

# VOICE

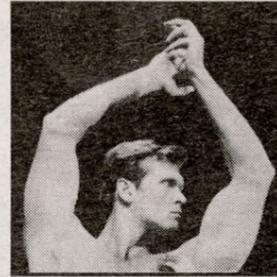
**Taking Pride in Our Culture**

## BOOZE



Substance abuse is a significant problem for lesbians and gay men. Some reasons and some help. 13

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Mr. Universe returns to 7 Stages. Is he every gay man's fantasy? 17

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DIBO's 11th Annual tournament means there'll be thunder in the lanes Easter weekend. 36

# Atlanta Gay Basher Sentenced to 21 Years

*Man convicted of aggravated assault despite his defense of "homosexual panic"*

by Patrick Garvey

Atlanta—Thomas Germain (a pseudonym) watched a 19 month nightmare come to an end on Wednesday March 13 as a Sheriff's Deputy handcuffed Michael Shannon and led him out of a Fulton County courtroom into a police van. A jury had just found Shannon guilty of aggravated assault and simple battery; Judge Frank Hull sentenced him to 21 years in prison.

On August 18, 1989, Shannon had attacked Germain with a sword—stabbing him in the chest, slashing his forearm to the bone, leaving his fingers dangling from his hand and nearly severing his ear. Since then Germain has incurred over \$100,000 in medical expenses. He goes to occupational therapy three times a week to regain the use of his fingers. Germain was fired from his job because of his injuries kept him from working full-time; he remains unemployed.

But, Germain says, it's his experience with the police inves-

tigation of his attack that has left him really despondent. He feels that the District Attorney's office would never even have been able to prosecute Shannon had Germain not taken it upon himself to produce certain evidence confirming the violent nature of the crime against him.

The sword Shannon used to attack Germain was lost in the property room of the Atlanta Police Department until Shannon tracked it down. He also followed up on a short-lived police investigation by taking pictures of the bloodstained walls and carpets in his apartment thus confirming the severity of the attack.

The sword and the pictures proved vital in the conviction of Michael Shannon because he and Germain offered distinctly conflicting testimony during the three day long trial.

Germain testified that he first saw Shannon in the now closed Pharr Library—a well known Buckhead gay club—on the night of Saturday August 17, 1989. He introduced himself to Shannon in the parking lot outside the club. Shannon, saying his name was Tony, asked Germain if he had any drugs. Germain replied that he had some prescription sleeping pills at his home.

Together, said Germain, they went back to his apartment where they each drank two beers and took a sleeping pill. He said that they hugged and kissed for a while before falling asleep on his bed.

The next morning, after cooking breakfast, Germain said he noticed that two more sleeping pills were missing. He asked Shannon about the missing pills and the man admitted taking them. During this discussion Shannon was looking at an antique Japanese sword that was part of Germain's antique collection.

Then without provocation, said Germain, Shannon attacked him with the sword, slashing him three times. Germain said he felt that his attacker would have killed him had he not maneuvered his way out the front door, using the sword to push Shannon away.

Germain ran to a neighbor's apartment and called the police. Atlanta Police Officer Brooker Wolf testified that the apartment was "a bloody mess" when he arrived. Shannon was nowhere in sight, but neighbors told police that they had seen a man in white shorts (Shannon was wearing white shorts and a California Angels T-shirt) fleeing the apartment complex shortly after the crime occurred.

See Basher, page 28

## Out of the Darkness:

*Family, friends, and support systems*

by Debbie Fraker

For some lesbians and gay men, family members are the first they come out to. For others, the family home is the last place they feel safe being open about sexual orientation. The potential for loss when coming out to one's family can't be denied.

Michael Bennett found himself completely cut off from most of his nuclear family as soon as they discovered he was gay, but his family never was very supportive. Bennett's experiences with his lover's family have been quite different, however. He and his partner, Stephen Henson, have been together for twelve years, and Stephen's family has served as a solid support system for both of them.

"The very first time I went to Little Rock (the Henson family home), I was standing in the kitchen cooking when Stephen's mother came in, put her arm around me and told me how glad she was that one of her children had married well," Michael remembered.

Bennett and Henson are also very close to Stephen's sister and her family, who live in Atlanta. But Michael has a special relationship with his mother-in-law. "Stephen just happened to mention that I wanted a lace tablecloth for the dining room table," Michael related, "and she said she had something she wanted to send me." What she sent was a handmade lace bedspread that had been in the family for over a hundred years.

When Michael talks about family, he talks about Hensons. He tells stories about their nieces and nephew, about family holidays, about sitting through family video sessions. Some of his friends assume his own family members are all dead. Michael may have lost one family by being honest, but that same honesty has gained him a far more supportive one.

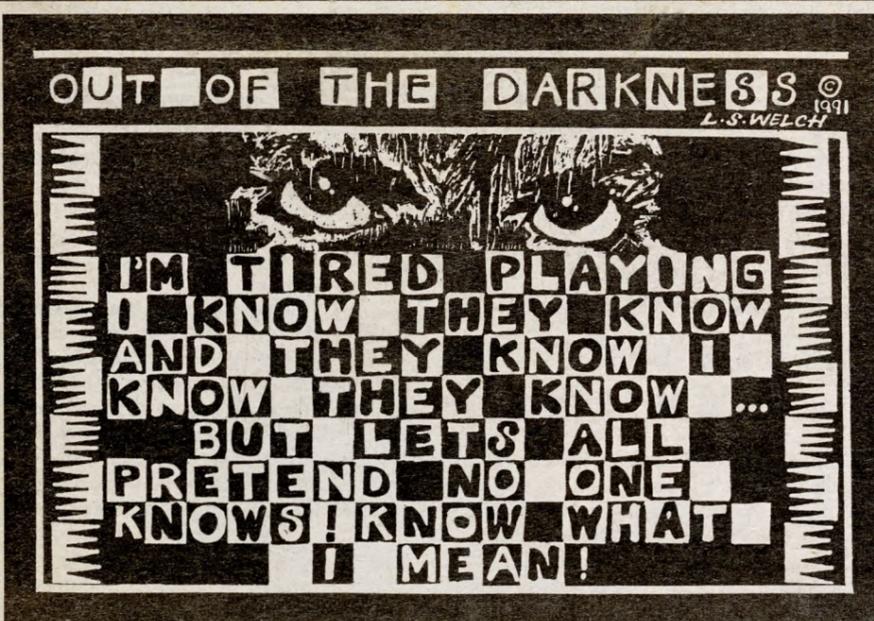
Teresa Dalton told her mother that she was a lesbian only after giving herself a couple of years to get comfortable with the idea, herself. Her mother's reaction was "as long as you're happy, I don't care what you're doing." Other family members found out shortly after. Since then, being "out" hasn't really been an issue. She prefers to be discreet and is generally not publicly demonstrative in relationships, but she doesn't hide herself from anyone.

Her mostly-straight, mostly-male co-workers are also her friends. And she doesn't hesitate to attend their social functions with her girlfriend. In fact, they met at work and are usually invited to the same parties anyway. Because Teresa was hired by someone she knew previously, coming out to her new co-workers wasn't a problem. "I never felt like I had to tell anybody, because everybody already knew." But that was fine with her, "I'd been in situations where no one knew and it was terrible," she adds.

Most of the Daltons live in the Atlanta area and get together regularly for holidays; Teresa's lover is welcomed as family. They have a rule that only family disciplines her older sister's little boy, and KK, the nephew's affectionate name for Dalton's girlfriend, is allowed to discipline him. The two of them enjoy babysitting together. Teresa is especially close to her mother and older sister, and the four of them get together often. "They're two of our best friends," Dalton says, "we even vacation together."

Melvin Ross came out to his family while he was in college. Melvin says that his father's immediate reaction was "we're paying for your education and we're not pay-

Continued on page 5



*There are lots of reasons for remaining closeted and invisible. It's hard to imagine a lesbian and or gay man who hasn't memorized the list.*

*But there are also some very good reasons for coming out of the closet and acknowledging one's identity as gay or lesbian. This is the first in a series of articles about those reasons.*

*The intent of these articles is not to deny that some individuals have good cause for keeping their sexual orientation a closely guarded secret. These articles will simply show another perspective on going public about who we are.*

*There's a second reason for this series. On June 22-23, Atlanta will hold its 20th consecutive Pride celebration. Atlanta's Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee has set a goal of 20,000 for attendance at this year's celebration.*

*Attending one or more Pride events does not require being out to everyone in the world. It does require a degree of bravery, pride and self-acceptance hard to come by in the darkness of the closet. We hope that this series will enable some of our readers to emerge from that darkness.*

## Activists' Seige of Cracker Barrel Continues

Company remains silent despite sit-ins and demonstrations at four sites; NYC pension fund trustees join the fray and mailgram campaign cranks up

by Patrick Garvey and Gary Kaupman

**Douglasville**—Customers were walking away from the Cracker Barrel restaurant here on Sunday afternoon, March 17, when they learned there would be at least a 45 minute wait for a table. About 50 protesters, organized by Queer Nation Atlanta staged a legal sit-in during the restaurant's busiest hours. The protesters occupied their tables for at least two hours ordering nothing but a beverage. They handed slips of paper explaining their protest along with \$5 tips to waitpersons as their orders were taken.

"We realize that you are not the source of the discriminatory employment policy..." the note read, "...we want to assure that YOU are not the next victim of renegade prejudice by Cracker Barrel..." Protesters reported that the waitstaff was generally polite and sympathetic throughout the action.

The protest's purpose was to hit the Lebanon, Tennessee based restaurant chain—which has already fired at least 11 employees because they were gay—where it hurts the most: in their revenues.

QN spokesperson Lynn Cothren said that protests will continue until Cracker Barrel rehires all lesbian and gay employees along with backpay; includes sexual orientation on its anti-discrimination policy; and makes a public apology with restitution to the gay and lesbian community.

Cheryl Summerville, who was fired from the Douglasville Cracker Barrel in mid-February because she is a lesbian, also took part in the protest. She explained that she was contacted by the restaurant's General Manager, Maurice Watson, and Associate Manager, Mike Carter, after her name appeared in print in several major newspapers, including the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Wall Street Journal*. During an hour and a half-long meeting, Ms. Summerville was offered her job back along with back pay.

"I told them that wouldn't be good enough," she explained, "because they haven't included sexual orientation on their anti-discrimination policy. I also told them I wanted a public apology to the gay and lesbian community." The managers called her two days later, and told her she would not be hired back.

Family members and close friends of Ms. Summerville were also present at the protest to offer their condemnation of the restaurant's policy of discriminating against lesbians and gays. Ms. Summerville's brother-in-law, Lane Biggs, said "I'm here to support Cheryl. I have three children, and if any of them turn out to be gay, we want to make sure this doesn't happen to them."

One customer, noticing a large table of protesters drinking coffee next to her, stated that she agreed with them. "Gay and lesbian people have the same rights as anybody else," she said.

At two o'clock all the protesters stood up, clasped hands and joined in a chorus of "We Shall Overcome," as they walked out of the restaurant in a group. Although a few insults were heard, many customers applauded the protesters' dramatic exit from the restaurant.

Cracker Barrel District Manager Jody Waller refused to answer any questions from the press. Saying that he "doesn't want to give any comment or get into any interview situation," the sullen manager asked that all questions be directed to the company's CEO, Dan Evins, in Lebanon, Tenn. Evins, however has repeatedly refused to respond to requests for comment from the press.

Evins has also refused to speak to representatives of Queer Nation Atlanta, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) or the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the three main activist organizations pressing Cracker Barrel to change its policies.

Queer Nation Atlanta staged another protest at the Lithonia Cracker Barrel on Saturday March 23 as this issue went to type. About 40 protesters staged a picket and sit-in lasting 2.5 hours. In Nashville, T-GALA has also staged two protests; in Charlotte, N.C., First Tuesday has also staged at least one protest.

Cracker Barrel has, however, responded to a letter written by Elizabeth Holtzman (Comptroller of the City of New York) and Carol O'Claireacain (the city's Commissioner of Finance). Both are trustees of five of New York City's retirement and pension funds. Those funds own 80,803 shares of Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores stock.

On March 12, Holtzman and O'Claireacain sent a letter to Evins expressing confusion with "the attitude of your company on this score [the firing of gay employees]" and concern about the value of the company's stock and earning potential in light of boycotts and pickets resulting from the policy.

"We would therefore appreciate receiving from you a clear statement of the company's policy relating to the role of sexual preference in employment. We would also like to be advised what remedial steps, if any, have been taken by the company respecting the employees dismissed because of their sexual preference," the letter concludes.

Evin's reply reached Holtzman's office on Friday, March 22. But, because the Comptroller was out of town, a copy was not available. A source who has seen Evin's reply suggested that it contained little, if any, new information on the company's employment policies.



KAREN DUNIGAN

Cracker Barrel District Manager Jody Waller tries to convince Larry Pelligrini to turn off his video camera during the sit-in. Pelligrini's tape was later aired on several local TV stations and Cable News Network. Joe Criscuola looks on. Waller told a Queer Nation member "We're getting people supporting us [because they dislike gays and lesbians]."

Additional pressure from the pension and retirement funds which own significant blocks of Cracker Barrel stock is a distinct possibility according to NGLTF's Ivy Young.

Young also reports that she, NGLTF lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic, and Greg Fisher (NGLTF and T-GALA board member) met with the staff of Sen. Albert Gore (D-TN) on Friday March 22. Gore is among a group of Democrats whose names are frequently mentioned as potential Democratic presidential candidates in '92. Shortly before the 1988 Democratic Convention, DeKalb County activists were successful in electing several openly gay delegates pledged to Gore.

"Among the things we pointed out," said Young "are the economic impact that boycotts and demonstrations could have on jobs and employment in his home state."

Gore's staffers told Young they would have a position paper ready for the Senator ready in "about a week."

A Mailgram Hotline has been established by Queer Nation, NGLTF and T-GALA for those who wish to make their displeasure known to Cracker Barrel.

The three groups are urging gay men, lesbians and their supporters to call 1-800-325-6000, Hotline ID # 9823 to send a prepared message to CEO Dan Evins. The cost of the telegram is \$7 and it can be charged to the caller's phone, MasterCard, VISA, or American Express.

## NYC Mayor Sides with Gays in St. Patrick's Dispute

Dinkins supports his city's lesbian and gay community, despite insults, taunts and beer shower

by Patrick Garvey

**New York**—New York's Mayor David Dinkins has proved himself worthy of the support of the Big Apple's lesbian and gay community. After a week of furious negotiations with parade organizers—who had refused to allow a local Lesbian and Gay Irish Association to march in the annual parade—Dinkins was able to negotiate a compromise. The lesbian/gay contingent marched, without their banners, as the guests of Division 7 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. And Dinkins, rather than leading the parade as is customary, marched with the gay/lesbian contingent.

During the march, Mayor Dinkins learned about some of the homophobia which exists in his city, and around the country. According to the *New York Times*, he was booed for miles, hurled with insults and taunts, sprayed with beer and had cans thrown at him as he accompanied the gay contingent down Fifth Avenue.

"How can people have so much hate stored up?" he asked a reporter. "I don't ask them to like me or like gays or lesbians. You don't have to like them. But you should treat them civilly, treat them fairly...it's just sad that there are so many bigots around."

Mayor Dinkins likened what he saw at the parade to his experience marching for civil rights in Birmingham, Alabama. "There was far, far too much negative comment," he added.

However, at the outdoor celebration in Greenwich Village after Saturday's abuse-marred parade, Mayor Dinkins was greeted with gratitude and jubilation for his willingness to support the lesbian and gay community.

Engulfed in cheers and surrounded by beaming faces, Mr. Dinkins danced the Irish jig, and many observers even reported the normally undemonstrative Mayor to appear misty eyed—touched by a demonstration of affection for him.

Many in the crowd of revellers shook the Mayor's hand, patted him on the shoulders and embraced him while a lilting accordion played "We Shall Overcome."

"Thank you so much," said Brendan Fay, one of the kilt-clad dancers. "I'm so proud of you. It was the best St. Patrick's Day I ever had."

"All I did was what I was supposed to do," Mr. Dinkins replied.

Mayor Dinkins is also finding support in the political arena. "This is a galvanizing moment," Thomas B. Stoddard, of the gay rights organization Lambda Legal Defense, told the *Times*. "It demonstrates once and for all that lesbians and gay men are full partners in the development and life of the city."

Some political analysts are impressed with Mr. Dinkins growing willingness to take unequivocal stands on causes that are important to him, even if others don't like it. "He's (Mayor Dinkins) finding that not addressing some issues is not how he wants to be

Mayor," explained Basil A. Patterson in a *NY Times* news analysis. "He's been involved in these issues and he knows they're controversial. But he knows there's a right position that he wants to take. I think you'll see far more of that."

## HIV Tests for Arrestees OK'd by Legislature

**Atlanta**—Persons arrested for crimes which could transmit HIV will soon be subject to testing for the virus. In the final days of its '91 session the Georgia legislature passed H.B. 554 which would permit the victim (or guardian of the victim) of "a sexual offense" or "other crime which involves significant exposure" to HIV to request a test of the person accused of the crime.

The "sexual offenses" included under the law include rape, sodomy, incest, molestation and solicitation for sodomy. The bill describes "significant exposure" as "contact of the victim's ruptured or broken skin or mucous membranes with the blood or bodily fluids of the person arrested." Tears, saliva and perspiration are excluded except in quantities determined to be dangerous by the Centers for Disease Control. The CDC has consistently said that HIV cannot be transmitted through those fluids.

If the arrested individual refuses to be tested, a superior court judge may order the testing provided "probable cause can be shown."

Georgia AIDS Coalition lobbyist Jeff Corrigan said that he was not pleased with the bill, but felt that inclusion of the provision for

the court order and the use of C.D.C. definitions provided substantial safeguards against widespread abuse of the law.

On a more positive note, the bill prohibits judges from considering the HIV status of a person convicted of a sex crime when sentencing the individual.

H.B. 690 which would have made AIDS a reportable, traceable venereal disease died in subcommittee. H.B. 741, which would have mandated that school administrators be notified of the HIV+ status of any of their students, will be held over until next session.

Escaping the budget crunch, state funding for AID Atlanta remains the same as last year. Substantial last minute confusion over the \$800,000 appropriation was caused by the fact that it represents only three quarters of the expired private and federal demonstration grant funding that it was meant to replace.

Rep. Jim Martin (D-Fulton), who chairs the appropriations subcommittee that handled the funds, said that he felt confident that the additional quarter's funding would be made available if requested federal funds did not make up the shortfall.

## The Maynard and Michael Report

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

Action taken by Fulton County Commission Chairman on gay/lesbian or AIDS issues in the past two weeks: None.

**Florida Court OK's Gays to Adopt Kids**

A Monroe County Circuit Court judge has ruled that a 14 year-old Florida law which prohibits gays from adopting children is unconstitutional. Judge M. Ignatius Lester found that the law violated the constitutional right to privacy of Key West resident Edward Seebol, 53, who had sought to adopt a child for whom he had already served as court-appointed guardian. New Hampshire is the only other state in the nation which specifically precludes lesbians and gay men from adopting, but judges all over the country regularly prohibit adoption by openly gay parents based on sodomy laws, according to Ivy Young of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "They have the Hardwick decision rattling around in their brain," said Young, "and that really hurts us in both custody and adoption hearings. That's why sodomy reform is so important.

**Kowalski Guardianship Case Delayed Again:** Minnesota District Court judge Robert Campbell has delayed Karen Thompson's request for guardianship of her lover Sharon Kowalski yet again by reopening hearings in the case. A decision on the request, filed in 1989, is now not likely until late June, 1991 according to Thompson, who is the only person to have filed a request to become Kowalski's guardian. "This is another in long series of legal hoops through which Karen and Sharon have been forced to jump in this case," said Rosemary Dempsey of the National Organization for Women.



CATHERINE AMES

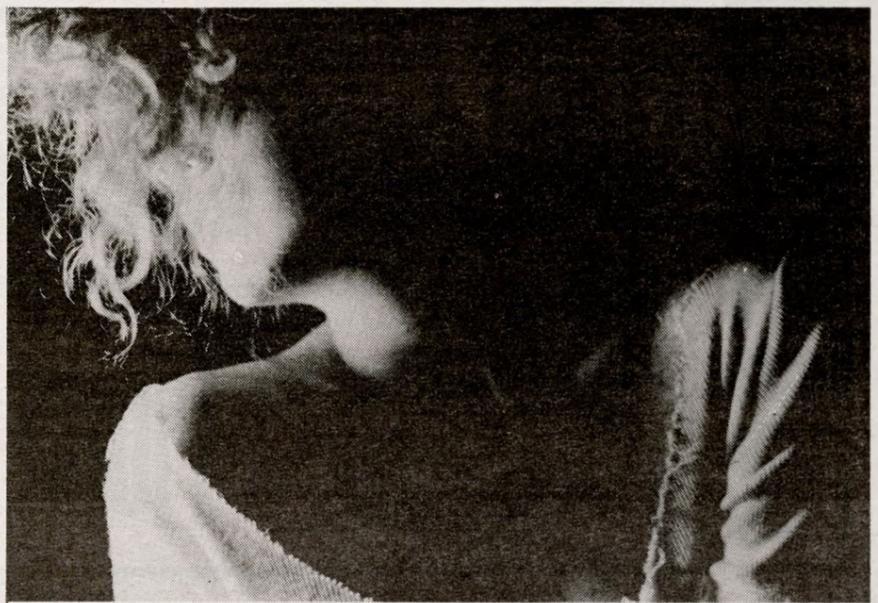
**Taking It to the Streets:** Carrying a huge cardboard "Wall of Women," spanning all four lanes of Market Street, 1000 women marched through the streets of downtown San Francisco on March 8, International Women's Day. The march, sponsored by Women Against Imperialism and the International Women's Day Demonstration Committee, was to protest violence against women, racism and the war in the Persian Gulf. Following the "Wall" were 10-foot puppets of women from around the world, and street performers on stilts and dressed in black with mime faces.

**Consumer Watchdogs Tackle "Immune Booster":** Advertisements for "Immune+Plus" claimed that the "balanced vitamin, mineral and protein product" could retire the immune system of persons who have AIDS or HIV infection. In response to the advertising which appeared in *Outweek* magazine, the city of New York's Department of Consumer Affairs has charged the California manufacturer of the "wonder drug" and True Health, Inc., which made the promotional videotape for the product, with false advertising and misleading the public. "...this ad is nothing short of cruel and fraudulent," said Mark Green, the NYC Consumer Protection Commissioner. "The ads for 'Immune+Plus' crassly exploit people who are either sick with AIDS or at risk of getting the disease." While this is the first case brought under a NYC regulation which restricts the language in advertising for "immune boosters" it is the fourth time Gotham's consumer watchdogs have moved against what they call deceptive AIDS advertising.

**Homos Disrupt "Straight Pride" Rally:** Organizers of "Conservative Awareness Week" at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst learned what it was like to be silenced, when gay rights proponents shouted them down at their "Second Annual Straight Pride Rally." Students from conservative groups found themselves in the minority as 500 protesters drowned out the hour-long event, waving posters with pink flags and shouting "Homophobia has to go." A recent study conducted by the American Council on Education indicates that homophobia is still alive and well on American campuses. The survey found that 44.4 % of college freshman believe that the government should criminalize gay sex. Sixty-five percent felt that abortion should be legal; 66.4% felt the best way to control AIDS was through widespread testing; and about 30 percent of the freshman defined themselves as "born-again Christians."

**DC Hate Crimes Bill Upheld:** The nation's capitol has authorization to prosecute cases under its Bias-Related Crimes Act. The constitutionality of the act had been challenged by attorneys for two Virginia youths charged in an August 1990 gay bashing. Superior Court Judge Harold L. Cushenberry rejected the defendants contention that the law was unconstitutional. The ruling cleared the way for prosecution of the men who are charged with attempting to murder two gay men with a billy club while shouting "kill the fags."

**Gertrude Stein Lands on Venus:** During the past 13 years, scientists from the Soviet Union and United States have named surface features of Venus, the second planet from the sun, after more than a hundred famous women, mythological heroines and goddesses. A volcano-like crater was named Sappho, after the Greek poet from the island Lesbos. Two other craters were named after American lesbian authors Willa Cather and Emily Dickinson. Now, the Washington Blade reports, the Magellan Project is recommending naming a crater triplet after Lesbian expatriate author Gertrude Stein.



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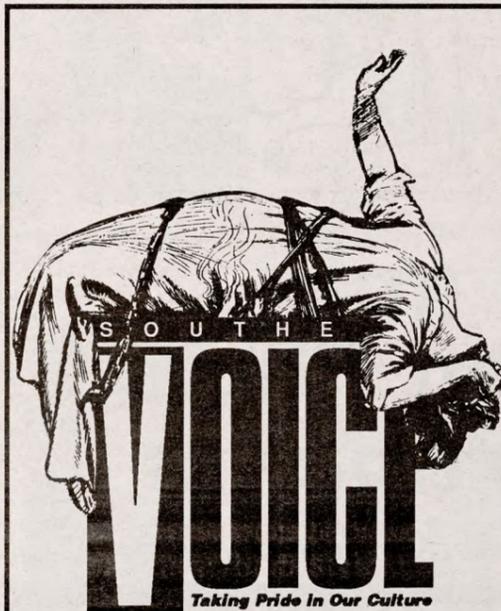
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**New Deterrent to Gay Bashing?**

Two Nebraska physicians may have stumbled upon a new, deadly deterrent to gay bashing. Dr. Paul Carson and Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith say that they are treating a 49 year-old heterosexual man with AIDS whose only apparent risk factor is that he regularly roamed the streets of New York from 1982-88 and attacked gay men with his fists. The man told doctors that he got small cuts on his hands when he hit the men who frequently bled profusely as the result of the attacks. Carson told the *New York Times*, "There is no way to prove this 100%, but it is a plausible possibility."

**Lawsuit Challenges NEA's "Decency Code":** Calling the National Endowment for the Arts' "general standards of decency" unconstitutionally vague and an impermissible restraint on free speech, the ACLU has filed lawsuit against the NEA in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. "When a standard is so meaningless, the door is open for denials of funding based on political point of view, rather than artistic merit," ACLU lawyer Nan Hunter told the *Associated Press*.

**Homophobic Remarks in Federal Court:** A senior Federal judge in Washington D.C. is being asked to disqualify himself from a case for using the word "homo" three times to describe former midshipman Joseph Steffan, who is suing the United States Naval Academy for dismissing him from the Academy because he is gay. "When he said it a chill went right through me," said Sandra J. Lowe, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, quoted in the *New York Times*. "...[the remarks] absolutely made the hearing come to a standstill."

**Gay Rights Bill Nearly Passed in New Mexico:** Civil Rights proponents in New Mexico almost made their state the third in the country to pass a comprehensive Gay Rights Bill. The bill was introduced to the state legislature, and defeated by the close margin of 24-15. The New Mexico Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance said in a press release that they were pleased with what they accomplished in their first effort to pass a gay rights bill. The bill would have amended the New Mexico Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in matters of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

**Coalition Makes Plans for '92 Sodomy Repeal:** On Tuesday, April 9 the Georgia Privacy Coalition will meet at the Peachtree Branch Library to hold a post-legislative session meeting. Rep. Jim Martin, who authored this year's sodomy repeal legislation, will attend the meeting to discuss how to build on the extensive progress made during this year's effort. Rep. Cynthia McKinney will also attend the meeting. Georgia Privacy Coalition meetings are free and open to the public, newcomers are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

**"Little Shop of Horrors" Author Dies at 40:** Howard Ashman, an Oscar-winning lyricist and a librettist, playwright and director who wrote and staged the Off-Broadway hit "Little Shop of Horrors," has died of AIDS. The show, based on a low-budget movie, ran five years and became Off-Broadway's highest grossing and third-longest-running musical. A movie version of the musical won him an Academy Award nomination. Mr. Ashman, collaborating with the composer Alan Menken, won an Oscar in 1989 for "Under the Sea," a popular song in the Disney film "The Little Mermaid". He had also recently completed work on two other animated Disney features, "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin." Ashman was predeceased by his lover William Lauch.

**Another Dentist's Patients Tested for HIV:** The patients of a Delaware dentist who died of AIDS are being given free HIV tests, according to the *NY Times*, despite the fact that CDC officials determined that the sterilization procedures used by Dr. Owens "were better than you'd find in most dental offices in the country." Owens stopped performing oral surgery and extractions when he learned that he was carrying HIV, but he continued to perform routine procedures until several weeks before his death.

**Gay Man to Lead Anti-Discrimination Agency:** Michael Duffy, the first openly gay person to ever serve as commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, has been sworn in by the state's Republican Governor Bill Weld. "My appointment of Mike Duffy," explained Gov. Weld during the ceremony, "...is primarily based on personal history, and years of enduring and fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation."

**OUT OF THE DARKNESS** © 1991 L.S. WELCH

Cont'd from page 1

ing for a faggot." Ross's response was "that's your choice. If this means my having to pay for college, so be it." But Ross's family eventually came around to accepting his lifestyle, even becoming supportive. "They have a much keener respect for me," he says, "knowing I'm not going to back down to anybody."

But even after learning to accept his son's lifestyle, the elder Mr. Ross was disappointed. "Black middle class families have such aspirations for their children," Melvin says. "I guess it was disappointing because they'll never have offspring through me." Ross's father's most consistent objection seems to be visibility. "He said, 'well, do you have to tell everybody?'"

When asked about his parents' reaction to his bringing home white dates, Ross related a recent experience with a man he took home to Mom and Dad. "My parents were a little shocked. They didn't want to ask the obvious questions. He happened to have the same last name as me, and I know they wanted to ask if we had gotten married."

His membership in Black and White Men Together has been important for an out-of-the-closet Ross. "I get to meet other black gay men who serve as a support system," he says.

Ross is adamant about the role of gay men and lesbians in this society: "As gay people, we have to be at the forefront of social change, not in the background." But that's another article. Family and friends are supposed to provide support systems, but they can't really be supportive if they don't know

you. And how do they really get to know who you are if you don't tell them?

Last winter Opal Fraker discovered that her daughter is a lesbian. It took some getting used to, but they developed new ways of communicating as mother and daughter.

"My knowing that she's a lesbian hasn't made her a different person," Opal says. "She's still my daughter; she's still the same person I've always loved and sometimes hated." Last June, Fraker called her daughter the week before the Pride parade to ask if she was free to spend that Sunday together. When daughter Debbie invited her to the march and rally, Opal's first response was a quick "no." She feared she would not fit in, that gay men and lesbians marching for pride might prefer not to have someone's straight mother in the crowd. After being assured that was not a problem, Opal agreed to go, and her positive response surprised them both.

After the rally Debbie and Opal went to Blake's for a beer where Opal met some folks from P-FLAG and discovered she wasn't the only parent there. "Mostly I remember a feeling of friendship and togetherness," Opal relates, "I could feel the pride in all the people there."

Walking proudly together down Peachtree Street in front of TV cameras and churchgoers brought the two women closer to each other than they had ever before been.

Or, as author Armistead Maupin once suggested, "Stop insulting the people who love you by assuming they don't know you're gay."

"I think attending the conference will be a positive step for young lesbians towards transcending our modern patriarchal education."

— KT Slaughter  
20 year old Out lesbian

"The conference gives me an opportunity to reaffirm my voice with other lesbians in speaking out against discrimination based on sexual orientation."

— Joan Garner  
Co-Chair African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance, and Senior Advisor to the Mayor on the Lesbian and Gay Community

"Because it's a time for getting OUT - getting ourselves OUT of the closets, our sisters OUT of the prisons - and our government OUT of Central America and the Mideast!"

— Judy Siff  
Lesbian Activist

"Because the group I'm in has a specific idea we want to communicate, and the conference seems like a good place to do that."

— Eleanor Smith  
Disabilities Activist

"To encourage all lesbians to move to my neighborhood, and to see if there are any new hairstyles I need to be aware of."

— Sherry Siclair  
Grand Czarina, Digging Dykes of Decatur Garden Club

"It's a great opportunity for women to meet lesbians involved in national civil rights organizations, and to provide input into the agendas of those organizations."

— Cathy Woolard  
S.E. Regional Field Manager, H.R.C.F.

"Wouldn't miss it! Watching people is my favorite form of entertainment, and I have a feeling I will be thoroughly entertained."

— Christina Cash  
Publisher, Southern Voice

"To empower women through sharing skills and information regarding lesbian healthcare issues, specifically alternative methods of creating a family."

— Amy Bernstein  
Clinic Supervisor, Feminist Women's Health Center

"It's important to include a voice from the arts in setting a national lesbian agenda."

— Lisa Mount  
Managing Dir., 7 Stages Perf. Arts Ctr.

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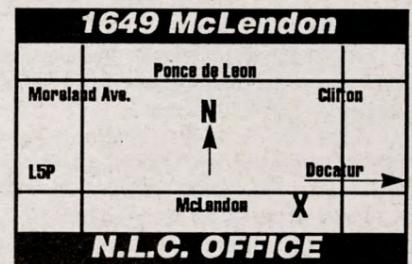


"The N.L.C. is my opportunity to rejuvenate myself with lesbian strength, and to meet woman of the magnitude of Charlotte Bunch."  
— Samantha Claar  
President N.O.W., Atlanta Chapter

"The N.L.C. is my opportunity to exchange ideas with other lesbians. I'm making the most of it!"  
— Debbie Fraker  
Operation Mgr., Image Film and Video

"To support lesbian visibility in a town where we are too often invisible."  
— Maggie Hasbrouck  
AIDS Activist, Out businesswoman

"To raise hell."  
— KC Wildmoon  
Columnist, DJ, Rock-n-Roller



GUEST EDITORIAL

# Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill Introduced in Congress

Here's how you can help

When Cracker Barrel Restaurants fired nine lesbian and gay employees last month, they established publicly what other businesses have done privately for ages—that they discriminated against individuals solely on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Because lesbians and gay men are an "invisible minority," many of us choose to hide in the closet when discrimination occurs in the belief that this behavior will prevent further victimization. Complicating the fight against homophobic discrimination is the fact that there are few laws which protect us against this kind of injustice. However, there is a bill pending in Congress which would directly address an array of situations where discrimination against lesbians and gays occurs.

The federal Civil Rights Amendments

Act, commonly referred to as the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill, would add "affectional and sexual orientation" to the list of classes protected from discrimination under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

If the Bill were to become law, it would be illegal to treat lesbians and gay men differently from nongay people in employment, housing, public accommodations, programs receiving federal money or facilities owned, operated or managed by any state or subdivision of a state. It would also outlaw discrimination in restaurants, stores, hotels and other places where services or goods are sold.

The Bill would prohibit the use of statistical evidence to demonstrate discrimination and the use of quotas to remedy discrimination. It defines affectional or sexual orientation to include male or female

homosexuality, heterosexuality or bisexuality by orientation or practice.

The Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill was recently reintroduced for this Congress in both the House and Senate. Human Rights Campaign Fund lobbyists are working hard to add House and Senate cosponsors to the list of supporters. In order to maximize our success, we need the assistance of constituents in targeted areas. You can play an important role in the legislative process by writing the following members of the Georgia delegation:

Senator Wyche Fowler  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Sam Nunn  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Ben Jones  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Note: Rep. John Lewis is the only member of the Georgia delegation to cosponsor this bill. If you live in District 5, write Congressman Lewis and thank him for his early support and ask him to encourage other members of the delegation to sign on.

Points to Make in Your Letter:

- Urge your Senator or Member of Congress to become a cosponsor of the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill.

- Include personal anecdotes about homophobic discrimination which might have occurred to you or a loved one. Or make reference to the recent Cracker Barrel incidents.

- A 1989 Gallup poll showed that 71% of Americans support legislation that would establish "equal rights in terms of job opportunities" for lesbians and gay men, up from 59% in 1982.

- Ask the legislator to respond to your letter with a statement of their position on the bill.

So that HRCF staff members can monitor constituent pressure on Members of Congress, please send a copy of your letter(s) to:

Cathy Woolard  
Southeastern Regional Field Manager  
Human Rights Campaign Fund  
Post Office Box 375  
Decatur, Georgia 30031-0375

For more information about HRCF and our grassroots political activities, please call me at 373-6330.

—Cathy Woolard

## FROM THE EDITOR Readers Say, "Keep it Up"

Last issue we ran a small poll asking that readers tell us how they felt about how Maynard Jackson was doing on lesbian/gay and AIDS issues. We also asked if *Queer Nation* and *Southern Voice* should continue to pressure on the Mayor to keep his campaign promises.

We received 26 responses. Twenty said that Maynard was dragging his feet and QN & SV should keep after him.

One caller said that Maynard was doing fine on our issues adding "you lesbians have a lot to learn about politics." Since I signed the editorial associated with the poll, I must assume that this gentleman is somewhat confused.

Five readers chose to fill in the blank. One said keep after Maynard, but make him tell the mainstream media what he is doing for us. Good idea.

Another said keep after Maynard and "get after Lomax." We've been doing that for almost a year now. If and when the Fulton County Commission Chair gets out of the cesspool he's dug for himself on property taxes and contract cronyism, he might be worth the effort. Until that time we fear Michael is a lost cause on lesbian and gay issues.

That (minus the particular problems) is exactly what yet another reader said about Maynard—"he's a lost cause."

"He's OK—but—let's remember—we are not the only group," opined yet another.

Finally there was an unsigned note from a reader who offered "...there's always room for improvement" and then launched into a criticism of my "sometimes petty, always petulant and in the long run insignificant" introduction to the editorial on Maynard. The real question, suggests this reader, is "whether SV's approach is productive or counter productive." The writer makes some other good points in the note. I'd appreciate it if he (I'm assuming it's a man) would drop us a note with his

name and phone number.

Since most who replied to the poll suggest that pressure on the Mayor be continued, here's another, albeit kinder and gentler, letter.

Dear Mayor Jackson:

Please take a couple of minutes to read the story about Mayor Dinkins on page 2 of this issue. Here's a Mayor who is not afraid to buck one of the most politically powerful constituencies in his city in order to stand up for the rights of lesbians and gay men. And note, please, that this is not a story we dug from the bowels of an obscure gay publication. The *New York Times* covered it for seven consecutive days. So did Gotham's TV stations. Most editorial comment was positive, too.

Sir, may we humbly suggest that if the besieged mayor of a city like New York—one that is embroiled in an extraor-

dinary fiscal and social crisis—can take the kind of action that Mr. Dinkins did, you can too.

Sincerely,  
Gary Kaupman

but other, generally positive pieces on "Lambs" have also appeared in *Outweek*. The publication itself has not, and likely will not, take any position on the film.

## Clarification

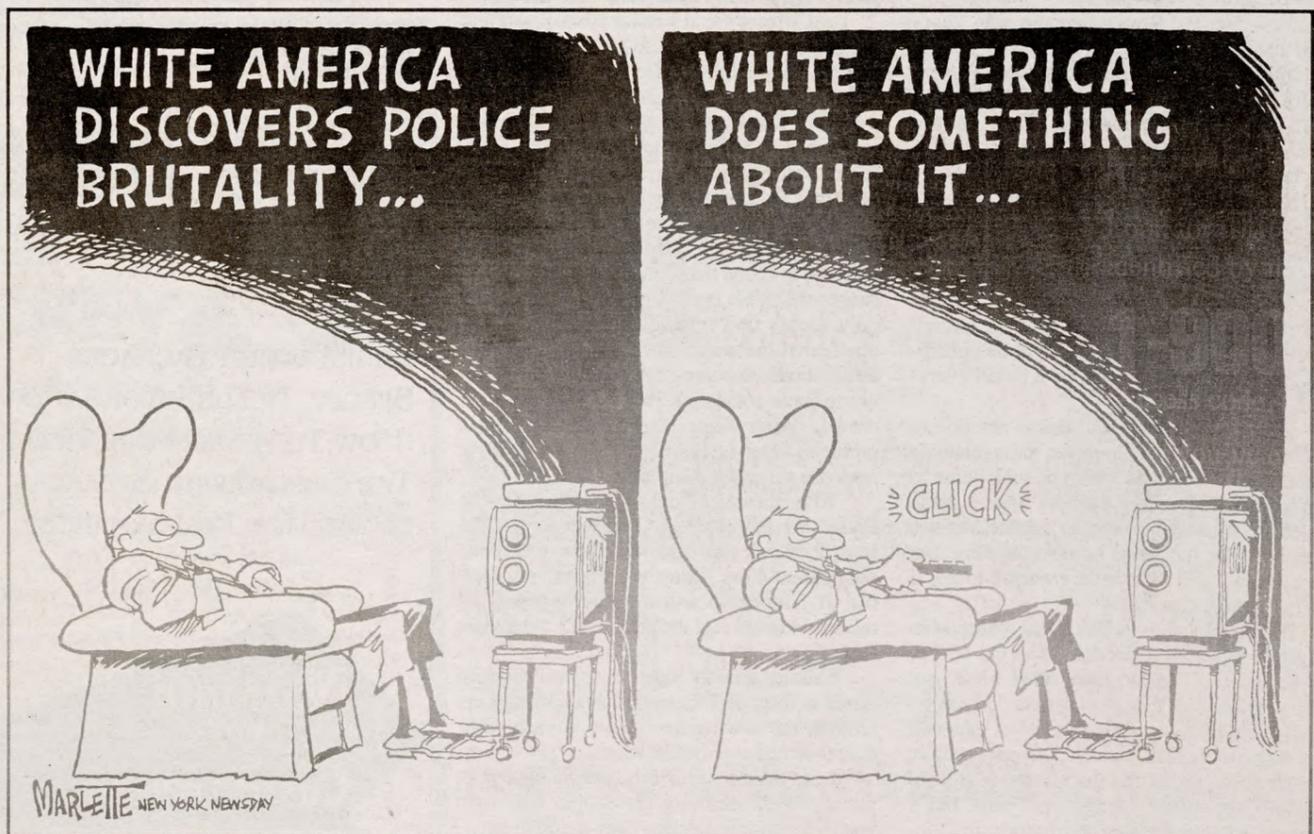
Terry Francis' review of "The Silence of Lambs" in our Feb 28 issues made mention of the fact that *Outweek* magazine was one of a number of gay/lesbian publications or groups offended by the film.

Andrew Miller, *Outweek's* news editor, tells us that this is an inaccurate statement. According to Mr. Miller, *Outweek* columnist Michelangelo Signorile has spoken out against the film,

## Congratulations and Bravo

Dear Atlanta,

As a long time resident of the Nashville gay community, I have seen many fine performers throughout the years representing your fine city, but none so eloquently as I witnessed on Sunday night, Feb. 24th, at the Ms. Tennessee pageant, held at our Warehouse II. The pageant was won by Ms. Sable Channel of Atlanta who narrowly edged out first runner-up Ms. Amber Richards. Yet there was much more to this night that Atlanta should be proud of that



**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

**The Process of Processing**

I'm worried about us. Lesbians, I mean. Well, I guess probably more of us than just lesbians suffer from the malady that worries me; it just seems more pervasive in lesbian circles.

I'm talking about Processing. Maybe I shouldn't call it a malady. Like most things, it's not in and of itself bad. The problems come with what we do with those things, like processing, once we discover and start using them.

By way of example, take a look at computers. Not too many years ago, the idea of owning a personal computer was complete anathema to large chunks of the lesbian community, because we all knew they were tools of the patriarchy. But we finally figured out that they are just tools, and anybody can use them. Even *Lesbian Connection* is output on a PC now, and no one, to my knowledge, claims that *LC* is a patriarchal mouthpiece.

But back to Processing. What happens in Processing is that everybody sits around and talks about whatever comes to mind, usually starting with a certain topic. The idea is to have an open forum in a safe space (this is crucial—I'll get back to it later) for all involved to have input. This is not a bad thing. In fact, it's sometimes miraculous.

It's vital to sort through our ideas, our feelings, talk with one another about, well, everything. It's important, because for too long we've taken a back seat and let the Powers That Be (*whoever* They be) tell us what to think, how to feel, what to do, how to be.

What happens all too often, however, is that we use Processing as a substitute for Proceeding. Instead of focusing on the task at hand, we get lost in this, that, or the other issue. We waste valuable time and energy arguing points of validity that may or may not have anything to do with what's in front of us to do. The results? Not much. Usually those involved issue a statement of opposition to, or in support of, whatever issue bogged them down.

There's certainly plenty of room for Processing. But when it comes to *working*—organizing, producing, etc.—there comes a point where we've got to let go of that and get down to the hard part, the actual *doing* of something.

I don't mean to say that we should skip dealing with issues. That is, in fact, an important part of our work. But it is only part of it. The rest involves the nitty-gritty, down-on-our-hands-and-knees, shoulder-to-the-wheel grind.

Processing brings possibilities of positive change. But I've noticed here in the Lesbian World that sometimes it's a dangerous thing. I mentioned before that

Processing should provide a safe space for input-providing. More often than not, it's anything but.

Far too many of us use Processing as a place to accuse and condemn others of every evil we can think of. And mostly that's true. We live in a society that has taught us well. Show me someone with no -isms and I'll decree that the Persian Gulf War was Armageddon, and we can all go home in peace.

We've all got the -isms, but I personally know very few who aren't aware of those things in themselves. And that goes especially for those actively involved in our Fair Community.

What I'd like to see is us easing up on each other a little bit. Let us grow, and more importantly, let us pick up a shovel and dig. Please don't throw us into an all night discussion about whether or not the shovel, or the act of digging, is patriarchal and/or oppressive.

It is, in truth, exactly what we make it.

inspired me to pen this letter.

Through a calamity of events, Ms. Richards found out, just hours before the pageant, that her dancers for the event would not be able to participate. I could only conjecture how devastated she must have felt to see months of planning and rehearsing, not to mention financial investment, so tragically wasted. Many performers would have walked away or sulked or even more likely, been bitter and defiant throughout the evening, but not Ms. Richards! She won the interview event and was stunning in evening gown, which she also won. In the talent event, by herself, she couldn't quite match Sable and her precision dancers, who put on an outstanding performance.

Never once during the entire evening did I not see a smile on Ms. Richards' face even after the awards were presented.

Congratulations! Ms. Sable Channel! Bravo! Ms. Amber Richards!

R. Bates  
 Nashville

**Housing Needed**

To the Editor:

We would like to extend the invitation for all of us to consider extending Southern hospitality to lesbians coming to Atlanta for the National Lesbian Conference this April. We have had great experiences taking advantage of community housing when attending other conferences. Wonderful connections have been made by those of us who have housed or stayed with others in their homes.

Many lesbians would like to attend the conference though they can not afford the cost of a hotel/motel. Creating spaces in our homes here in Atlanta would make that possible for lesbians who otherwise might not be able to attend.

Greet lesbians from all over the U.S.A. and beyond Southern style with some Southern hospitality. If you would like to be a part of the community housing network here in Atlanta, please call 373-6152. Thanks in advance.

In Solidarity,  
 The Southern Hospitality Committee,  
 National Lesbian Conference

**It's Past Time**

Dear Editor,

It is apparent that until the gay and lesbian community organizes state and nationwide to elect gay and lesbian representatives, our interests will not be represented.

I was and am outraged to see that Larry Walker (House Majority Leader) and obviously the entire body of elected representatives feel that our issues are not of importance. Larry Walker was quoted in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* this morning saying "... But I don't know of any (bills in committee) that will alter the quality of life that won't make it." Mr. Walker obviously feels that being able to enjoy our city without fear of abuse due to sexual orientation and being able to legally enjoy a close, nurturing, loving sexual relationship with our chosen partner is not a quality of life issue.

It is past time for us to organize ourselves and to begin fighting for our rights as citizens of a free country.

Ray Mims  
 Edward McCool

**Carbon Copy**

John Healey, Executive Directory  
 Amnesty International USA  
 322 Eighth Avenue, NY, NY 10001

Re: Soviet lesbians and gays  
 Dear Mr. Healey:

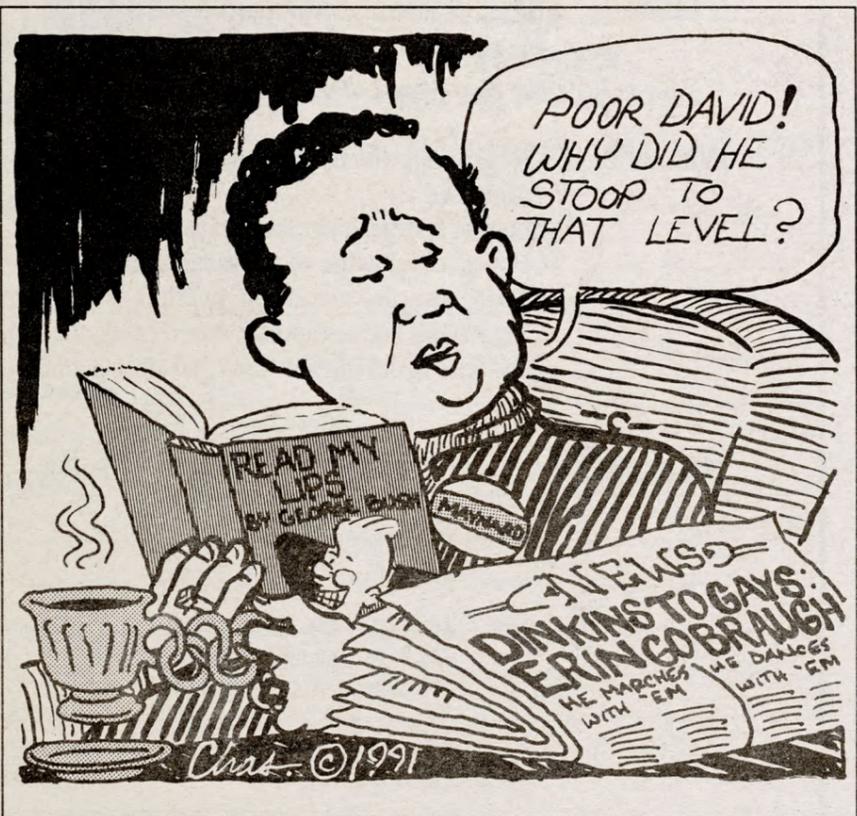
A few citizens dare to advocate lesbian and gay rights in the Soviet Union. They are officially called "sexual dissidents." Their government has harassed, arrested, evicted, beaten, imprisoned, and murdered them.

Ten years ago I heard that Amnesty International never protects lesbian and gay rights activists, because Amnesty does not define their "offenses" as political crimes. Surely it is time to realize the error of that policy.

I have been a member of ACLU for ten years, and your organization has often asked me for donations. I have sent you nothing. If I were a Soviet colleague of Jena Debryanskaya, Olga Zhuk, or Roman Kalinin, that is what you would offer me.

Please respond to the urgent request of the U. S. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to intervene on behalf of these brave men and women.

Gareth Fenley



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.

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

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

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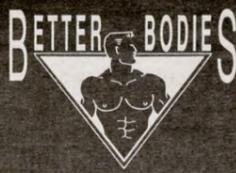
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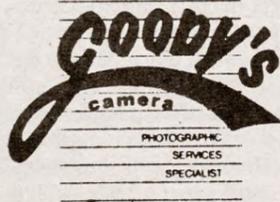
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# New Strategies for Ending Military Discrimination Against Gays

Renewing the draft would force Congress to debate controversial issues such as student deferments, drafting women, and allowing homosexuals to serve

by John Zeh

Norfolk, VA—Resumption of the draft and how the Pentagon handles returning gay and lesbian Gulf warriors may provide the impetus needed to change anti-gay military policy, a key aide to openly-gay Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass) believes.

"Congress follows the military," Kate Dyer told a recent forum here. Integration of blacks into the armed forces preceded the Civil Rights Act and recruitment of women occurred before debate on the Equal Rights Amendment. "If the military integrates gays, a gay civil rights bill may follow."

Dyer urged citizens to contact their Congressional representatives in support of national legislation to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in jobs and housing (See page 6).

The Persian Gulf war, Dyer noted, highlighted the Department of Defense's unjust policy of saying it barred service by open homosexuals while Department of Defense (DoD) unit commanders allowed some of them to join the conflict.

The Pentagon has promised that out-of-the-closet gay men and lesbians will be discharged regardless of their desire to stay in the services. But at least 14 openly gay or lesbian servicemembers were dispatched to the Gulf.

Dyer and other gay rights advocates have denounced the DoD's duplicity. "When (President George) Bush says 'They are America's finest,' we want him to know that they are gay and lesbian," Dyer was quoted in *Our Own*, Virginia's statewide monthly newspaper.

Other avenues of possible reform—the

courts, Bush, or Congress—are not likely to act, she charged.

The U.S. Supreme Court, with only one exception, has not protected homosexuals' military service. The tribunal did require the Army to re-enlist Staff Sergeant Perry Watkins, after it had allowed him to rejoin despite his openness. The *Bowers v Hardwick* decision that homosexuality is not a fundamental right precludes help from the high court, Dyer said.

Bush is not likely to follow the lead of President Harry Truman, who in 1948 signed blacks into the service. And Congress is bound to heed homophobic conservatives lobbying against gays, she said. Constituent lobbying, she stressed, provides homosexuals one key counter-measure.

To renew the Selective Service conscription of soldiers, Dyer expects Congress would have to debate controversial issues such as student deferments, drafting women, and allowing homosexuals to serve before voting.

Anti-gay arguments in hearings covered live by C-SPAN cable TV, with scrutiny by HRCF's "Speak Out" subscribers and other constituents, would raise serious issues and create powerful incentives for DoD to agree to stop discrimination, activists at the Hampton Road Price Festival here said.

Heterosexuals can avoid the draft by saying they have a desire or intent to commit sodomy. Meanwhile, patriotic and talented recruits who express gay pride and want to serve the country must be excluded, Dyer noted. And parents of heteros may wonder why their sons and daughters must risk death while homosexuals are excluded.

Dyer helped Studds and others gain release of DoD's study of homosexuals' suitability for military, conducted by the Personnel Security Research and Education Center (PERSEC).

"This scholarly, dispassionate Pentagon report finds clearly, unequivocally, that a person's sexuality has nothing to do with his or her suitability to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces," Studds' chief legislative assistant told this reporter.

Alyson Publications published the full report, with Dyer's analysis, as *Gays in Uniform*.

"It finds that homosexuality has about as much to do with job performance as right- or left-handedness. They were humiliated by their own findings, so they buried this report within the Pentagon," she said. "We pushed, pressured, and refused to give up, until we got (it).

"And lo and behold, a second study arrived anonymously, with an even more powerful conclusion—(gays) are equally, if not better suited, to serve!"

The PERSEC study was mere grist for D.C.'s rumor mill until Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund required DoD to outline its case against former Midshipman Joe Steffan, whose civil suit against the U.S. Naval Academy and DoD revealed its existence through what is appropriately called "discovery." DoD attorneys had given up the cover page of the PERSEC report, prompting Studds and others to force full release.

Lambda attorneys think the Pentagon has hushed up other studies showing homosexuals' suitability for service. Their March 6 motion for full disclosure of secret Pentagon papers is what prompted the judge hearing Steffan's suit, Oliver Gasch, to make remarks about "homos" which Lambda and others deemed inappropriate.

The military separates 1000-2000 members each year as a result of charges of homosexuality, the Military Freedom Project charges. A total of 14,311 members were booted between 1973-83, according to the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO). The cash cost of training and then discharging



JON ZEH

Former Midshipman Joe Steffan. The judge of his civil suit against the U.S. Naval Academy is under attack for referring to gays as "homos."

them was \$180 million.

One option to preclude discrimination against gays is to lobby Congress to disallow DoD funds for separating homosexuals, a path being pursued by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, and AIDS lobby.

Men and women suspected of homosexuality are no longer canned under old, ambiguous offenses such as "misconduct" or "unsuitability." New rules provide the increased possibility that "homosexuality" will be added to one's official discharge record, and an "other-than-honorable discharge" will be administered, the project cautions.

Discharge for homosexuality can result from mere desire or intent to committing a homosexual act, as well as coitus, defined by DoD directive 1332.14 as "bodily contact, actively undertaken or passively permitted, between members of the same sex, for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires."

DoD should "wake up and smell the coffee," Dyer insisted. "This shameful policy of institutionalized prejudice has no rational basis, and no place in society."

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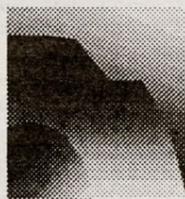
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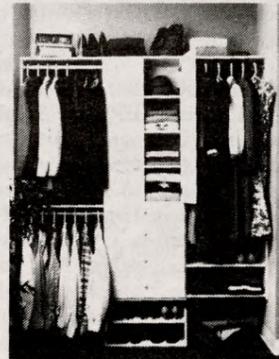


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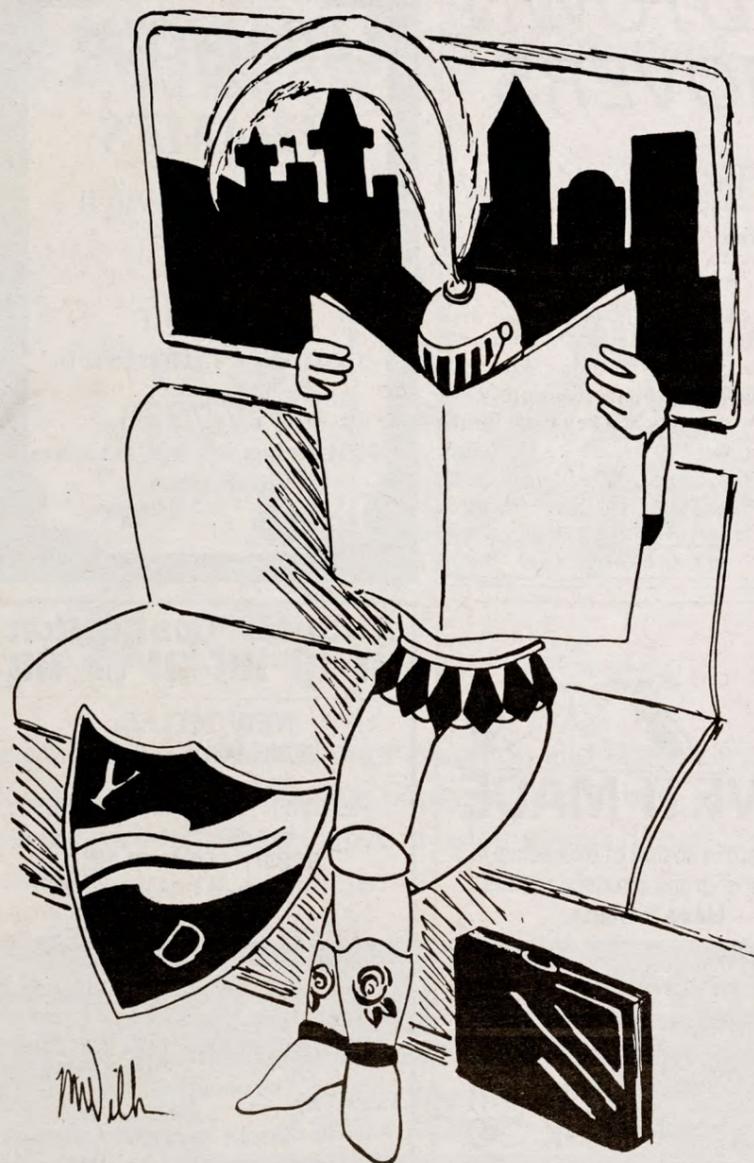
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# Two Cities Help Shape Domestic Partnership Rights

by John Zeh

When a handful of heterosexuals joined more than a hundred gay men and lesbians to certify their "domestic partnerships" on Valentine's Day in San Francisco, the couples called attention to key campaigns around America to redefine family.

The bayside city's precedent-setting law, passed in 1982 by the Board of Supervisors but vetoed by former Mayor Diane Feinstein, was revived by voters in a November referendum. The certificates of commitment do not carry tangible benefits, but city workers who pay a \$35 fee for recognition of their relationships could win extended health benefits if the Board of Supervisors approves step two of the domestic partnership proposal.

Washington, D.C.'s City Council is expected to follow San Francisco's lead by registering significant others for future Domestic Partnership protections.

Activists in the nation's capital hailed the February victory. "Absolutely, it's a positive step," said Christine Riddiough, who worked to support a D.C. commission empowered by Council to conduct a one-year study of the issues. She headed an ongoing Coalition for Domestic Partnership Benefits.

But now, she said, CDPB's group's work is "just beginning," despite "fairly sweeping support" for Domestic Partnership (DP) laws she found on Council and among other top D.C. officials.

Riddiough is one of several gay, lesbian, and progressive activists across the country who have taken time from other important pursuits to campaign for extended-family rights.

Their struggle was supported by an aide to new D.C. City Council chair John Wilson at a recent forum, who assured over 70 activists that he would support legislation to redefine relationships. The session provided analysis of campaigns here and around the U.S. to extend benefits guaranteed married heterosexuals to people living in diverse, extended families or significant-other relationships.

The definition of what constitutes a family has been opened up to debate as pressure builds to extend the old, nuclear notion, which excludes many unmarried people living together in supportive situations.

A fall 1989 poll by Massachusetts Mutual Insurance Co.—which provides health plans for national citizen lobbies

such as Clean Water Action—showed that 74 percent of respondents defined family as people who love and care for each other, "period." And more than half of people surveyed by *Time* agreed that partners of lesbians and gay men should get health and life insurance benefits under their significant other's policies.

Homosexuals constituting the majority on the Council's Commission on Domestic Partnership Benefits for City Employees haggled over how to define unique households, conceded chair Judith Nedrow. But they and others on the diverse commission managed to "distill different points of view" into a consensus.

Council chair Wilson is examining what laws are necessary to implement the panel's recommendations, while he balances "serious" budgetary constraints, said aide Heidi Sorensen.

One initial step will be following San Francisco's lead by legislating DP registration through affidavit, with "fairly

Domestic partnerships, according to Ivy Young, director of the Lesbian and Gay Families Project, involve relationships with these qualities:

- neither partner is married nor related in a way that would bar marriage,
- fraud is absent,
- each is 18 or older,
- basic living expenses and the home are shared,
- each declares under oath that the partnership exists and that neither has signed a previous DP contract within six months.

"People come together based on care, consideration, and need," said Young, "in the same loving relationships we define as family." Her project is sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. She also serves on the board of Deep Dish TV, a progressive grassroots-to-satellite system for distributing cutting-edge video productions about critical social issues.

public and private sectors, such as medical care and visitation, parenting and custody, wrongful death suits, survivor benefits, victim assistance, family discounts, credit, housing, bereavement and sick leave, and job relocation perks.

"We must figure out ways to lobby members of Congress who don't feel a need to assuage D.C. residents," added Riddiough, an astral-physicist who coordinates global warming education for the Union of Concerned Scientists, and is co-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America's Feminist Commission. Formerly president of D.C.'s powerful Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, she also serves on D.C.'s Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and is national vice-chair of Democratic Socialists of America.

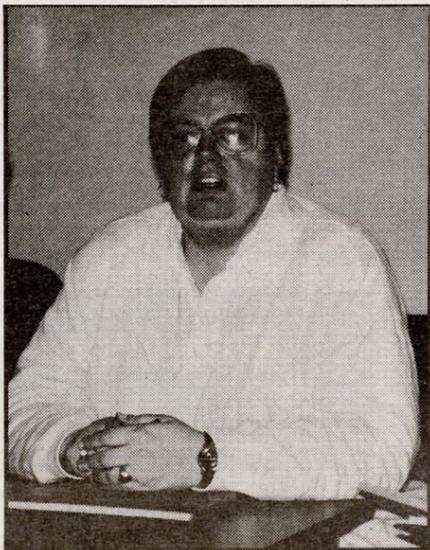
One idea urged by former city official Jim Zais, openly gay candidate for Wilson's old seat on Council, is for GAY-LAW members and others to help document past precedents for broader family definitions, such as ones covering food stamp applicants and Native Americans.

Young stressed a second and third initiative that could attract attention in Atlanta and around the U.S. to boost the cause—building allies in communities where race, culture, ethnicity, or other factors forge different family formations, such as unmarried, hetero partners; single parents; teen-aged; "blended"; elder families; inter-generational/adoptive/foster settings; disabled people who care for each other; and working women.

Most of those constituencies, she noted, are not organized. "Often the voice of the lesbian and gay community must be their voice. We speak for millions of American families who are vulnerable because they do not fit the traditional family mold."

Another source of support for lobbying Congress could come from voters in jurisdictions with existing DP provisions: Travis County, Texas; Madison, Wisconsin; Ithaca, New York; New York City, New York; Alameda County, California; Berkeley, Laguna Beach, West Hollywood, Santa Cruz, and Los Angeles County, California; and Takoma Park, Maryland.

The majority of public opinion is "on our side," she stressed, "Jesse Helms notwithstanding."



JON ZEH

**Christine Riddiough: "We must figure out ways to lobby members of Congress who don't feel a need to assuage D.C. residents [about adopting domestic partner legislation]."**

small costs expected," she said. And Wilson may seek an interim solution to a health insurance issue complicated by the District's unique relation with Congress, letting D.C. government's new-hires pay additional costs of premiums for their DPs.

Another Commission idea Sorensen said Wilson found "especially intriguing" is tax incentives for private employers who offer DPs health insurance benefits, which may be tricky to implement through legislation.

The session was called by a new affinity group, Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Washington (GAYLAW), which wants benefits made available to all who seek them, not just D.C. employees.

DC's efforts to implement DP benefits face major problems beyond budgetary issues, including Capitol Hill homophobes. For example, Riddiough cautioned that if two D.C. gay men who have filed suit for a marriage license win their case, Congress could take retribution by nullifying D.C.'s comprehensive Human Rights Ordinance, which gives homosexuals equity with heteros.

DP issues deserve support, said Young, because they are "a thread" of America's mix that must be faced more seriously.

"Family diversity is a key issue for the decade to come."

Besides insurance, daily life can create enormous problems for nontraditional families not protected by policies of both

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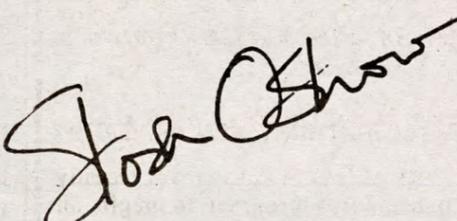
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**Sat, June 15:** Pride Prom at 2069 The Page. Theme is "Over the Rainbow" and the cost will be \$15 in advance.

**Sat, June 22:** The Family Reunion, Saturday in the Park. Piedmont Park. Sports, entertainment, commitment ceremony and an AIDS and Hate Crimes candlelight ceremony.

**Sun, June 23 (6/23):** The Pride Parade from Civic Center to Piedmont Park. Entertainment & speakers throughout the day.

To place your organization's event on the Pride Calendar, call 404-662-4533.

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Unfortunately, this is a common scenario in our community. Studies show that 20-30 percent of lesbians and gay men have addiction problems. That's two to three times the incidence of alcohol and drug abuse in the heterosexual population. But today there are more recovery options for gay men and women than there have ever been before. And more and more lesbians and gay men are choosing those options.

"It's not OK to be falling down drunk any more. People are focusing on wellness," said Donald Wert, Executive Director of the Pride Institute, while speaking at the Southeastern Conference on Drug Abuse held in Atlanta in November. The Pride Institute is the only in-patient treatment facility in the nation especially for recovering bisexuals, gay men, and lesbians.

While hundreds of treatment programs are now available due to popular demand and economic opportunity, professionals in the industry have been slow to recognize the special needs of recovering lesbians and gays. Wert's speech marked the first time a professional had been asked to speak at the Southeastern Conference on the issues of gays and lesbians in recovery.

Linda C. Regnier, a certified addiction counselor who recently spoke at the March of Dimes 2nd Annual Conference on Substance Abuse in Women said, "Lesbians and gay men are at an extraordinarily high risk compared to other minority groups." She describes lesbians and gays as "the silent minority." Her speech also marked the first time a professional had been asked to speak about lesbian issues in treatment at that conference.

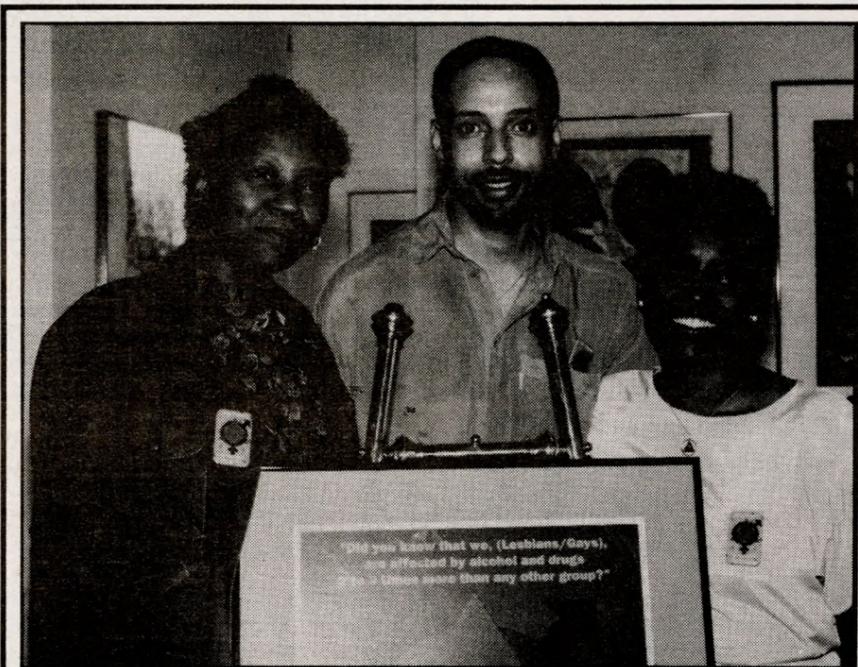
*While hundreds of treatment programs are now available due to popular demand and economic opportunity, professionals in the industry have been slow to recognize the special needs of recovering lesbians and gays.*

"Recovery is not the same for lesbians and gays," according to Wert. "The climate that we live in has a tremendous influence on addictive behavior." Pride Institute studies show that most treatment programs do not address gay and lesbian issues. "We even found treatment centers who would

# RECOVERY FOR US

*A primer on the special problems lesbians and gay men face when battling substance addiction*

by Crystal Porter



Lyn Brown, Eppie Shields and Laura Howard unveil AALGA's poster at a kick-off for the group's Alcohol and Drug Abuse hotline.

## AALGA's Alcohol and Drug Information/Referral Line

The African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance (AALGA) of Atlanta was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant by Fulton County for a program to begin an Information/Referral line for gays and lesbians needing information about drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

The grant is the first of its kind received by a gay or lesbian organization in Atlanta, according to members of AALGA.

"We're very excited about it, and we plan to apply for a continuing grant to run the program for the entire year. This grant was just for 6 months," said program designer and AALGA member, Archie Freeman.

The Information/Referral line was the brainchild of Freeman, who is a healthcare worker for the state and was very aware of the need for such assistance. The program will provide basic information and referral to gay/lesbian sensitive treatment centers in the Fulton County area, said Freeman. It can also provide referrals for anonymous HIV testing centers and information.

"The caller can remain completely anonymous and we will offer the nearest referrals based on the first three digits of the caller's phone number," Freeman explained.

The Information/Referral line will be staffed by trained volunteers and will be available 24 hours a day. It was scheduled to begin operation March 1. The number for the AALGA Information/Referral line is 404-997-LOVE (5653). Anyone interested in volunteering or professionals with suggestions are also encouraged to call.

—C.P.

say 'We don't have any gay people in our program.' Right."

Regnier also reported similar findings. She used as an example a treatment center in San Francisco who reported that "one percent of their clients were homosexual, based solely on dress and mannerisms."

"For lesbian and gay people in traditional treatment programs, there is really no safety to deal with the stresses of being lesbian and gay," says Wert. Honestly dealing with these stresses is a major factor in gay/lesbian recovery at the Pride Institute.

Some of the other stresses unique to lesbian and gay recovery are:

- Heterosexism — the unconscious presumption that everyone should be a heterosexual. "We adopt this as true, as real, as the given and it creates enormous anxiety for us," according to Wert.

- Internal and External Homophobia — the intense or irrational fear of homosexuals. "Providers keep it (homophobia) alive," said Regnier, "when it isn't OK to bring it up (sexual orientation) in

treatment, or even ask about it in evaluations. Providers need to listen with 'gay sensitive ears.'"

"The single biggest relapse factor for lesbian and gays is internalized homophobia," warns Wert.

- Absence of Social Structures — cannot meet outside of bars. Limited opportunities for sober recreation. According to Regnier, "Ours is a subculture that alcohol is prominent in."

- Acceptance of Sexual Orientation — "In early stages of recovery, we are going to be dealing with coming out issues, I guarantee it," said Wert.

- Secrets and Disguises — "For gays and lesbians, normal life is secret-keeping, hiding in fear of negative consequences which are often very real. In order to be healthy, people need to be free," Wert said. Secret-keeping violates a basic tenet of recovery, which states that "you're only as sick as your secrets."

- HIV Issues — "Many newly recovering addicts are faced with a double whammy. For many, it is the first announcement to their families of sexual

orientation and a positive HIV status," said Wert. Recent studies also show that abusing alcohol significantly lowers T-cell count and resistance of HIV positive patients, and speeds the progression of AIDS.

Almost all substance abuse treatment centers recommend an aftercare program including membership in a 12-Step program such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous. In 1989, 40 percent of AA "newcomers" had been recommended by a counselor or treatment center. This traditional program has also begun to recognize and welcome the increasing numbers of recovering gay men and lesbians.

In Atlanta, there are over 42 AA meetings a week for gays and lesbians. For more information, call the AA Central Office at 525-3178 or the Galano Clubhouse at 881-9188.

These meetings have not only become a valuable support group for metro gays and lesbians, but also for those who live outside the city where lesbian/gay 12-Step meetings are not found. Says one AA member who lives outside Atlanta, "If they knew I was a lesbian, my God, they'd burn me at the cross. There is no tolerance out here. There's a lot of KKK out here. I go to local meetings for my program. But I feel like my sexual preference puts me in jeopardy." Another recovering suburbanite said, "The problems that were affecting my sobriety were certainly sexual and I couldn't get the honesty part, so I started coming to Galano even though it means I have to drive an hour to get to a meeting."

Recovery for gays and lesbians is different than for heterosexuals, and recovery support programs and treatment centers are finding that out. For more information on gay/lesbian sensitive treatment, an Information/Referral line has just been activated by the African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance (see insert). That number is 404-997-LOVE (5683).

*For gays and lesbians, normal life is secret-keeping, hiding in fear of negative consequences which are often very real. In order to be healthy, people need to be free.*

As Wert said in closing his speech to care providers at the Southeastern Conference on Substance Abuse, "We need to be able to say to our lesbian and gay clients that what you are is a diversity of God's plenty, and we wouldn't have you any other way." Except as proud, recovering, gay men and lesbians.

The Pride Institute's phone number is (800) 547-7433.

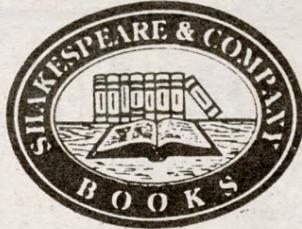
Those interested in reading about addiction and recovery issues may want to check the following books for more information: *Accepting Ourselves* by Sheppard B. Kominars (Harper & Row); *The Other Side of Family* by Ellen Ratner; and *The Recovery Resource Book* by Barbara Yoder (Fireside).

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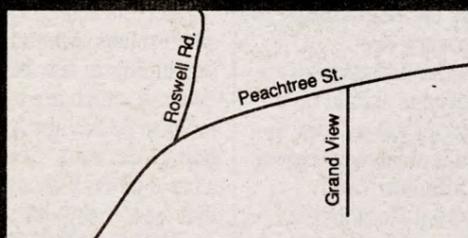
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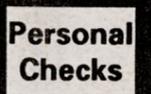
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Review by Terry Francis

**The Doors** ★ — A bomb. In recounting the meteoric life and career of sixties rock star Jim Morrison (Val Kilmer, finely self-destructive as the lead singer and principal songwriter for *The Doors*), Oliver Stone succumbs completely to his penchant for mythologizing every damn thing in sight.

Even the simplest themes, here, are treated as if they were the locus of a modern morality play. The characters—Morrison, the women in his life (Meg Ryan, as the "ornament" and Kathleen Quinlan as a sort of journalist witch), as well as the other members of the band—aren't so much vitiated human beings as they are icons.

This tendency toward aggrandizement also commands the film's visual design: tired film techniques intended to simulate and evoke the popular view of the sixties as being a shimmering, sexy hallucination.

In seeking to render everything the sixties meant to him through the persona of Jim Morrison, Stone reduces the singer to a generic representation, a pale metaphor. Yet, as he's presented in Stone's film, Morrison comes across as little more than a not very bright kid mining the bottom most reaches of alcoholism with a vengeance. He's so benighted he can't make the connection between his abuse of alcohol and drugs with his impotence. (His poetry, moonish and artificially pretty, is impotent, too.)

Where Stone's films always fail for me (with the exception of the flawed, hyper *Salvador*), is that they resurrect and reconstruct the past in terms that are codified and stylized to the point that character is lost. For all their visual effrontery, Stone's films are pallid in their depictions of human endeavor, because the personalities involved are carcasses in a theory,

FILM REVIEW

# Jim Morrison and New Jack

rather than humans refined in their individuality.

Near the film's conclusion, in a grab for depth so desperate it becomes palpable, Stone resorts to an unsophisticated (and hackneyed) collage technique that throws in some of the most important issues of the sixties—the war, the assassinations, the riots, and so on—that simply are not substitutes for accrual of character. It's comparable to using an affecting piece of music, say, Barber's "Adagio for Strings" in *Platoon*, to supply emotion unearned by the material.

Coming after Gus VanSant's *Drugstore Cowboy* and Alex Cox's *Sid & Nancy*, *The Doors* seems not only muddled but superfluous. Oh, yes, this is one of those movies with a steady stream of frontal female nudity but scarcely a male bum in sight. The women in the film reflect the standard dichotomy, but with an outre twist: bloodsucking witches and dumb blondes.

Perhaps the most noxious and effective scene in the film is when Morrison meets Andy Warhol, the master manipulator of his own aura, at a party attended by Warhol's entourage and sycophants.

In a brief, seemingly inchoate conversation, Warhol leads a sky high Morrison down a garden path of fugitive ramblings, until he draws everything together by offering him an ordinary, everyday object to be used for an utterly bizarre purpose. Morrison, whose fellow Doors appear

uncomfortable by the Warholian ambivalence of it all, appear dumbstruck. At the same time he appears to wonder if he's being made a fool of he's also blown away by Warhol's suggestion.

Warhol, meanwhile, has already walked away, chattering stream-of-unconsciously to some apparently dear friends just passing through a doorway.

**New Jack City** ★★★ —It's a mess, but there's so much raw talent on display in this movie that I urge you to see it. After such comatose offerings as *Dances With Wolves*, *Awakenings* and *The Hard Way*—all those men, showing us the way—Mario Van Peebles' urban nightmare melodrama seems like a breath of fresh air. The prodigious Wesley Snipes (he was the thing about Spike Lee's *Mo' Better Blues*, which seemed to shrink around him) stars as a John Gotti-like street king of crack, hooking everybody he can on drugs while handing out food and money to locals like an old-style populist on the campaign stump.

Snipes and his strongarms literally take over a neighborhood apartment building, transforming it into a high-tech crack factory and smoking den. Snipes' ambition grows. Turf wars turn deadly. In the face of Snipes and his fellow terrorists, the locals are rendered helpless, their young shortly to fall under the spell of Snipes'



brand of greed and fast money. Through the efforts of the police, the bloody reclamation begins. As always nowadays in American movies, the clichés abound. The "good" cops are played by Van Peebles and rapper Ice T (and the always repellent Judd Nelson); along with Snipes, the villains include Christopher Williams and Allen Payne, all of them outstanding.

Van Peebles direction is all over the place, and it's difficult, with this, his debut film, to know whether to accord highest praise to him, his editor, Steve Kemper, or his cinematographer, Francis Kenney. The sloppy film teems with an energy and cast of characters (and actors) who go a long way in making the film's numerous flaws more bearable.

A virtual dissertation could be written on this film's depictions of the attitudes expressed by its male characters toward women, its cesspool of cross-ethnic prejudices, its utter sense of despair. Van Peebles' movie is alive. It breathes fire.

by Penn Collins

According to the current Ulrich's Periodical listing there are 600,000 periodicals in print. If we are indeed *everywhere*, then that might mean 60,000 of them are for the gay and lesbian community. Well, maybe not...In this column I hope to bring to your attention some of the current crop of publications that may interest gay men and lesbian.

**"BGM" a magazine for gentlemen of color** has been published by Blacklight Press since 1979. It was the first African-American gay magazine to be published in the United States.

The current issue, #5, is chock full of what has made this publication good reading. A nice anthology, an interesting comic strip by Burton Clark, and black gay horror—certainly a hard-to-find genre—by Sidney Brinkley.

Also thrown in are some fascinating graphics by artist Damballah. The poetry on drug abuse is intriguing. I was startled by an article on Black Muslims by Max Smith. Black Muslims are a group that I wouldn't normally read about, yet the article made me realize our commonality.

I would have to recommend this one, if for no other reason that it again points out the diversities of our culture.

"BGM" is available at Oxford Books. Or write to Blacklight Press, P.O. Box 9391, Washington, DC 20005

**Utne. It Rhymes with chutney.** "Utne Reader" is one of the best publications out there. But don't ask me, ask the

THE MAGAZINE RACK

# Two Ways to Examine Diversity

readers. And according to a recent article in "Time Magazine," it is growing. In a time where such magazines as "Fame," "Psychology Today" and "Egg" are ceasing publication, "Utne Reader" is on the rise. Subscriptions are climbing and folks cannot wait for the next issue of this bi-monthly.

What makes it such a hit? Well, according to its byline, it is "the best of the alternative press." Recent issues have culled articles from such diverse publications as "Washingtonian," "Greenpeace," "Native Self-Sufficiency," "Kick It Over!" and "Village Voice." It is variety that makes this one work—"Utne Reader" covers a lot of issues: gay/lesbian, co-dependency, singleness, even Christian Ecology finds a spot here. You never know what another issue will bring.

The current issue is a perfect example. The main topics are salons and gay life in the '90s—with reprints of two diverse articles.

The first is "To Be Young and Gay" by "Mother Jones" writer William Hayes. The other article, "Why Heterosexuals Need to Support Gays" by Village Voiceer Donna Minkowitz, offers a delightful twist to a common discussion. I found myself looking differently at the commu-

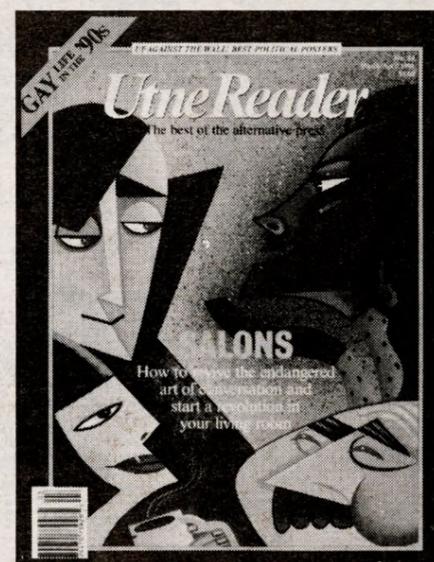
nity after reading this.

"Utne" offers fresh views in a way that the reader doesn't have to dig through a lot of other publications. The editors seem to relish finding little gems like "Why Heterosexuals...Support Gays" and tossing them at the reader.

There is a section devoted to "The Lively Art of Political Posters" which highlights such scary arcana as the fact that less than 5% of the artists in the Modern Art Sections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art are women, yet 85% of the nudes are female.

Also worth noting: the "Smorgasbord" and the "Off The Newsstand" sections. Both have a lot of fun stuff to offer. "Utne" even gives us a convenient coupon to send off for samples of everything from "Nude and Natural" magazine to a catalogue for everything from Birkenstocks to environmentally safe gardening supplies and games for the socially aware. One warning though—when coupon says "allow 4-8 weeks for delivery," they mean it.

**Worth Noting:** "Family Therapy Networker's" Jan-Feb issue is one of the best I have seen. Virtually the entire pub-



lication was devoted to lesbians and gay men and therapy. Discussions ranged from what to do if your therapist is in the closet—is it hindering you?—to coping with homosexuality—no longer a psychiatric disorder. The writing is extremely good, thought provoking and honest. This will be hard to find, but it is worth searching for.

In upcoming months I hope to continue covering/looking at the wide variety of lesbian/gay publications and other publications that work for and with the community. Magazines to look out for: "Sportsview," "Outing Travelogue" the always fresh "Outweek." If you hear of anything new drop me a note, I am constantly searching for new publications.

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by Dave Hayward

"The easiest way to be gay is all by yourself with your fantasies" asserts Jim Grimsley, award-winning author of the gay fable *Mr. Universe*. "You can stay in the closet forever with your fantasies and never have to relate to another person." VCR addicts, be advised.

Grimsley's bizarre fairy tale "play for gay people" returns to Seven Stages with previews April 4 and a grand opening Thursday, April 11. *Universe* will play in rep with Grimsley's new "Southern Gothic," *Belle Ives* which premieres on April 18.

*Universe* originally premiered at Seven Stages in 1987. From there it rocketed to Off-Broadway and captured the 1988 Oppenheimer/Newsday Award for best new play. It's the last anyone has seen of the oft-praised oft-controversial tale and its beefcake ace. That, says Grimsley, is because of *Universe's* gay content and because his agent held out for another New York production rather than trying to get the play produced in regional theatres. Accordingly he's considering promoting it himself, kicking off with the revival at Seven Stages.

"*Mr. Universe* is about two gay men in New Orleans' French Quarter who stumble across the ideal man" sums up Grimsley, drawing from his sojourn there in the late '70s. The three men in question are drag queens Judy (Don Finney) and Vic (Peter Thomasson), and Mr. U, the mute, bare-chested, bloodied icon (6'4" blond Ed Corbin). The witches' brew percolates immediately due to Corbin's scars, which "we all see as paint and makeup but the characters see as blood and wounds," teases Grimsley, accelerating *Universe's* hurtle into the abstract.

"My character is a fantasy, there's a question whether he really exists" grins Ed Corbin, a professional actor who's also a



"body sculptor" and declares that drag queens and bodybuilders have a lot in common. "They both put makeup on, and they both want to be something else."

A lightning rod for the French Quarter's queens and hookers, "Mr. Universe is like a serviceman or a mechanic. He gives others what they expect him to" even if they expect rejection and self-destruction. Hence the masochistic Judy (brilliantly played by Tim Kevin in the original production) becomes the play's central figure. "She is dangerous, strong and powerful, and she won't rest with being a victim, she'll be her own victim and no one else's," exclaims Grimsley. Yet Judy also reflects the average gay man.

"He was raised not knowing who he was, not having anyone to be like, his way of loving was so different" emphasizes Grimsley. "I think this is why the gay community can be so screwed up, we really don't know how to be gay. You really can't just be a healthy gay person without looking at the unhealthy too."

THEATRE

# Universe Returns

*Grimsley's prize winning play gets a reprise at 7 Stages*

Thus Judy's downfall becomes an obsession with skin, a stimulant most gay men grapple with. Grimsley is relentless in dissecting our not-so-hidden fixation, giving us a perfect specimen who is also silent, allowing us to invest him with any and all attributes. It's as if every gorgeous gym rat were secretly altruistic, attentive and affectionate, too. Meanwhile, the demand for Chippendale's male strippers and Sports Illustrated babes shows straight women and men objectify as well.

Some resolution comes through the other drag queen Vic, who is the one most immune to the muscleman's enchantment. "Vic will take care of him, but there are limits to what he'll do," emphasizes Grimsley. "He is in awe of him, but he's afraid if he lets go, he'll open the floodgates. And he refuses to be punished for his affections." Corbin chimes in "Looks are a liability. You live on a pedestal being admired. But it's safe for M & M (the muscleman) to step off that pedestal with Vic. He sees the human being in there."

Still Corbin revels in the attention for his voluptuous vanilla looks. A farm boy from Armuchee in North Georgia, Corbin graduated summa cum laude in finance from UGA and forsook his fiance and banking for acting in Atlanta. "I relish feedback from others" Corbin beams. "When I'm onstage go for it, enjoy it, let me live on in your memory! If I make an impression on someone, I've had a good day."

So while he realizes "Beauty of physique is totally subjective," Corbin encourages fans. "When you are an audience member, I'm here for you. But if you want any more, use professional restraint." Even though he's straight-identified, Corbin's cool. "I don't judge others. It's too much trouble to keep up with the things I like and don't like about people."

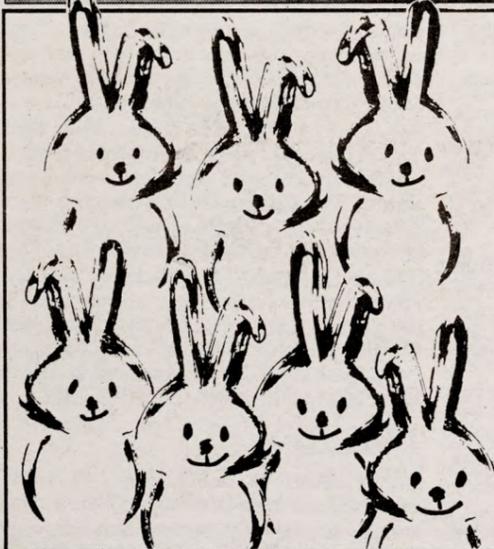
*Mr. Universe* can be said to portray the life of the late '70s before AIDS. "The crisis brought people's attention back to sex with fewer people under more special circumstances," suggests Grimsley, paralleling the commitment the muscleman and Vic eventually make. "Their relationship means all kinds of things. But I only tell 2/3rds of the story. It's compelling and the 2/3rds is all there, but it's not complete."

**Short Subjects:** Chris Coleman as Harvey Milk and Brian Barnett as Milk's lover Jamie were stunning in the staged reading of *Dare to Dream* at Actor's Express last week. Atlantans Dan Pruitt and Patrick Hutchison have created an engaging and entertaining look at Milk's legend, and by extension, gay activism and discrimination of all kinds. *Dream* could stand some revision, chiefly in the sentimentality surrounding Jamie's sister and San Franciscans' nostalgia for the good old days. Quibbling aside, *Dream* emanates a core of emotion that is profoundly affecting. Here's hoping it fulfills aspirations for a fullscale production if the fall.

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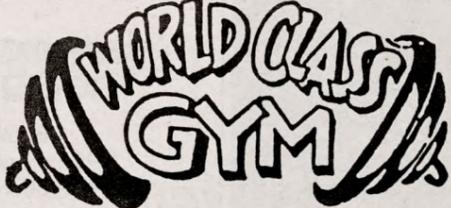
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Helene Grimaud performs Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Atlanta Symphony. Photo credit: Henry Ely.

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**GA. PRIVACY COALITION PLANS FUTURE SODOMY REPEAL EFFORTS.** Tues. April 9, 7-9pm. An overview of the group's efforts during the '91 session of Ga.'s General Assembly and planning and discussion for continuing the repeal effort. Newcomers are a welcome addition to this on-going struggle. Peachtree Branch Library across from the High Museum. 286-4705.

**Fundraisers**

**ARTISTS FOR ACT UP.** Thurs. Mar. 28, 6pm-1am. Food, fun, a fashion show, entertainment and a silent auction to benefit the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power. Performers include Liz Spraggins, Hal Gresham, Eleganza and Megan McFarland. At Petrus.

**HALSTEAD HOEDOWN.** Sun. Apr. 7, 6-11pm. Kick up your heels and two-step with your darlin'. Sponsored by Southern Country Atlanta. Proceeds from dance and raffle benefit Project Open Hand. \$5 donation. At the Inman Park Trolley Barn, 963 Edgewood Ave. 938-0609.

**Music**

**CAROLINE AIKEN.** Sun. Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 8:30pm. Sexy, earthy, bluesy and hot. Give your kundalini energy its spring booster shot. At Oxford Acoustic Cafe, 360 Pharr Rd. 262-3333.

**ATLANTA SYMPHONY WITH HELENE GRIMAUD.** Thurs. Apr. 4-6, 8pm. Amazing manual dexterity makes Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 a delicious earful from Ms. Grimaud who looks pretty delicious herself. At Symphony Hall, 892-2414 for tickets.

**BRIAN JOHNSON.** Apr. 5-6, 8pm. Percussion, video, and electronics create an evening of total experience. \$8. April 6, 2pm pick up the beat yourself with a free workshop on percussion technique Actors Express, 280 Elizabeth St. 688-1970.

**ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS.** Sat. Apr. 6, 8pm. The mighty male voices present "Spring Break" with 6 new arrangements including a tribute to Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. Southside High, 801 Greenwood Ave. 458-8747.

**ANGELA MOTTER.** Sun. Apr. 7, 8:30pm. Life and love, affirming acoustic rock from one of our all time fave singers. Free at Oxford Acoustic Cafe, 360 Pharr Rd. 262-3333.

**MORAL HAZARD.** Sun. April 7. Industrial strength (and dancable) rock and roll music from the first band ever to receive the Emma Goldman "If I Can't Dance, I Won't be Part of Your Revolution" seal of approval. At The Otherside, 1924 Piedmont Rd. 875-5238.

**Spirituality**

**PASSOVER SEDER.** Sat. Mar. 30, 7pm. Join Congregation Bet Haverim for a traditional Passover service led by Rabbi Shula Gelhfuss. Free to members; \$18, including a meal, to non-members. 642-3467.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE.** Sun. Mar. 31, 6am. Celebrate Jesus's joyous triumph over death with song and friendship. At All Saints MCC, 575 Boulevard. For info call 622-1154.

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**AVS BOWLING.** Every Monday, 8:30pm. Its almost time to form summer leagues. 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

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**Theatre**

**A...MY NAME IS ALICE.** Apr. 2-14. Lively humor and upbeat music combine for a rollicking evening that perfectly captures the quirky combination of satisfaction and frustration found in being female. Buckhead Roxy, 3110 Roswell Rd. For info call 873-4300.



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**Art**

**KABUKI THEATRE REMEMBERED.** Thru March 30th. Classic Japanese figures from the stylized masked theatre by London's Haruyo. BurnNoff Gallery, Clearcreek Center. 875-3475.

**NEW ART FROM ITALY.** Apr. 1-May 31. Contemporary Italian art by artists whose names end with either i or o. Free. High Museum at Georgia-Pacific, 577-6940.

**'OLD WIVES' TALES.** Fri., Apr. 5. An exhibit that disproves the old theorem that "women must choose between art and family." Multi-medium works by 15 mothers from many cultures. TULA, 75 Bennett St. 351-3551.

**ROUGE, JAUNE AND BLEU.** Sat. Apr. 6-May 11. Industrial collages, oils, acrylics and photos make this an eclectic show indeed. BurnNoff Gallery, Piedmont at Monroe, 875-3475.

**'NEW WORKS' GROUP EXHIBIT.** Thru Apr. 20. Local artists, Patricia Cunfer, Barbara Daupert, Shella DeShong and Rose Shankman show their latest inspirations. New Visions, 999 P'tree, 874-3881.

**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 photomontage and photograms make this a must see collection for the serious photographer. At the High Museum, 1280 Peachtree. 892-HIGH.

**Events**

**LESBIANS AND HRCF.** Thurs., Mar. 28, 7:30pm. The Human Rights Campaign Fund representatives hold an instructive evening about their lesbian action agenda. Human rights for lesbians sounds like a very progressive idea, come and voice your concerns and hopes. Charis, 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

**DIXIE INVITATIONAL XI.** Fri-Sun., Mar. 29-31. More than half a thousand participants. Singles and Doubles at Express Lanes, team events at Fair Lanes in Chamblee. For info call Tim Cooper 451-4793 for info.

**LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCE.** Sat., Mar. 30. Group therapy should be empowering, not over-powering. Learn how to keep your identity and openness while operating in a large group. Atl. Center for Short Term Psychotherapy, 633-3282.

**COMMON GROUND'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.** Tues. Apr. 2, 4:30-7:30pm. Celebrate the first successful year of Atlanta's only day activity program for people with HIV disease. Open house. 1053 Juniper St. 874-8686.

**OUTDOOR CHALLENGES - METAPHORS FOR LIFE.** April 3, 6:30-9:30pm. Explore the great outdoors and discover ways to expand your own boundaries and create positive changes. The activities, such as rockclimbing and canoeing sound rigorous, but are modified with HIV positive individuals in mind. 222-2440.

**AVA LEAVELL HAYMON.** Thurs. Apr. 4, 7:30pm. Joining us from Baton Rouge, Ava will read her poetry about everything from incest to Louisiana cooking. Personal, provocative, and poignant. Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave., NE. 524-0304.

**CONTAINER GARDENING.** Sat. Apr. 6, 10-11:30am. Turn your apartment balcony into the hanging gardens of Babylon with tips on potted plants. At the Atlanta Botanical Garden. 876-5859 to register.

**11th ANNUAL AZALEA DANCE.** Sat., April 6, 8pm. Dress plain or fancy and enjoy ALFA's spring cotillion with dapper dykes galore. E. Congregation, call ALFA 378-9769.

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3rd Annual

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**THE ROCHES**



with special guest  
**DAVID ROCHE**  
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Tickets: \$15 reserved

Tickets available at the Variety Playhouse (hours 12-6 M-F), all TicketMaster locations or charge by phone 249-6400.

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CALL 524-7354

**KATE CLINTON.** Fri., Apr. 5, 7:30pm & 10pm. If laughter is the best medicine, Kate should cure whatever ails you. Fast paced, witty and wonderful. Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. 524-7354.

**TEA IN A CHINA CUP.** Thru Apr. 7. Three generations of Belfast women share their dreams. A tender and funny portrait of Northern Ireland and a tribute to the enduring spirit of women. Presented by Theatre Gael at the 14th Street Playhouse, 14th and Juniper, 876-1138.

**MR. UNIVERSE.** Wed. Apr. 10-May 12. In this dark comedy, a prostitute and two drag queens find the perfect man wandering the streets of New Orleans nearly naked. 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid, 523-7647.

**MANDRAGOLA.** Thru April 13. A musical comedy adapted from a 16th century farce and directed by Eddie Levi Lee. A tuneful frolic with the age-old themes of lust, greed and love. What else do you need for an evening's amusement? Theatrical Outfit, 1012 Pree St. 872-0665.

**GRASS WIDOWS.** Thru. Apr. 14, Fri. & Sat. 8pm, Sun 2pm. Pamela Parker's zany Southern comedy set in the fictional town of Dollar, GA. where avocado appliances in your kitchen are more important than a dead man in your parlor. Mercer University. 872-3556 or 446-7163.

**FALLEN ANGELS.** Thru April 21. Noel Coward comes to Marietta in the form of a sophisticated drawing room comedy that tells the tale of a gigolo who comes between two women best friends. Sounds like double entendres, double crossing, and double dating lead to lots of laughs. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave. 422-8369.

**Women's Festivals**

**SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC & COMEDY FESTIVAL.** Thurs. May 23-27. The 8th annual SWMCF is happy happening again, just 80 miles from Atlanta. Music and dancing every night, diving every day. Workshops, women, and art in the beauty of the Georgia mountains. 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**

**ATLANTA SYMPHONY WITH GIL SHAHAM, VIOLINIST.** Thurs. Apr 11-13. 8pm. Haunting strains of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Composer-in-Residence, Stephen Paulus's Concerto for Orchestra will be performed by the ASO for the first time. Music for your gypsy heart. At Symphony Hall, 892-2414 for tickets.

**TONGUES UNTIED.** Sat. Apr. 12, 8pm. This ground breaking video juxtaposes the joys and pleasures of being a gay, black man against the ugliness of racism and homophobia. Marlon Riggs makes a personal appearance along with his highly personal portrait about black, male, gay identity. Image, 75 Bennett St. 352-4225.

**THE ROCHESES.** Apr. 12-13. Harmony and hilarity make for the best listening and laughing around. Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. 524-7354.

**AIDS HEALING SERVICE.** Sun. Apr. 14, 4pm. A source of comfort and strength in this time of need. St. Lukes's, 435 P'tree 642-3183.

**PRESBYTERIANS FOR LESBIAN/GAY CONCERNS.** Sat. Apr. 13, 6pm. Potluck supper and friendly gathering to feed the body and spirit. For directions call 373-5830.

**CRIS WILLIAMSON PERFORMS.** Sat., Apr. 13, 8pm. I have fantasies of being this woman's keyboard. Music to fall in love by. Old favorites and new ones that will surely become standards. Center Stage, 1374 W P'tree, 873-2500.

**SILENT SOJOURN RETREAT.** Apr. 17-21. Get away and get it together with a springtime retreat in the mountains. Reconnect with the healing and nourishing energies that abound in the universe with meditation, art, yoga, massage therapy and more. Contact Linda Davis at 584-9139

**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 Ave. 873-1939.

**butchfemlezziedykefag' BY LEA DELARIA.** Apr. 23, 7pm. 4th Tuesday's monthly dinner meeting takes off in a whole new direction with the antics of Lea delirium. This program will be

entirely different from her Civic Center performance so enjoy her in an intimate setting. Bring money. Sometimes she sells kisses. Castlegate Hotel, Howell Mill & I-75, 662-4353.

**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.

**DANCE 'TIL DAWN.** April 26, 9pm. Non-stop music with dance band, "Yer Girlfriend" and D.J. Join women from all over the country as they dance and delight in each other's company. At the door, \$5-6, National Lesbian Conference attendees, \$3-4. Radisson Hotel Ballroom, Cortland & International Blvd. 373-0000.

**CONFERENCE WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA.** April 27, 7:30pm. A festival of entertainment with all the comforts of home: Teresa Trull, Lea Delaria, Washington Sisters with Melanie Monsur, Sue Fink, Alix Dobkin, Karen Williams, the Two-Spirited Thunder People (Native American dance troupe) and Atlanta's own Tammy Why-Not.

**COME CELEBRATE WOMEN IN SONG.** April 27, 7pm and 9pm shows Sweet harmonies blend in an evening of special songs from the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus. Southside High, 801 Glenwood Ave., for info call AFWC at 294-8983.

**INMAN PARK FESTIVAL.** Apr. 27-28. Fine old houses, food, dancing in the streets, crafts and flea markets combine in Atlanta's biggest block party/celebration. The walking tour will take you into history. For info call 242-4895.

**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 House 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 DINNER.** 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.

**12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN PARENTS COALITION INTERNATIONAL.** June 13-16. A Texas style family reunion for the lavender tribe and their offspring. Combines workshops and fun for those who must come out to their children For info write, GLPCI, Box 7537, Houston, TX 77270.



Clarinda Ross and Jessica Phelps star in Noel Cowards' sophisticated drawing room comedy "Fallen Angels" at Marietta's Theatre in the Square.

**NETWORKING WITH PRIDE.** June 15, 10-5pm 4th Tuesday's 3rd annual business expo. 100 booths of family and gay friendly businesses introduce themselves, their services and their products to the gay and lesbian community. Door prizes and demonstrations make this a fun, informative event. Westin Peachtree Plaza, Peachtree and International Blvd. 662-4399.

**SOUTH CAROLINA GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE MARCH.** Sat. June 22. Columbia SC is assured a gay day as the lavender army takes to the streets. Bring banners and plan to have fun. Write GLPM, Box 12648, Columbia, SC.

**GAY PRIDE '91.** June 22-23. 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 let's double the number of sisters and brothers marching down Peachtree under the lavender banner. For info call, 325-4435.

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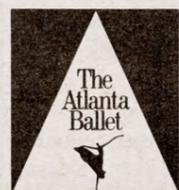
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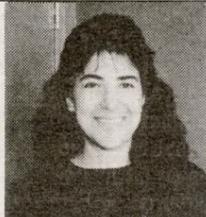
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**AIDS ORGANIZATIONS**

**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 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.

**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. 294-8983.

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

**"Funny... That Way"**—Atlanta's Gay/Lesbian comedy improvisational troupe. Membership open. Workshops Sunday night. 875-2275.

**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.

**Loretta's**—708 Spring St. 874-8125

**The Metro**—48 6th Street, 874-9869

**New Order**—1544 Piedmont. 874-8247

**Options**—2329 Cheshire Br. Rd. 634-4584

**The Otherside**—1924 Piedmont Road. 875-5238  
2069 The Page—2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 728-9045

**The Pear Garden**—11 Luckie St. 659-4055

**Petrus**—1150 Peachtree St. 873-6700

**Phoenix**—567 Ponce De Leon. 892-7871

**Scandals**—Ansley Square. 875-5957

**Tin Lizzie**—Ford Factory Square. 874-3961

**Tower Lounge**—735 Ralph McGill. 688-5463

**Traxx**—306 Luckie St. 681-5033

**Weekends**—688 Spring St. 875-5835

**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, NAPWA offices at 98 6th St. 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. 286-7476

**Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition**—Meetings vary. The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene. 368-7420.

**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 Peachtree Branch Library. 286-2355.

**PROFESSIONAL**

**Atlanta Business & Professional Guild**—A service organization of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. Meets 2d Tues. 355-1800.

**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 & Lesbian Mormons**—Affirmation group organizing in the Atlanta area. For info call 570-2561 (dig. page).

**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 or 875-4565.

**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.

**SPORTS/OUTDOOR**

**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.



KAREN DUNIGAN

Alice Lovelace was one of more than a dozen women writers and performers presenting their work at SAME's "Weekend of Women's Performances" held at Seven Stages.

**BARS**

**The Armory**—836 Juniper. 881-9280

**Backstreet**—845 Peachtree St. 873-1986

**Blake's**—227 10th St. 892-7535

**Buddies**—Cheshire Square. 634-5895

**Bulldog & Co**—893 Peachtree. 872-3025

**Burkhart's**—Ansley Square. 872-4403

**Conference Room**—1086 Alco St. 634-6478

**The Cove**—586 Worcester. 875-2477

**Crazy Ray'z**—1492 Piedmont. 873-4655

**Deana's One Mo' Time**—1890 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 874-0980

**The Eagle**—308 Ponce De Leon. 87EAGLE

**551 Downstairs**—551 Ponce De Leon. 873-4052

**Frank's Place**—778 N. Highland. 881-0259

**Gallus Bar & Restaurant**—49 6th St. 892-8983

**Lavita's**—Cheshire Square. 633-0452

# COMMUNICATIONS

**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. 622-0739.  
**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 30357.  
**Hotlanta Soccer**—Practice every Sunday at 3pm in Piedmont Park. Beginners, men and women are welcome. 577-0418.  
**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 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, phone 378-9769.  
**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 support 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 interracial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be over-come. 794-BWMT.  
**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. 239-1657.  
**The Cobb County Group**—Monthly social and frequent recreational activities for those who live in Cobb. 438-1421.  
**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 fraternity of gay men. P.O. Box 14591, Atlanta, GA 30324.  
**Gay Fathers Association**—Support group meets 4th Fri. 296-8369.  
**Gay Help Line**—Phone, 6pm-11pm, daily. 892-0661.  
**The Group**—Support for gay and bisexual men who are or who have been involved in marital-type situations with women. 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. 938-2009.  
**Lesbian Support Group**—Discussion group open to all lesbians. Every Friday. 672-7387.  
**Men of Little 5 Points**—Socials and speakers on gay and community topics. Write PO Box 5425, Atlanta, GA 30307.  
**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.



KAREN DUNIGAN

**Claudia Scarbrough, M.S., spoke about power and control issues in relationships at the March 18 meeting of Women of Wisdom at Chrysalis Women's Center. Scarbrough is shown here with her lover of four years, Carolyn Lupton.**

## STUDENTS

**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. 426-8160.  
**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.

## Calendar Clearing House

"Did you hear that the Leapin' Lesbian Gymnastic team is going to be here April 20?"  
 "Oh, no! That's the same night the Lavender Lobbyists are holding their annual dinner and social extravaganza."

Sound familiar? Conflicting events don't make anyone happy. Organizations get fewer participants and participants are forced to miss events. In an attempt to minimize the problem, Margot Meeker has offered to develop and maintain the Galendar—a Gay and Lesbian Events Calendar. Here's how it works: Organizations are asked to call Margot (522-2091) before scheduling a public event. She'll tell you if another event is already scheduled for the same date. It's simple and effective, but the process will work only if everyone calls *before* they finalize a date.

Also, organizations, please note: Additions, corrections and changes to the listings in these pages should be sent to: Organizations, Southern Voice, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

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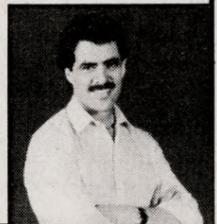
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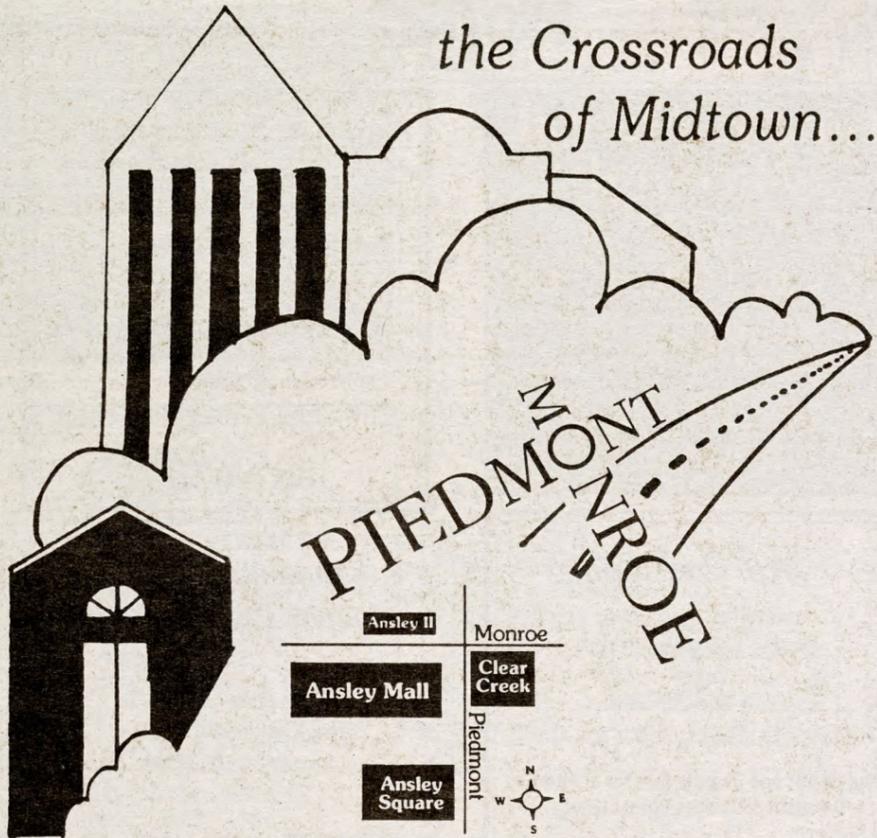


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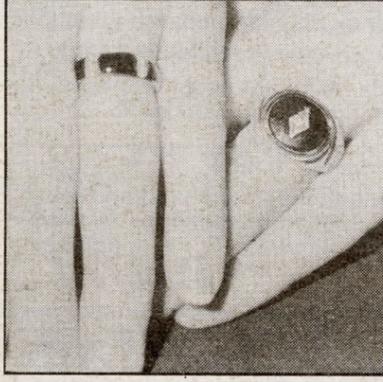
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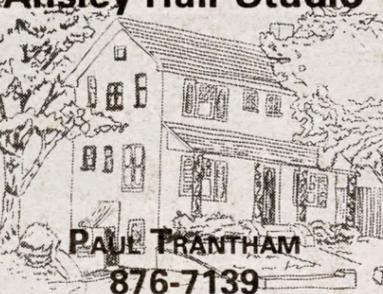
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# OUT IS IN AND QUEER IS HERE

Notes from OutWrite '91, the National Lesbian and Gay Writers Conference

by Gary Kaupman

Even 10 years ago the idea of a conference of 2000 queers (get used to that word, its inclusivity of men, women and bisexuals carries substantial weight among those who write about our community) in a downtown hotel might have seemed radical. But the OutWrite '91 "National Lesbian and Gay Writers Conference" held in San Francisco three weeks ago caused hardly a ripple among the residents of Baghdad by the Bay—a city where, even after our recent adventurism in the Middle East became less openly abusive, anti-war protests continued apace.

This was the second edition of OutWrite, sponsored by the quarterly *Outlook* magazine. Not familiar with *Outlook*? Think of it as serious, well meaning, and wannabe hip attempt to chronicle the cutting edge of queer issues and consciousness. Sometimes it succeeds. Sometimes it offends. Sometimes it's as boring as dirt.

Ditto OutWrite. But, despite its failings—most of which are easily ascribed to too many attendees and the infancy of the event, even the infancy of the very idea of such a gathering—Outwrite '91 offered a glimpse into how those who are chronicling the lesbian/gay/bisexual community perceive our near future. And make no mistake, those are important perceptions given the power of the written word in defining any nascent community.

Some OutWrite observations:

•**Eroticism is hot; so is separatism.** "Zines, those irreverent, self-published broadsides about everything from sci-fi to sex, are definitely in. (More on this phenomenon soon in *Southern Voice*.) But Edward Albee is out—out of the closet and banished from the hearts of a whole bunch of lesbians and gay men who define themselves as writers. Thus, the "post-modern deconstructivist, non-assimilationist dialectic" is assured of well-being.

Well, maybe.

But, if you listen to the Chicanas, Chicanos and working class whites who packed the panel discussion on "Writing for Working Class or Lifestyles of the Poor and (In)famous" that kind of intellectual, elitist analysis is every bit as out as Albee.

And, it should be noted, rainbow flags and pink triangles (except as part of a larger logo), were not much in evidence. Nor were: skirts (on men or women); flannel shirts (ditto); or Izods and Weejuns. Monotone is hot, polychrome, though, is not.

Got the picture?

•**Many who put pen to paper** or pound PC keys in service/response to queers remain mired in the illusion that L.A., San Francisco, and New York (call these three cities the Queer Media Axis or QMA) are the only places on this continent where gay men and lesbians: have ideas; form communities; and fuck. That's partly the fault of bi-coastal bigotry and partly due to the fact that few from other places attended OutWrite or made their regional voices heard above the QMA's din.

Three Atlantans were in attendance; Chuck Cummings, myself, and Sabrina Sojourner, who spoke elegantly and accurately of queer/black Atlanta on the "Our Town" panel. But even in this sole tidbit of regional recognition offered by the organizers, the bi-coastal mafia's bias was obvious. Other panel members hailed from Chicago, Minneapolis, and Boston. In con-

trast those who came to listen to their words called Comstock, Eugene or Sedona home.

OutWrite '92, it is rumored, will move East. But look for little relief from the QMA's stranglehold on the proceedings as a result; the Big Apple will likely play host to the event.

•**Feeling mightily excluded, ignored, verbally bashed and otherwise harassed** were those who identify as bisexuals. A panel aimed at developing increased media visibility for bi- guys and gals quickly took on the feeling of a support group as participants recited horror tales of abuse and discrimination—mostly from their lesbian/gay sisters and brothers. More encouraging on this front, most bi-folk identify easily with the queer word, offering hope for readers and writers alike that "bisexual" may not have to be amended to every use of the already laborious "lesbian/gay."

Too, there is a comprehensive new book (*Bi Any Other Name* [Alyson]) and even a national bi magazine (*Anything That Moves*) for women who love women but also love men and vice-versa. Look for review in an upcoming issue of *S.V. The* bi-buzzword, by the way, is "monosexual assumption." Put *that* in your deconstructivist dialectic and try puffing on it for a while.

•**Also in the minority, fed up with stereotyping and assumption, and vocal as hell** were the conference's working-class fags and dykes. The panel on the subject

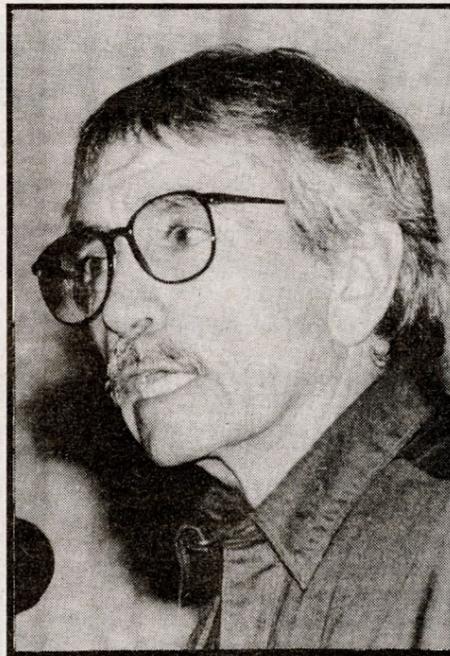
makes two of us."

•**Women and men appeared to be in equal number and power** at OutWrite, a fact most seemed comfortable with. Racial parity was another story altogether. While the organizers had obviously made a substantial effort to see that folks with other-than-white skin were represented on panels, people of color, especially African-American's, were decidedly in the minority here.

Obvious—even before release of recent census data—to anyone who walks through life with their eyes open is the fact our nation's collective face is well on its way towards becoming brown. Or, as Francisco X. Alarcon smilingly put it to a room of mostly white folks, "Look at my face, get used to it. It is your future."

Representatives of an ad hoc group of Gotham's Asian and Pacific Islander lesbians and gay men who are organizing a protest of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's April 6 *Miss Saigon* performance where much in evidence at OutWrite.

Their chrome yellow fliers proclaim "Miss Saigon is a white-man's wet-dream of Asian & Pacific Islander women...glorifies the sexual exploitation of Asian and Pacific Islander women, denigrates the Vietnamese people, and uses "yellow-face" to transform Jonathan Pryce into a Eurasian pimp..." That the show's producer, Cameron Mackintosh, is openly gay just adds fuel to the fire.



JORJET HARPER

Edward Albee drew both applause and catcalls for his contention that "Writers who are 'gay' don't have the responsibility of being 'gay writers'"

was still going strong half an hour after its advertised closing. Panel member Chrystos reminded those assembled—in words far more elegant than my sketchy notes allow me to repeat here—that many who consider themselves to be middle-class may be living in a delusion given the the stranglehold that America's "ruling class" has on the capital base in this country. In fact "all economic systems oppress the worker," she offered, drawing murmurs of assent from a room of writers who just a year ago might have strongly defended socialism or communism.

For the good news on being working class and queer, check Francisco X. Alarcon's bilingual book of poetry, *Body in Flames* (Chronicle Books) and Linda Neimann's novel about her life as a brakewoman on the railroad, *Boomer*. Neimann offered one of the conference's great laughs cum insight when she described a greatly improved relationship with a gnarled old (male) co-worker who had read her book: "When he admitted 'Well, I do like to eat pussy,' I replied, 'that

Queer people of color have challenged the policies and agendas of white dominated, national lesbian/gay groups before. But this kind of direct confrontation (and Lambda's unwillingness to back down) certainly brings Alarcon's words home with a wallop.

•**On the other side of the tracks** was Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Edward Albee. The self-described "A.S.P."—there are "no Black Anglo Saxon Protestants" he opined—rankled more than a few of the 1500-plus in attendance at the opening keynotes. After numerous references to his abilities, rights, and responsibilities to write about the lives of women, people of color, and heterosexuals raised the hackles of non-A.S.P.'s (and those recovering from the syndrome), Albee finally came all the way out as the proud assimilationist that he is.

As the hisses and boo's grew louder, the man who isn't afraid of Virginia Woolf grew more self-righteous invoking the memories of Thornton Wilder, Tennessee Williams and Gertrude Stein, who "were

all extraordinary writers who happened to be gay. They didn't write gay."

Albee's concluding remarks—that ghettoizing ourselves and our writing is exactly what the radical right wants—drew substantial applause and nods among the snarls and shouts. His thesis resurfaced regularly throughout the weekend, seemingly the conference's major bone of contention.

The inherent differences and conflict between those espousing assimilation and those rallying around the banner of a separate queer nation are, of course, both healthy and expected.

Far more troubling was a recurring phenomenon, noted and discussed increasingly as the weekend wore on: the tendency of some (sometimes many) participants to attack/belittle those who offered positions not coincident with their own. The extremely complex issue of how a community fed up with being abused confronts that abuse and sets about healing the wounds without itself becoming abusive was not addressed directly in any of the Outwrite '91 panels I attended. It might be a good place for OutWrite '92 to begin its work.

Developing a queer version of the oft-seen African-American graffito, "If you're dissin' the sisters, you ain't fightin' the power" ought to be high on every gay/lesbian/bisexual writer's agenda.

## EROTIPHOBIA

There's a new word in the queer vernacular: Erotiphobia. Given the havoc wrecked on gay men by AIDS—a disease certainly transmitted by, but too often confused with certain acts erotic—this fear of sex, intimacy, sensuality, pleasure (and/or the discussion thereof) comes as no surprise. What is surprising is that at a conference attended by 1800 ± bisexuals, lesbians and gay men (many of whom write porn/erotica), not one of 56 panel discussions dealt specifically with erotic writing.

The fact that the "Writing About the Body" panel had to be moved from a room with 50 seats to one with four times that number suggests that there was at least a modicum of interest in the pleasures of the flesh among the attendees.

The two women members on the "Body" panel (Elizabeth Meese and Sandra Huss, who teach at the University of Alabama) gave presentations that presage a gathering well-spring of interest in lesbian sexuality. Huss writes steamy fiction interspersed with erotophobic quotes from the likes of Andrea Dworkin. Meese turns the formula around, peppering her criticism and analysis with clit-tingling poetry, liberally inserted at strategic points.

Conversely, the men on the panel—both profs at San Francisco State—proffered ideas about the body on a more abstract and intellectual plane. Earl Jackson Jr.'s discourse on the "beyond representational" style used by the likes of Robert Gluck and Dennis Cooper was the hyper-analytical, anti-erotic antithesis of the downright make-me-moist presentations by Meese and Huss.

Publishers of gay male erotica are making it known that they (and thus we assume their readers) are ready for a new kind of prose. One that relates arousal to the spiritual and sensual rather than the base, banal and even abusive. It's fun to hypothesize that the style of this new male erotica might be founded in part on the pioneering work of two Alabama dykes.

—G.K.

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# ddC: Problems & Promises

*Studies suggest excellent results from the drug when used alone and in conjunction with AZT, but activists are calling for a boycott of Hoffmann-La Roche products because of delays in making ddC available.*

by Kathleen Brockel, Atlanta NAPWA Treatment Advisory Committee

"I had to build special shelving in my office to hold the four inch thick binders," said Atlanta Infectious Disease physician Dr. Steve Marlowe, referring to the stack of paperwork required to enroll and monitor patients in the Hoffmann-La Roche ddC expanded access program.

Atlanta physician Rick Hudson enrolled the first patient in the country into the Roche's ddC expanded access program. It took him *twelve* hours to complete the paperwork process. Then he was told by Roche that it would be 3 to 4 months before his patient would receive the drug.

**ddC is a nucleoside analogue** (as are ddI and AZT) which has antiretroviral activity against HIV. ddC's efficacy has been suggested by increased CD4 counts, weight gain and reduction in p24 antigen levels. Reported side effects are generally attributed to higher doses (.06 & .03 mg/kg of body weight) of ddC used in phase I trials. Those side effects can include peripheral neuropathy (tingling, numbness or pain in the hands and feet, neutropenia—a type of low white blood cell count), thrombocytopenia (low platelets) and rash. The toxicities are nonexistent, or much less severe, in lower doses of ddC (.01 or .005 mg/kg of body weight). Current recommendations call for one or two .375mg tablets taken orally three times per day.

**A person with HIV is eligible to get ddC** through expanded access if he or she has experienced AZT treatment failure, AZT intolerance, or is ineligible for AZT. These are specific definitions set by Roche which outline criteria for lab values, symptoms, and time frame for eligibility. (A summary list is printed in issue #113 of John James Treatment News available in the NAPWA office.)

Expanded access programs are meant to allow access to potentially life enhancing and life saving drugs for people who are ineligible for standard, FDA approved drugs while those drugs are still in clinical trials. But, for a variety of reasons, people are often not eligible to participate in expanded access programs. They may be taking other medications which might skew the results of a drug trial. Additional safety data on the drug is collected through the program, whereas efficacy data is collected through standard drug trials.

And drug companies are not allowed to charge for the drug through expanded access.

**"Patients die while doctors fill out forms"** is the tag line coined by ACT UP New York's "Boycott Roche" campaign. Boycott organizers charge that people with HIV are waiting as long as four to seven months to receive ddC through the expanded access program. They say that problems stem from Hoffmann-La Roche's refusal to ask the government for a "national" IRB approval—experimental drug protocols must be approved by institutional review boards. Because there is no national IRB for ddC, physicians whose patients want to use the drug must get approval from local IRB's—through

hospitals or research institutions. A second obstacle is the paperwork required for each patient enrolled, a stack thicker than an Atlanta telephone directory.

ACT UP calls for a boycott against Roche services and products (Valium, Librium, Dalmane and Roferon A) until demands are met to: replace local IRB approval with a national IRB; reduce monitoring paperwork from 6 pages every 2 weeks to 2 pages every 4 weeks; delivery of the drug in less than 3 weeks; and formal toxicity reporting procedure to physicians.

David Rephun, ACT UP Boycott organizer met with Hoffmann-La Roche representative Paul Oestreicher last week to discuss activists' demands. Rephun reported that Roche promised to streamline the expanded access process soon. But Rephun is concerned because Roche's promises have gone unfulfilled before.

One day after this meeting, Oestreicher told us that Roche had already filed a new protocol with the FDA which will reduce the case report forms from 6 pages to 2. The FDA confirmed the filing. He also said that Roche approached the FDA last year for a National IRB, but was told that the FDA did not have the same experience with Roche as with Bristol Myers and would not approve it. ACT UP counters that the FDA says no such petition was submitted.

**The ddC expanded access program has been fraught** with controversy since its inception last June. Initial criteria for accessing the drug required that patients be unable to take both AZT and ddI (another experimental anti-HIV drug). Hoffmann-La Roche eliminated the ddI fail criteria in September after considerable activist, physician and patient pressure.

Roche reports that 2,000 people are receiving ddC through this program and that 100 patients per week are being added, contrasted with more than 12,000 people enrolled in the ddI expanded access program. Roche's Paul Oestreicher says such comparisons are not valid, as the Bristol Myers ddI program was in place a year before the ddC program. There are tens of thousands of people living with HIV who are not able to, or choose not to, take AZT and could potentially benefit from ddC or ddI treatment.

**But local physicians are frustrated.** Dr. Marlowe (principal investigator for the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta's [ARCA] study comparing ddC to AZT) said that he again spoke to Hoffmann-La Roche last week asking them to streamline the process for expanded access.

Marlowe says he has not experienced the long delay in getting the drug that other physicians report. He speculated that this may be due to Atlanta being an experimental study site for the drug.

Amy Morris, Executive Director for ARCA, said that ARCA physicians use that institution's IRB approval. Dr. Marlowe estimated that his patients have been waiting 10 to 14 days for application approval and then a week for the drug, down from a 3 to 4 week delay at the onset of the program.

It appears that an individual's source of

medical care greatly impacts his or her experience with ddC delays. One NAPWA member reports that he waited nine weeks for the drug. At the Grady Infectious Disease Clinic, Nurse Practitioner Gail Parker reported that she began the paperwork process for a patient last October and the patient has yet to receive the drug. Delays were due to the monstrous paperwork and the lengthy process for IRB approval—Grady goes through Emory's IRB. She is hoping that the second Grady patient she is currently enrolling will move along more expeditiously. At another government funded hospital no patients have been enrolled, but an anonymous source there reported that the patients, reviewed for eligibility due to AZT failure, were then found ineligible due to other specific medical problems.

Physician Toni Rossi has enrolled 10 patients into expanded access, but she has an employee in her office specifically assigned to complete the burdensome paperwork. Rossi pointed out that while Bristol Myers allows physicians to stock the required forms to apply for ddI expanded access, Hoffmann-La Roche requires physicians to order the forms on a case-by-case enrollment basis. Rossi says her patients are getting the drug 2 to 3 weeks after the application is completed.

ARCA's Morris has contacted Hoffmann-La Roche several times on behalf of ARCA physicians frustrated with expanded access obstacles. She said that the government has a responsibility to address problems with expanded access programs by outlining firm guidelines which speak to issues about case report forms, National IRB approval, incentives for drug companies to establish such programs and financial costs of the programs. She reported that the U.S. Public Health Service is circulating such guidelines currently, but no one would give her any definitive time table for adoption.

**So, is anybody in Atlanta getting ddC?** Yes, some people have participated in ARCA's now closed ddC vs. AZT study—although Grady reported no participants. ARCA is now enrolling patients in a ddC vs. ddI study.

NAPWA is aware of a number of people purchasing ddC through buyers clubs. The health care providers interviewed said only a handful of patients reported purchasing the drug in this method. Buyers club sources are: Fort Lauderdale (305) 568-3001; San Francisco (415) 626-2316; Los Angeles (213) 748-1295.

Cost ranges from \$50 to \$70 for a month's supply. In-stock supplies vacillate. Each of these clubs reported that the drug they are providing had been analyzed for comparison against the Hoffmann-La Roche drug.

**Hoffmann-La Roche has, in fact, begun the process** of filing a New Drug Application (NDA) with the FDA for Market approval of ddC as both a single agent and for combination therapy with AZT. This means that the FDA will now review all clinical data that has been gathered on both safety and efficacy to determine if ddC can be sold as an anti-HIV compound.

Roche's Oestreicher says that the NDA could be tens of thousands of pages and will be completed by mid-year. The FDA has promised a speedy review, but has offered no timetable for actual approval. Oestreicher declined to speculate about what Hoffmann-La Roche would charge customers for ddC.

Physicians interviewed were encouraged that another anti-retroviral other than AZT might be available by prescription soon. Community based use and preliminary results of trials investigating the efficacy of ddC in combination with AZT have been widely reported in AIDS treatment news letters throughout the country.

The San Francisco-based "John James AIDS Treatment News" reported in its Nov. 23, 1990 issue on ACTG Trial 106. In the trial 48 volunteers with AIDS or ARC who had less than 200 T-cells took various combinations of AZT and ddC. This small study reported increased T-4 cells and weight gain with no new opportunistic infections appearing after the first few weeks of treatment. The O.I.'s that did appear in the first few weeks may, of course, have been developing prior to the onset of the therapy.

Word is that the full data from the study will be published in a medical peer review journal next month. While this small study offers some information on combination therapy, further studies will be necessary for conclusive proof. Roche's Oestreicher said that more than 500 patients have been enrolled in a ddC/AZT combination study in the ACTG system.

Dr. Rossi noted that combination therapy was an interesting concept, but that she had no experience with patients using both drugs together. Persons getting ddC through expanded access programs are not allowed prescriptions of AZT due to AZT fail criteria.

**Project Inform's Terry Beswick said the implication** of combination therapy approval is astounding because it may throw a monkey wrench into the whole AZT standard-of-care model. It may mean that all current drug trials using AZT single agent therapy would be revised for AZT/ddC therapy. Project Inform initiated a nationwide advocacy campaign to call for early review of ddC and ddI data.

Beswick added that the information put out by Hoffmann-La Roche indicated that the NDA proposes "the use of ddC for the treatment of AIDS and ARC patients as an alternative to AZT therapy." This description does not specify if the drug company will indicate a T-4 cell range for labeling. He speculated that it may be restricted to people with 200 T-cells or less as there may not be sufficient data on people with 200-500 T-4 cells.

*Physicians who wish to enroll patients into ddC expanded access should call (800) 332-2144.*

*Anyone who wishes to sign on to ACT UP's "Boycott Roche" campaign should call (212) 532-3821 or stop by the Atlanta NAPWA office.*

*Additional info on ddC studies is also available at the NAPWA office, 98 6th Street. 874-7926.*

Dykes To Watch Out For



Bittersweet

By Charles Haver



the OTHERSIDE

OF ATLANTA HAS IT ALL!

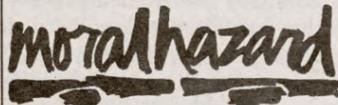
THURSDAYS

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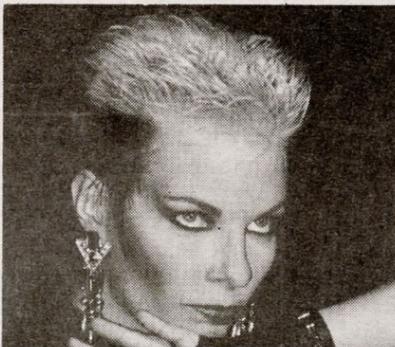
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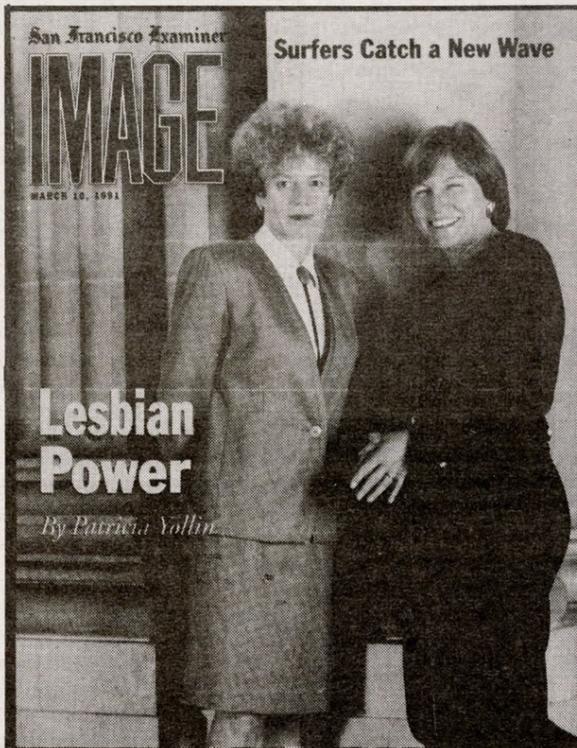
there's a fine line between telling the truth and talking trash

**Keeping a PACE:** Dish was moved to tears recently as she went shopping at the Norcross PACE Membership Warehouse with local volunteer and activist extraordinaire Mark du Pont. On this particular day, DuPont decided to upgrade his membership. He proceeded to fill in his husband's info on the application, fully expecting to be dismissed from this Gwinnett establishment. After processing the application, the clerk on duty asked, "Is your spouse with you today?" To which Mark replied, "No, he's at home." "Well," the clerk continued, "give him this slip of paper and when he comes here next time, we'll issue his permanent card." In view of the recent incidents directed against us by other companies, Dish thinks we should congratulate PACE on their extraordinary acceptance.

**Rumor Has It:** Dish has been hearing for months rumors of the return of Atlanta's first and sometimes only out lesbian rock-n-roll band. And then came the flyer for the Southern Women's Music & Comedy Fest with Moral Hazard scheduled for Friday night. Could it be? Apparently so. The Hazards, now in their 10th year, are also scheduled to play The Otherside on Sunday, April 7. Now, what's this we hear about an album-length cassette tape?

**A.K. Phone Home?:** A coalition of lesbian and gay activists is looking for one (or more) openly gay man or lesbian to run for retiring Rep. John Lupton's seat in an upcoming special election. The candidate(s) must have lived in District 25 and "have more brains than Vincent Wall and be less sexist than Bill Lee" say the organizers of the effort. Women and people of color are especially urged to run for the post. Dish wonders if A.K., B.S., or F.L. will respond—any one of them could win in a heartbeat. Call 377-8312 or 688-1954 for more info if this tickles your fancy.

**Dyke Power:** Dish was downright impressed with the cover of the S.F. Examiner's March 10 edition of their Sunday magazine, Image. Then we looked inside and read the story. Wow and zowie! Eight pages of hot, hot pictures



accompanied by a well-reasoned, well-constructed, well-written story about dykes in a mainstream Sunday mag? And all the tired old J-C gives us is the ever more gutless and glamorous Parade. Call this reason #457 that queers move to San Francisco.

**Calling GLAAD:** Dish sure does hope that the local chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has Channel 11 on its "to call" list. First there was the station's recent coverage of the Douglasville Cracker Barrel demo where the folks

from WXIA reported incorrectly that the Lebanon, Tenn., bigots had rescinded their homophobic employment policy. Then came last Friday night's well-intentioned but almost silly story on gay bashing—hung on the report of a man who evidently got AIDS as the result of his ongoing and brutal punching out of gay men (see page 5). The straw that broke the camel's back was Steen Miles question to a gay man (who had never been bashed): "What would you say if you could talk to a homophobic?" Dish wants to know is that the singular or plural? Or maybe it's the past-pluperfect.

**Karma Comes Home:** Dish is proud to have survived the Mr. & Mrs. Southeast Leather Contests—but just barely. 4.5 hours to judge 4 contestants? We know beauty contests are supposed to be tacky, but PLEASE! Atlantans were victorious in both contests—congrats to Wes Decker and MP Breslin. Highlights included Wes' heartfelt speech about being gay-bashed and MP's inclusive and erotic "initiation by fire" ritual fantasy. Talk about HOT! And kudos to Guy Baldwin, '89 International Mr. Leather, who raised over \$300 in what he called "the most satisfying impromptu fundraiser I have ever been involved with." For \$10 a whack, audience members got the chance to smack the behind of contest organizer Robert Sheets. Watching all that karma make such a quick turnaround was truly festive. Not to wish any ill to Mr. Sheets' posterior, but when you show your ass in public, you can expect it to get whacked.

**Oh Stanley!** Kowalski that is. Is Dish the only one who still watches the gloriously giggly Entertainment Tonight? And are we the only one who noticed last week's episode on which Mr. Kowalski's...er, Brando's...ex wife outed the oft-times petulant star? The ex-Mrs. B.told the E.T.'s bright eyed interviewer that Marlon's tendencies had wrecked their marriage and were at the cause of son Christian's shooting his sister's boyfriend. Dish seems to remember an old rumor about a picture of Wally Cox and Brando...anybody else heard that one?

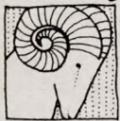
March 28 - April 10

RULING PLANETS

by Mary Bailey-Rule

Spring has officially arrived, we're in a new cycle of growth. The Full Moon in Libra and Passover occur on Mar. 30. Mercury goes retrograde on the 4th. Daylight Saving begins at 2:00 am April 7th.

**ARIES—Happy Birthday!** When Mercury turns retrograde on the 4th, messages and deliveries may be lost or delayed, so keep calm, watch your temper and impatience. Plan ahead so that important matters are not affected.



**TAURUS—Venus** in your 1st house of personal awareness moves into opposition to Pluto in your 7th house of committed relationships on the 4th creating dynamic opportunities to resolve and heal difficulties with friends and loved ones.



**GEMINI—Venus** in your 12th house of the unconscious and the unseen gives greater access and insight to your dreams and visions, so take time to be aware of your internal activity. Keeping a dream log may be very useful.



**CANCER—Venus** in your 11th house of community, environmental or political issues creates opportunities for networking and for contributing time and energy to your favorite cause. Great personal satisfaction.



**LEO—Jupiter** goes into direct motion in your 1st house on the 30th. You may feel a surge of energy or release from hindrances and restrictions. Just be clear about your direction and then full steam ahead.



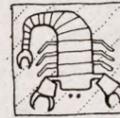
**VIRGO—Venus** moving through your 9th house of higher learning and travel creates opportunities for personal growth and enhances your aesthetic sensitivities. Excellent time for exposure to art and music or relaxing travel.



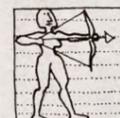
**LIBRA—Saturn** in your 5th house of creative expression and Mars in your 9th house of higher learning and travel can create potentially explosive or possibly oppressive situations, so be aware of any anger and vent appropriately.



**SCORPIO—Venus** in your 7th house of personal and committed relationships is creating opportunities to heal and resolve old wounds and opening the door for new and important people to enter your life. Trust your instincts.



**SAGITTARIUS—With Mercury** going retrograde (apparent backward motion) on April 4th in your 5th house of creativity and love affairs, you may want to find new ways of expressing your energy and imagination. Have Fun!



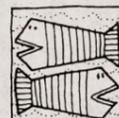
**CAPRICORN—With Saturn** moving slowly through your 2nd house of income and material resources, you may want to focus some attention on your investments and go over your financial goals to be sure they are current with your needs.



**AQUARIUS—As Saturn** moves through your 1st house of personal awareness and identity, be prepared to re-evaluate your life and your priorities. A good time to slowly and carefully restructure some your lifestyle to be more productive.

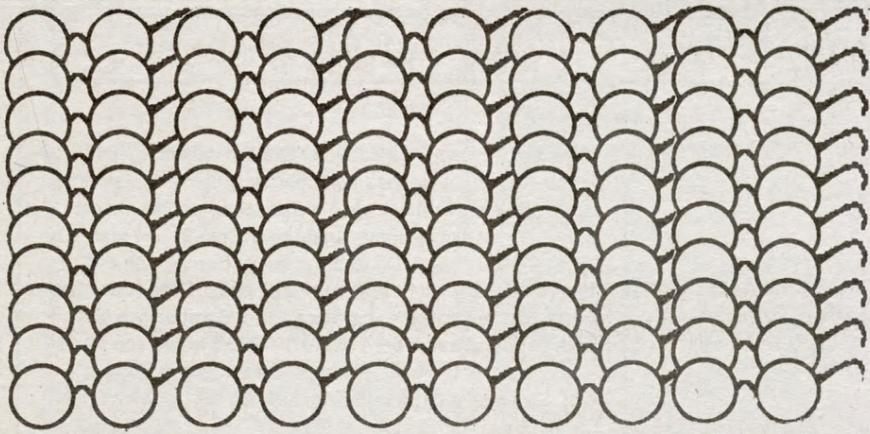


**PISCES—With the Sun and Mercury** in your 2nd house of finances and income, you can increase opportunities by focusing on your talents and abilities and spreading the word about your work. Make hay while the Sun Shines!



Mary Bailey-Rule is a professional astrologer specializing in birth chart analysis, relationship chart and astrological career counseling. For more insights about your sign, call 264-6219.

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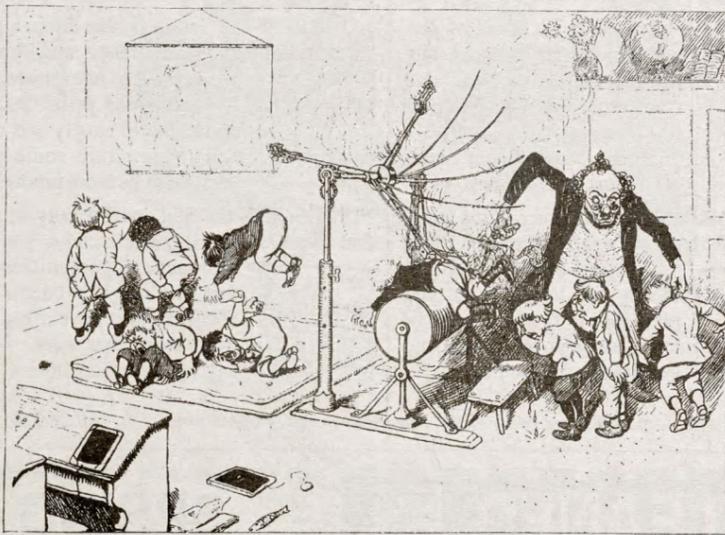
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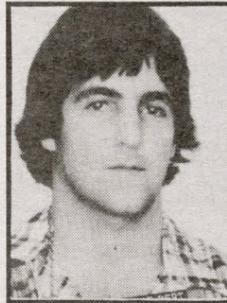
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## Basher

Cont'd from page 1



Michael Shannon

Police arrested Shannon shortly afterwards in the parking lot of the Pharr Library, where he had left his car the night before. He gave police the name of his dead brother—Richard Shannon—whose driver's license he was using as identification. Despite their repeated assurances to Germain that he would be safe from Shannon, police released Shannon on a \$10,000 bond. The police were aware that Shannon had previously lived outside Georgia, had an arrest record in three states and had bragged in detail of other murders to Germain.

When Shannon jumped bail and did not appear at his arraignment, police declared him a fugitive and raised his bond to \$100,000.

After an article about the crime appeared in *Southern Voice* in January 1990, a reader called the paper and informed us that the man whose photograph accompanied the article was actually Michael Shannon. Police were made aware of the fact and Shannon was extradited to Georgia in March 1990 after being arrested in a Boston bar fight.

Shannon's trial was delayed four times between March 1990 and March 1991 as his attorney Tom West maneuvered to have charges dismissed.

Michael Shannon appeared calm and self-confident as he described his version of what happened on August 17-18, 1989 to the judge and jury.

Shannon claimed that he is not gay and, despite the fact that he had lived in the neighborhood for some time, did not know that the Pharr Library was a gay gathering spot. His reason for being there was to meet someone to sell some tickets to a Rolling Stones concert. He said that after 5-10 minutes he realized that he was in a gay bar and walked to the parking lot where Germain approached him and offered to buy two tickets. The two went to Germain's apartment to get the money to pay for the tickets, Shannon testified.

At the apartment, Shannon said, Germain offered him a beer and showed him his antique collection which included the antique sword. Shannon said he started feeling very sleepy after drinking the beer. He claimed that he then walked into the kitchen and saw three or four empty capsules on the table. Shannon says he then returned to the living room where he passed out on the couch—he thinks as the result of drugs that Germain slipped into his beer.

Shannon then testified that he awoke to find Germain performing oral sex on him. Because he was scared, shocked and repulsed, he took the sword and hit Germain once.

Shannon told the jury that he was sorry Germain had gotten hurt but stressed that forced sodomy is a felony. Shannon claimed that he would have called an ambulance for Germain had the attacked man not run out the door. When that happened, Shannon said, he decided to just go home.

If what Shannon said about feeling sympathy for Germain was true, it did not stop him from allowing his attorney to unleash a vicious assault on the victim when he took the stand. Cathy Woolard of the ACLU's lesbian and gay Police Advisory Board had worked with Germain during the 19 months between his attack and trial and observed much of the trial. She described West's cross examination of Germain as "appalling."

"West attacked Germain as a homosexual," she explained. "He deliberately changed the circumstances to base his defense of homosexual panic. What he did to that man was make him a victim once again."

Laws protecting the rights of the accused

prevented District Attorney Grover Hudgins from introducing Shannon's notorious past—problems with drugs, DUI convictions, the bar fight in Boston, numerous uses of false identification—into the trial record.

West, however, was free to use questions to make inferences about and accusations to Germain.

Like a machine gun, West fired a stream of incessant and incriminating questions at Germain: "Isn't it true you lured my client into your apartment to have sex with him?" "Do you lure other young men?" "Do you suck men's penises?" "Don't homosexuals suck men's penises?" "Do you suffer any nervous disorders?" "Do you seek doctor's treatment?" "Did you drug my client?" "Isn't it true you had his pants down and his penis in your mouth?" "Have you ever taken advantage of a man sexually?" "Do you have AIDS?"

Visibly shaken by West's attack, Germain stuck to his story.

Two doctors testified; neither was able to shed any additional light on the nature of the attack. Dr. Arthur J. Simon, a specialist in reconstructive surgery, corroborated Germain's testimony saying that the man's injuries were so severe as to have been caused by more than one blow. West's expert witness, Dr. Joseph Burton, a specialist in forensic pathology, claimed that Germain's wounds could have been caused by one blow as Shannon had testified.

"It's up to you to determine the credibility of the witnesses," D.A. Hudgins told the jury in his closing remarks. "This is not a trial of the gay community. This is the trial of a deranged man who sliced another human being with a sword without reason—except he probably doesn't recognize his own sexuality, whether its homosexual or heterosexual. And he took it out on Mr. Germain."

The jury deliberated for almost two hours before it reached its guilty verdict.

When Judge Hull asked both attorneys for recommendations on Shannon's sentence, West made one last effort to get his client off the hook.

"Your honor," he appealed to the judge, "because my client was not found guilty of aggravated battery, just simple battery, therefore they do not feel the crime is of a malicious nature. So I'm going to ask that my client get probation."

"I want you to read aloud, and for the record, what your client was found guilty of," Hull responded. "If you do not feel what your client did was malicious, then read to me what the jury thought."

West proceeded to read the formal statement which said that Shannon was found guilty of aggravated assault—taking a dangerous weapon and using it in an offensive manner, and with the intent to do bodily harm, to cut and stab Mr. Germain.

"The jury's swift and clear guilty verdict combined with Judge Hull's 21 year sentence sends a strong message to would-be bashers," said the ACLU's Woolard. "The sentence can never make up for the pain and suffering that Germain has endured, but he deserves praise and congratulation for his willingness to see this through."

West would not say whether or not he intended to appeal the verdict, but observers noted that Shannon would likely be eligible for parole (in about 7 years) before such an appeal could be heard.

Shannon's parents were present throughout the trial; they felt Hull's sentence was excessive. After the trial, Richard Shannon, Sr., turned to Germain and shouted, "I hope you people are satisfied."

Germain remained silent and waited until the Shannons had left the courtroom to make any comment.

"I not sure what to say," he then offered. "Maybe I will later, when I've thought about it for a while...I just wish I didn't have to go through this. People see me now [after reconstructive therapy and 19 months of occupational therapy] and they just don't realize all I've been through."

**\*AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION**

**AIDS 101 SEMINAR**, Georgia Mental Health, 1256 Briarcliff Rd., Atlanta, GA. April 27 and 28. General Public - \$30.00. Discount for students and senior citizens. Call 872-0600 for more information. (V4,#5)

Greenville, SC Support Group - HIV+, PWA, Family, Friends, Significant Others. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. 7:00PM. For more information call Joe (803) 242-7180.

GAPHR, in collaboration with Edward O. Nix, M.D., Psychiatrist, will be offering a complimentary support group for HIV Positive physicians, dentists and physician assistants. For confidential information, call Dr. Nix at 404-634-0672. (V4,#3)

Tax Returns Prepared Free for PWA's & HIV+ sponsored by IRS. For appointment call AID Atlanta 874-6517 or NAPWA 874-7926. (V4,#3)

Project A.R.I.E.S. - HIV-negative gay and bisexual men - meet other healthy men who want to stay healthy and have fun too. Groups meet Thursdays, 7pm-9pm for six weeks beginning February 28. Call AID Atlanta at 872-0600 for details. Confidential.

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 info.

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

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

ACT UP/ATLANTA: (404) 286-6247

Atlanta Gay Center People Project. Information and advocacy for HIV affected people in the metro area.

**AID ATLANTA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS**

Groups and Meeting Times: PWAs I Wed. 7-9pm  
PWAs II Sat. 4-5:30pm  
Lymphadenopathy/ARC Mon. 7-9pm  
Hispanics with HIV Wed. 7-8:30pm  
Worried Well Tues. 6-7:30pm  
Bereavement Mon. 7-9pm  
Family, Friends & Partners I Mon. 7-9pm  
Family, Friends & Partners II Wed. 7-9pm  
PWA in the Family Wed. 7-9pm

**AIDS Information Line: In Atlanta 876-9944, Toll-free: 1-800-551-2728**

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

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

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

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

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 Atlanta Regional Music Directory is a comprehensive registry for all performers, businesses, and support organizations directly involved with the Atlanta music scene. First Issue. Published Annually. All listings free. Pick up a registration form at any participating Turtles, or call Mark Hoover at 370-0161 or Dennis Reynolds at 370-1312 for info. Deadline for registration is March 31st, to be published May 1st. Spread the word. (V4,#5)

**HELP!**

Southern Voice needs a new or used Macintosh SE computer. Donation or long term lending situation desired. Help us to continue to bring you the best in lesbian/gay news. Call Chris 874-1588 (V4,#5)

**WANTED**

VENDORS / ARTISTS / CRAFTS-PEOPLE to participate in the East Atlanta Festival, May 4, Saturday, 10-6 in Brownwood Park, East Atlanta. Full day of fun and entertainment. We need your products, services, and talent. Mimes and roving entertainers welcome. Call Rick at 624-1846 for info. (V4,#5)

AID Atlanta needs furniture donations for housing program. If you have furniture you would like to donate, contact the furniture bank @ 355-8463. Free Pick-up. Specify your donation is for AID Atlanta. (Bedroom & dinettes especially needed) (V4,#3)

Avondale/Decatur meeting space available for small groups (literary, conscious-raising, or whatever). Available Sun-Thurs 7-9pm. Call Bill Page, 296-4088. (V4,#3)

Tax returns prepared free on Saturdays through April 14 from 1PM to 3PM at the Atlanta Gay Center, 67 12th Street. For more information, call 876-5372. Sponsored by the IRS. (V4,#3)

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 a description of program services to AALGA, Drug & Alcohol Program, PO Box 50374, Atlanta, GA 30302 or call 997-LOVE.

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**MANAGER WANTED** - Looking for energetic, creative person to fill the role of general manager for a growing retail business. Must be proficient in accounting / inventory control. Defining problems & needs. Handle money & banking. Have expanded consciousness. Manage people well. Computer literate. Be ready to jump right in. Well-adjusted emotionally. \$20K+ salary plus some benefits. Send resume to: Maddox Deluxe, 1046 N. Highland Ave., Atlanta, GA 30306 or call 892-9337 (M-F from 12-2 only, please!)

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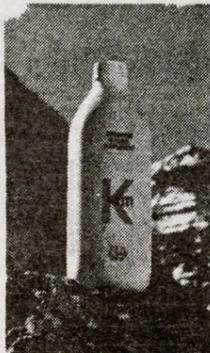
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**Deadline:** Tuesday noon prior to publication.  
**Discounts:** 10% for seven or more insertions of ad.

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Warm Hands, Warm Heart. Swedish / Esalen massage, acupressure, rebirthing. HIV+ encouraged. By appt. 60 healing minutes. \$30 with this ad thru 4/30/91. Joe Chancy, M.Div., CMT 688-6163. (V4,#4)

### VOICE CONNECTION

Looking for love? If so, you have come to the right ad. If you are masculine, hairy, 25-45, serious, and romantic. I am GBM, 25, 6', 220#. Tops only, please. 45011 (V4,#6)

GBM, 20, 6'2", 169, mature college student, very handsome, talented, music lover, seeks masculine type GM to share a true love, friendship, and escapade of the heart. 45009 (V4,#6)

Cleancut, conscientious, masculine WM - 40, with many interests including art, architecture, mountains, landscaping, & personal growth, is seeking compatible WM approx. 23-33 who has similar interests & is hopefully goodlooking, masculine, muscular, smooth & sometimes submissive. 45013 (V4,#6)

Santina Christine Dicaro "Anger is a vulgar passion directed to vulgar ends, and it always sinks to the level of its objects." Rebecca Dawn 45007 (V4,#6)

This GWM is 28, 5'1", 150#, masculine, earthy, independent, affectionate, with mustache. Seeking masculine, honest, affectionate, handsome man for possible relationship. I like mustaches, nice peccs, cute smiles, and cuddlers. Call or write and let's see what happens! 45001 (V4,#6)

GWM, 25, dark hair, blue eyes, slim, very attractive. Interests include romantic dinners, Sunday brunch, movies, the symphony. Am seeking someone with similar interests who is also honest, passionate and masculine. 45003 (V4,#6)

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GWM, 45, 6'6", 197, sandy/blue, clean shaven, enjoys travel, music, swimming, theatre, cozy dinners, cuddling, films. Would like to meet stable, secure, settled GBM who is interested in companionship / relationship. 45005 (V4,#6)

Attractive Midtown GWM Couple: 25, 5'9", 145lbs, blonde, top and 38, 5'10", 155lbs, s/p, versatile. Both are friendly, easygoing, work out, professionals. Seek bottoms or versatiles, 18-45, for hot, safe, imaginative, fun times. No fats. 45000 (V4,#6)

From Michael — I'm looking for another guy who is smooth and muscular. I am 6', 170lbs, br/bl/mustache. Into intense rubdowns. 45015

### PERSONALS

GWM — 28, 5'10", 155, Brn/Grn, clean-shaven. Considered attractive, creative, sometimes shy, sarcastic, sentimental, smoker, sensual. Likes Sandra Bernhard, coffee, Bruce Weber, Sinatra, Disco, Warhol, soul, sex, more. No beards/Republicans. New to Atlanta...seeks GM person(s) for...? SV 2390 (V4,#6)

Diane P. — Even if the entire lesbian community finds out how hot you are, will you still be my date?

Anyone here for love? GWM, 30, auburn/hazel, considered good-looking, prefers older man, 35-55, for romantic friendship, companionship. Must be gentle, kind, nurturant, distinguished, reasonably attractive. No phonies, deadbeats, feds, sex addicts, liars, or mental cases. Photo please. Healthy in all respects and expect same. Mark, Box 130568, Birmingham, AL 35213. (V4,#6)

BiBF Housewife looking to correspond with other Bi-Housewives (any race) through letters and phone. Let's share our fantasies and dreams. Hope it will lead to discreet friendship and/or relationship. PO Box 361432, Decatur, GA 30036-1432. (V4,#6)

Rebecca — Thank you for the love. I want to thank you for the hearts and flowers. Anita

BLUE EYED TOP: cleancut & boyish, 30's, seeks cute bottom for safe fun. Photo & tel to: Boxholder, 2980 Cobb Parkway, Suite 192-172, Atlanta, GA 30339. (V4,#6)

GWM 50+, educated, employed, well-groomed, seeks 40+ GWM for dinner companion, concerts, theater, games, golf, or weekend at te beach. No Drugs. New to area. PO Box 503, Bogart, GA 30622. (V4,#6)

Healthy GWM, 72, desires serious letters, especially those who would relocate here. I'm clean, intelligent, retired, drug free, you be the same. Be honest. All answered immediately. I'm for real and easy-going. SV #2392 (V4,#6)

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*“I’m looking for the  
finer things  
in a new  
relationship.”*

## **VOICE CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>**

Beginning with this edition of *Southern Voice*, the personals section will be called the **VOICE CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>**. But, it's more than a name change...we're also introducing a new state-of-the-art voice mail system. This system will make responding to *Southern Voice* personal ads as easy as leaving a message on a friend's answering machine.

## **Free Personals**

**VOICE CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>** is a free service for personal advertisers. When you place your **FREE** personal ad in *Southern Voice*, you will be mailed a simple instruction sheet, your box number and a secret access code. You will be able to call toll-free, record your own message and begin listening to people who respond to your ad (\$1.49 per minute to retrieve your calls). Just use the simple classified order form on the first page of the classified section and mail us your **FREE** personal ad.

## **How to Respond**

Look for **VOICE CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>** personal ads identified by this symbol: Ⓞ. Then call —

**1-900-454-4242**

(Access code 45)

After you've entered the access code, key in the mailbox number for the ad to which you are responding, when asked to do so by the **VOICE CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>**. After hearing the advertiser's message, leave your own.

That's all there is to it. You can call 24 hours a day and for just \$1.49 per minute, you may meet the person you are seeking. If you have any questions, you may call 876-2709 for details.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Anne** 321-4461 (O)  
**FAUVER** 876-3545 (H)



**Rick** 321-4461 (O)  
**STUCKEY** 876-4474 (H)

### Free Personals

**VOICE CONNECTION®**  
1-900-454-4242  
(Access code 45)

GWM, 18, NGA/Dalton area, seeks young GM for friendship, dating, and possible relationship. Like movies, music, nature, being with a warm/caring man. Must be honest, trustworthy, and an all-around great person. Address, letter, photo, phone. SV 2387 (V4,#5)

So, I eat hamburgers, wear makeup and I'm not always PC. Does that make me a bad person? Queer BF, 22, fat and proud seeks Queer female with similar qualities for possible relationship. What are you waiting for? Write already! SV 2388 (V4,#5)

Healthy, rugged, intelligent young male into hiking and camping seeks same for occasional outings in Tennessee Mtns to enjoy wonderful days and nights in natural splendor, prefer Thurs, Fri, and/or Sat. Write Eric Peterson, P.O. Box 912, Hixson, TN 37343. (V4,#5)

GWF 35, seeks friendship with GF, 25-45. I: high-tech Ph.D., good-hearted, workaholic, gourmand, storyteller, intense, sporadically spiritual, feminist, occasionally insecure, prone to adventures/crusades. You: centered, dependable, intelligent, passionate about something. No smokers, drugs, heavy alcohol. SV 2389 (V4,#5)

Inexperienced? Insecure? Curious? I'm mature GM, understanding. Well endowed. Age, race unimportant; no drugs or smoke. Box 3118, Atlanta 30302 or (404) 237-7459. (V4,#5)

Mom & baby girl, escaped from Boston, want to explore Atlanta's womyn's & spiritual community and eventually to offer Moonlodge and Wise Woman Tradition apprenticeships. Seeking contacts and a few nights lodging. Whitewolf c/o Levian, PO Box 576, Asheville NC 28802. (V4,#5)

GBM, 30, 6 feet 190. This may be strange, but I would like to meet G/Bi BF 25-30 for friendship, I am masculine and enjoy sports. Please write PO Box 54894, Atlanta GA 30309. Photo/phone. (V4,#5)

WM, 27, 5'6", 150, muscular build, relationship oriented. I am honest, sincere, loving and versatile. Enjoy working out, movies, the outdoors, and dancing. Seek similar quality men. SV 2382. (V4,#5)

Young GWM couple seeking single GWM friends 18-24 for weekend & summer fun. Into partying, rock 'n' roll (AC/DC, Stones, Cinderella) and movies. Note, phone #. Photo if possible. SV 2383. (V4,#5)

GWM, 35, 6'2", Br/Br, 178#, mustache - attractive, intelligent, secure professional, HIV+ (healthy and coping), sense of humor but sometimes moody, private person but will admit to smoking and occasional alcohol - seeks same 32-45, preferably furrer, more aggressive, and a little smarter (sometimes) to check out options. SV 2386 (V4,#5)

GWM, attractive, 32, 5'9", 138, seeks same 24-40 who like me is professional, masculine, quality, in shape. No one nite stands, fems or fats. Atlanta area. Likes music, travel, movies. For relationship. Note, phone, photo. SV 2385 (V4,#5)

GWF - 25, femme, petite, pretty, vegetarian, brunette, social drinker and smoker seeks pretty, butch GWF 18-30 for friendship, possible relationship. Interests include nature, reading, travel, and movies. Please include photo and phone number in letter. SV 2384 (V4,#5)

Forget waiting  
for the mail!

**VOICE CONNECTION®**  
1-900-454-4242  
(Access code 45)

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)

GWM 23, 5'10", 165, Br/Bl, enjoy movies, music, tennis, bowling, travel. Upbeat and sincere. Seeks GWM 22 plus for friendship, possibly more. Boxholder, 2980 Cobb Pkwy., Suite 192-172A, Atlanta, GA 30339. (V4,#4)

GWM 25, 5'7", 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)

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)

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)

F/M Transsexual 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)

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 man into 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? Lonely? 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 2379 (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 2381 (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)

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, musicians, 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)

### Immediate Response!

**VOICE CONNECTION®**  
1-900-454-4242  
(Access code 45)

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

Cute, kooky, inconoclastic, wild-eyed, Italian boy, 34. Yankee born & recently relocated here from Northern California. Seeking the pleasurable company of spontaneous, self-assured, 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)



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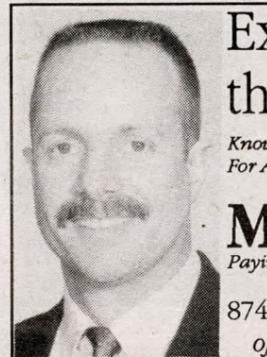
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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 2380 (V4,#3)



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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-queeny treatment, then let's talk. Write/send photo if possible. SV Box 2362. (V4,#3)

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)

## GAY INTRODUCTIONS

For men and women.  
262-2368 FREE!  
Call now!

Young white lesbian seeks mature lesbian for honest friendship and possibly more. 875-0338. (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 experience 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)

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. (V4,#3)

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, cuddly 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 (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, 57", 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)

GWM 32, 6'3" Brn/Grn. Stable, self-employed, 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)

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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 hang-out buddy. Photo/phone/note. SV Box 2340. (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)

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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**IN** A SMALL TENNESSEE CITY NAMED LEBANON, THERE EXISTS THE HEADQUARTERS OF A REAL-LIFE CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS CALLED "CRACKER BARREL'S" THAT ARE LOCATED ALONG INTERSTATES THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHERN USA. NOT LONG AGO, THE CHAIN'S PRESIDENT, A MAN NAMED EVINS, DECIDED TO FIRE ALL OF HIS GAY EMPLOYEES...

THIS MADE THE HAT SISTERS VERY ANGRY...



SO THEY BOUGHT GREYHOUND TICKETS,



AND, DRESSED LIKE SCARLET O'HARA, THEY AND 400 HUNDRED OF THEIR CLOSEST BRUNCH SISTERS EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY SOUTH...



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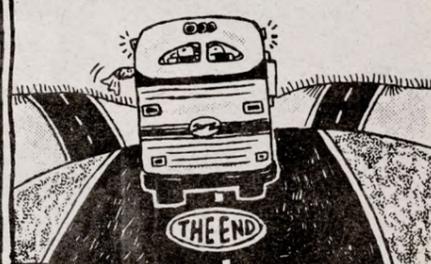
SADLY THIS CAUSED CRACKER BARREL'S OTHER PATRONS TO START TAKING THEIR MEALS AT NEARBY "WAFFLE HOUSE" RESTAURANTS WHERE TO THEIR DELIGHT, THEY FOUND TASTIER FOOD AT BETTER PRICES.

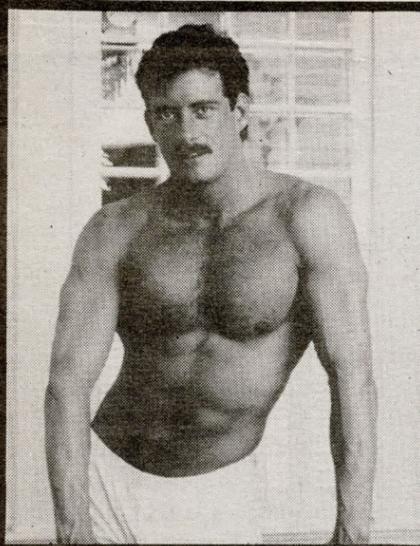


SOON CRACKER BARREL CORP. WAS NEARLY BANKRUPT... SO YOU CAN JUST IMAGINE THE RELIEF FELT 'ROUND THE OFFICE WHEN MR. EVINS HAD HIS LUCKY CHANGE OF HEART. HE APOLOGIZED TO HIS GAY EMPLOYEES + INVITED THEM BACK TO WORK...



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# ANGELS IN THE LANES

The Dixie Invitational Bowling Tournament celebrates its 11th anniversary in Atlanta

by Brad Street

Remember when you were a kid and mom explained that thunder was caused by an angel bowling in heaven? (Dad's version, of course, was that it was one of the gods.) If one angel (or god) makes a little bit of thunder, then the cacophony that comes with really big storms, we might assume, heralds the arrival of heavenly host of bowlers. That's called a bowling tournament.

Thus it is that the 11th Annual Dixie Invitational Bowling Tournament is being held in Atlanta this year on Easter weekend comes as no surprise.

Take a time trip back to 1975—a scant six years after Stonewall. Imagine Elma McIntire sitting, scratching her head thinking about ways to bring gay folks together in a setting other than bars. Arts and crafts? No. Quilting? Closer—since it gets folks interacting and working towards a common goal, the Names Project folks would prove *that* in 1987—but no banana. Volleyball? Closer still, but what happens when Atlanta's infamous thunderstorms douse the proceedings? Classes in the elegant art of mud pie manipulation. Then the lightening bolt struck—how about a gay bowling league? Heavenly.

The Lambda League, still active today, as is McIntire, was the result.

Atlanta Venture Sports followed suit and formed a league a few years later. By 1980, Atlanta's gay bowling scene was hot enough that the city's bowlers put in a bid to host a tournament sponsored by the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO). But after three rounds of bidding, IGBO chose Houston over Atlanta as the tournament site.

Since wound licking was not their style, Atlanta's lesbian and gay bowlers responded by founding the Dixie Invitational Bowling Organization (DIBO), which then managed to bring its tournament off six full weeks before Houston hosted the first IGBO tournament. Nowhere in DIBO's organizational records is it recorded that Billy Payne of Olympics fame took lessons from these folks, but ya' gotta wonder.

The scene is the Express Lanes, half an hour before a DIBO league starts its nightly round of games. Here and there are young men in tight 501's, but something—perhaps its the tinge of crimson on their necks—suggests that they're not here to bowl



KAREN DUNIGAN

Monie Gauthier (V.P. of the AVS league) and Steve Cordone (President of AVS bowling league) with Express Lanes co-owner Elma McIntire. "If I had 3000 gay bowlers, they're the only ones I'd let through the door," says McIntire.

with a gay league.

Slowly the lanes empty, then fill back up. This time the shirts are brighter, the 501's tighter, and the room filled with laughter and shouts. Friends greet each other with hugs and kisses. The crowd is mostly men, but not exclusively. It feels like a family reunion where everyone is honestly glad to see each other. There are three birthdays being celebrated, complete with gifts, balloons, cakes, more hugs and kisses—and not just for those celebrating the anniversary of their birth.

And, of course, there are the announcements of loved ones recently departed and moments of silence in their honor. Elma McIntire, now a co-owner of the Express Lanes, says that she plans to hang photos of those who have died. "With no names," she adds quietly, "Just a sign that says 'Love has no greater name.'" As with most other gay organizations, part of the money raised from raffles, banquets, and even sales of merchandise at the bowling alley is frequently donated to organizations that support and serve

people with AIDS.

There's even a bar. But, unlike more traditional gay/lesbian gathering spots, it's not the focus of what's going on here. Some folks are seriously honing their competitive skills, others appear to be venting more than a mite of aggression as the hurl that big ball down the alley towards ten tiny pins. Others have come to watch friends; some just to watch. Community, camaraderie and fun are definitely on the agenda here.

"If I had 3000 gay bowlers, they're the only ones I'd let through the door," concludes McIntire. "They're so clean and polite..."

The serious stuff of this year's Dixie Tournament begins on Friday when Singles and Doubles Competition kick off at the Express Lanes (1936 Piedmont Circle, 874-5703) and Team play starts at Fair Lanes-Chamblee (2175 Savoy Drive, 451-8605). How serious? Just shy of \$40,000 in prize money was handed out last year.

But entries to the Dixie '91 Tournament are long since closed, so fun is probably the option most readers not already registered will want to pursue. Tickets for the Saturday night awards banquet are, alas, already sold out. But those interested in joining the festivities do have several options: hang out at the lanes during the competition; check out the party following registration at the Marriott Marquis on Thursday evening, March 28; and stop by the Armory for the (in)famous Drag Races on Sunday afternoon March 31st. The last are not an official part of the Dixie weekend, but many participants use the event as an unofficial wind down for the weekend. And, of course, some of the bowlers have been known to bend an elbow or two at local watering holes in the evening when the competition is over.

Atlanta is home to seven lesbian/gay bowling leagues: AVS and Geri's Kids bowl on Monday nights; On Wednesday it's the Boys and Girls of Fall and Atlas Atlanta; Friends Friday takes to the lanes on (you guessed it) Friday; Sunday's Child and Lambda take to the lanes on Sundays. For contact numbers for these leagues or other information about lesbian and gay bowling in Atlanta call DIBO's Tim Cooper at 451-4793.

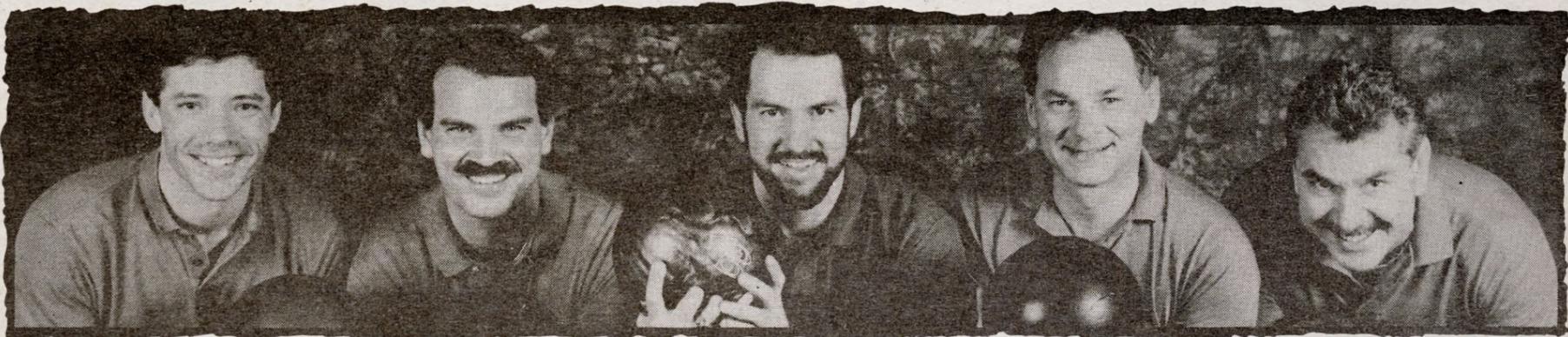


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