepfather and then camping gratuitously, and glossing over some of the pain of Sandy's estrangement from his lover and stepfather.

The lightweight tilt to the evening can be traced to Murray's glibness and to Chris Coleman's spotty direction— a fly-



A Flame on the Warpath

What's that noise in the hall? Oh, just the kids. Just the kids? Well, actually, these are some pretty special kids. Bruce McCulloch, Mark McKinney, Kevin McDonald, Dave Foley and Scott Thompson are "The Kids in the Hall" a Canadian comedy sketch team whose live performances and weekly show on HBO seem to be stirring up some silt in the swamp-like morass of mainstream comedy entertainment.

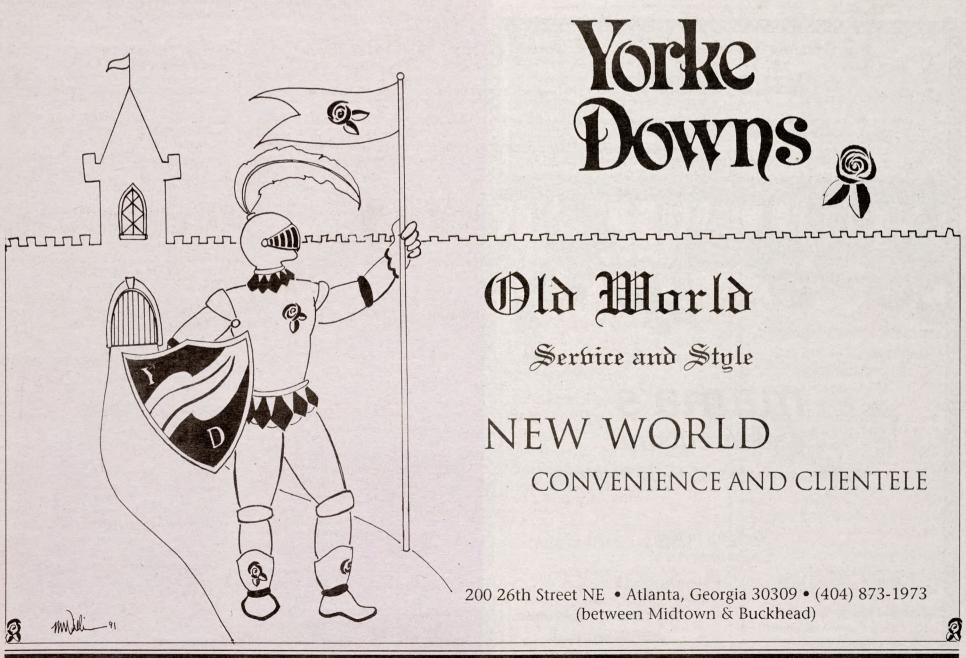
Part of "The Kids" success, no doubt is due to the fact that Saturday Night Live's Lorne Michael's is their producer. Part of the formula is the fact their skits regularly skewer businessmen and bullies. And part is the fact that Thompson is openly gay and that his perspective informs many of "The Kids" skits. Like two men making out on national TV. Or a set where some homohaters learn a lesson in tolerance. And taking Sam Kinison's homophobia to task. Comparing "The Kids" treatment of gay issues to In Living Color's "Men on..." segments, the San Francisco Examiner described Thompson as "a flame on the warpath."

Catch "The Kids in the Hall" on Thursday, March 7 at The Variety Playhouse in L5P. Tickets at TicketMaster Outlets or call 249-6400 to charge by phone. Or 524-7354 for more info.

ing tiger's food fight, a wild hump on a bar counter, a tender head in the lap interlude, followed by patches of dead air and flat direction on Theo Harness' unwieldy hunk of a set. Annette Coleman's central performance can suffer, as in one long monologue where she stands motionless hugging herself. At other points, Ms.

Coleman is radiant, though, hysterically in character as the Scarlett O'Hara, scold of the New South and secular humanism. For entertainment and the comic shock of recognition, Hungry to Bed is a hot ticket.

Hungry to Bed continues through March 17 at Actors Express. Call 221-0831 for info and reservations.



Fourth Tuesday presents:

KAY HAGAN the wilderness of intimacy

the wilderness of intil

Models of relationships have been given to us in a heteropatriarchal culture of dominance and subordination. How we've been programmed to think about intimacy has been influenced greatly by these models. Going beyond that in lesbian relationships is to enter the wilderness of loving relationships. Through lecture and experiential excercises, participatns will identify old trails, and more importantly, name and create new paths for relating intimately.



Kay Hagan, author of the highly successful book, Internal Affairs: A Journalkeeping Workbook for Self-Intimacy (1989, Harper & Row) will help us transcend our negative self-programming to enhance our relationships. This event is only for women.

LIMITED ENROLLMENT

Saturday, March 9, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm 90 min. break for lunch on your own

Sheraton Century Center Hotel 2000 Century Blvd. NE, Atlanta

O Century Blvd. NE, Atlant Registration: \$65

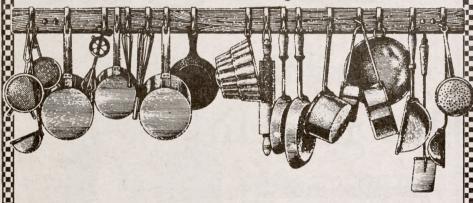
For information call our Special Events Line 662-6868 To register, send your name, address, phone number and check payable to Fourth Tuesday, PO Box 7817, Atlanta, GA 30309

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WILD WEST

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451 Cherokee Avenue in Grant Park 523-2420

Art

PUSH PIN SHOW. Thru Mar. 2. The fourth Annual Unjuried Photography Exhibit features a grab bag of professional and amateur works. At the Atlanta Photography Gallery, 495 Peachtree, 881-8139.

AFRICAN AMERICAN PHOTOGRA-PHERS IN ATLANTA. Thru March 15. A 100-year retrospective by some of Atlanta's finest Black photographers presents images of the social, political and economic life of the African American community from 1870-1970. Apex Museum, 981-7589.

LYNDA BENGLIS; DUAL NATURES SCULPTURE. Thru March 31. Lynda's techniques add dimension to flat art so that it is hard to say whether they are paintings or sculptures. This retrospective exhibit of 4l works from 1969 allows the public to view the development of her unique style and statement in a multi-medium circus. High Museum, 1280 Ptree St. 892-3600. THE NEW VISIONS. Thru Apr 28. An exhibit which explores the radical innovations and revelations of Modernist photographers between the World Wars. Interesting examples of photomantage and photograms make this a must see collection for the serious photographer. At the High Museum, 1280 Peachtree. 892-HIGH.

Direct Action

A DAY OF OUTRAGE. Wed. Mar. 6. Call Gov. Zell Miller's office and let him know that you are outraged about the treatment that the Hate Crimes and Sodomy Repeal Bills received in the legislature. See cover story this issue for details. 656-1776. If it's busy call 656-6870 or -1794 or -1790.

Events |

MISS GAY ATLANTA PAGEANT. Sun. Mar. 3, 10:00pm. Twenty of the South's finest female impersonators will vie for the coveted title. Awards will also be given to other members of the community for outstanding achievements. Fun and fine frocks. Lavitas, call 633-0452.

CREATIVITY AND THE RECOVERY PROCESS. Mon., Mar. 4, 7:30 pm. Carol Sutherland looks at new methods to tap your full creative potential. Atlantis Connection, 1402 N. Highland, 881-6511.

DYKESTO WATCHOUTFOR: THE SLIDE SHOW. Wed. Mar. 6, 8pm. Alison Bechdel's life, we learn, is not always separate from her art as she talks about her childhood drawings, frustrated adolescence and career as American's premiere lesbian cartoonist. Venus Envy opens this unique evening's offering. At the Variety Playhouse, \$6 advance, \$8 at the door. Tickets at TicketMaster locations including Turtles. Or call 524-7354 for info.

ALL MEN'S FLOWER ARRANGING COMPETITION. Wed., Mar. 6 at noon. A potpourri of local celebraties, hets and homos alike will be on hand making beautiful bouquets. It's nice to find Rocky Marlowe in attendance as we are missing him on his WKHX morning show. Atlanta Botanical Garden, 876-5859.

SOUTHEAST GAY AND LESBIAN EXPO. Thurs, thru Sun., March 7-10, noon -8pm, 75 vendors and three days of sales and seminars with lots of special events. And admission is free. Saturday is filled with special events:12:30pm-Vegetarian cooking demo; 1pm-clogging performance; 1:30pm-2-step and line dance lessons; 2:30pm—SE leather fashion show; 2:30pm—Linn Copeland & Connie Clovis present a workshop on women in gay rodeos; 3:30pm—the award winning Capitol Cowboys from Raleigh, NC. 3:30pm-Women's health forum including artificial insemination. 3:45pm— Friends of Bill W. meet. 4pm—Clogging performance; 4:30pm—2-step and line dance lesson. Howard Johnson Midtown Hotel, 870 Ptree St. SOUTHEAST LEATHER WEEKEND. Sat. March 9, 7:30pm and Sun. March 10, 1:30PM. The leather weather forecasts a wet weekend. See article page 21. Backstreet Atlanta, for info call 1-800-277-9933.

THE WILDERNESS OF INTIMACY. Sat. Mar. 9. A Sat. seminar for those who wish to enter the wilderness of loving relationships. Kay Hagan is a great map maker and her guided tour of the unknown regions of intimacy is sure to prove enlightening. Call 4th Tuesday, 662-6868 for particulars.

SOUNDING THE INNER LANDSCAPE. Sun., March 10, 1pm. Kay Gardner explores sound and chakras in this special and extremely reasonable workshop. I hope she brings her flute. Chrysalis Women's center, 2045 Manchester St., 881-6300.



Kay Gardner brings the magic of her music to Chrysalis Women's Center for a performance on Sat. March 9 and a workshop on Sun. March 10. Photo: Susan Wilson

Film/Video

THE ENVIRONMENTAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL. Fri., Mar. 8 through Sun. Mar. 10. A wide ranging festival explores environmental issues in hard-hitting documentaries and humorous work. Fri. 10pm Piece about kudzu may offer special insights to those fighting this botanical pest on a daily basis. Call for full schedule. Image, 75 Bennett St. 352-4225.

Fundraisers :

WILD WEST WEEKEND. Sat. and Sun. March 9-10. Break out your Stetson and enjoy several events including 2-step lessons and a southern country jamboree. For more country western coverage see p. 19. Atlanta Penta Hotel, Georgia Ballroom, W.Ptree St. at North. 1-800-277-9933.

Music :

KAY GARDNER IN CONCERT. Sat., Mar. 9, 8pm Her music is a magic doorway into the realm of your choice. Enjoy her in this extremely intimate setting. Chrysalis Women's Center, 2045 Manchester St. 881-6300.

THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER. Thru March 10. A full symphony orchestra and 12 Broadway singers bring songs from Evita, Cats, The Phantom of the Opera and many more smash hit shows to the footlights of the Fox. Many of the performers have toured internationally with Webber winners. Fox Theatre, call 873-4300 for info.

MELANIE HAMMETT. Mon. Mar. 11, 8:30. A cup of coffee and thou beside me singing in the wilderness. Free at Oxford Acoustic Cafe, 360 Pharr Rd., 262-9975.

Spirituality |

LAMBDALIGHT. Meets weekly. A meditation group for gay men and women in now information, 872-9088 for information.

AFFIRMATION GROUP FOR GAY AND LESBIAN MORMONS. Now organizing in the Atlanta area, take time to think about your faith and your past...the better to build a future. 570-2561.

Sports |

FRONT RUNNERS. Every Wed. at 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.

AVS BOWLING. Every Monday, 8:30pm. The teams are already formed but substitutes are always needed and welcome. So are spectators. Come down and enjoy the most fun you can have with your fingers in public. Express Lanes, Monroe Drive. Call Steve at 361-1286 for info. HOTLANTA SOCCER. Practice every Sun., 3pm. A game that uses heads instead of hands is looking for a few good thighs for the 1991 spring season. Men and women, beginners or pros are encouraged to participate. You'll get a kick out of it! Piedmont Park, call Steve at 577-0418.

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS. Every Sat. at noon. Clean up your clay court game and help plan THE PEACH, ATTA's giant fundraiser to be held in March. Fun for spectators and sports alike. Glenlake Tennis Center, call David Black at 399-5010.

Television =

FRANK SINATRA: THE VOICE OF OUR TIME. Sat., March 2, 9:30 pm. Easier to listen to than to look at, ole blue eyes fans will enjoy some of Frank's finest in this tribute which follows Sinatra's career into the mid 60's. GPTV, Ch. 8. THE CIVIL WAR. Sun. Mar. 3, 9am-12:45 am. Ken Burns' 9-part landmark series will be shown in its full glory from Grant to Gettysburg. Be there or set your VCR for this one. GPTV, Ch. 8.

GOING HOME TO GOSPEL WITH PATTI LABELLE. Mon., March 4, pm. LaBelle soars in this special along with Albertina Hunter and The Mighty Clouds of Joy. Taped at Chicago's Quinn Chapel, once a stop on the Underground

Railroad. GPTV, Ch. 8.

NOVA: SWIMMING WITH THE WHALES. Tue., March 5, 9:20pm. Gregory Peck, who once portrayed the most famous whale hunter of all, narrates spectacular footage of the magnificent mammels migrating, breaching and feeding their young. GPTV, Ch. 8.

JOHNNY MATHIS: CHANCES ARE. Wed., March 6, 9:30 pm. Chances are you'll get misty until the twelth of never as Mathis takes a trip down memory lane with film clips, photos and interviews. GPTV, Ch. 8.

THE TEMPTATIONS: GET READY. Fri., March 8, 10:45 pm. Singing and synchronized dancing from the standard by which other soul vocal groups are measured. GPTV, Ch. 8.

OF MOOSE AND MEN: THE ROCKY AND BULLWINKLE STORY. Thurs., March 14, 10pm. Hilarious clips and interviews with the series' creative team make this a must-see for all fans of the all-American squirrel and his horny sidekick. Natasha will be there too. GPTV, Ch. 8.

Theatre

ADAM AND THE EXPERTS. Thru March 10. A hilarious comedy about love, patience and intimacy as a celibate young gay man comes face to face with reality with the help of his imaginary superhunk friend. Genesis Theatre at the 14th Street Playhouse, 881-0817.

HUNGRY TO BED. Thru. Mar. 17. The premiere performance of local writer Steve Murray's comedy about longing, desire, regret and iris beds. Reviewed this issue. The Actors Express, 280 Elizabeth St. 221-0831.

THE SECRET RAPTURE. Thru Mar. 23. Fun at the funeral with a family whose values change as often as their alliances. At Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave. 584-7450.

FUNNY THAT WAY GAY AND LESBIAN IMPROV COMEDY TROUPE. Thurs, March 7, 9pm. A creative theatrical experience that happens right before your eyes. Laugh along with this bright bunch for whom nothing is sacred. The Tower, 735 Ralph McGill Blvd., 688-5463. KIDS IN THE HALL. Thurs. Mar. 7, 8pm. Straight from HBO, this anything but straight comedy troupe offers very funny socially relevant comedy. One member is openly gay and gaypositive skits are among their repetoire. At the Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. Tickets at TicketMaster or 249-6400.

Women's Festivals =

GULF COAST WOMEN'S FESTIVAL. Thurs. Mar. 28-31. A womon-created safe space for love, laughter and healing. Music, moonlight and more dykes than Easter in Daytona. Write GCWF, 250 Cowan Rd, Gulfport, MS. 39507 or call (601) 896-3196.



Mike Buie (r) confronts his fantasy-becomereality (Bobby Box-I) in Adam and the Experts presented by SAME at the 14th Street Playhouse.

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC & COM-EDY FESTIVAL. Thurs. May 23-27. Coming soon to a forest near you. Send self-addressed envelope to SWMCF, 15842 Chase St. Sepulveda, CA 91343 or call (818) 893-4075.

RHYTHMFEST '91. Aug. 29-Sept 2. Lookout Mt., GA will ring with music and laughter as the newest of the women's festivals returns to the hallowed hills. Send SASE to 604 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701 or call 919-682-6374.

Upcoming |

FILMS BY BARBARA HAMMER. March 16, 8pm. Dazzling and eclectic works include "Sync-Touch," "No No Nooky TV," and "Snow Job: the Media Hysteria of AIDS." \$6 at the door will benefit the NLC. IMAGE, 352-4225.

DARE TO DREAM: THE LEGACY OF HARVEY MILK. March 18, 19, 8pm. A staged reading of Dan Pruitt's and Patrick Hutchison's (who wrote and scored "Different") new musical about Milk, the man, the myth and the legacy. Free, but reservations are requested. Actors Express, 280 Elizabeth, 221-0831.

THE JOURNEY INWARD. March 18. A sixweek foundation class in relaxation, meditation and visualization led by Mary Bailey-Rule, \$80. Partners in Health. 264-6219.

POWER STRUGGLES WITHIN A RELATIONSHIP. Monday, March 18, 7:30 pm. A closer look at coping with control in coupledom. Chrysalis Women's Center, 2045 Manchester St.

DEDE VOGT. Mon. March 18, 8:30pm. Have guitar, will entertain. The spunky, funky sounds of one of Atlanta's best female performers. Oxford Acoustic Cafe, 360 Pharr Rd., 262-9975.

CHOOSING A LAWYER. Tues., March 19, 7:30pm. A forum addressing the legal needs of the lesbian and gay community looks at the question of picking an attorney who will be gay or gay-sensitive and be responsive to the special needs of longtime companions as well as dealing with criminal charges. Peachtree Branch Library, 1315 Ptree St. 622-0857.

SPRING EQUINOX CELEBRATION. March 20, 7pm. Welcome Spring with a ceremony and guided meditation. \$5, reservations appreciated. Prima Mater earthworks near the Arts Exchange.

GRASS WIDOWS. March 22-April 14, Fri & Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm. Pamela Parker's delightful Southern comedy set in the fictional town of Dollar, Ga. where avocado appliances in your kitchen are more important than a dead man in the parlor. Mercer Univ. 872-3556 or 446-7163. YOUNG LESBIAN SEPARATIST CON-FERENCE. Mar. 23-24. Women in their teens and twenties create an ongoing network between a new generation of dykes making radical choices. Write to Waxing Crescent, 2825, N. Laramie, Apt 2N, Chicago, IL. 60641-5028.

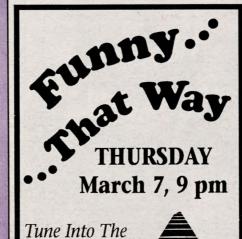
NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN FILM TOUR. Fri. April 19-May 2. The Atlanta Gay Center will host the film tour to be featured at the Plaza Theatre. A fine opportunity to view over 30 selections from the '89-'90 NYC Festival. Gosh, Miss Scarlett, its nearly as exciting as the premiere of "Gone with the Wind." The Lefont Plaza Theatre, 1049 Ponce de Leon. 873-1939. NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE, Apr. 24-28, 1991, 3000 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.

M. BUTTERFLY BENEFIT. Fri. May 3 Opening night for this widely acclaimed Broadway play will be a benefit for three AIDS outreach organizations, followed by a post theatre party in the Egyptian Ballroom. A Viennese Coffee atmosphere with fine food and chanteuse Denise DiRenzo will entertain folks in the second benefit of the evening. At the Fox Theatre. Call 256-5209 or 261-8329 for info.

FOURTH ANNUAL HRCF BENEFIT DIN-NER. Sat. May 18. A gala dinner and silent auction to benefit the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Cuisine for a good cause. Marriott Marquis Downtown, 662-4280.

GAY PRIDE '91. June 23. Time to think about floats and signs and making our presence known. Be aware, be there. Last year's entertainment and speakers were great, this year's goal is 20,000 marching down Peachtree under the lavender

banner, For info call, 325-4435.
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN. July 4-7. This summer event is worth going to Baltimore for as gay and lesbian activists and supportive non-gay persons in states south and east of Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas and Texas gather to talk about community concerns and catch up on old friendships. Write Dana Rethemeyer, 1504 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD. 21231-1424. (301) 276-8468.



735 Ralph McGill—688-8463

Tower Every ______

Thursday



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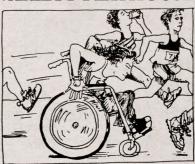
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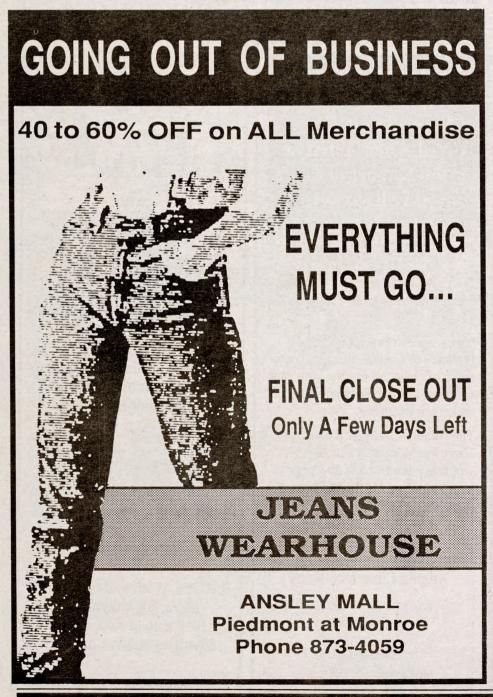
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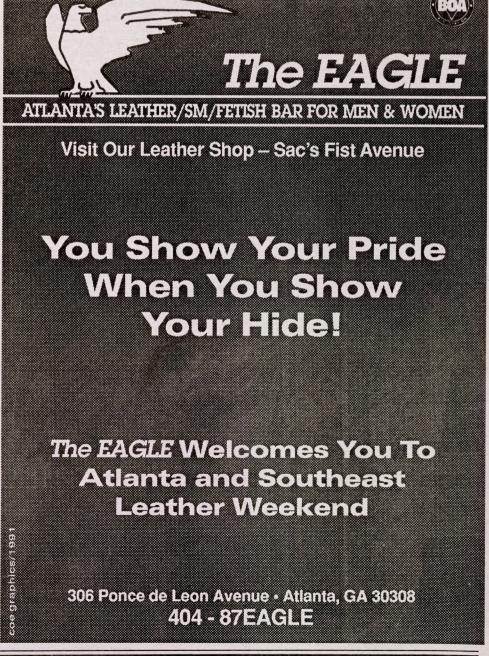
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by Gale Reter

It's Tuesday night and 2-Steppin' is the activity of the evening at Deana's One Mo Time on Cheshire Bridge. The place is so packed with folks in bolo ties and boots you'd think they were giving away free Texas flags. Or tickets to the rodeo. Guess again. The crowd is here tonight for dance lessons and a chance to stroll the floor with their favorite partner.

That dance floor is so incredibly crowded that traffic rules are announced just before George Srait begins lamenting the losses of his ex's in Texas. And whether they are lounging in front of the fireplace with a lover, watching the line dancers strut through the Tush Push, or performing a little Patsy Cline "pas de deux" themselves, this is a merry crowd. A good time is had by all.

Country Night has come into its own in Atlanta. Two years ago—when the organization Southern Country formed to promote country dancing and alternative entertainment within the lesbian and gay community—about the only country music heard in the Atlanta bars came from of the mouths of a few drag queens. Looking for a place for its members to dance, Southern Country approached several bars and finally persuaded The Cove to try country dancing one night a week.

Now there is country dancing at one watering hole or another almost every night. And for those who have not yet tried the slightly lop-sided, oddly graceful dance steps, lessons are offered on several of these nights.

For many who come to these weekly hoe-downs, no lessons are necessary. They learned to buck dance only a little later than walking, and prefer a steel guitar to a Stratocaster. Country music is in there blood, so it is only natural that after coming out as lesbians and gay men, they found themselves longing to dance with their lovers to the strains of Hank Williams and Kitty Wells.

In Texas—where 2-steppin' is as much a part of life as cocos—gay western bars sprang up as naturally as peyote buttons. In Colorado, too, country bars—with cowboys and cowgirls more into riding each other than the mechanical bulls—were often the backdrop for many a steer-crossed romance. Folks were having such a good time that it didn't take long for the idea to migrate to the coasts. Now lesbian and gay country-western afficianados are everywhere, from California to the Carolina's to the Big

Dance styles vary by locale; some claim it is possible to pin point where a Texan is from by how he or she dances. The South distinguishes itself with more emphasis on line dances than any other part of the country. Other interesting dance styles include the Western Waltz and Texas Swing which looks remarkably like a double-fast jitterbug.

The South's love of line dancing harkens back to the days when the Sports Page

Living In The Country

If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie, I don't wanna go



GWEN HAWKWOMAN

Pictured (L to R): Dance instructor Fred Storner with Southern Country Atlanta board members Mary Elliott, Keith Poole, Jud Jones, Scott Caples, and Connie Whitman.

Shuffle was the rage. Its popularity is easy to understand when watching thirty-plus people moving like a precision drill team to the lusty lyrics of Tanya Tucker. It's downright awe inspiring.

Southern Line, Atlanta's own nationally known line dance team, practices every Monday at Backstreet. Line dancing requires no partner and is said to be easier than the 2-step. Some of the line dances, however, still look incredibly complex. Southern Line is into exhibition rather than competition; come practice with them, and you might just find yourself performing at the National Gay Rodeo in Denver next year. They will also be performing locally during the Southeast Gay and Lesbian Expo '91 on March 9 and at Deana's on March 19.

Southern Stampede, the gay clogging squad, performs another, completely different, form of Southern folk dancing.
Clogging looks like a cross between an Irish Jig and tap dancing—all done from the waist down with little or no arm movement. It's a more structured form of buck dancing, and definitely should not be practiced at home if your downstairs neighbors are your friends. Look for Southern Stampede strutting their stuff in the Gay Pride Parade on June 23 this year.

Square dancing, too, is noticing a gay revival. It's a little harder to remember who to "allamande left" with when you're dancing with same-sex partners, but with a few

lessons and a little practice, you'll find you can "do-si-do" with the best of them.

There are several very helpful teachers who give free lessons on Country Nights at the bars. They teach a good transsexual technique that allows more accomplished dancers to lead and follow with equal grace. Learn both parts; it doubles the available field of dance partners.

Dancing is not the only activity favored by the southern sons and daughters. Six years ago the first gay rodeo was held in Denver; last year more than 5,500 people attended. Internationally between 13 and 15 gay rodeos are held annually. The Southeast Gay Rodeo Association (S.E.G.R.A.) is working to bring a rodeo to Atlanta in 1993. In the beginning it seemed that the women were sadly outnumbered in these events, but this year 30% of those attending were cowgirls. "The women have come to put the cunt back in country," as Roseanne Cash once observed.

Gay rodeos are similar in some ways to their straight counterparts. One big difference is that women are allowed to enter all the events and not just the fru-fru stuff like barrel racing. Most categories require that both the men and women participating have previous experience.

There are, however, several special events which even a tenderfoot can enter.

The first of these events, Goat Decorating, requires a two-person team.

One holds the goat while the other puts jockey shorts on it. Too tame? Well, then Wild Drag Racing might be the one you want to sign up for. This event requires a 3-person team, one man, one woman, and one person in drag. The one in drag may be a man or a woman, but must appear in female drag and be riding the bull when it crosses the finish line. Got it?

The third unique gay event is Steer Decorating. To win this one, all you have to do is tie a ribbon to a bull's tail before removing the harness and persuading it to cross the finish line with you. Practice up on these events, 1993 is not far away. A S.E.G.R.A. cook-out fundraiser—where you can practice the more mundane country skills like watermelon seed spitting and horse shoe pitching—will be held May 3-5.

On the immediate horizon, there's the Wild West Weekend, held March 7-10 in conjunction with the Southeast Gay and Lesbian Expo '91. Tickets to "The Dixie Classic Hoe Down" (Sat.) and "A Southern Country Jamboree" may be purchased separately or there is a \$99 weekend package. Part of the proceeds will go to Project Open Hand and the Names Project. Call Mantours at 1-800-227-9933 for reservations and particulars.

In addition to the two big nighttime events the W.W. Weekend will feature the award winning Capital Cowboys from Raleigh and Southern Country line dancers from Nashville. Marc Hansen will be singing. I'm not sure what Miss Edee, King of the Country Queens, will be doing, but I am sure it will be one of the many promised surprises of the weekend activities. Connie Clovis, Ms. International Gay Rodeo, is also slated to appear. The San Diego Cloggers were on the docket until Eastern's demise made air travel too expensive.

Many other local events are coming up and detailed calendars, with a listing of which dances are being taught where, are available on request from Southern Country. Personally, I'm waiting for instructions for the Sleazy Strut, my kind of dance.

ORGANIZATIONS: Southern Country—938-0609; Southern Line—321-

7506; S.E.G.R.A.—874-6556. EVENTS: Mar. 7-9—Wild West Weekend 1-800-277-9933; Mar. 17—Country Variety Show at the Cove; Mar. 24—Mr. Dixie Pageant at Lavita's; Apr. 7—Halstead Hoedown, a benefit for Project Open Hand. May 3-5—S.E.G.R.A Convention with country cook-out.

COUNTRY DANCING: 9p.m.midnight.Sun.: Cove; Tues.: Deana's; Wed.:
Backstreet; Thur.: Cove; Sat.: Deana's &
Backstreet.

2-STEP AND LINE DANCE LESSONS: 8-9pm Tues.: Deana's; Wed.: Backstreet; Thur.: The Cove.

SQUARE DANCING & LESSONS: 6:30-8pm Tues.: Deana's; Thur.: The Cove

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SATURDAY MARCH 9, 1991

7 pm-midnight Georgia Ballroom, Atlanta Penta Hotel West Peachtree Street & North Avenue \$35.00



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SUNDAY MARCH 10, 1991

11am-4pm Atlanta Ballroom, Atlanta Penta Hotel West Peachtree & North Avenue \$30.00



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SATURDAY MARCH 9, 1991

7:30pm **Backstreet Atlanta** Admission \$25.00

MS. SOUTHEAST LEATHER '91 CONTEST

Admission includes a buffet brunch, pre-show entertainment, the Ms. Southeast Leather contest and a post-contest poster signing party.



SUNDAY **MARCH 10, 1991**

1:30pm **Backstreet Atlanta** Admission \$20.00

Tickets may be purchased at Warlords Leathers and Sacs Fist Avenue, or call: 1-800-277-9933.

by Al Cotton

So let's concede it's a meat market, OK? People show up to watch people compete at being beautiful. You sit in the audience admiring the sexy outfits, wondering which judge slept with which contestant, while the people on the runway tell you how they'll use their title to further world peace.

You mean you're talking about Miss America? I was talking about International Mr. Leather.

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Leather in the '90s is in transition—a combination of fetish and fashion, passion and pussy, ass and accessorizing.

Leather's infamous sexual expediency, symbolized by the various signals used to simplify the cruising process—keys and hankies signaling various positions or fetishes—is still around, implying that what someone does to you is at least as important as who does it.

But on the other hand, I can't tell which is hotter right now in Atlanta—Leather or New Age. Check out the Eagle after 1a.m. Saturday or Crystal Blue about 4p.m. Sunday. And notice the significant number of overlapping customers.

These dueling crowds represent my thirtysomething generation's transition from adolescence to adulthood. We're looking for alternative ways to grow up. Astrology, I Ching, crystals—New Age stuff—have helped me locate the nurturing, intuitive person inside of me. My female side, if you will.

But as a Southern Gay Man, my masculine side has also been stunted. I didn't hunt or play sports; I did have straight A's, and took piano and band. I've used Leather to find an assertive self and work on the withdrawn, passive quality my life had.

Leather and New Age are alternative paths, each representing sides of myself I'm trying to develop. I find both valid, and not mutually exclusive. This type of reconciliation is very '90s, as that famous California group, the Leather Fairies, could tell you.

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What's a Leatherclub? A group of people who create a space to support each other's interest in Leather lifestyle. They grew from the California motorcycle clubs of the '50s—places where gay sex could be explored because, if you were a biker, people left you alone. Atlanta currently has four of these traditional clubs, with one motorcycle among them, so things have evolved a bit.

Today's Leatherpeople are not the stereotypical meat-eating misogynists from Fascistville, Georgia. Women, for example, are accepted at Leatherbars, and some of them have joined Leatherclubs,

leathersomething

Today's Leatherpeople are not the stereotypical meat-eating misogynists from Fascistville, Georgia





Chuck Higgins, Mr. Southeast Leather '90 and Diane Suissa, Ms. Southeast Leather '90 show their stuff.

working to create a co-sexual community of kinky people. Some Leatherwomen say they would rather be around Leathermen than other, judgmental women.

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Leatherbar Words to Live By: "Just remember, everyone here is really an opera queen at heart."

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All clubs have "colors," like motorcycle-gang patches worn on their vests, which symbolically summarize a club. The phoenix on Atlantis M.C.'s patch emphasizes its Atlanta location and Old South values, while Panther L/L (Leather/Levi, a terminology change that acknowledges the absence of a Harley among the membership) has a patch with pairs of interlocking male and female symbols on either side of the kitty-cat, indicating co-sexual solidarity between kinky lesbians and gay men. T.D.A.'s patch is a stylized triangular American flag, and the Leathermen's a prison-bar design.

Other affinity groups, like Atlanta S/M Solidarity, National Leather Association-Atlanta, and Southern Kink (a women's group in Marietta) provide additional levels of education and support.

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Leatherclubs nowadays function as fraternity-type social clubs, giving members a group identity in the chaotic bar scene and recognition when they go to other clubs parties, which are still called runs in the motorcycle tradition. A run is usually scheduled as a celebration of a club's founding and involves sex, drinking, dressing up in Leather and terrorizing the hotel at which it is held.

Reminds me of the Shriners—except *they* have motorcycles.



Most Stirring Run Sight: One hundredfifty Leatherpeople standing at attention, singing the national anthem before dinner at the Panther run last November. It's not the typical picture society conjures up of Leatherpeople, but we know that the freedom to form groups like this is precious. There is no Cossack L/L in Moscow.

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So what possible value to society could all of this sexual objectification have? Well, Leather promotes a sexuality very different from "The Norm." Growing up, we were all programmed to see sex only in a relationship context—the ones who get to fuck without guilt are the married, straight people. After coming out, many gay people need to undergo sexual deprogramming before they can relax about sex; until then, its sort of like Mom's watching. When that need for permission disappears, gay life starts.

Leather is one way to jump-start the process by which a person reprograms, which is why it is so important to our growth as a culture, to the evolution of our society. Leatherpeople challenge the entire sexual status quo—both straight

and gay—the same way lesbian and gay men challenge straight people. This radical response is necessary to address "business as usual," to teach tolerance of difference, to help people rethink their sexual stereotypes and hangups.

Once the second deprogramming is over for Leatherpeople, once Leathersex starts to feel "normal," that's when you realize where "normal" comes from and just how "normal" "un-normal" things can feel.

Then the adventure begins.

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"Poor is the man whose pleasures depend upon the permission of another." (from Madonna's *Justify My Love*)

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And about the disappointing (but not surprising) tolerance issue—most gay people treat Leatherpeople the way most straight people treat gay people. They ignore us, dis-acknowledge our existence, and try to keep us invisible, so they won't be embarrassed by us.

But it doesn't look like we're leaving any time soon.

But back to the original point—Leather-contests do indeed resemble the Miss America pageant, the mother of all such tacky events. Costume changes, Vaseline smiles, talent/fantasy competition, judge-fucking (remember in *Designing Women*—Suzanne would have lost her crown if the runner-up <a href="https://hatch.com/h

And it's wonderful. These contests are a part of human nature; when we hold one, we participate in one of the great rituals of our species.

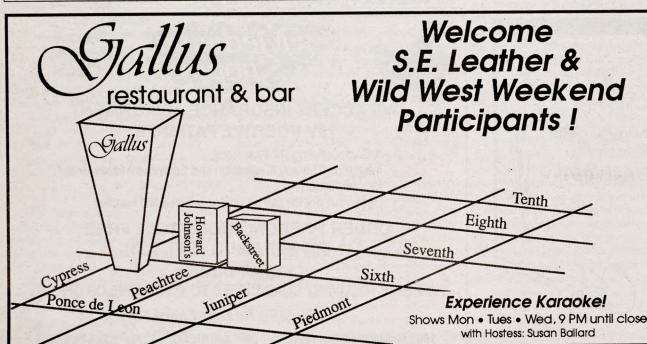
That, and a sexy man in the corner whose hankie just happens to "pull my chain", reminds me how much fun being gay can get.

-

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The Southeast Leather Weekend is March 7-9. Check the Mr. Southeast Leather Contest at Backstreet on Saturday staring at 7:30pm. Ms. Southeast Leather will be selected, also at Backstreet, on Sunday starting at 1:30pm. Individual tickets are available for either event or there is a complete Leather Weekend package available for \$69. Call Mantours at 1-800-277-9933 for reservation and info.

Also: Check out the Eagle any Sunday night between 8pm and midnight. This is club night and one club's representatives will be tending the back bar. Members of other clubs will probably be present too. Show up and ask questions.



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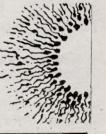


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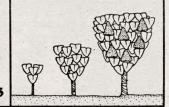


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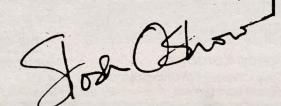
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V.A. Study Casts New Doubts on AZT

Suggestions that drug has no benefit for Blacks and Hispanics draws criticism; new study says Bactrim prevents PCP

by Patrick Garvey

The efficacy of AZT—the only FDA approved antiviral drug for the treatment of HIV—is being questioned by medical researchers. A recent study conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs found that patients treated with AZT early in the course of HIV disease, before opportunistic infections appear, live no longer than those who begin taking the drug later in the course of the disease.

The study's authors further hypothesized that AZT may not have any positive effects on HIV-infected blacks and Hispanics.

Reactions from some healthcare professionals and AIDS activists range from criticism to indignation. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said they were dubious of the V.A.'s findings which "suggest people of color are significantly less likely than others to be affected by AZT, the only government-licensed treatment for fighting AIDS."

"This may send a dangerous message of hopelessness to communities that are just beginning to focus on prevention and early intervention," lobbyist Belinda Rochelle said in a NGLTF press release. "We believe the data in this study is inconclusive and points out the need for more detailed reports on AIDS and minorities."

The four-year V.A. study discovered that AZT, or azidothymidine, slows the development of symptoms in some people infected with HIV. But people who took the drug before they had symptoms lived no longer than those who began taking it after they developed symptoms—both groups had an average survival time of 33 months.

Because some individuals have a strong toxic reaction to the drug (anemia, nausea and muscle pain are common side effects) and because many users experience a substantial reduction in efficacy of the drug after two or more years use, AZT has been under constant criticism since its 1987 approval by the the FDA. The FDA's 1989 decision to recommend use of the drug before the appearance of opportunistic infections was also controversial, detractors claiming that AZT's purported benefits did not balance its toxic side affects and high cost.

AZT has also come under much criticism because its manufacturer, Burroughs-Wellcome, maintains a very high

cost for the drug, development of which was paid for with government grants. During the past six months Burroughs Wellcome (under a different name) has sponsored a series of well-attended seminars on "Early Intervention of Anti-Viral Therapy" in major U.S. cities. Since AZT is the only approved anti-HIV drug, the commercial connection is obvious. And odious to many who dislike the drug. The V.A.'s study is sure to add fuel to this fire.

But the real controversy about the study comes from its contention that AZT may be of no benefit whatsoever for black and Hispanic patients.

NGLTF contends that this claim is inaccurate because it doesn't fully address the circumstances surrounding people of color dealing with AIDS. "Only 338 people were enrolled, two-thirds white and one-third black and Hispanic...[and] by combining blacks and Hispanics together [in the statistical analysis], ethnic-specific conclusions are rendered inaccurate," says Rochelle.

The New York Times agreed, commenting, "Since the study was not originally designed to look at the effects of race on AZT's effectiveness, such an analysis after the fact could be fraught with statistical pitfalls."

As poor as the V.A. study's statistics regarding people of color are, they do provide *some* data on race and AIDS, a reality which most HIV studies simply ignore. Last week in an op-ed piece for the *New York Times*, Bruce Nussbaum, author of "Good Intentions: How Big Business and the Medical Establishment Are Corrupting the Fight Against AIDS," points out that most medical research is governed by the "old-boy network."

According to Nussbaum, it is common practice to designate medical experiments exclusively for white men, excluding women (researchers argue that women's biology is more complicated than men's, and it is good science to do trials with men to keep the data simple and clean), as well as blacks and Hispanics.

This was indeed the case when the recommendation was made by the Food and Drug Administration in 1989, after studies showed AZT successfully postponed the onset of AIDS symptoms. The studies were halted at that point—though obviously still incomplete, since there was no data collected on how the drug affects people of color or women. And, as the V.A. study now highlights, no data

was collected on how long patients who received early AZT intervention actually survived.

The results of the V.A. study once again highlight inadequacies in the way AIDS drugs have been tested. Nussbaum doesn't mince words offering his views on the matter: "Medical scientists usually make their professional reputation by associating themselves with a particular drug...often that drug is sponsored by a private drug company. In AIDS research, for example, drugs such as AZT, ddI and ddC have made the careers of most of the scientists who dominate the field. Many of these scientists have been paid to run trials for private drug companies. But these same scientists also sit on key Government AIDS committees at the N.I.H. and testify at F.D.A. hearings."

Since 1985, most of the money for AIDS research appropriated by Congress has gone into drug trials for AZT, according to Nussbaum. The news that one major use [early intervention] of the only FDA-approved treatment for HIV has virtually no effect on life span casts new question on the decision to invest so heavily in AZT.

Indeed AIDS activists have been railing against so much money and emphasis being spent on AZT for some time. Finally fed up with the policy, ACT UP issued a challenge called "Countdown 18" to the government last November, demanding effective drugs to treat the five most common AIDS-related opportunistic infections within eighteen months.

Local physicians declined to comment on the V.A. findings saying that they had not yet seen complete copies of the study. One healthcare provider did mention that even if early AZT intervention does not prolong life, it does definitely delay the onset of symptoms, thus offering an potential improvement in the quality of life of the HIV-infected.

Confirming a protocol used already by some physicians, a group of L.A. doctors has found that the inexpensive antibiotic Bactrim (and Spectra) taken three times weekly are effective in preventing Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). The results of the study were published last weekend in the British medical journal Lancet.

The news is especially welcome because the only drug currently approved for PCP prevention, Pentamadine, is expensive and difficult to administer.

Nutritional Step Towards Healing

More than 100 attend NAPWA's first alternative forum

by Steven Anderson and Michael Chapnick

More than 100 people participated in the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People With AIDS first Alternative Therapy Forum "Nutrition—The Starting Point" on January 10th. A panel of four nutritional counselors and professionals lead this informative and empowering event. The general theme offered by the participants: through nutrition you don't have to feel helpless; there are things you can do to take control of your body and enhance your immune system.

The panel's four professionals—Jeff Shinn, nutritional and spiritual counselor and person living with AIDS; Natalie Tochilin, M.S., R.D., clinical nutrition specialist, Caremark Connection; Marcia A. Owings, certified herbalist and nutrition advisor; Dr. Philip Princetta, integrated healing arts and chiropractor—represented different approaches to achieve the same goals.

All the panelists agreed that nutrition should be one of the most important parts of the lives of those who are HIV infected. Shinn shared his belief and affirmation that, after being diagnosed with AIDS over three years ago, a major change in his nutritional understanding and practice has significantly enhanced the quality of his life. Nutrition is the main ingredient in the formula that keeps him alive

Shinn believes the first step in becoming nutritionally responsible is making a commitment to evaluate and possibly change your nutritional habits. Any change, even if it is simply reducing your coffee intake from four cups to two, is an important first step, said Shinn as he reminded the group that maintaining the strongest possible immune system is essential in the battle against HIV. He asks, "Is your diet supporting and giving you the proper fuels you need to run your body efficiently and enhance your immune system?"

Natalie Tochilin, nutritional specialist from Caremark, focused on the clinical relationship between HIV and nutrition and the basic components of a healthy diet. Natalie explained that anyone diagnosed with HIV/AIDS must be concerned with three nutritional fac-

tors: weight loss; malnutrition; and vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Diet plays an major part in each of these areas, thus it is important to have a good understanding of how proper nutrition controls each factor.

Tochilin presented evidence that proves that early nutritional Intervention can reduce the occurrence and frequency of opportunistic infections and is a powerful weapon against the deterioration of the immune system.

A well-balanced diet, according to Tochilin, consists of the knowledge and understanding of the proper amounts and combinations of proteins (building blocks of the immune system), carbohydrates and fats (our energy sources), vitamins and minerals (neurological, muscle and immune functioning) and water (major bodily solvent carrying all nutrients in the body). Exactly how to achieve this balance varies from individual to individual; you must determine which foods and what diet are best suited to your lifestyle and specific needs.

So, what's the best way to determine your present deficiency from the foods you are eating? According to Marcia Owings, keeping a Diet Log is the first step any nutritional counselor will recommend. By keeping track of everything that you put into your body, you can determine the strengths and weaknesses of your present diet. Write down what you eat, when you eat it and your fluid intake for at least a week and then take it to a nutritional counselor.

Owings feels that modern food processing results in the loss of most nutrients and thus suggests avoiding processed foods (i.e.: canned, frozen, packaged) and focusing on fresh, preferably organic foods (i.e.: whole grains, raw or stemmed vegetables, organic animal products, beans, fruits and juices). She also recommends avoiding chemical additives since they build up in the body's vital organs and release toxins into our bloodstream. The more these toxins can be eliminated from our system, the healthier our blood, body and immune systems will be.

One of the easiest ways to stick to a new or changing diet is to involve a friend or "health partner" who is also interested in improving his/her diet, thus creating support to stay with a program and providing encouragement when the going gets tough.

Dr. Princetta shared his experience with nutritional work with cancer patients in the '70s and how that work lead to his belief in, and understanding of, the amazing power of food. He feels that—regardless of a person's situation in life—that eating, good clean foods that enhance your life instead of detract from is very important. Eating, he reminded us is almost completely in our control.

Dr. Princetta stated that he invariably starts the healing process of patients who come to him for chiropractic work with nutritional counseling. His experience with AIDS patients shows a common denominator—overheated livers that are filled with toxins. Thus he finds liver detoxification and flushes are important. Once the liver is stabilized, detoxification of the digestive system can be accomplished thus further enhancing immune function.

The following books were recommended by the panelists; some are available in the NAPWA library and all can be purchased at your local bookstore or health food store: Let's Stay Healthy, by Adele Davis; Know Your Nutrients, by Linda Clark; Foods That Heal, by Dr. Bernard Jensen; Health Connection, by Anna Vines; Today's Healthy Eating, by Louse Teamy; A Macrobiotic Way, by Mishu Kushi; The Nutritional Almanac Healing AIDS Naturally, by Dr. Lawrence Bedgley; Diet & Nutrition, by Dr. Rudolf Valentine; Food & Healing, by Ann Marie Colbin; The Book of Whole Meals, by Ann Marie Colbin

An Atlanta Alternative Directory was compiled for the forum by NAPWA's Treatment Committee members. It lists nutritionists, massage therapists, acupuncturists and much more, and is available in the NAPWA office at 98 6th Street. A video tape of the forum is also available for individuals or groups who would like to view it.

NAPWA's next Alternative Treatment Forum, "Herbs and Homeopathy-Natural Healers," will be Monday, March 18th, at 7pm, at 14th Street Playhouse, Juniper & 14th Streets. Admission is free; call 874-7926.

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Dykes To Watch Out For



















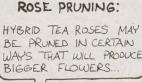




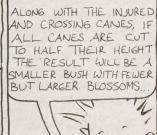


Bittersweet

By Charles Haver









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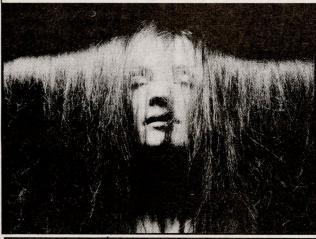


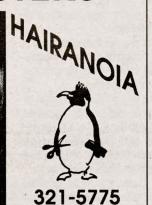




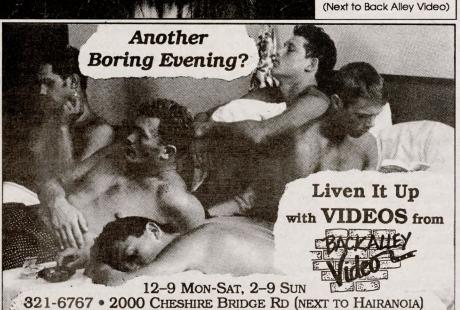
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DISH

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

You Be The Judge: Did she or didn't she? Dish finally received the interview in the Village View from LA during which k.d. lang allegedly came out. It's a close call. VV interviewer Alex Demyanenko asked k.d., "With your participation in this project [the Red Hot & Blue AIDS benefit record], there's a chance you'll be looked upon as a spokesperson for the gay community. Do you accept the role?" k.d. responded, "Yeah, sure I do." That's it.

But This Is News: The same Village View interview also mentioned that k.d. is starring in a movie. The film is called Salmonberries, being filmed by Percy Adlon (Bagdad Café) in an Eskimo town 26 miles above the Arctic Circle. Pretty far from Nashville. Wonder how the natives feel about k.d.'s "Meat Stinks" stance.

Hot Shopping Tips: State legislator Vincent Wallwho commented during sodomy repeal lobbying that "I'm not gonna have anything to do with that faggot bill"—has a day job. Seems Vincent sells jewelry at the Gwinnett Mall location of Service Merchandise. Dish thinks we might express our opinions of his service on our community's behalf by asking for his service at his place of employ. A few hundred recently-engaged gay and lesbian couples out shopping for wedding rings could make Mr. Wall's workday. Make sure you ask for his personal service-"No, I want Mr. Wall to show me a few rings. I'll wait. And wait."

Euphemist of the Year?: This from a letter to The Washington Blade from activist Michael Petrelis: Seems someone from the Human Rights Campaign Fund complained when The Washington Post used "theater and film folk" as a euphemism for gay. Mr. Petrelis wants to know if the fact that none of the words in HRCF's name spell out g-a-y or l-e-s-b-i-a-n doesn't suggest a mite of hypocrisy here.



Reason to Move to Minnesota: Note this picture snapped at the inaugural ball for new Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson. Mike Sheehan and Tally Beck were but two of a whole contingent of Queer Nation members at the inaugural bash. Dish gets all tingly just imagining the look on Zell's face had we turned out en masse to celebrate his ascension to the Peach State's highest office. And we might just do that, if we ever have election results worth celebrating. Unless we've moved to Minnesota first.

Priorities. Please!: Dish notes with an astonishment bordering on revulsion the priorities of the A/J-C editors

on February 15. Two articles whose size seemed to outweigh their newsworthiness include a trip to Pat Swindall's fashionable new downtown flea market (in which we discover that Swindall "used to borrow \$480,000 over the phone. . . Now I'm lucky if I get \$30,000"—poor guy!), and a sensationalized account of the infamous Florida AIDS dentist. Lost amidst that news glut was a smaller article buried well inside the 'People" section questioning the early use of AZT in AIDS prevention.

It Wasn't the First Time, Ronnie: Should Dish be gleeful that our former Most High Pooh-bah Republican Mouthpiece and Figurehead admitted a mistake on his watch the other day? When Reagan told us his opinion of our past policy of helping to arm Saddam Hussein-"I have to say we committed a boner with regard to Iraq"—we began to hope for a much longer list of "boners." No such luck. One boner per presidency, we guess. Better luck next time, Nancy.

Fashion Victim: Last time Dish was out in Baghdad by the Bay we noticed that the S.F. Macy's was selling what can only be described as ACT UP action wearblack leather jackets plastered with various AIDS and gay patches. A member of ACT UP/SF told the Sentinel, "When Macy's started selling the jackets, we knew it was time for a change." Dish wishes that pastel ultrasuede would be the basis for next generation of queer activist garb, but somehow we doubt it. Izods and weejuns, maybe?

Major Moisture: Dish was more than a mite stimulated by both the words and the wimmin at last week's reading of erotic poetry at Charis. The atmosphere there was so charged with emotion that there wasn't a dry seat in the house.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLOBITH

February 28 - March 13

RULING PLANETS

ARIES-With Venus in your 1st house of personal identity and appearance, your self-



esteem gets a boost and you can handle difficult situations with more charm and wit. Use this energy to create harmony in all relationships.

TAURUS-Venus, the planet ruling our sense of beauty and harmony, is moving



through your 12th house of the higher self. Dreamtime may be more active, but you can be centered now, if you make time for meditation and reflec-

GEMINI-Mars in your 1st house of personal identity and appearance is still providing



energy for personal growth and new projects, but also may be fostering restlessness and some discontent. Short trips to new places may help.

CANCER-Mars is still in your 12th house of dreams, visions and your higher self, ener-



gizing and stirring up hidden and unconscious material. Allow this to spill over into your life through doodles, journal work, movies, etc.

LEO-With Saturn in your 7th house of partnerships, it is a good opportunity for estab-



lishing clarity around personal boundaries. Be honest about your needs, but not rigid and be sure you understand what others are saying.

VIRGO-The Sun and Mercury are in your 7th house of personal and committed rela-



tionships, so you may want to allow more time for the special people in your life. A good time to clarify and define your needs and wants.

LIBRA-Saturn is sitting in your 5th house of creativity, allowing you to prioritize and



organize your ideas and projects. Leave room for play and take time to be a child. Increase your self-esteem by nurturing your spirit.

SCORPIO-With the Sun and Mercury moving through your 5th house of creative ener-



gy and play, this is the perfect time for artistic expression, fun outings or possibly, a love affair. Take a break from the heavies and enjoy life.

SAGITTARIUS-Venus in your 5th house of creativity and fun highlights artistic expression, love affairs, and



the trust/innocence of youth. To increase your self-esteem, take a few personal risks and spend more time outdoors.

by Mary Bailey-Rule

The Full Moon in Virgo occurs on Feb. 28, Harriet Tubman's birthday is on 3/10 and we are now in that wonderful season of mutable weather. Be sure you have your brolly and galloshes. CAPRICORN-With Venus in your 4th house of home, family and parents, you can



help heal rifts with those you love and create a more harmonious and pleasant atmosphere where you live. Welcome spring colors and flowers.

AQUARIUS-Saturn in your 1st house will bring rewards and recognition that you have



worked for and justly earned. A good time to remember people who have helped you along the way. Also take time for those you love and respect.

PISCES-Happy Birthday! With the Sun and Mercury in your 1st house of self aware-



ness, you can e pect greater clarity/insight about your own identity, needs and wants. You may be ready to chart a new course for the year.

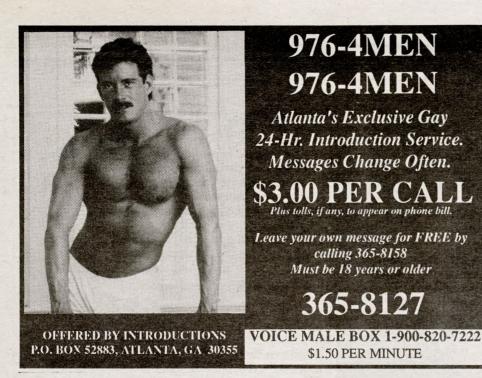
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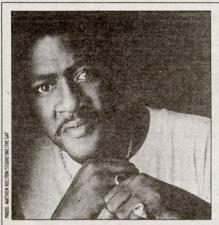
PWA-Free

Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer specializing in birth chart analysis, relationship chart ir sign, call 264-6219.



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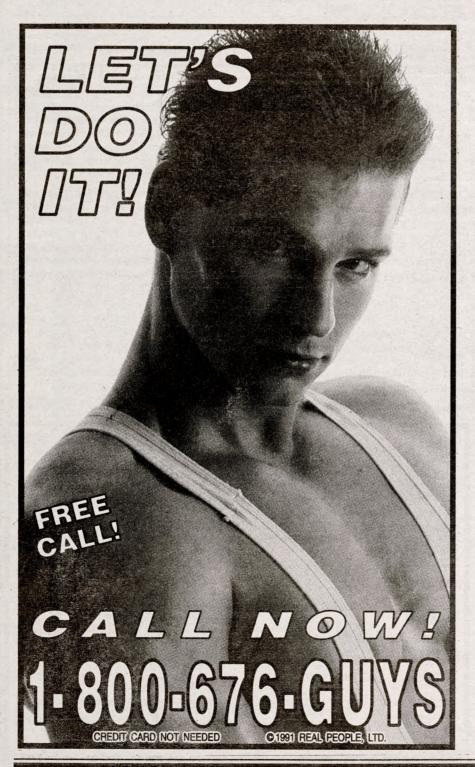
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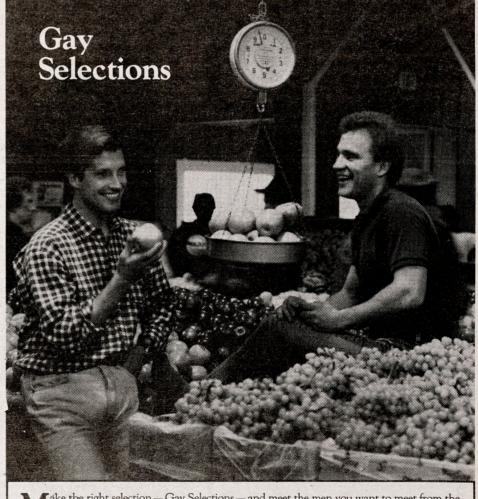
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Free Info on possible benefits of methionine for HIV and AIDS. Send SASE with 52¢ postage to: LITHOX CORP., 9505 Capitol View Dr., Austin, TX 78747. (V4,#3)

Circle of Healing – support for people with HIV, their friends and family and all others in need of healing. First and Third Sunday Evenings, 7:30-9:00 PM., First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta. For more info contact Circle Coordinator, Franklin Abbott, LCSW at 378-5570. (V4,#3)

Atlanta Gay Center Clinic - M, T, W Th 5:30-9:30 pm. Anonymous HIV antibody counseling and screening, \$15.00. Confidential Hepatitis B Screening, \$15.00. Confidential STD screening, free. Arrive by 9:00 pm, please. Call 876-5372 for more information.

Atlanta Gay Center Plus groups for HIV-affected people. Fridays, 8:00pm and Sundays, 6:00pm. 63 12th Street. Call 876-5372 for more

Atlanta Gay Center Helpline, 892-0661, for info, counseling and referral. 6:00-11:00pm 365 days a year.

ACT UP/ATLANTA: (404) 286-

Atlanta Gay Center People Project. affected people in the metro area.

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Groups and Meeting Times: PWAs I

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.

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

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

AIDS Information Line – 9AM-9PM weekdays, 9AM-5PM, weekends for confidential, factual answers on risk, transmission, testing, medical and other referrals in Ga. and elsewhere. Atlantans call 876-9944, other Georgians dial toll-free 1-800-551-2728. Hearing-impaired callers access via TTY 876-9950. Spanishspeaking 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 hous-ing and assisted living. Call for more info at 371-9433.

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

The African American Lesbian Gay Alliance is seeking information about organizations and individuals which offer alcohol and drug related counseling, recovery and support services sensitive to the needs of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. The information will become part of the information base for a helpline specifically aimed at lesbians, gay men and bisexuals with alcohol and drug addiction problems. Please send description of program services to AALGA, Drug & Alcohol Program, PO Box 50374, Atlanta, GA 30302 or call 997-LOVE. (V4,#3)

ACT UP MOVES TO MIDTOWN. Starting Tuesday, March 5th, ACT UP Atlanta will meet at the NAPWA offices at 98 6th St. in Midtown (between Peachtree and Juniper Streets). The meetings will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 7:30pm. For information, call the ACT UP Line at (404) 286-6247. (V4,#2) KEEP ACT UP/ATLANTA ACTING UP. To continue the fight against the AIDS crisis, we need donations of a fax machine, an answering machine w/remote mesage retrieval capabilities, a personal computer and software-IBM compatible MS-DOS is fantasized about, but we'll take what we can get, shelves, filing cabinets, a VCR and camcorder, and office supplies. Financial donations are accept ed, too. Call our 24-hour ACT UP Line at 404-286-6247 or write to us at ACT UP Atlanta, PO Box 57089, Atlanta, GA 30343-2089. (V4,#2)

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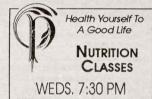


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GWF, professional, 50, seeks mature GWF, preferably 45-50, non-smoker, one who likes movies, dancing, the arts, good conversation, sports, weekend getaways...and all the fun and romantic things life has to offer, for possible relationship. Write and tell me a little about yourself. SV 2371 (V4.#4)

Thank you SS and KC for fulfilling my greatest fantasy. It was absolutely incredible and I'll never forget it. I can hardly wait to see what you'll come up with for my 40th. (V4,#1)

GWM 23, 5'10", 165, Br/Bl, enjoy movies, music, tennis, bowling, travel. Upbeat and sincere. Secks GWM 22 plus for friendship, possibly more. Boxholder, 2980 Cobb Pkwy., Suite 192-172A, Atlanta, GA 30339.

Muscular built masculine Bi man seeks same type for hot jocks and bikini. Very discreet but hot for regular buddy for man-to-man fun and games. Charles, P.O. Box 1003, Clarkston, GA 30021. (V4,#1)

GWM 25, 57", slim, tan, well-educated, strong-minded, creative, nice-looking, and TIRED of looking for the special GBM who is masculine, handsome, charismatic, and serious. 25-35. Are you out there? SV 2367 (V4,#4)

Valerie S., As the moon casts its glow against the velvet sky, A single teardrop cascades down my cheek and I momentarily pause...overwhelmed by the level of compassion and love that you've shown me. Than You, Baby, Pam (V4,#1)

Shirley Ger, break a leg in Nashville, I'll be thinking of you – wishing you were here! (V4,#1)

Attractive GWF Christian, 21, earnestly seeks same fr friendship. Let's take walks, share ideas, and have fun. I enjoy everything from The Beatles to old fashioned courting. Send a not and let's correspond. SV 2373 (V4,#4)

Two Tall Boon Dock Dykes, searching for that someone special (GWF) ages 30-55. We just can't find you. You're not in the bars, 4th Tuesday, WOW, ALACC, SAME, Front Runners, SESA, ALPHA, etc... We're free and easy-going. We love to do anything but drugs, and asparagus. Pleas write us: P.O. Box 785, Snellville, GA 30278. (V4,#4)

GWF, 21 "butchy-femme" type. I enjoy writing, movies, nature and good conversation. I'm looking for honest down-to-earth lesbians for friendship. Smoking and social drinking okay; drugs and "headgames" not. (404) 590-8081 – leave message for Tracey. (V4,#4)

GWF, 23, pleasingly plump, 3yr. old girl, femme – seeks GF, butch, 25-35 for friendship, possible relationship. Love picnics, books, music, dancing, writing & honesty. Send letter and phone number. SV 2370 (V4,#4)

CLEAN-LIVING COLLEGIATE handsome / attractive clean-living young WM seeks same type guys, under 27, for friendships, relationship and/or??? Please no drug users, alcoholics or unstable persons. SV 2369 (V4,#4)

F/M Transexual Butch seeks Bi/Gay Female for mutually rewarding, no strings relationship. Enjoy outdoors, hiking, backpacking, white water. Seeking light, easygoing fun times. You're feminine, intelligent, articulate lover of natural environment. SV 2376 (V4,#4)

Attractive GBM, 37, 5'5", 160#. New to Atlanta, loving, caring, monogamous. Minister seeking companion 28-40, any race, not ashamed of sexuality, no drugs. Reply with interests, phone #, photo if poss. to Herman, 1881 Flat Shoals Rd., Atlanta, GA 30316. (V4,#4)

GWF, 29, new to Atlanta, solvent, over-educated professional, sensitive, easy-going, non-dogmatic feminist. Hoping to discover friendship with intelligent, humorous, challenging woman 25-40. Flexible agenda. SV 2366 (V4,#2)

GWM, 32, 6'3", 175, HIV neg. alternative artist type, masculine / butch good looks, big mustache, buzz cut. Yet warm and very affectionate seeks similar, secure, versatile butch mainto longterm relationships. No sweater / loafer bar queens please! SV 2377 (V4,#4)

GBF, 28 feminine, friendly, genuine, attractive, seeks same GBF for fun and friendship. SV 2378 (V4,#4)

"Life Goes On" GWM, PWA, 28yrs, considered good looking. Enjoys life itself. Would like to meet someone who realizes love can still happen, and life is not over. Take a chance, I did. Photo appreciated, all replies answered. SV 2374 (V4,#4)

GWF, Blonde, blue eyes. Non-smoker, quiet, discreet, cat-lover desires similar mature GW femme (27-37) for friendship, eventual roommate. Strong, positive outlook is important. No drugs, No drama, No analysis. PO Box 14366, Atlanta, GA 30324. (V4,#4)

Are you over 6 feet? Masculine? Muscular? Charming? Handsome (very)? Down-to-earth? Between 22-35? Stable? Lonley? If you answered 'yes' to the above questions, then this incredibly cute boy/man, 22, is waiting to hear from you. No more lonely nights... Photo appreciated – returned. SV 2368 (V4,#4)

Black Gay Female, late 30's, attractive, secure, single would like to meet same for lasting commitment. Apply to SV 2375 (V4,#4)

Sporadically handsome, creative, nerdy, clearheaded, occasionally cranky, pretty much genuine GWM, 35, brn/blu, wiry 5'9" balding-w/mustache seeks winsome, jaw-y, encouraging, Randy-Travis-type boyfriend, 36+, brn/hzl, medium build 5'8" who likes gay stuff, God, auto repair, green vegetables. Write, willya? SV Box 2367 (V4,#3)

GWF, 26 seeking femm. GWF for friendship, possible relationship. True Romantic. Sensitive, caring. Love walks on the beach and in the woods and trips to the mountains. Write M.C. SV Box 2368 (V4,#3)

GWF seeks GWF (fem) (35-50) honest, sincere, non-smoker must enjoy music, movies, nature, not into bars or excessive drinking. No drugs, get high on life. Recent photo and letter, phone number, "Huggy", PO Box 1451, Buford, GA 30518. (V4,#3)

GWM, 20, UGA student, average looking, seeks GM, 18+, preferably from Athens area, relatively out, caring, and self-respecting. I'm shamelessly skinny, unpretentious, and friendly. Not into "straight-acting," attitudes, or games. Please reply to PO Box 2507, Athens, GA 30612. (V4 #3)

GBF, 38, feminine, warm, sincere and honest. Enjoy travel here and abroad, music, theater, candlelight dinners and cozy nights, would like to meet other lesbians. Reply letter and phone to SV Box 2365 (V4,#3)



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Straight White Male, 38, nudist, seeks clean and trim bi or straight female 20-30 who would like to share this lifestyle and has a professional attitude in promoting social nudity. PO Box 461, Grayson, GA 30221. (V4,#3)

Book lovers, film buffs, musicias, gardeners, home-bodies & students of life and love. This 50 yr. old writer/teacher wants you for a relationship. Jim, PO Box 2158, Decatur, GA 30031. (V4,#3)

GWM – slim 50ish, professional, seeks SLIM GBM for serious relationship. Tired of being alone? Me too! Plase send a letter with phone number, a photo if possible. Let's talk. SV Box 2364 (V4,#3)

Cute, kooky, inconoclastic, wildeyed, Italian boy, 34. Yankee bom & recently relocated here from Northern California. Seeking the pleasurable company of spontaneous, selfassured, romantic & passionate Black gentlemen of free will, humor & spirit (18-60). Please leave message 577-4189. (V4,#3)

GWF, 29, pretty, blondish, romantic femme into the arts, music, dance, would like to meet a pretty, sincere femme for a special relationship/friendship. Must be a quality person. Write/send photo if possible – will return. SV Box 2363. (V4.#3)

I am a masculine WM, 45, 6 ft, 170 lbs, attractive and physically fit. I enjoy travel, beaches and good times. Not into bars or stereotypical gay lifestyle. Looking to meet younger guys who appreciate a sane, stable relationship. SV Box 2361 (V4,#3)

GWF, 34, seeking honest sincere lesbians who socialize within the gay community. Wish to create HIGH-QUALITY FRIENDSHIP. Interests: spirituality, cultural events, or just "hanging-out" in a relaxed setting. I am VERY down to earth. Race not important. PO Box 48567, Atlanta, GA 30362. (V4,#3)

WANTED: BEAUTIFUL, BRAVE, BLACK LESBIAN!

You must be between 21 and 31, and capable of great tolerance and love. Your beauty should radiate from the inside out, and we should be able to connect spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally; if not, there is nothing lost, for hopefully we can become friends on some level. I am GBF, 26, quiet, intellectual, humorous, slightly eccentric, somewhat paradoxical, very loving and quite AWARE. SV Box 2366 (VA #3)

Help! Pretty Princess Dyke, 29, is looking for her counterpart. If you're a pretty, dark-haired femme or butch/femme who thinks she deserves the best-queenly treatment, then let's talk. Write/send photo if possible. SV Box 2362. (V4,#3)



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CLASSIFIEDS

GWF 34 new to area wishes to explore friendship in Georgia. Love to dance, read, laugh, sports and talk. Clean, professional, no drugs. Call 984-9978 and make me laugh. (V4,#2)

GWF, 25, 5'6" 145 lbs. Brown hair, blue eyes. Sometimes Butch? (YOU: 18-35 yrs.) Love dancing, talking, video's, cats. Lets start with friendship, possibly court into relationship. No drugs, booze or Bi's. Cigarettes okay. I'm a Yankee! Please send picture, phone. SV Box 2357. (V4,#2)

GWM, 25, 6', 160. Br/Hazel, masculine, intelligent, handsome, versatile. Enjoys sports, travel, the arts, partying 'til dawn, sitting before a fire w/someone special. Seeks compatible, successful, 18-35 year old for friendship...? SV Box 2360. (V4,#2)

GWF, 25, red hair, blue eyes, aspiring bodybuilder. Enjoy outdoors, love animals, music (rock, top 40), movies and photography. Seeking GWF 21-30 with similar interests for friendship. Photo requested, but not required. SV Box 2359 (V4,#2)

GWM – 45, 5'9, 138. Brown hair/mustache, lean, healthy, smooth, masculine. Enjoy travel, movies, photography, sports. Wishes to meet slender GWM. No Drugs. Note/photo. SV Box 2358 (V4,#2)

Distinguished, GBF, 18. Affectionate, easy-going, intellectual. Enjoys the arts/literary/humanitarian/travel pursuits. Needs GBF (18-?) for serious friendship/companionship. Maria, Route 1, Box 134-C2, Flora, MS 39071. (V4,#2)

Good-looking body builder into new thought (28-40) sincere, light drinker / no drugs. Possible relationship w/ GWM 33, 5'7", 150, br/br. Sincere, tight and lean. Send photo & phone # to: PO Box 7441, Atlanta, GA 30357 (V4,#3)

The right words will coax this shy exhibitionist/bottom to show and play for persuasive top. Safe, erotic, day-time fun. Open to all ages, races. 30ish WGM. Answer w/photo and your requests. SV Box 2338 (V4,#2)

GBF interested in corresponding with plump (bigger is better) GWF leading to friendship and fun. Age/looks not important. Romance and fun are. SV Box 2356. (V4,#2)

GWF professional, fitness oriented, likes outdoors. Seeks same (30-50) for friendship, fun and laughter. No bi's or drugs. SV Box 2355 (V4, #2)

I'm a lesbian studying ASL. Would like to meet deaf lesbians or certified interpreters for friendship and sign practice (No romance, I have a wonderful lover.) Into feminism, food, good literature. Write Karen, PO Box 5545, Atlanta, GA 30307. (V4,#2)

Businessman – GWM, 42, 5'10", attractive, young-looking, healthy, stocky, seeks relationship with man same age or younger. New to Atlanta. Live in Midtown. Recently took a sabbatical year in Europe. Call 881-0397 or write me directly – P.O. Box 56123, Atlanta, GA 30343. (V4,#2)

GAY INTRODUCTIONS

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Young Lesbian Couple – Like all types of music, Atlanta city lights, drinking, great friends, good times and new exotic adventures. Want to meet lesbians or lesbian couples for friendship, fun, adventure and more. 875-7843 (V4,#2)

Serious Only! GM with solid, good build, sincere, 30+ and single sought by HIV+ GBM, 39, with well defined body. I am into exercise and quiet evenings. Send letter, include name, number and photo if possible. SV Box 2352 (V4,#2)

Young white lesbian seeks mature lesbian for honest friendship and possibly more. 875-0338. (V4,#4)

Miss A. Parker, you're a Pices in Lawrenceville. I'm an Aquarian across from Options. You know how to lie and I know how to forget. You bring the carrots and I'll bring the pickles. (V4,#4) Masculine Southern guy wanted, 35-45 ONLY, to relocate to Chicago for a permanant relationship. I'm a GWM, 37, 5'6", masculine, hairy and stable. Prefer blue eyes, hairy. Into affection, mutual J/O, oral sex. Not anal. Call weekday evenings (312) 728-7479. (V4,#4)

GWF some-what fem, seeks butch/masculine or very dom female for friendship and progressively more. Race no problem (would like first time experiance with Black/Hispanic etc.) I like drinking, camping and all types of music, honest and open. 875-0338. (V4,#4)

GWF - 35 - seeks GWF for outside fun, camping, going to beach, plus all the other things that spring fever will bring. Let's get ready for spring. No Bi's. No drugs. "BLT", P.O. Box 1933, Lawrenceville, GA 30246. (V4,#3)

GWM 22, Cute. Interested in relocating to Atlanta from NC seeks wealthy GWM to assist in relocation and acclimation in exchange for domestic chores, cooking and companionship. Serious replies only to: Randy, 206 South Wake Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278 or call (919) 732-3880. (V4 #3)

Asian male seeks businessmen visiting Boston who are into CTS, Studio-7, and MH tapes. Prefer clean-cut, WM 21-45, healthy, HIV-, Yuppie collegiate, exec types A+. Married, bi welcomed. Photo optional. P.O. Box 1361, Boston, MA 02104. (V4,#3)

Wonderful woman wants to meet same. Write Jan, 1382 Prince Ave., Suite #16, Athens, GA 30606.

LESBIAN COUPLE 20 and 21, new to Atlanta. Enjoy movies, love animals, progressive music, sight-seeing, and talking. Both smoke & drink. Live in VA/HIGH. Would like to meet other lesbians for friendship. Call 876-6754. (V4,#3)

GWF, 23, seeks GWF for friendship and possible relationship. I'm thoughtful, sensitive, quiet, professional, not into bars, and enjoy music, movies, and nature. Please send a letter including your phone number. SV Box 2354 (V4,#1) GWF, 35, intelligent, attractive, romantic, affectionate. Enjoy outdoors, music, movies, candle-light and more. Am looking for person of similar attributes, for quality friendship but my opportunities are limited. Are yours? SV Box #2346, (V4,#3)

GBF, Butch, 33, 5'8" over 200 pounds. 2 female children, smoke, drink beer, considerate, understanding, person who enjoys a simple life, and simple pleasures. Conversation, photography, music, travel, etc. Friendship, possible relationship. Will answer all. SV Box #2347 (V4,#3)

ENJOY LEATHER, going out, traveling, games, watching TV? GWM, 32, 5'8", 145 lbs, Not into one night stands. Seeks relationship with hairy, kinky, cuddley man. Let me know what you're into, looking for and enjoy. Photo requested but not required. SV BOX 2348 (V4,#3)

GWM – Southern Ivy educated with Northern tendencies seeks GWMs 25-45. Hot top who likes a little music theatre or just talk. If you know Rossini is not just a pasta dish, answer this ad w/photo. SV Box 2345

WM, 44, seeks "lifestyle" sensitive female to explore new dimensions in intimacy. Educated, kind, healthy, new to opposite sex relationships, but committed to this as best option for me. Seeks same WF. Call 876-8147

36y. (5'10"-darkish) cultivated EUROPEAN seeks friendship with active, cosmoplitan + intelligent GWM (max. 55y old). Medical doctors, academics and businessmen welcome. Should have interest for the arts and be willing to correspond. Longterm relationships welcomed, but not preconditioned. Sensitivity is more important than your bank account! Write (+ photos) or call (evenings-my local time): GUHA/Oberländer Str.33/W-8000 Munich 70/ Germany. Tel.: (+89) 776556. (V4,#3)

GWM, 33, 5'10", 150 lbs, non-smoker, non-drinker, educated, playful, into travel, exercise, long walks, museums, tired of bars and games, seeks similar for fun / friendship / relationship. SV Box 2343 (V4,#3)

GWM, 45, seeks mature GBM in Rome, GA area for companionship or relationship. P.O. Box 3257, Rome, GA. 30164-3257 or (404) 236-9807. (V4, #3)

Attractive GWF, 5'7", 135 lbs. 18, yet mature. Blonde/Blue. Easy-going and passionate. Seek same (20-30) for fun and possible relationship. Send letter. (I know you are out there!) SV Box 2339. (V4,#3)

Tired of being lonely? Me too! GWM, 37, 5'7", 125lbs. Swimmer's build, thinning brown hair, hazel eyes, average looks, smooth – seeks WM (18-23) who is precocious, affectionate, dedicated, devoted, and seeking intense friendship / relationship. Steve 426-0182. (V4#3)

GWM 32, 6'3" Brn/Grn. Stable, selfemployed, down to earth. Seeks GWM 21-30 yrs for friendship and hopefully much more. PLEASE, no drugs or heavy drinkers. SV Box 2342. (V4, #3)

GWF, fem, 35, seeks mature GWF for friendship, fun, possible relationship. Are you honest, sincere, humorous, intelligent? Do you like to explore the city, travel the country? Are you a romantic? Write and tell me what you're looking for. SV Box 2344 (V4,#3)

GWM, HIV+, 30 yrs, 150 lbs. 5'10". Considered attractive. Non-working but financially secure. Would like to meet a self-confident man w/same circumstances for an all-around hangout buddy. Photo/phone/note. SV Box 2340. (V4,#3)

CATCH OF THE CENTURY — GWF — Butch, 37, Don't let me slip through your fingers. Financially stable, intellectually strong, emotionally secure. You are femme with similar qualities & someone I can adore and respect. You are ready to create a loving, safe, exciting, passionate, romantic, communicative, committed relationship. SV Box 2341. (V4,#3)

GWF – 19 seeks GWF (18-25) for friendship / possible relationship. Interests – Progressive Music, Little 5 Pts, dancing, concerts, roses. No fakes, please...write to: PO Box 516, Lebanon, GA 30146. (V4,#3) WM, 26, 5'8", 160. Inexperienced. Seeks older masculine discret hairy daddy type for understanding private closeness. Photo/phone. SV Box 2334 (V4,#3)

GWM, 30, HIV-, non-smoking, professional, attractive, masculne, athletic, stable, bright and passionate seeks same 27-33 for friendship & possible relationship. SV Box 2335 (V4,#3)

GWM, healthy, active PWA. Has too much free time, seeks same to fill some of it with. P.O. Box 44, Atlanta, 30301. (V4,#3)

GWF-39. Butch, but not masculine seeks GWF-Fem. (30-45) for friendship and possible long-term relationship. NO DRUGS. SV Box 2336. (V4.#3)

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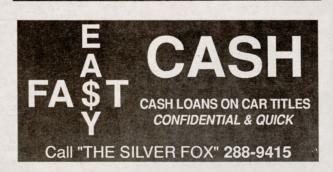
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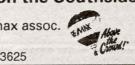
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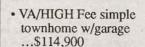
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Personal Growth Group for lesbians beginning in mid-March will focus on issues of intimacy, self-awareness, and trust. Initial interview required. For more info, call Laurie Richardson, M.S., Partners In Health/Chrysalis at 881-6300.

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HOME TO SHARE - White male PWA, non-smoker looking for same to share large luxury VA/H'land home. Will have own room + private bath. Must have stable income \$325/mo + 1/2 utilities. Available April 1. Call Peter 892-3805. (V4,#1)

GM/GF needed to share contemp. condo, Clairmont I-85 area, 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA, W/D, fireplace. \$375/mo. incl. util. Call 636-6164, leave a message. (V4,#1)

Ouiet GWF Student seeks similar to share 2-3 bed &bath apt. Luxurious, safe, inexpensive, in nature preserve in Smyrna - Many Extras. Utilities included. \$360.00. Call 984-9978 for details or leave message. (V4,#1)

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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.

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