

VOICE

Taking Pride in Our Culture

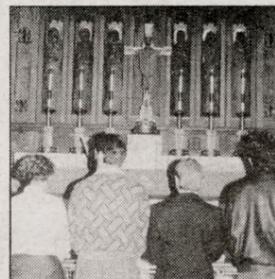
NLC



Racism
topped the Lesbian Agenda during the Atlanta Conference.

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Church
has too strong a pull for some gay people to leave altogether.

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CELEBRATE



Mother's Day
is particularly sweet for gay kids whose moms stand by them.

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Advisors, Activists Wait on Action from Jackson

by KC Wildmoon

Atlanta—The Mayor's Senior Advisors from the lesbian/gay community reacted with "cautious optimism" following a meeting with Maynard Jackson on April 30, although other local activists' reaction to the meeting could best be termed "cautious pessimism."

Mayor Jackson and advisors Joan Garner, Jay Neely, and Maury Weil met for an hour and a half, following weeks of pressure from activists and a letter from the advisors telling the mayor "he needs to get on with it."

"We told him in that letter that we've waited long enough. Let's sit down and address these issues," said Neely. "It's time for him to move forward or there will be irreparable damage."

Some activists say the damage has already been done. "As far as I'm concerned the door with Maynard is shut," commented Queer Nation's Lynn Cothren. "It may not be locked, but it is definitely shut."

During the meeting, the advisors reiterated that the lesbian/gay community was growing more impatient with the mayor's inaction on both his lesbian/gay platform and the administrative order he issued in June 1990. The meeting centered around four key issues, as well as com-

plaints about Jackson's refusal to attend Gay Pride for the second year in a row.

On Domestic Partnership, Jackson delegated responsibility to the advisors. "He told them to develop a policy and we'll run with it," said the mayor's staff liaison to the gay community, Sue Ellen CrossLea. Advisor Joan Garner said she feels "good about that. I think we'll get something done."

On hiring an openly gay staff person, the mayor once again promised to do so. "There will be a significant announcement on that in 30-60 days," said Jay Neely.

The mayor promised to convene a meeting of all parties and organizations concerning housing for PWAs. The responsibilities of that meeting will be to define the goal, name a steering committee, and come up with a plan to assist PWAs who need housing.

Of most concern with both activists and advisors is the increasingly strained relationship between the gay community and the police department. "I have given (Chief Eldrin Bell) direct instructions as to what needs to be done stylistically, substantively, and procedurally," the mayor told the advisors. "I've let him know that this is

the number one priority of the gay and lesbian community." The mayor also requested that staff liaison CrossLea and the city's Executive Officer John Reid meet with Chief Bell to go over those instructions. At press time that meeting had not been scheduled.

All three advisors expressed reservations about improving relations with Chief Bell. "(Chief Bell) sees himself as gay/lesbian positive," said advisor Maury Weil. "But most of us haven't come away with that feeling. There's a large gap between those views."

"I want to reserve the right to talk about Eldrin Bell," commented Joan Garner. "The mayor was adamant in standing behind him, but I want to hear publicly from Eldrin, or see a statement from him. And that would be just a step."

Local activist Cathy Woolard, president of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU, was less encouraged. "I think the mayor is in a difficult position with Eldrin Bell as chief of police. There's a serious problem with his lack of cooperation. I don't see at this point how we're going to get a serious change in that behavior."

See page 5

HRCF's Steve Endean is One Tough Cookie

by Jim Marks

F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous observation that there are no second acts in American lives often seems tragically true in the gay and lesbian community, which has had a ferocious tendency to consume its leaders. Harry Hay founded the first modern gay organization, Mattachine Society, in November 1950; he was purged from its ranks in May of 1953.

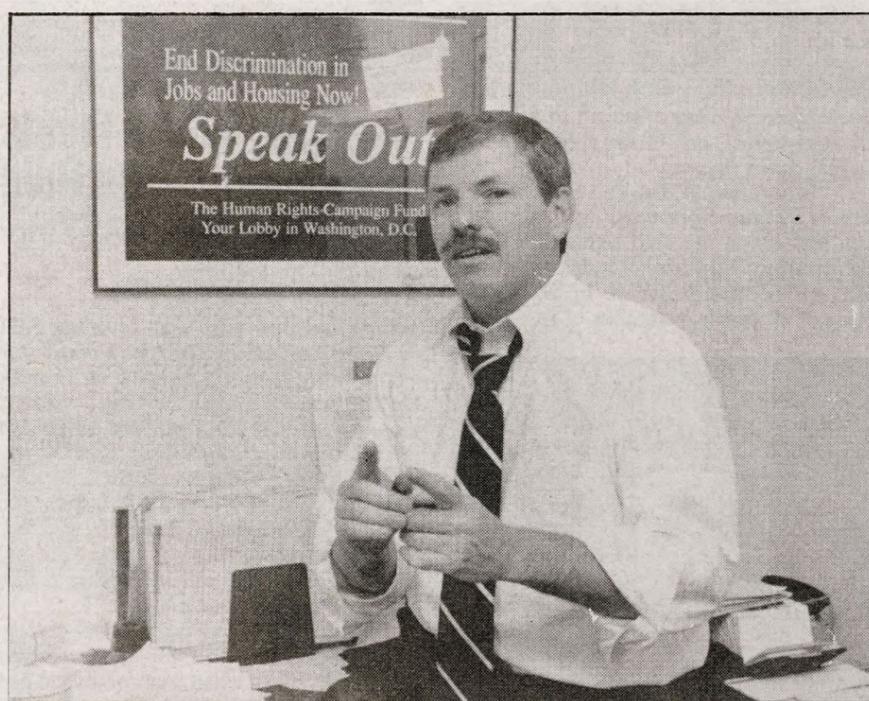
As the exception to the rule, consider Steven Endean. Six years ago he was ousted as head of the now defunct Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), both organizations he founded, in as bruising and messy a public battle as the national gay community has seen. Yet for two and a half years he's been back at the Campaign Fund, where he runs HRCF's field operations and directs the first successful effort to generate gay constituent mail to the nation's lawmakers, HRCF's Speak Out program.

Square and blocky, 43 year old Endean has the energy of a man half his age. One can see how some people could find him a little disconcerting. Endean has a kind of roll-up-his-sleeves, one-of-the-boys, poker-playing macho swagger. At the same time, one can't help noticing that a large number of the women on the mostly white male HRCF staff seem to be in the

field division: national canvass manager Cathy Nelson of the Speak Program; National Field Manager Tacie Dejanikus, Southeast Coordinator Cathy Woolard, and Midwest Coordinator Laurie Dittman (who has just left HRCF for a Chicago based gay organization).

But two characteristics are key to Endean's personality. Washington, D.C. Corporation Council lawyer Tom Bastow, an Endean loyalist, says, "Steve has got two things: he's very knowledgeable about practical politics, about what's new and what works. And he is incredibly persistent against all odds." No theorist, Endean loves to talk poll numbers and voting records, and peppers his speech with his slogans, punching out the phrase that participants in Speak Out can "make a difference" at least a dozen times in a thirty minute chat. Vic Basile was Endean's successor at HRCF, and it's no secret that Basile was not Endean's choice for the job. Yet five years later, Basile brought Endean back into the Campaign Fund: Endean, he says, is "a very tenacious guy."

Practical politics, and Endean's persistence, in almost equal measure got the Speak Out program off the ground. After GRNL, Endean left gay politics for the first time in his adult life, and went to work for organized labor. He wasn't,



JIM MARKS

Steve Endean's grassroots and practical approach spawned HRCF's highly successful Speak Out program. Speak Out will sign up 75,000 people this year to send messages to congresspeople on lesbian, gay and AIDS legislation.

Bastow recalls, happy. "I did some soul searching," Endean says, "and asked, what am I supposed to be doing in life? The answer kept coming back, working on gay and lesbian civil rights." About this time he heard about a new political wrinkle which he thought would solve a major problem in gay political life.

Six years ago, no one was under any illusions that the gay and lesbian community needed to influence Federal legisla-

tion. HRCF was beginning to raise significant amounts of money to give Congressional candidates. Although the demise of GRNL had reduced the community's lobbying ability, there were a number of gay people who worked with HRCF to present the gay case on many issues, especially AIDS, while Jeff Levi at NGLTF was also influencing the content of legislation and dealing with the bureau-

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Queer Nation Shuts Down Morrow Cracker Barrel

CEO Evins remains silent

by Larry Pellegrini

Morrow, Ga.—“We have enough people to take this restaurant. Let's go,” said Lynn Cothren, Chair of Queer Nation/Atlanta. Cothren was speaking to some 100 supporters who gathered at the Morrow Cracker Barrel on April 21. The action was the fifth and largest of QN's demonstrations organized to protest Cracker Barrel's now well known discriminatory employment policies. Having fired lesbians and gays solely because of their sexual orientation, the restaurant chain has been the focus of continual protests since March.

Cothren led the group inside the Morrow location where a gay flag was posted on each table as it was occupied. When the last table was claimed deafening applause and cheers broke out.

Cracker Barrel management, in effect, gave up control of the restaurant while protesters reveled in the victory. While the occupying group chanted and sang for a full hour, management began sending employees home. As the no longer needed cooks and wait staff left, the manager and a Morrow police officer stood impassively out of the way. Saying and doing nothing, they seemed content to let the protest run its course. Several protesters stated that being a part of the successful takeover was “one of the most empowering experiences” they have ever had.

During the occupation, Queer Nation mem-

bers were also posted outside to approach arriving customers. They explained the purpose of the sit-in and announced the two hour wait. No customers chose to wait.

At a rally prior to the sit-in, several groups were represented in the growing coalition against Cracker Barrel. The National Organization for Women, the ACLU, and Jobs for Justice among others were prominent endorsees in attendance.

Clara Bowers-Bostic, State President of NOW and Samantha Claar, Atlanta Chapter President, both repeated NOW's commitment to overturn discriminatory practices. “We are with you all the way on these issues. If you don't have your rights, I don't have mine,” Bostic said. In March the state NOW board voted to endorse the actions against Cracker Barrel. Bostic pledged to bring the same resolution to the national NOW board in June.

Cheryl Summerville, fired from the Douglasville Cracker Barrel, thanked the crowd for their support. She said that as the number of protesters continues to grow, it would “let Cracker Barrel know that they can't get away with discrimination.”

Despite the restaurant actions, letters written and telegrams sent, there has been no response from Cracker Barrel CEO Dan Evins. A video letter to him from Queer Nation/Atlanta remains unanswered.

Evins did respond quickly to a letter from



KAREN DUNIGAN

QN took over every table at the Morrow Cracker Barrel on April 21. A gay flag was placed on each table as it was occupied.

New York City Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman, a trustee of five New York pension and retirement funds, which together own more than \$3 million in Cracker Barrel stock. Holtzman found Evins' reply unsatisfactory and sent him a second letter requesting a “clear statement of the Company's policy relating to the role of sexual preference in employment.” In addition, Evins was requested to send information regarding what “remedial steps” had been taken concerning the employees who had been fired. Evins had not replied to the second letter as this issue went to press.

Copies of Queer Nation's video letter are

circulating in Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida and Illinois. All of these states plan to have simultaneous restaurant protests on May 12th. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force also has copies of the video letter and is making plans for TV airing.

On Mother's Day, May 12, a sit-in will be held at the Douglasville Cracker Barrel. All participants are encouraged to bring their mothers. For more information on the May 12 action call 286-2355.

Mayor Sends Garner to Greet NLC

by KC Wildmoon

Mayor Maynard Jackson took a step toward more visibility in the lesbian/gay community last week, although he didn't do it himself. He sent Senior Advisor Joan Garner to address the National Lesbian Conference with an official welcome from the city. Here's what was said:

“Greetings! Mayor Maynard Jackson has asked me to welcome the National Lesbian Conference and guests to the city of Atlanta. I am Joan Garner, one of the mayor's lesbian and gay senior advisors.

“We are proud that you have selected Atlanta for your conference. Atlanta, with its rich heritage in the civil rights movement, acknowledges the efforts of lesbian women to carry on the struggle for the rights and well being of all people, regardless of race, creed,

gender, age, physical ability or sexual orientation.

“The city of Atlanta prides itself on its diversity and its hospitality. We hope that you have a change to take some time out from your busy schedule and see some of our dynamic city, its beautiful intown neighborhoods, its herstorical sites, and our new underground food and entertainment facility.

“Welcome to Atlanta. We hope you enjoy your visit. And, best wishes for a pleasant and productive conference.”

Ryan White Funds On Hold

ACT UP to protest Grady's IDC

by KC Wildmoon

Atlanta— As this issue went to press, ACT UP/Atlanta announced plans for a demonstration at Grady Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, May 7, protesting what they call “woefully inadequate health care” provided by Grady's Infectious Disease Clinic (IDC). The IDC provides services at a discount to HIV+ persons from the state of Georgia. In a statement released last week, ACT UP claimed that “chronic understaffing and underfunding” have left some AIDS patients waiting as long as 8 months to see a care provider.

Grady officials admit that the IDC, currently housed on the 4th floor of the Hughes Spalding Hospital, is too cramped to add personnel. “We thought we were going to move the clinic to an off-site location with money from the Ryan White Fund,” said Curtis Morris, program administrator at the IDC. Plans now are to move the clinic by early summer to the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Hughes Spalding annex, and to use whatever Ryan White money the clinic receives to hire more staff.

The IDC had requested \$2 million of the original \$5.6 million in metro Atlanta's HIV Planning Council request from the Ryan White Emergency Fund. The city was granted only \$900,000, however, leaving Grady's IDC



Vandalism in Decatur: Two lesbians moved from their home on Oldfield Road in Decatur last month after vandals spray painted “Move Lesbians” on the side of the house. The vandals also slashed the tires of three cars parked in front of the house.

Patricia Mikos told *Southern Voice* that the vandalism took place overnight. “Not one neighbor saw it,” she said, “or didn't report it.” The women's landlord was “very supportive,” according to Mikos. “She came over with paint, and moved us to another house she owns.”

Mikos reported that some months previously a car window had been shot out, but that she and her lover had assumed it was an adolescent prank. “Now we're not so sure,” she said.

as well as other AIDS service organizations with much less money than they had hoped for.

At the Council's April 30 meeting, the members rejected the Executive Committee's recommendations for the dispersal of that money, which would have included \$600,000 for the IDC.

Executive Committee co-chair Jim Martin said of the vote, “I think it would have been more appropriate to get the money out to the people who need it, and then refine the process for the next round, but that was not the wish of the Council.”

The Council requested that the Appropriations Committee come up with new recommendations for fund dispersal. That committee will request revised proposals and

budgets from the agencies that originally applied for money from the Ryan White Fund.

“We had a general consensus that we hadn't gotten enough information to make a decision about expenditure of the money,” said Appropriations Committee member Kathleen Brockel. Brockel, who is Executive Director of the Atlanta chapter of NAPWA, said that the “real issue is that our original decision was based on our request of \$5.6 million, and we were awarded much less. That substantially changes how the money will be distributed.”

The Appropriations Committee is sending a form requesting additional information from the agencies involved, including Grady's IDC, and will make its own recommendations at the May 21 meeting of the full council.



EVETT BENNETT

Local Activist Fined in Solicitation Arrest

Gary Stephen Cox, openly gay former staff member to Fulton County Commission Chairman Michael Lomax, pleaded no contest to a charge of soliciting sodomy. He was fined \$500 and given a one-year suspended sentence. Mr. Cox was arrested on Jan. 31 by an undercover Department of Transportation officer at an I-85 rest stop near Suwanee. At the time of the arrest, Mr. Cox contended that he was "set up" by DOT officials after complaining about earlier harassment at the same rest stop.



KAREN DUNIGAN

Worley Gets Support: HRCF Dinner Committee member Clara Fryer presented David Worley, 6th District Congressional candidate, a campaign contribution of \$1,000 on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign Fund over lunch last week. Worley came within 1,000 votes of defeating veteran White House mouthpiece Newt Gingrich last November.

Thompson Denied Guardianship: In a court order dated April 23, Minnesota district judge Robert Campbell denied Karen Thompson's petition to be appointed guardian of her lover Sharon Kowalski. Instead, Campbell appointed Karen Tomberlin, a gym teacher who coached Sharon in a high school basketball championship and became a friend of the Kowalski family. (Sharon's father resigned as guardian last May due to poor health.) The 30-page order states that Karen and Sharon form a "family of affinity" and that their interaction must continue. However, it includes a section titled "Outing," which contends that Thompson has violated Sharon's privacy. The order bars Sharon from continuing to attend lesbian and gay pride events because that amounts to "putting her on display." Calling the order "horrendous," Thompson vows to appeal. Lambda Legal Defense, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Organization for Women, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force are rallying to provide assistance.

AIDS-Carrying Marine Awarded Damages: Chief Warrant Officer Martin Gaffney, whose wife and son died after she was given a transfusion of AIDS-infected blood, was awarded \$2.7 million in financial damages by a Federal district judge on April 23. The judge had previously awarded Gaffney \$750,000 for emotional damages after finding that doctors at the Naval Hospital in Long Beach, CA, had been negligent during Mrs. Gaffney's pregnancy in 1981. The baby was stillborn. Both Mrs. Gaffney and a son born later died of AIDS related illnesses. Mr. Gaffney is carrying the disease, but his 7 year old daughter has tested negative.

Gays on City Councils?: Not yet in Washington, DC, anyway. Urban planner Jim Zais lost his bid for election to the DC city council by 386 votes. Zais lost to Jack Evans, chair of a Dupon Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission, by 31% to 27%. Only 25% of the district's registered voters turned out to vote in the special election. In Boston, the issue of open gays on the city council will be decided during the next city-wide election. Abner Mason, a black, gay Republican, announced his candidacy for an at large seat on the council.

Seattle Gay Bashers Get Maximum Sentence: Three of four Samoan gang members arrested November 11 after going on a gay-bashing spree in Seattle have been given maximum sentences, reports the *Seattle Gay News*. Two received 10 years and 3 months for first degree assault. Another received 9 months for second degree assault. The fourth member was found to be a juvenile and will be prosecuted as such. During their so-called "wilding" spree, the four men attacked, without provocation, John Maxwell, Clay Warner and John Fasolo. Maxwell received multiple cuts, bruises and a broken tooth. Fasolo received a head injury which caused him to fall into a brief coma. He survived two brain surgeries and continues to receive therapy.

NGLTF Invited to FBI: *Washington, D.C.*—Activists savored another history-making event April 4 when two gay and lesbian leaders were asked to attend an official function at FBI headquarters here marking implementation of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Crediting the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) for helping shape the act's implementation, the department announced that efforts to collect vital statistics documenting hate-motivated attacks are "on track." NGLTF veterans Urvashi Vaid and Kevin Berrill were thrilled by the invitation and kudos, but said they were not deluded by the ceremony's glamour and prestige. More hard work, they cautioned, lies ahead. "The FBI," promised Bureau Director William Sessions, "is committed to the successful implementation of this critical program." — John Zeh

National AIDS Lobby Days Announced: ACT UP/DC has announced plans for National AIDS Lobby Days to be held May 23 through June 3. Plans call for citizen lobbyists to meet with US Senators and Representatives in home district offices during the Memorial Day recess. The effort is endorsed and co-organized by a coalition of other national and local gay/lesbian and AIDS organizations. Lobby Days are also intended to mark a critical point in the AIDS epidemic. "We must remind Congress that June 5 marks the 10th anniversary of the first AIDS case reported by the federal Centers for Disease Control," said ACT UP/DC's Robert Warnock.

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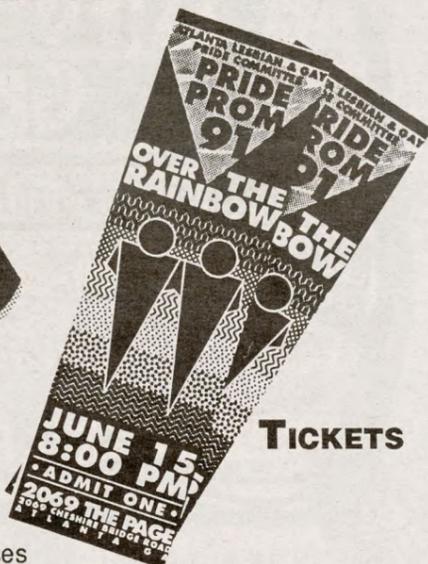


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TICKETS



THE PRIDE CALENDAR

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

- Sun, May 9:** Traxx T-Dance
- Sat, May 19:** 2069 The Page-Fundraising Volleyball Tournament 12-6 pm. Open play, \$2 per player.
- Sun, May 23:** Petrus "Stars from Hell" music from the past 20 yrs. Sponsored by Etc.
- Sat, June 15:** 4th Tuesday Business Expo. From 10 am to 5 pm. Peachtree Westin Ballroom. Hotline: 662-4399.
- Sat, June 15:** Pride Prom at 2069 The Page. Theme is "Over the Rainbow" and the cost will be \$12 in advance.
- Fri, June 21:** Southern Voice Open House 6-9 pm. Entertainment, food. "Taking Pride in Our Culture." Donations for Pride accepted.
- Fri, June 21:** Interfaith Service celebrating Lesbian and Gay Pride. All Saints Episcopal, 634 W. Peachtree.
- 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.

6/23
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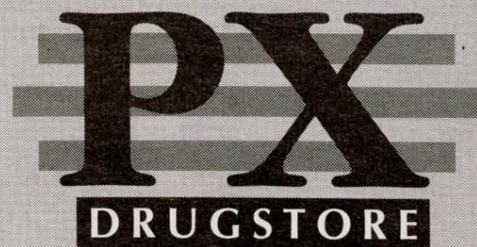
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PATSY LYNCH

Condoms at the White House

With George Bush inside criticizing them to religious reporters, ACT UP distributed condoms to tourists and other passers-by in front of the White House April 23. Bush told the reporters that he has "no argument" with religious leaders who have criticized the Persian Gulf war, saying "We are in a country where people can say what they think. Thank heavens." But ACT UP, the president said, "resorts to tactics that are totally counter-productive," claiming that the tactics are "an excess of free speech." Outside ACT UP members passed out condoms and leaflets stating that "American youths are dying from lack of leadership on AIDS." Although two ACT UP members were detained briefly by U.S. Park Service police, no arrests were made.

City/State Legislative News: Connecticut
 —"An Act Concerning Discrimination on The Basis of Sexual Orientation" passed both the House (April 11) and Senate (March 18) in Connecticut, and that state is on its way to

becoming the 4th state along with Wisconsin, Massachusetts and Hawaii to ban anti-gay bias in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit. Gov. Lowell Weicker has promised to sign the bill.

Maine—The Maine House of Representatives defeated a lesbian and gay civil rights bill on April 16, following an announcement by Gov. John McKernan that he would veto the bill unless it carried a provision for a statewide referendum.

Maryland—The Maryland General Assembly approved legislation requiring collection of hate crimes statistics 90 minutes before adjourning for the year.

Ohio—An Ohio appellate court ruled on March 26 that lesbian and gay couples in Ohio are protected by the state's domestic violence law. According to a report in *Heartland*, the appellate court overturned a trial court's decision to dismiss the case of a lesbian who had charged her lover with domestic violence.

Missouri—A hate crimes statistics bill including sexual orientation died in committee in Missouri last month. The Missouri House will consider a statistics bill that does not include sexual orientation.

Florida—The Florida Senate voted to amend that state's hate crimes act to include sexual orientation. That bill now goes to the House for consideration.

Virginia—Virginia activists are talking with state officials about anti-gay provisions in the state's alcohol regulations. Current laws allow the state to suspend the liquor license of an establishment that employs homosexuals or "has become a meeting place for users of narcotics, drunks, homosexuals" and others. Alcohol Beverage Control Board members indicated that they agreed that the laws were discriminatory, but that any changes would have to be put through the Virginia General Assembly.

And finally—Cincinnati, Ohio, and Stamford, Connecticut, passed laws last month banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. The laws cover only city employees and services. Ann Arbor, Michigan extended sick and bereavement leave as well as health insurance to the domestic partners of gay, lesbian and heterosexual city employees. Concord, CA, included gays and lesbians on a list of groups protected under a human rights ordinance. And Kansas City police announced that they are documenting hate crimes in accordance with the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990.

Advisors, Activists Wait on Action from Jackson

Cont'd from page 1

Woolard has been involved in meetings between Bell and the Police Advisory Board concerning hiring practices at the police department as well as reports of police harassment of gays and lesbians.

Another sore point with local activists has been the mayor's lack of visibility in the lesbian/gay community. For the second time in his administration, Jackson is scheduled to attend the Georgia Municipal Association meeting in Savannah during Lesbian and Gay Pride weekend. As this issue went to press, *Southern Voice* learned that Jackson and his staff are reviewing the mayor's schedule to see if it would be possible for him to return to Atlanta for the rally on Sunday. At the meeting with his senior advisors, Jackson also promised to ask "top members" of his administration as well as city council members to attend.

Tentative plans are being made for a reception, possibly to kick off Pride Week, with members of the gay and lesbian community so that Jackson can "personally convey his commitment to the civil rights of gay and lesbian citizens," according to CrossLea.

"Appalled" that Jackson may not be at the Parade on June 23, Queer Nation/Atlanta wrote to New York Mayor David Dinkins, asking him to march with the QN/Atlanta contingent. Mayor Dinkins had not responded in time to be included in this report.

All three advisors reported that they

were encouraged by their meeting with Jackson, and acknowledged that the rest of the community now needs to see action on these issues. "We're seeing it cooking," said Maury Weil. "Everybody else is sitting at the table waiting, losing hope that they'll get to eat. There are advantages to watching it cook."

Activists outside the mayor's office want to see action soon. "I can't say that I'm encouraged because I've heard these same promises before," said Cothren. "In fact, I can show you copies of them."

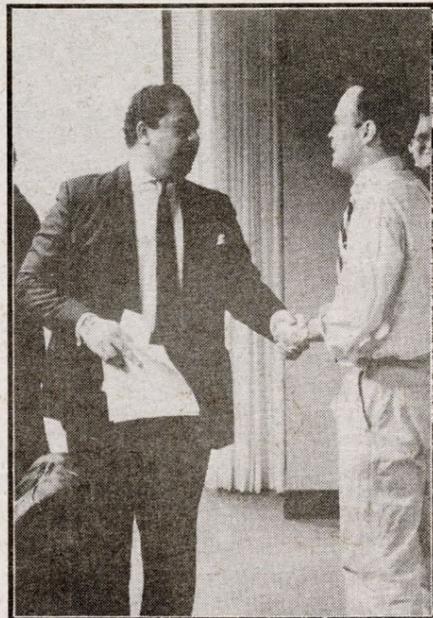


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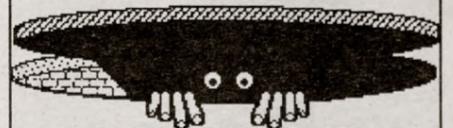
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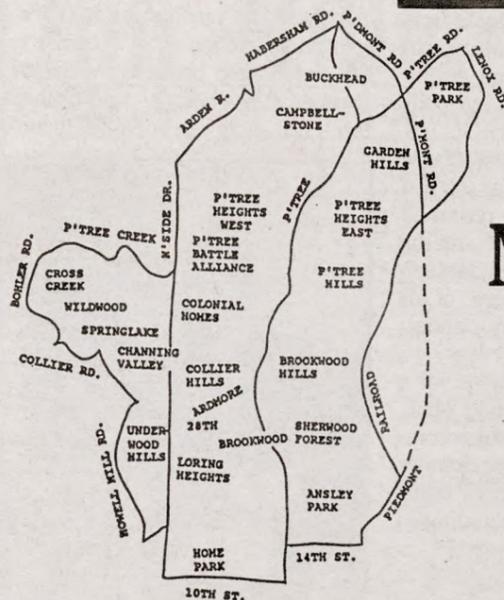


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Atlanta's HRCF Dinner Hopes to Serve 800

by Jim Marks

If HRCF banquet co-chair Eli Saleeby's prediction of 800-1000 people attending the May 18 banquet at the Marriott Marquee come true, Atlanta will join the lists of big time supporters of the organization, right up there with Washington D.C. and Dallas, where similar banquets are drawing over 1000 people. At \$150 a plate, even after deducting 40 percent for expenses, that's a fair chunk of cash.

Co-chair Saleeby says he got involved with the banquet after coming to Washington for an HRCF leadership con-

ference and being "impressed with the organization. They play the game well. A number of Congresspeople told us they depended on HRCF as their ear to the gay community."

This year, Saleeby says he and co-chair Edie Cofrin hope to expand women's participation in the banquet. D.C.'s recently elected non-voting delegate to Congress, the distinguished civil rights lawyer and feminist Eleanor Holmes Norton, will be the keynote speaker, while lesbian performer Suede will provide the entertainment.

The participation of local Atlanta political powers is a little uncertain: "They all

tend to decide at the last minute," says Saleeby in the exasperated-but-what-can-you-do tone of a man who's got a big production to pull together, and can't let small uncertainties put him off his stride.

PROFILE HRCF's Southeast Regional Field Coordinator — Cathy Woolard

by Jim Marks



KAREN DUNIGAN

Cathy Woolard, HRCF Southeast Regional Field Coordinator

Speak Out mailgrams provide one way constituents influence the votes of U.S. representatives and senators. But there are other ways to get politicians to sit up and take notice—among them, presenting your case face to face.

Setting up meetings between legislators and their gay, lesbian and pro gay voters is one of the tasks of HRCF's Southeast coordinator Cathy Woolard. Woolard has had a busy time of it since she set up shop a year and a half ago. "I traveled for about four months in the first year," she says, trying to lay the ground work for a grass roots organization throughout the south, and working on campaigns such as Harvey Gantt's bid to unseat North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms.

Ideally, Woolard says, she would like to have a volunteer field assistant in every congressional district in the South, every state from Virginia to Missouri, Arkansas and Texas. With only ten or so volunteers now, it's clear she has plenty of work

ahead. "I'll find a volunteer and then, they'll move out of the district," Woolard says, wishing that we were just a little bit less mobile a community. 1992 will be a busy year, she adds, since redistricting will create a dozen new Southern congressional seats, with no incumbent and a chance for gays to get in on the ground floor.

Woolard's heard the charge that organizations like HRCF and its fundraising banquets take scarce resources away from the local community. She thinks that's too short range a view. "The Ryan White Care Bill was underfunded last year," she notes. As a consequence, Atlanta received only "\$900,000 in Federal AIDS money, when it should have gotten \$5 million." The difference of \$4 million in badly needed AIDS funding, she thinks, is proof enough that what happens in Washington has an effect on Georgia—and that gay and lesbian people need to make sure their representatives in Washington stand up for their interests.



Atlanta HRCF Dinner co-chairs Eli Saleeby and Edie Cofrin

HRCF's Steve Endean

Cont'd from page 1

cracy that enforced it.

But the gay movement was deficient in one key area: it could not show legislators that there were voters in their districts who cared about gay issues. As Bastow puts it, our "track record was abysmal at the time; a complete failure." Endean says that he'd "been incredibly frustrated for years and years about our inability to generate mail on Capitol Hill. The most mail that ever went to the Hill on a gay/lesbian or AIDS issue, as best we can ascertain, was 500 letters nationwide. That's less than 1 per congressional district. And if you looked where they came from, they came from New York, LA and San Francisco, where we already had solid support."

At the same time, anti-gay organizations like the Moral Majority were able to generate tens of thousands of letters from local voters. As Vic Basile recalls, at one time Chalmers Wyley, a Republican Congressman from Columbus, Ohio, said flatly at a public forum, "I don't have any gay people in my district." Given such lopsided odds, the few gay successes of the mid-80s seem all the more remarkable, and the many defeats—like Jesse Helms' amendments hamstringing AIDS education—only to be expected.

Endean's discovery helped change all that. It was a fairly simple idea: people would contribute money to his organization, and authorize it to send a certain number of mailgrams in their name to their congresspeople on issues of importance to the gay community. (Over the life of the effort, there have been several ways of paying for the mailgrams. At one time it could be charged to the contribu-

tor's phone bill; currently, contributors pay in advance, with individual messages costing \$3.25 each for a minimum of four messages.)

The key advantages of the system, Endean says, are that "it makes it simple and easy for people to make a difference, so you move beyond hard core activists. It allows you to respond virtually overnight, which means that you can respond to fast breaking emergencies. And since it is a proxy system whereby people sign up for more than one message you don't have to worry about exhausting people's energies." In short, it was efficient. "You don't have to keep emptying the ocean with a teacup as we did in the old days."

Basile agreed that the mailgram campaign was "a terrific idea." Others were not so sure. Even Bastow, who was on the original board of directors, and contributed and raised money, was skeptical: "I didn't think Steve could get people to put their names before public officials."

But if Basile thought it was a good idea, he also thought it was more than HRCF could handle at the time. Other groups passed up the opportunity. So for the first three years of its life, the mailgram campaign consisted, as Endean says, "of me and a bad reputation" and a little office rented from HRCF.

The lowest point came at the March on Washington in 1987. "We worked our butts off to sign people up at the March on Washington," Endean recalls. "I thought we would get 10,000 to 20,000; we got 2,000-3,000 out of a crowd of 600,000."

"In hindsight I realized it was a harder task than I had known. I couldn't pay canvassers (people who collect names); I had an organization nobody had ever heard of and I had an idea that wasn't yet tested."

Endean persevered. By 1989, he'd built up over 10,000 names—and exhausted his funds. "It was," Bastow says, "an artistic success but a financial failure." At that point Basile and HRCF stepped in. "Steve had demonstrated he had a plan, but he had to spend his time looking for money," Basile says. "It became clear that if he didn't have to worry about overhead, he could make it work. On the other hand, we were getting our lobbying operation in order, and were raising enough cash so that we could support it." HRCF took over the operation, and used it as the basis for building the grass roots organization it needed to become a well-rounded lobby.

Growth has been steady: "Two years ago, we signed up 25,000 people; last year, we signed up 50,000. This year the goal is 75,000," Endean says. There's money to pay people who collect names (canvassers make \$1 for every name they gather, mostly at events such as gay pride day) and computerize the lists.

Even set backs have worked to Speak Out's advantage. When Speak Out's vendor, Western Union, challenged the constitutionality of San Francisco's human rights law, Speak Out told Western Union that it couldn't in good conscience continue to purchase their product. Western Union backed down, but too late. Speak Out signed up with another company, Telepost, which had a sexual orientation non-discrimination clause in its employment contract. The new company turned out to be cheaper, too.

Speak Out now pays for itself; it is a service HRCF provides people around the country, not a donation to the organization. Its budget last year was, "a little over half a million dollars; this year it's closer to one million dollars," Endean says. Thanks to its computers, Endean

and HRCF chief lobbyist Steve Smith can use the messages in sophisticated ways, targeting selected states and congressional districts, or blanketing the hill with 18,000 messages before one vote. The replies to their messages voters get from their congress people, along with Speak Out's bimonthly updates, educate contributors politically, and get them further involved in the process. There's even an 800 number.

Renewals are "going up, up and up. It's one of those instances where it worked better than I thought it could," Endean says, sounding a little dazed by the growth.

But does this admittedly orchestrated mail really carry much weight on Capitol Hill? Endean acknowledges that they're not as effective as personal letters, but adds, "we weren't writing personal letters." For the power of directed mail, he gives the example of a pro-gay Senator who, facing a tough reelection campaign, was stalling about cosponsoring the gay rights bill last session. "On a Wednesday we activated Speak Out messages to him. They got them on Thursday and on Friday morning the Senator's staff person in charge of the issue called us up and said, enough already, call off Western Union. The Senator's back on the bill."

For his part, former HRCF executive director Basile has no regrets about Speak Out. "No longer can congresspeople say there are no gay people in their district. Now, they've got the evidence that we are everywhere."

People interested in becoming part of Speak Out can call 1-800-787-HRCF and ask for the Canvass Unit.

GUEST EDITORIAL
Take Your Place

I am involved in the fourth annual HRCF fundraising dinner because I believe this organization is the most effective political representation available to our community.

—Eddie Cofrin

I feel that HRCF is the strongest organization working at the national level to secure civil rights for gay men and lesbians and to prevent discriminatory legislation for people with AIDS and HIV disease.

—Eli Saleeby

As co-chairs of the 1991 Atlanta Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner, we would like to explain why we feel this event is important and encourage everyone possible to attend.

The purpose of the dinner is multifaceted. It offers a

celebration of our community's achievements on a national level as well as an opportunity to honor individuals' and organizations' accomplishments on a local level. Another objective is to inspire and empower the gay and lesbian community into "Taking Our Place" and claiming our civil rights.

Another component of the dinner that cannot be overlooked is that dinners like this occur all over the country and are HRCF's major source of fundraising. We make every effort to keep our cost of fundraising to under 40%. The Atlanta dinner historically has done better than most—\$100 of every ticket sold will go directly to the lobbying and campaign efforts of the organization. It is our goal to be inclusive. We know the \$150 ticket price is expensive and there are some people who save all year to attend this event.

If you cannot attend the dinner you can still make a very special gesture. A donation from you can help us accommodate PWAs and others less fortunate.

Participating in the election of candidates and lobbying for legislation that supports our issues costs a lot of money.

HRCF is professional and efficient in its work and is highly respected in the political community. During the 1990 101st session in Washington, Congress passed—and President Bush signed—the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the first law in American history to specifically include "sexual orientation." This marked a milestone for lesbian and gay Americans. This victory was a direct result of HRCF's three functions: campaign involvement, lobbying and grass roots mobilizing.

Traditional society has many ceremonies and rites of passage. The gay and lesbian community needs more than funerals for its rituals; we need to participate in joyous events that uplift us. We desperately need occasions to unite us and touch our hearts—to make us joyful and renew our faith in ourselves. A grand dinner with lots of friends gives us an opportunity in our community to be honored and empowered and to enjoy great entertainment, dancing and laughter.

We need to celebrate. This dinner is a yearly gathering where we can honor gay and lesbian achievement and get motivated about our future.

EDITORIAL
Believe It When You See It

Pardon us, please, but haven't we heard this tune before?

The Mayor has met with his three Senior Advisors to/from the lesbian and gay community. Those advisors have informed the Mayor that the citizens are restless—they want action, not rhetoric. The Mayor has expressed surprise at this dismay and promised to take action.

We'll believe it when we see it.

There appear to be three significant differences between this meeting (see news cover story) and its numerous predecessors.

- The community is getting more skeptical by the minute about Maynard's intention and ability to perform on his campaign promises to lesbians, gay men and people with AIDS. His popularity is just about on a par with Donald Trump's plummeting reputation as a financial wizard. Thus, the longer the Mayor waits to take substantive, tangible action, the more he is going to have to do in order to regain our confidence.

- For some reason, *this* time the *Journal/Constitution* is covering the story of the Mayor's inactivity on our issues. That's good since it sheds more light on his dilly-dallying. But we wish the *J-C* would get their facts right and we have to wonder why their second article, announcing the Mayor's promises, read like a press release and contained no comment from skeptical community members.

- Finally, according to Mayoral assistant Sue Ellen CrossLea, *this* time, the Mayor has "delegated more responsibility to people who will really make things happen...." Since we didn't attend the meeting, we'll have to trust her take on the action. But the words "trust" and "Maynard Jackson" certainly are not easy for us to swallow in the same breath.

P-FLAG Atl. Needs You

To the Editor:

P-FLAG Atlanta wants to thank Drew Siegel for his letter in your last issue suggesting a donation to P-FLAG in honor of Mother's Day.

He states "P-FLAG Parents are there for us 365 days a year. This May 12 let's show our love and affection for our mothers by supporting this brave and loyal army of parents in the battle for gay and lesbian civil rights."

Drew gives our P-FLAG National

Office address but we would like to let all your readers know that we have a P-FLAG right here in Atlanta. If they want to support our local efforts they can send their "Mother's Day Donation" directly to us. We will be happy to send a letter to their Mothers acknowledging the donation if they will let us know her name and address.

Send tax deductible checks to:
P-FLAG Atlanta Inc.
PO Box 8482
Atlanta, GA 30306

Whether you send a check or not, you are all welcome at our meetings, and be sure to come say hello at the park on Pride March and Rally Day.

Sincerely,
Judy Colbs

President, P-FLAG Atlanta Inc.

Lesbian Film Breeds Nervous Laughter

To the Editor:

On April 20th I went to see one of the films being shown at the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at the Lefont Plaza. I was looking forward to the movie and also feeling proud that such an event was taking place in Atlanta. I took my seat along with 200 other lesbians and eagerly awaited the film.

What unfolded on screen was a story of oppression and the oppression of lesbians in particular. A doomed love affair between a married coming out woman and an isolated lesbian was portrayed with a moving sensitivity. But what unfolded in the audience was a moving display of insensitivity.

A quarter of the audience giggled and/or hooted at all the scenes portraying sensuality and sexuality and some of the scenes portraying oppression and desperation. I was appalled. Not only was I angry at the rudeness, but I was shocked by the totally inappropriate reactions of the noisy women around me. I felt like I was back at a Saturday double feature kiddie matinee.

I can only surmise that these women must have been uncomfortable—uncomfortable with seeing lesbians on the screen, and uncomfortable with their own lesbian identities. I was ashamed to be a member of this rude and inappropriate group and sad that they could not see a movie about lesbians without twittering, giggling, laughing and shouting. I am sure that some of these women would defend their behavior by saying they were celebrating. However, there was nothing to celebrate here—the movie was depressing. The noise was not celebratory either. It was the kind of noise that anxious adolescents make when they are unsure of themselves.

Signed,
I'll go to the early matinee next time with no crowds

Pride '91 Update

Atlanta's 20th annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration, Pride '91, is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 22 & 23. On Sat. there will be a "Family Reunion" in Piedmont Park 11am until 10pm. Activities include sports competitions, entertainment throughout the day, a commitment ceremony and a candlelight walk to John Howell Park. The Pride Committee recently announced an Artist's Market on Sat. and Sun. Artists call 662-4533.

On Sunday the March steps off at noon from the Civic Center and proceeds to Piedmont Park. Entertainment and speakers begin at 1:30pm. Rita Coolidge is tentatively scheduled to perform around 5 or 6pm. Confirmed activities before Saturday and Sunday of Pride Weekend are:

Sunday 5/19: Volleyball Fundraiser at 2069 The Page. 12-6pm. \$2.00 per player.

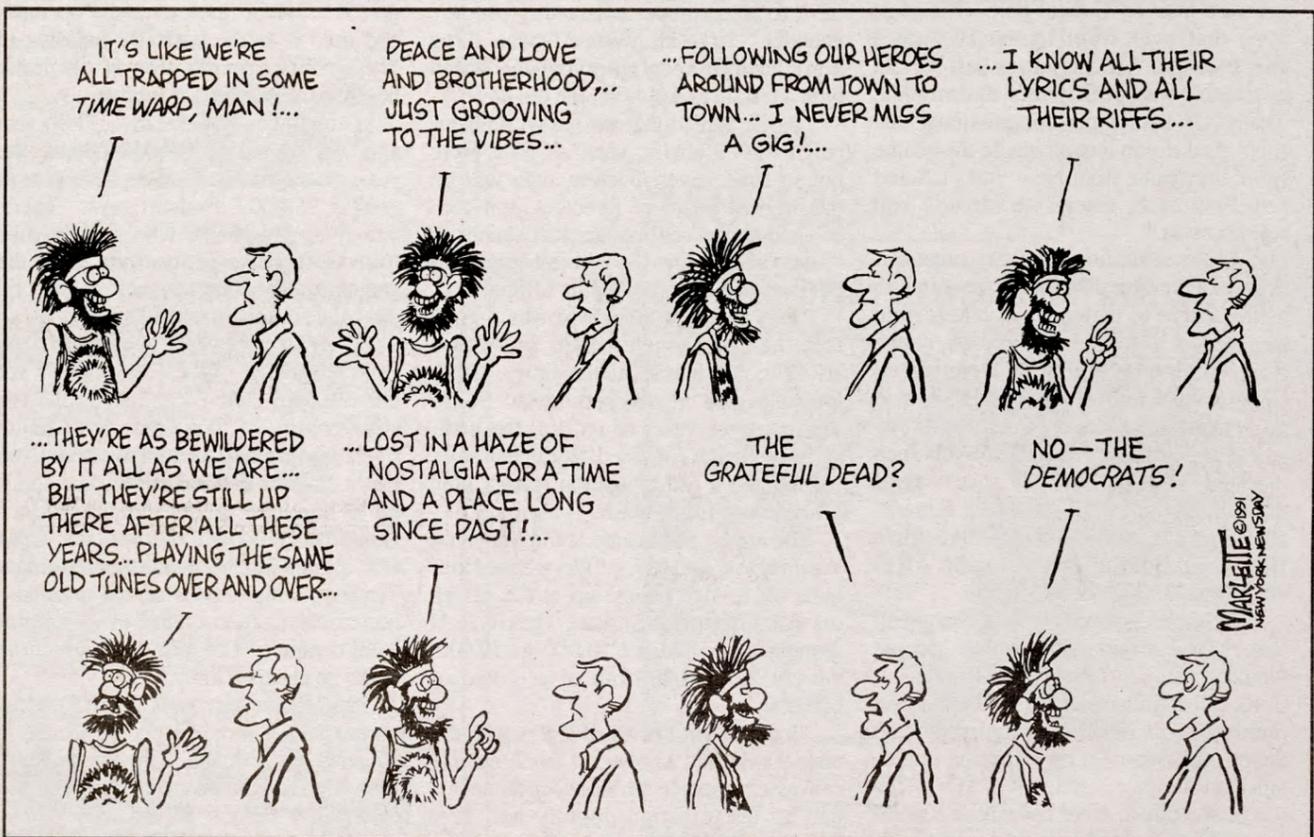
Thursday 5/23: "Stars from Hell", a benefit for Pride sponsored by *Etc.* at Petrus.

Sunday 6/9: Pride Benefit at TRAXX.

Saturday 6/15: Fourth Tuesday Business Expo. 10am-5pm. Pride Prom at 2069 The Page. 8pm 'til. \$12.

Friday 6/21: *Southern Voice* Open House, 1189 Virginia Ave. Food and entertainment. Donations to Pride appreciated.

Saturday 6/22: Pride Day Fun Run. 8am. Grant Park. T-shirts to all. Registration form this issue or call 622-0739. Sponsored by Front Runners and *Southern Voice*.



Homoville, GA

Notes from a GWM who lives where the City meets the South

by Al Cotton

I Lost on Jeopardy! Baby Confessions of a Game Show Contestant

So what would you like to know about Jeopardy!? I was there on January 9, 1990—a Tuesday that will live in infamy. Here are answers to the questions I hear most—sorry, but they're not in standard Jeopardy! form.

Did you win? No, I lost to Jeopardy!'s all-time money winner, Frank Spangenburg, who won \$102,000. He's a

6'6" N.Y. subway cop with a big, black, handlebar mustache—someone said it looked like I was playing against Herman Munster.

Activist sidebar: Frank had to give everything over \$75,000 to charity; he chose Sister Teresa's Hospice—they didn't say "for AIDS" on TV, but...Hmmm.

What did you win? By a margin of \$1, the third place wicker lawn furniture, plus some "fabulous parting gifts"—Dolly Madison Zingers, Matrix Hair Essentials, Jonny Cat kitty litter, Fab laundry detergent, and the infamous "Miss Lee Press-On Nails (For Smaller Hands)." Biggest disappointment—having to cancel my All-You-Can-Eat Rice-a-Roni party. The best laid plans...

How did you get on? My "terrorist" travel agent John set me up. He got the number, called L.A., signed me up to audition, scheduled my flight, hotel and rental car—then DARED me not to go.

66 people auditioned; 11 passed the test; and 5 of us looked good enough playing Jeopardy! with hotel desk bells to make the final cut. Five weeks later, I got a call asking me to return to L.A. the next month. We-ell, I said...

And they paid your way? Guess again—once they invite you, they know they've got you by the short hairs. You gonna say "No" then? Two years later, my credit cards still remind me of the price of fame.

Were you nervous? Me? Nervous? On national television? That quiver in my voice is ALWAYS there!!

Worst moment? As a long-time Mary Tyler Moore fan, confusing Ted Baxter (the character) with Ted Knight (the actor) ranks right up there with messing up my pants in first grade and wearing the school's emergency jeans home.

What's Alex like? A dead mackerel. He doesn't do much to make you feel comfortable in front of 15,000,000 people.

Is Alex gay? No way to tell. Well, speculate. OK. Con: While I was there Alex announced his engagement—but remember, in Hollywood, people who announce engagements want EVERYONE to know they're getting married. Pro: He works for Merv Griffin. You be the judge.

Could you have used "the G word" on TV? The only thing to stop me would have been the videotape editing machine, and I suspect it would've. Nothing was said about forbidden topics, but advertisers

won't allow TV to jump ahead of society on gay issues. "Crimes Against Nature for \$200, Alex"—not in this century.

So what's it like being "famous"? Cher's right—fame is no picnic. Because he did so well, Frank was featured on Current Affairs and Letterman, where through the magic of videotape I appeared with him, bent down over my podium, "LOSER" written all over my forehead, writing "What are Bolivia and Colombia?" with those awful pens. Truly one of the nadirs of my existence.

But afterward I got out-of-the-blue phone calls—one from a long-lost friend, three from strangers who just wanted to say, "Good job, DUDE." My office of 300 people was abuzz, I was recognized in bars, I was profiled in *Southern Voice*—and I was only on TV once! And I beat Warhol's Rule of Famousness—Andy promised us each 15 minutes of fame, but I got 22, not counting commercials.

And I got the chance to chase a dream—to go after something special and take my best shot. And the value of that makes \$102,000 seem like small change.

Well, maybe not small change...

Calling All White Bread Boys

To the Editor:

I'm tired of riding on the back of the bus.

Now, I know that's a ludicrous statement for a mid-thirties, upper-middle-class white East Cobb snob to make. After all, I'm a "white bread boy." You know the type—"nice" boy who did his homework, minded his manners, never got into too much trouble, lived—obstensibly—a "Beaver Cleaver" life. The only buses to which I can relate are the ones that I get stuck behind in traffic... and, frankly, I don't cope with those too well. So why am I obsessing with riding on the back of the bus?

Simple. Because it's 1991 and I live in the land of equal opportunity. Because my civil rights are supposedly guaranteed. Because I've gone to good schools and worked hard in highly-competitive and highly-responsible positions. Because I've traveled in socially correct circles and behaved in politically-correct ways.

Because I go to church, send regular letters to my grandmother, and take care of stray cats. Because I live a "white bread" life and, yet, I am considered a second-class citizen because I'm queer.

Please note the choice of labeling, "queer" not "gay." I'm too much the traditionalist to be "gay." To be gay is to be joyful, cheerful, festive, carefree. To be gay is to enjoy the abundance of good fortune that life and the fates offer.

I can't be gay... I'm queer. Odd. Skewed. Spoiled. Damaged. And that means that I'm not quite good enough to enjoy what other people can. I shouldn't hold my date's hand in the movies because, chances are, he's wearing blue jeans and a polo shirt, too. I should worry about offending someone's sensibilities at a wedding by dancing cheek-to-cheek with a handsome man. I can't call my mother and tell her I'm going to dinner with a cute doctor because his name is Pete. I can't get married. It's sad... and it's really queer that I can't enjoy these little pleasures and pains that all my straight "white bread friends" can.

Yeah, it's real sad, and it's sadder still because I'm one of the "lucky" ones—I'm out. Everyone knows my story. I don't hide anymore. I hold my head up proudly for

who I am... and, yet, I'm still a second-class citizen. I'm still not good enough. I still have to ride on the back of the bus.

Well, I'm not going to, not anymore. I'm going to live like every other aging preppie I went to school with. I've got their problems. I've got their responsibilities. I want all their joys and rewards, too. I'm not less than they. I'm tired of being "queer." I want to stand out in the world for being witty, for being good, for being talented, for being decent. I don't want to stand out because I sleep with other men. Really, I just want to be an ordinary guy.

Unfortunately, it's not that easy. Before I can be just another face in the crowd, I'm going to have to stand out. I'll have to take a stand in order to ultimately become part of the majority. Yet again, I'm going to have to show the world that I'm just like they are, that I have the same troubles, that I want the same rewards. I'll have to prove that, really, my life is no different from theirs.

I'm going to do it. But I need your help. I need the other "white bread boys" like me out there that—closeted or not—must feel the same way I do. I need for you to come out and march with me in Atlanta's Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. I'll be there, adding

one more body, one more face, one more voice, one more sense of determination. I'll be out there, marching in my pink button-down shirt and my Weejuns. I'll be there in all my uptight, traditionalist, over-educated East Coast snobbish glory. I'll be there, proudly, because, by being there, maybe letters like this won't have to be written in ten years.

I need you there, too, I need you not to hide for fear of being a stereotype, of being labeled an aberration. Let's show everyone out there that we are their lawyers and doctors and ministers and teachers, that we're their weathermen, and newspaper columnists and writers and architects, that we're their handymen and dry cleaners and garage owners. Let's show them that we're everyday people—"white bread boys." Let's show "them" that we are "them."

I'm ready to be gay—in every last traditional sense of the word. And I'm ready not to ride on the back of the bus anymore.

Sincerely,
Steven Venning Kruger

cc: Atlanta Journal/Constitution
Creative Loafing



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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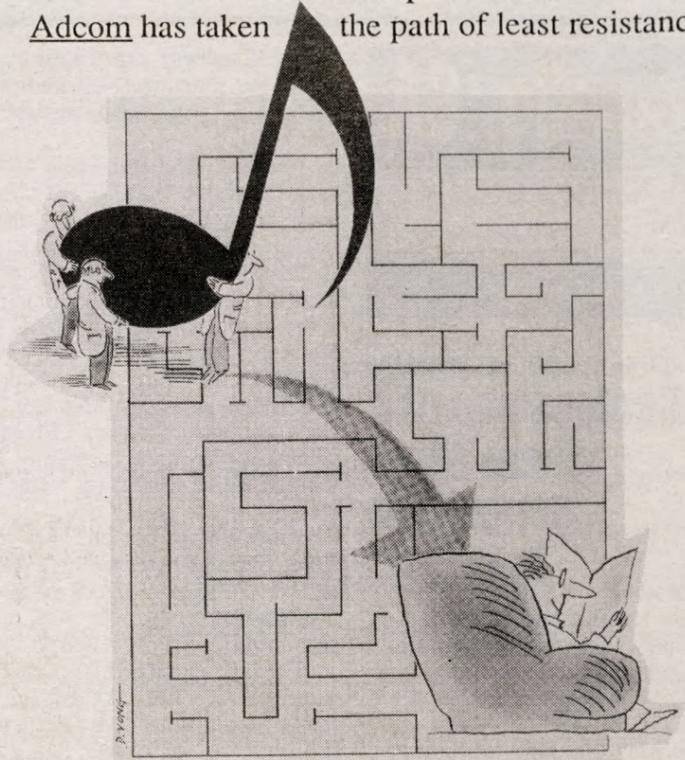
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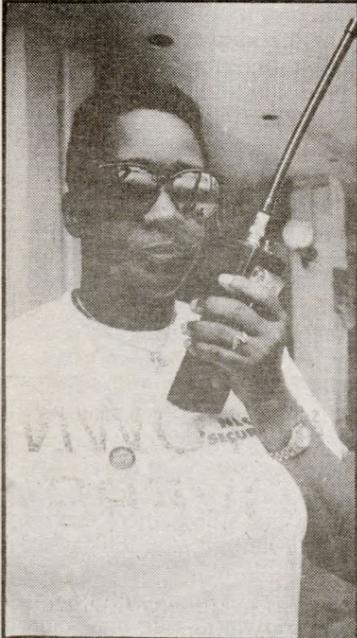
Racism and Accountability Top the Nat'l Lesbian Agenda

by Gareth Fenley

Atlanta—For five days, Lesbian Nation was headquartered in downtown Atlanta. The Radisson Hotel's ground floor was a hive of lesbians—2,500 registered participants in the National Lesbian Conference (NLC), plus uncounted others who walked in without signing up. There was something for everyone: entertainment, cultural arts, workshops, trainings, strategy sessions, and "Democracy Wall." The Marketplace bustled with women visiting 140 booths representing vendors and organizations ranging from Queer Nation to a lesbian stamp collector's club.

The much-discussed NLC policies of women-only space and parity strongly affected what happened here. "Parity," as defined by 200 women in September, 1988, means that all NLC decisions and leadership must involve 50% lesbians of color, 20% lesbians with disabilities, and 5% old lesbians. As a direct result, the number, diversity, and involvement of lesbians of color and lesbians with disabilities surpassed any other big, "mixed" event that anyone could think of. "I was also pleased to see so many white-headed women," said an old lesbian.

Many praised the warm welcome of Atlanta women, especially our hometown lesbians of color. Mayor's liaison Joan



PATSY LYNCH

Security was evident throughout the NLC.

Garner opened the conference with a greeting on behalf of Maynard Jackson. (See page 2 news story.) The National Organization for Women introduced Atlantan Sabrina Sojourner as its new Racial Diversity Programs Director.

Four evening plenaries at the Civic Center each attracted crowds of 1500 or more lesbians, who heard a variety of speakers. Friday night, Carmen Vasquez, co-chair of San Francisco's Lesbian Agenda

for Action and a board member of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force (NGLTF), urged lesbians to organize as a "lavender stripe in a progressive movement for peace and economic justice." The audience applauded her call for immediate, constructive action. "The times don't afford us the luxury of spending 20 years figuring out how to be more sensitive to each other," said Vasquez.

Saturday night, Urvashi Vaid, executive director of NGLTF, electrified the Civic Center with a speech that some women later called healing and unifying. Vaid's

lesbian-feminist agenda for the 1990s includes organizing to transform hatred and destruction into power.

"The NLC is a mirror," she said. "We are a series of splintered communities." Instead of insisting on "one of each," we need to look to leaders who represent "all in one." All processes must be accountable, and we have to stop fighting each other. "Urvashi told us to cut the shit," commented one appreciative lesbian the next day.

Other plenary speakers included old lesbian activist Barbara MacDonald. Speaking to therapists and other certified professionals, she charged, "You have taken over our issues and are now selling them back to us piece by piece for a fee." Wilmette Brown, founder of Wages Due Lesbians, also condemned careerism and the rip-off by privileged people of other people's struggles.

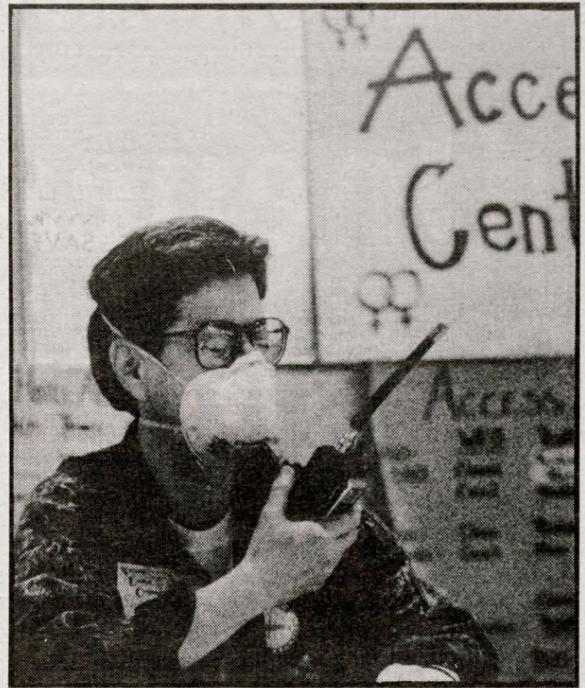
Joyce Hunter, founder of New York's Harvey Milk School, warned that lesbian sex can transmit HIV, and that 276 lesbians have AIDS. Karen Thompson moved women to tears with news of the latest court ruling in the case of her lover, Sharon Kowalski. (See News in Brief.)

The two interwoven themes emerging throughout the conference were racism and accountability. The starting point for discussion was the conference schedule. No complete, intelligible program was provided to anyone. Needing to eat (there were no lunch or dinner breaks), exhausted women walked out of meetings that began up to 90 minutes after the expected starting time.

Many women of color, outraged that the Latina caucus was omitted and that Native Americans were not notified in advance of their presentations, identified racism as the root of the problem. The Lesbians of Color Caucus addressed the situation at daily morning meetings attended by 80 or more women. Many of the same lesbians took a leadership role at NLC's open "pre-plenary" discussions each afternoon. At the Friday night plenary, women of the caucus walked up onto the stage and asked: "Where is the phantom steering committee? Who is the phantom typist who has made all the mistakes? Who is accountable?" The audience cheered, and a few organizers came on stage to respond.

As a result, members of the steering committee were invited to discuss conference planning at Saturday morning's Lesbians of Color Caucus meeting, and the plenary to decide the future of NLC was rescheduled to Saturday afternoon. Women there discussed two documents: a letter from NLC director Mary Lu Lewis apologizing for scheduling mistakes and a one-page statement accepted as the outcome of a 4-hour mediation with Latina lesbians. By consensus, the plenary (consisting at that time of about 600 women, without parity) agreed with the statement. "We need a foundation and model that ensures parity at every step of the process; that will take into account our collective vision of inclusion; provide a mechanism for adequate communication; and keeps us [the staff] from working in isolation as a skeleton crew," says the statement. "In attempting to plan NLC's future, achieving the trust of Lesbians of Color is imperative." Action agendas were also presented by Latina lesbians and African-American lesbians.

At a press conference Saturday afternoon, organizers



PATSY LYNCH

NLC-Access Central—a woman wearing mask because of environmental allergies.

tried to explain what went wrong. "Finances was the major problem," said steering committee member Luvenia Pinson. Nearly 75% of the NLC budget relied on 3,000 registrants paying an average fee of \$120. Of 1,400 pre-registrations, however, the average fee paid was \$33.75; before April, it was a piddling \$13.50.

Funds were therefore not available to hire staff members when they were needed. A contract for meeting space at the Holiday Inn was canceled after the program committee submitted a comprehensive schedule. Complicated by late outreach to Asians and other groups, steering committee fluidity and disorganization, and communication gaps, the resulting flood of last-minute changes caused a schedule meltdown.

Despite the problems, organizers are proud of the NLC's achievements. "This was one of the most accessible events ever, and we kept parity all the way from beginning to end," said access and needs coordinator Mary Frances Platt. NLC's unexpectedly low income primarily paid for rental of accessible sites, vans to transport dykes in wheelchairs, 14 sign language interpreters, child-care workers, and funding assistance to women who needed it — not staff salaries, computer equipment, telephone calls, or mass mailings.

With income from the Friday night dance and cash donations, NLC now may be only \$1000 in debt. The Candler Park office will stay open for at least one more month as organizers wrap things up. There's talk of a newsletter using the NLC mailing list. Although no new national lesbian organization or agenda was formed here, women want another conference. As disability activist Barb Bechdol said at the Friday plenary, "This is the dream of the NLC: that we all belong, every lesbian in this country, no matter what else she is."

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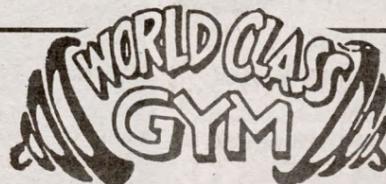
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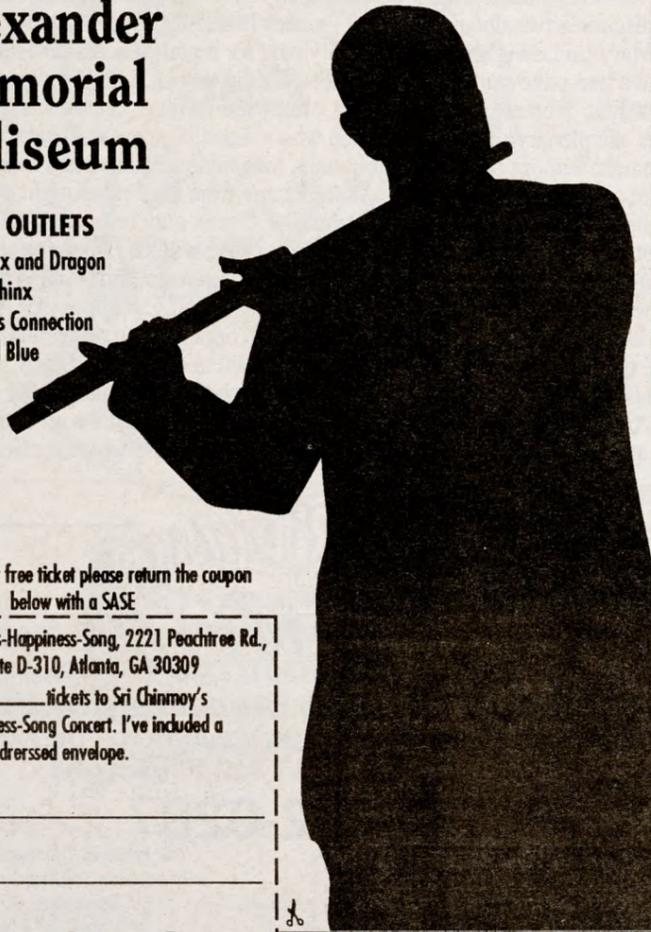
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RAY PEIROTTI

Age: 59

Occupation: Artist

Relationship Status:

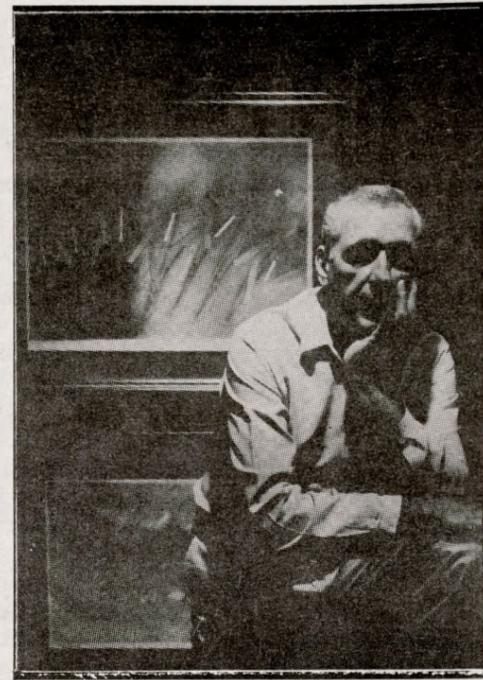
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KAREN DUNIGAN

Velvet Artist in a Steel Glove

I met Ray in 1989 when he was the director of the Hambidge Center for Arts and Crafts in Rabun Gap, Georgia. Like the genial host at a gracious country house, he presided each evening over the dinner table in the screen-porch dining area. We Hambidge Fellows talked about our writing and painting and weaving in the evening, while cool mountain air wafted through the screens, along with fragrance from the honeysuckle vines and butterfly bushes and pine and cedar trees in the woods that surrounded us.

An engaging, soft-spoken man with silver hair, warm brown eyes, and a disarming smile, Ray Pierotti resembles a velvet glove over steel. You cannot talk to him very long without becoming aware of a strong personality and an unshakable confidence.

His studio, on the ground floor of his Midtown home, reflects him—deceptively gentle, beautifully ordered, with nothing left to chance. Ray is in control of his life and his art, easily and seemingly without effort.

He has spent most of his life, helping others bring order out of chaos. He reopened the Hambidge Center and got it back on its feet. It now thrives as a small arts colony. He has helped reorganize and revitalize a number of other arts organizations and institutions all over the country.

To Ray, getting an organization on its feet is the same kind of process that he uses in painting: "I use the same sort of creative energy or process. I'm always looking for a way to bring my observations of people and things and circumstances into some kind of clear focus, bringing new order to old things that don't seem to be working together any more."

Two years ago, Ray decided that if he was ever to concentrate on his painting, the time had come to do it. "When I left the Hambidge Center, I decided if I were going to make a contribution in the visual arts, that I had to make the same kind of commitment to myself that I had made to others."

Was this hard?
"It's more demanding, because you're

answerable only to yourself. The most challenging part is promoting yourself. I've never felt uncomfortable about going out and promoting an institution. But I'm finding it a little harder to say to people, come and enjoy my wonderful work! It's harder to promote yourself than it is to promote somebody else."

Ray's painting is now receiving attention in the art world. He now has galleries in Chicago and North Carolina that carry his work, and he has an agent.

Although he loves the beach or the mountains, Ray finds that "It isn't nature that inspires me, but being in the middle of some structure that has been put together by people. Some magnificent building, or a wonderful cathedral, or a marvelous skyscraper, where I can identify the human hand that's been there making order. I have a preference for being where people are."

Ray's partner of four years is a neurotherapist who works with brain-damaged children. He is very supportive of Ray's painting. "That's a crucial element when you decide to share your life with someone else. If that individual is not totally supportive of you and your efforts, then you're working against two things: the person you're with and yourself. But if you've got support, it somehow seems that there are three people working for you."

Does Ray see himself primarily as a gay artist, or simply as an artist?

"I've done a lot of thinking about that. Prior to acknowledging that I was gay publicly, there were a lot of secretive undertones in my work. It was only after I acknowledged being gay and made a firm commitment that there was nothing the matter with being gay, that angst, or underlying concern, left me artistically. So the turning point in my own painting was when I once was able to not think about being gay, then I realized that my underlying themes in my art were larger than my gayness. So if I do what I do because I'm gay, fine. That's like saying I do what I do because I was born of Italian parents, or because I'm right-handed."

—Charlene Ball

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The Powerful Pull of the Church

by Debbie Fraker

If you were raised in a church-going family, you might have once believed that the church was a safe and loving place to be, a place where anyone with his or her heart in the right place would be welcome. Or maybe you never bought that line. As young lesbians and young gay men growing up, many eventually began to realize that the church's welcome didn't necessarily apply unless we were willing to attempt a "cure." Coming out in the church for many has meant leaving the church, or being kicked out, or rejecting religious traditions.

Many gay men and lesbians, however, have stuck by the traditional religions they were raised with and struggled to find or make their own place in them. Others have sought out alternatives to traditional organized religion. Gay and lesbian affinity groups have sprung up in many churches and a few individual congregations of mainstream denominations have even extended a much-appreciated welcome to lesbians and gay men seeking spiritual support.

Jewish gay men and lesbians have found support from each other in Congregation Bet Haverim. The congregation has a membership of 65 family units. According to its president, Betsy Goldin, 5-7 percent of the congregation consists of heterosexual parents of other congregation members. "Many of our members hold dual memberships with other synagogues," she says. Bet Haverim is the first gay and lesbian congregation affiliated with the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot, a national mainstream Jewish organization.

Goldin has chosen to maintain the traditions of her Jewish heritage because she believes that "within the religion there is an opportunity to recreate the tradition and make it open to all lifestyles. In the best of all worlds," she says, "Bet Haverim wouldn't have to exist."

But Michael Kinsler is glad it does. "I was raised in an orthodox synagogue," he says. He came to Bet Haverim about seven years ago. "Being raised Jewish gives one a strong alliance," explains Kinsler. "What kept me there was heritage and culture."

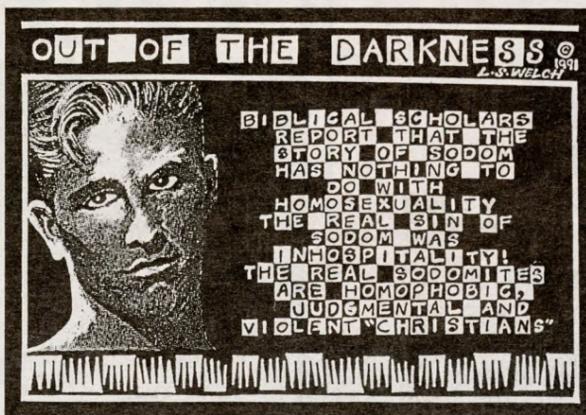
In addition to Friday evening meetings at the AIDS Interfaith building and one Saturday morning service a month, the congregation celebrates the high holidays together and offers lessons in Hebrew to interested members. They also offer Bar Mitzvah and B'Nai Mitzvah classes to members who have not had them.

Some gay and lesbian Christians have turned to the Metropolitan Community Churches. Reid Christensen, the Senior Pastor at the First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, was a Baptist as a young man. He was very active in his church, knowing all the time that



KAREN DUNIGAN

Reid Christensen, Senior Pastor at MCC of Atlanta, was active in the Baptist Church. He still feels anger about the guilt trip most churches put on gay people.



his church would probably not accept him if they knew he was gay. MCC offered him the option to minister to other gay men and lesbians openly as a gay man.

He still gets angry about mainstream churches' reactions to homosexuality. "After they deny us access to God through their churches," he says, "they turn around and call us a Godless people."

"MCC says that we always need to keep scripture in context and in historical setting," Christensen explains. He and a fellow First MCC pastor teach a workshop called "Homosexuality and the Bible," designed to put Biblical passages that are used to condemn homosexuality into context of history, other scripture and translation. "Once you've been through this class, you will not be ready to argue with Jerry Falwell on TV, but you will never be put on another guilt trip by anyone," he says.

Many lesbians and gay men have chosen to remain in the Christian churches in which they grew up or have opted for a not-strictly-gay congregation. Often this means remaining closeted in the church of your choice. But there are individual mainstream churches that have moved away from the prejudicial practices of their denominational leadership. Both Presbyterians and Episcopalians are holding national meetings this year in which they will consider ordination of open lesbian and gay ministers.

Clifton Presbyterian Church in Candler Park has a long-standing reputation for welcoming gay and lesbian participation. Rev. Currie Burris, who has been pastor at Clifton for two years, sees that church's acceptance of open lesbians and gay men as "part of our response to the gospel." Though the Presbyterian Church does not yet ordain openly gay men or lesbians, Burris says, "we strongly disagree with that." In fact the congregation at Clifton is considering joining the More Light Church, a segment of the Presbyterian Church which does ordain openly gay and lesbian ministers.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, All Saints Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, The Shrine of Immaculate Conception, Grant Park-Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and Oakhurst Baptist Church are also known for welcoming gay men and lesbians into their congregations. This is often not without cost to the church, however. An official policy that accepts lesbians and gay men can mean the loss of heterosexual members. Rev. Lanny Peters, the minister of Oakhurst Baptist Church, says "my own stand is to be supportive." Though the church membership has decided to welcome lesbians and gay men, Peters says "that was a painful decision and several members left the congregation." Peters recently had the privilege of dedicating the baby of a lesbian couple who are members of his church.

There are many closeted gay and lesbian ministers and ministerial candidates in Christian churches in Atlanta. In some cases the woman or man is in a church that knows and accepts her or his sexual orientation and even his or her spouse. In other cases, being a gay or lesbian minister is simply a lonely, risky life. Either way, you can bet the denominational administration doesn't know.

One lesbian minister, when asked why she chose to remain in a traditional church needing to stay closeted, said: "To me, staying within the church means staying and struggling with all those other folks that aren't gay and lesbian." She tries to come out to people individually, hoping to make a difference in the attitudes of individuals, knowing that one person coming out can't change the attitude of the church as an organization. She sees her role in her mainstream denominational church as a challenge, "a challenge to me and to those who meet me."

Connie Tuttle's experiences as an open lesbian ministerial candidate have not been very encouraging so far. She went to seminary as an open lesbian and graduated with a degree that would allow her to be ordained if the church would follow through. Because she is an open lesbian, she found herself forced to withdraw her application for candidacy rather than being denied, leaving herself the option to reapply later. Tuttle has become discouraged about the prospect for gay men and lesbians in the church. "Worship is a very intimate experience," she says, "probably the next most intimate experience to sex. I'm not willing to be that intimate with people who are not willing to celebrate who I am." She facilitates coming out support groups and counsels gay men and lesbians in coming out experiences.

She does recommend many of the congregations mentioned above to her clients, but with a caution: "It's wonderful to be able to celebrate and find community where you can live and worship with integrity about who you are, but even 'safe' congregations offer opportunities to confront the insidiousness of homophobia."

There are also some non-traditional worship environments in the area that welcome lesbians and gay men. Among them are the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta in Candler Park and the Church of Religious Science. The "E Con," as the Candler Park congregation has become known, has a long tradition of support of the lesbian and gay community. A fundraiser was held there for the National Lesbian Conference. The church has also housed a variety of meetings for gay and lesbian support groups and social events. Services are very comfortable with an emphasis on thoughtful examination of one's spiritual influences.

Jewell Christie is a member of the Church of Religious Science. "It's not hard to be 'out' there," says Christie, "because there are so many gay people. If my girlfriend goes with me, I feel comfortable holding her hand." She thinks that the Church of Religious Science has particular meaning for lesbians and gay men because its emphasis is on taking control of and responsibility for one's life. "For gays and women especially," she says, "it's profoundly important that we learn how to take responsibility for our own prosperity, and prosperity isn't just money or a Mercedes; it's a way of life. There's richness in my life that isn't reflected in my bank account." "Religious Science," she continues, "fits my ideas about being a lesbian and being 'out' and about being aware."

If you feel uncomfortable being closeted in your congregation, maybe the lesbians and gay men who related their experiences here will give you encouragement. On June 21 there will be an Interfaith service to celebrate Lesbian and Gay Pride at All Saints Episcopal Church. If you have been looking for a congregation to worship with, this may be a good opportunity to find one.



KAREN DUNIGAN

Connie Tuttle attended seminary as an open lesbian, but cannot be ordained unless her church votes to ordain lesbian and gay ministers.

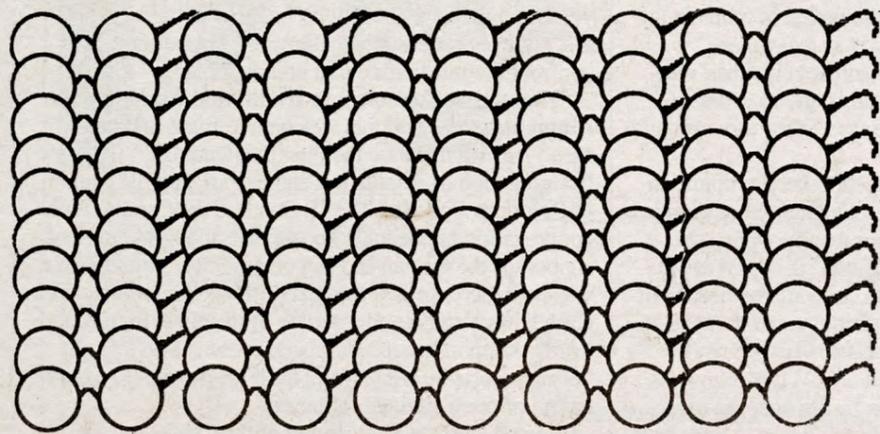
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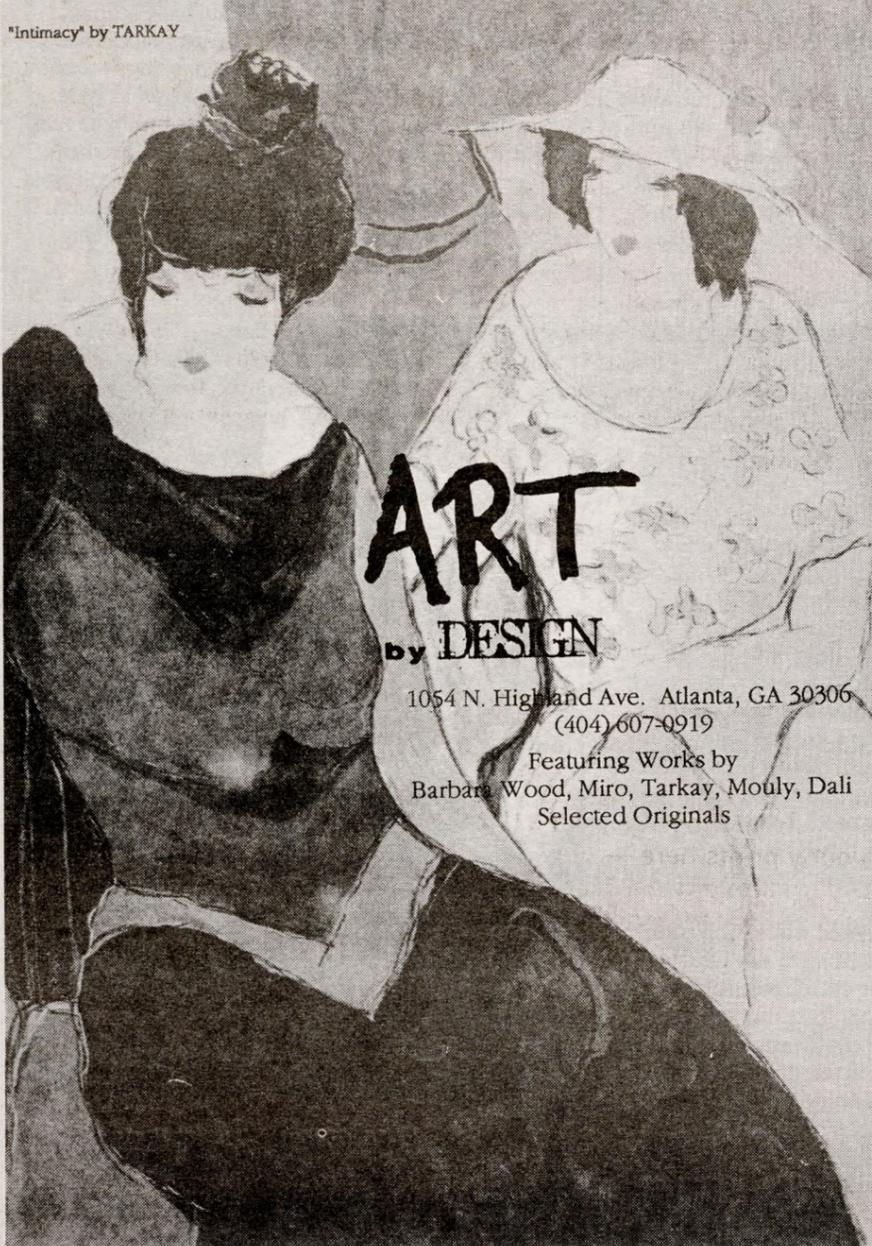



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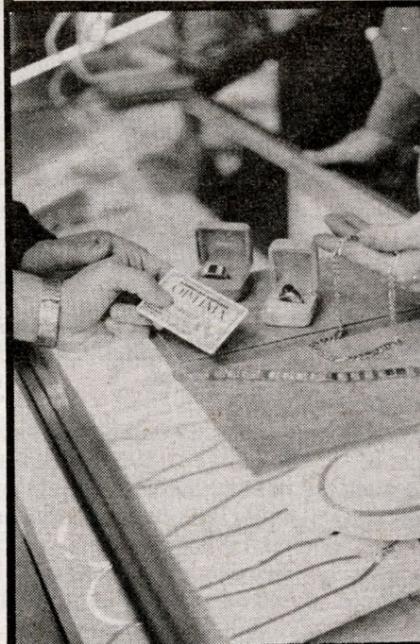


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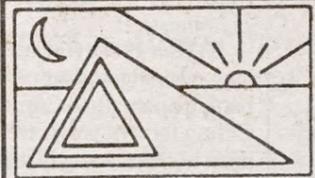
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Celebrating With Mom

by Debbie Fraker

Mother's Day can offer some unique challenges and opportunities for lesbians and gay men. Though some, out to their mothers or not, simply celebrate with their mothers without any fear or tension, others know that even a mother can sometimes judge her children harshly. And she might not want to celebrate with a gay or lesbian child. At the other end of the spectrum, lesbian mothers are often reminded at Mother's Day of the unfounded fear they present to society. And often those lesbian mothers have been separated from their children by a court system that lags far behind in its definition of what constitutes a "good mother."

But for some fortunate lesbians and gay men, Mother's Day is a time to celebrate relationships with their mothers that have held strong through the tensions of coming out and the difficulties of learning to accept each other honestly. Because Mother's Day comes in the month before the anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion, it makes a marvelous opportunity to salute those mothers who have proudly stood by their gay and lesbian children through the risks of coming out.

Judy Colbs is the President of the Atlanta chapter of P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Her daughter Sandy came out to her in 1984 when Sandy was in graduate school. Judy says she was comfortable with the idea right away. Another P-FLAG parent says she didn't believe Judy's assertion until after she had known her long enough to know it was undoubtedly true.

Coming out to her mother, Sandy said "I'll tell you something, but I don't know if you'll still love me." Judy remembers that "the only thing I could think of was: 'Did you kill somebody.'" Judy continues, "the sad part about all of this is that she knew intellectually that it would be okay, but it still took her four years to tell us because of all the horror stories and the fears." In 1987 Judy and both daughters went to the March on Washington.

When asked what kind of plans Judy and Sandy might have for Mother's Day, Judy explained that Sandy would not be able to come to Atlanta for Mother's Day "but she better send a gift or at least call." Judy went on to say "I'm hoping

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Sandy and Judy Colbs (President of Atlanta P-FLAG). The two attended the National March on Washington together in 1987 and plan to march together in Pride '91.

she'll be here for Pride weekend, though." Since Judy might be one of the speakers, she wants her daughter to be there.

Judy points out that parents of lesbians and gay men have decisions to make about coming out also, coming out as the parents of a lesbian or gay man. "Do you tell other family members; do you tell at work; do you not tell but not let them tell homophobic jokes?" Judy wears a button that boldly states "We love our gay and lesbian children." P-FLAG has been helpful for parents trying to make these kind of decisions.

Lesbians and gay men also attend P-FLAG meetings from time to time to get a chance to discuss coming out with parents who are already accepting their children. In fact, for many parents in P-FLAG, getting involved with other lesbians and gay men in the community has been one of the key factors that leads to acceptance and understanding of their

own children.

Jeri Sassany's son Richard came out to her on April 9, 1987. "That's a new birthday," Jeri says; "it's like him being reborn, same kid, but a different aspect of him." For Jeri, learning that her son was gay "was not a pleasant experience. To say it was a medicine ball in the gut doesn't cover it, because I've never felt that depth of emotion in my life. But he is our son, and we love him." Jeri found and joined P-FLAG two weeks later.

Coming out as a parent was also difficult for Jeri, but she has come out in some risky situations. Once, leaving a meeting of the Dunwoody Homeowners Association she mentioned that she was going to another meeting and found herself in the position of explaining what P-FLAG stood for to one of her Dunwoody neighbors. "If it comes up or if I hear a joke starting to happen, I say wait a minute. If they're ignorant, you're there to educate them," Jeri insists. "We

were not going to be in the closet," she continues; "once everybody knows everything, they can't use it against you."

As to her Mother's Day wish, Jeri says "hopefully he'll have a place of his own and be moved out of here." Richard has recently moved back to Atlanta and is temporarily living with his parents. "I love him, but he's in my space!"

Rob Medley came out to his mother Joann about ten years ago. "The day he told me about it was one of the closest days we've ever had," she says. "But then when the reality set in, it bothered me. I don't like it now, the way I handled it. I was not exactly wonderful at times. We've talked about it since then, and Rob said 'I wasn't exactly wonderful about it either,'" she adds. Joann found P-FLAG shortly after. "I didn't think I needed help when I joined P-FLAG," she says. But her interactions with other gay men and lesbians have helped. "I tended to look at it as 'this is a strange world that he is going into, and I was losing him. But then I got into that 'strange' world and it wasn't. It's a normal world, and it's the same world I've always been in."

Coming out to her family and friends took some time for Joann. "A parent lives in the closet, too," she says, "and I got tired of that, so with Rob's permission, I told my family." Coming out, however, continues to be difficult for Joann. "I'm not as out sometimes as I'd like to be. I sometimes say 'someone very close to me is gay.' I would like to get to the point where I can say 'my son is gay, what of it?'"

For Mother's Day, Joann expects "to be wined and dined." She says, "he asked me today when Mother's Day was and I said 'you better remember!'" She heard that!

There is a sad irony in celebrating the simple fact that some of our mothers have learned to accept and love us as we are. But then some have not. If you are still waiting for your mother to come around or come out, maybe P-FLAG can help. Either or both of you is welcome, and they can help you find a P-FLAG in your mother's hometown if she is not in Atlanta. In the mean time we can all honor the many mothers out there who proudly proclaim "we love our gay and lesbian children."

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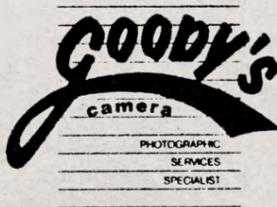
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Heat Rules in Summer, Machismo in Bridge

by Dave Hayward

Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke* at Actor's Express is the theatrical equivalent to Albert Brooks' *Defending Your Life*. On both stage and screen, Williams' and Brooks' hero squelch their needs and wants in psychic paralysis until their best opportunities are history.

Alma (Wendy Wolff) is Williams' archetypal woman, all fluttery affectation as her passion bolts to come out. John (Chris Coleman) is classic Williams cock of the walk, dissipating both spirits and sex but ultimately redeemable—though not by Alma.

In his hothead way, Williams invites us to claim our desires and clinically crucifies Alma for her terror to act. Within Williams' psychosexuality, *Smoke's* clamor for guts rips gay men, urging on bold pursuit of those we burn for.

Wendy Wolff risks being absurd with her giddy laughs, breathless diction and prim deportment. She verges on foolish until Alma's high noon have-it-out with John, when Wolff's restraint hits the jackpot in a riveting declaration, valiant but futile. It's a full blown performance that ambushes you, and a crowning collaboration between Wolff and director Heidi Cline.

Chris Coleman's John is not as complete, uncomfortably contemporary (*Smoke* is set in 1916, unlike Coleman's kind of '60s hedonism) and sounding more Atlanta-accented than Mississippi. Yet he exudes believable heat in his bare-chested trysts and rips into Williams' rich script: "It's about truth! It's about sex! And it gets lonesome!" he excoriates Alma, to arresting effect.

Cline has a gift for explosive climaxes, building up scenes to outbursts well deliv-

THEATRE REVIEWS
Summer and Smoke
Thru June 2
Actor's Express

A View from the Bridge
Thru May 18
Neighborhood Playhouse

ered by Frank Roberts, Melody Siegler, Laura Talley and Dina Shadwell. She overdoes some aspects, such as making John's girlfriend Nellie not only giggly but lunatic. *Smoke* is beautifully served by Theo Harness' sprawling knockout of a set and Cheryl Ryan's Edwardian costumes. This is a physically as well as sensually rich tribute to Tennessee.

Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge* at Neighborhood Playhouse remains a relevant lesson in homophobia. Eddie Carbone (Patrick L. Parker) is a pillar of machismo in Brooklyn's Little Italy at home with his wife (Karen Stricker) and her niece (Tanya Brown). They contentedly play house until the arrival of two Italian cousins, illegal immigrants who cohabit with the Carbones

until Eddie's jealousy erupts.

One cousin, Rodolfo (David Mashburn), is a triple threat: he sings, he cooks, he designs clothes. This Northern Italian blond is also the apple of the niece's eye, apparently an artistic straight boy except to Eddie who condemns him as "light!" It's as much sour grapes as anti-gay, though, since Eddie hankers for his niece himself, until Sicilian revenge settles all scores.

While slow-moving, *Bridge* is well-conceived by director Sondra Nelson, who resonates several chords in Miller's fragile piece. Patrick L. Parker is not the tragedian called for, but he does a credible turn as arrogant tormented Eddie, who seems to fancy Rodolfo a bit himself. David Mashburn is a polished actor, but his Rodolfo is excessively Pollyanna with an ersatz Italian accent, not enhanced by Tanya Brown's saccharin portrayal of his puppy love.

Standing in sharp relief are Gene Ruyle as the Greek chorus/narrator and Jared Simon as Rodolfo's brother, both streamlined performers and persuasively Italian. A blue collar Madonna, Karen Stricker is especially fine as Eddie's cuckolded wife. The believability of the enterprise is intensified by Barry West's cutaway slice of a Brooklyn street, plus a hazy backroom casino.

SHORT SUBJECT:

Angry Housewives at Horizon Theatre through May 25 is a whole other take on women, and a bizarre funny one. It's like being a Roman at The Coliseum as the transformed hausfraus rip into a punk rock "Eat Your Friggin' Corn Flakes!" The audience is invited to roar, stomp and throw cereal. Housewives defly satirizes positive mental programming, May Kay and driven buppies. Watch for Lorna Howley's torch song "I'm a Major Brand in a Plain Brown Wrapper."



HERB JOE

A HEATED MOMENT as Patrick Parker wrestles David Mashburn to the ground to test his manhood, while Raven Petretti fends off her uncle's attack, in a scene from Arthur Miller's gripping drama, *A View From the Bridge*.

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A New Age for Nexus

by David Story

The exhibition "Vital Signs," which opened at the new Nexus Gallery at 535 Means Street on May 5, heralds the dawning of a new age for the gallery, which has become an Atlanta tradition since its inception in 1973.

"We plan to do some international things and serve the contemporary community here in Atlanta at the same time," says Sydney Jenkins, the new director of Nexus Gallery.

"The opening of the new Nexus Gallery has given us the perfect opportunity to review the accomplishments of the Atlanta arts scene over the last 20 years," says executive director Louise Shaw, who adds that almost 80 percent of the artists represented in "Vital Signs" are not from Atlanta.

"Vital Signs" includes work in all mediums by artists from all around the country. The common thread of the show is artists for whom Atlanta has been a catalyst in their development, or perhaps simply, a place which has fostered their talent.

Two of the more prominent artists, from outside of Georgia, who are featured in the show are Roger Brown with his oil on canvas, the "Battle of Atlanta," from the Heath Gallery and Andres Serrano, with his cibachrome print of the Ku Klux Klan's "Grand Inquisitor," from the Faye Gold Gallery.

ART REVIEW

Vital Signs

Nexus Gallery
535 Means Street
May 5-June 8

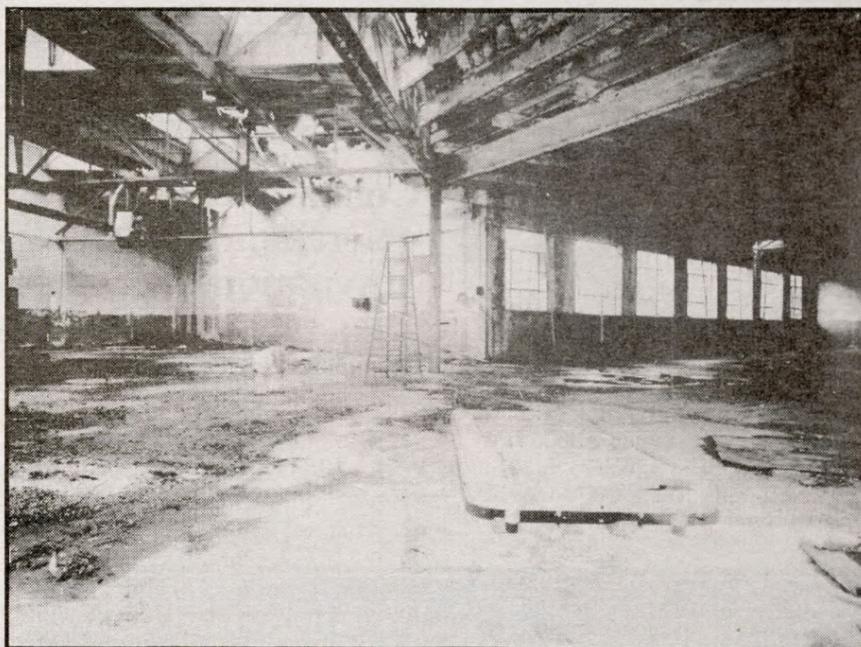
One of the most noted artists in the show from the Atlanta area is Nellie Mae Roe (1900-1982), represented by her crayon on paper work, "Harlem," from the collection of Sylvia and Jim Kortan.

Since Nexus was started as a photography co-op in the early '70s, it is important not to overlook the contributions photographers have made to this premiere show. John McWilliams' nudes, known as the "Backyard" series, presents a disarming, if not stereotypical peek into the woodsy, backroad genre of rural life.

And, Nancy Marshall's intense "Bathroom" series of female nudes will come across to some as liberating, to others as exploitive.

Perhaps one of the most intriguing photographic presentations is Chip Simone's "Atlanta in Black and White" series, which juxtaposes an older, heterosexual couple at play and a Caucasian woman and Black woman in protest with two same-sex couples, one male, the other female.

Not to be overlooked is Elizabeth Turk's "T.F." series, spanning the years of



LUCINDA BUNNEN

Lucinda Bunnan's photograph, "Art Visionaries Only!," captured the new 6,000 square foot Nexus Gallery at its rawest stage.

a man's life between 1976 and 1988. The strong homoerotic overtones make this collection a testament to the changing times in all our lives.

The entry-piece sculpture which greets you at the door is the work of the Atlanta College of Art's Curtis Patterson and embodies the essence of the kind of art which will be showcased at the new Nexus.

Curated by art consultant Annette Cone-Skelton, Hammonds House

Galleries' Ed Spriggs and Shaw, "Vital Signs" fills the 6,000 square foot gallery, designed by Irvy Weirner and Associates, with the works of 85 different artists, making for a stimulating collection which reflects the cultural diversity for which Atlanta is known.

Aside from the gallery space and Nexus Press, in the near future look for a 100-seat black-box experimental theater to be added onto the new Nexus complex.



H. Deeb

by David Salyer

Nancy had cancer. Gary died unexpectedly in a car wreck. Ellyn was a homewrecker. And sometimes Hope is icy enough to make anybody feel like a passenger on the Titanic.

Any fan of ABC's "thirtysomething" knows these names. Along with Michael, Elliott and Melissa they compose the most attractive, glib, troubled, liberal and self-absorbed characters on television.

Far better now than when it first premiered, "thirtysomething" is arguably TV's finest hour. In the beginning these baby boomers were a little too smart, glib and facile. It was difficult to empathize with such well-dressed, endlessly self-analyzing whiny-butts. Drama is conflict, not conversation.

Three seasons later, this drama's subtle comedic edge has all but been replaced by something much darker. Every episode now adroitly confronts the uncertainty of life. Hope, Michael and all the rest have finally been exposed to aching reality. These characters have reached the middle of life and discovered what a hazardous, unsteady place the world can be. "thirtysomething" evolves like a fine novel, managing to address such intrinsically melodramatic subjects as cancer, miscarriage and death without becoming

COOL MEDIUM

thirtysomething grows up

maudlin or superficial. The characters and their relationships have been developed with extraordinary detail and resonate with emotional significance.

And "thirtysomething" has always pushed the limits of what is dramatically acceptable on network television. The original episode included a scene in which Hope attempted to breast feed daughter Janey while lunching in a crowded restaurant. Ellyn has dropped her diaphragm on the bathroom floor. Melissa once mused upon her relationship with Lee and actually started a sentence with the words "when he's inside me." Recently, Billy Sidel sidestepped a confrontation with Ellyn by retreating to the bathroom, closing the door, dropping his pants and having a seat. Each moment was deftly played, thoroughly ordinary and refreshingly honest.

"thirtysomething" has quietly made TV history all along by being unconventional in style, structure and tone. Despite this, it may be remembered mostly for an episode that aired November 7, 1989. That was the night the series depicted two gay men in bed together, obviously post-coital. The visually suggestive scene prompted skittish advertisers to, ahem, pull out. But there was no touching and no kissing. The pillow talk consisted of "when did you know you were gay?" banter and a tally of deceased or sick friends. Undeniably tame compared to the libidinous antics of prime time's hormonally-driven heterosexuals. For this ABC lost over a million dollars in ad revenue and, fearing another boycott, never scheduled a rerun. Regardless, the sight of two men in bed experiencing anything remotely resembling afterglow was a major breakthrough.

Yet with all the controversy over the so-called "gay episode," it is never men-

tioned that the show itself wasn't even about sexuality. The same episode depicted a parallel romance involving Melissa and her new boyfriend, Lee. Gradually and thoughtfully, a fear of intimacy was revealed in both relationships. As it invariably does, "thirtysomething" explored a theme rather than exploiting a subject. Try finding a theme on "LA Law" amidst the myriad of subplots. There are none.

"thirtysomething" recently risked further backlash and controversy again by focusing on one of its recurring gay characters, Peter Montefiore. On the April 16th episode, Peter learned he is HIV-positive. The script, written by Paul Monette author of "Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir," allowed Peter a wider range of emotions and reactions than perhaps any gay character has ever manifested on TV. Peter even revealed the ambiguity many gay men have over testing: "I just thought, 'What would knowing change? And even when you know, you don't know, so why know?'...I felt like I was no longer young and I should know things if there were things to know."

In a later scene, reptilian ad agency boss Miles makes a veiled slur against Peter's masculinity. A particularly visceral confrontation occurs and Peter corners Miles into firing him. Office confidant Michael intervenes, telling Peter he needs to stay "for the insurance...for your situation." Again, Peter's response is just right: "My situation. What do you know about it? What you read in *Newsweek*? You don't know what I need. You don't know my life. I don't know yours. You don't know anything about me." Another breakthrough. Peter sounds like a gay man when he talks. Losing friends is something Peter knows about and he can't help but resent a straight man telling him what

he needs to do.

Interestingly, AIDS and HIV are never mentioned in the episode. Peter tells Michael he took "the test." Later, Michael tells Hope Peter took "that test." Certainly AIDS looms palpably over these exchanges, but while Peter despairs initially, it is directly implied that he will learn to live with his positive status rather than accepting it as a death sentence.

Peter Montefiore is a minor character and one of only a handful of prime time gays, but he represents progress in TV's portrayal of gay men and gay lives. "thirtysomething" succeeds where other programs fail by creating a fully dimensional human being with positive and negative qualities, who happens to be gay, and putting him in a web of straight characters. It is a thoroughly natural place for Peter to be because homosexuals live this scenario daily.

Art imitates life. Apparently television is just now catching up.

Editor's Note: GLAAD/NY (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/ New York chapter) warns that there is a history of right-wing objection to thirtysomething any time the gay characters appear. That is why your support of this episode is so important. Let the producers know how much you appreciate their sensitive portrayal of Peter, and congratulate them for having the good sense of hiring a gay writer for the episode. Write to:

Robert Iger, President
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For more information about GLAAD, contact GLAAD/Atlanta at 286-7476.



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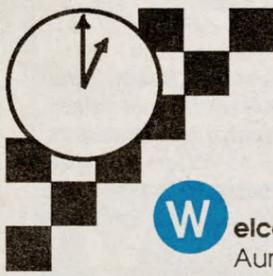
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"Impressionism/Post-Impressionism and the Art of Printmaking" at the High Museum beginning May 14 will feature many well-known artists including Mary Cassatt. Pictured: "Sarah Wearing her Bonnet and Cape" by Mary Cassatt, 1904.

Art

VITAL SIGNS. Thru June 8. Mixed media from artists around the country who have been inspired or nurtured by Atlanta. Assorted works from photography to sculpture from over 85 artists review the accomplishments of the Atlanta art scene over the last 20 years. See review this issue. New Nexus Gallery. 535 Means St. near Ga. Tech. 688-1970.

900 YEARS OF AFRICAN ART & THOUGHT. Thru June 16. More than 100 works trace the art history of the Yoruba people of Nigeria and Benin in West Africa from the 12th century to the present. Ancient bronzes, carved ivory, spectacular masks, costumes and much more to see and marvel over. At the High Museum. 892-3600.

IMPRESSIONISM/POST-IMPRESSIONISM. May 14 - Aug. 4. Lithographs by such greats as Degas, Cezanne, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, Gauguin and the incomparable Mary Cassatt. High Museum of Art. 892-HIGH.

PATRICIA BEN HAROCH. May 15- June 19. Recent works by this Israeli artist. BurnNoff Gallery, Piedmont/Monroe. Mon-Sat 11-6. 875-3475.

VENEZUELA: THE NEXT GENERATION. May 17- June 5. The post-war artists of Venezuela capture the world as seen through Old and New World glasses. Paintings inspired by their homeland and the vistas of travel abroad. Lowe Gallery at TULA. 75 Bennett St. 351-3551.

Benefits

ATLANTA SYMPHONY DECORATORS' SHOW HOUSE. Thru May 12. Bobby Jones' home is furnished and decorated to eye dazzling dimensions by local designers to raise funds for ASO. \$10, \$12 for guided tour. 3425 Tuxedo Rd., NW. 264-4497.

BOYBUTANTE BALL. Thurs. May 16. 9pm. This second annual AIDS benefit/gala is thrown by the Gomorrah Garden Club and the Ladies Auxiliary of Sodom. A fun-filled frolic near Atlanta. \$5. The 40 Watt Club. Athens. 548-3657.

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.

Comedy

WET DREAMS AND OTHER LESBIAN TALES. Fri. May 10 & 17 at 10pm; Sun. May 12 & 19 at 8pm. Atlanta's premiere gay and lesbian comedy troupe, Funny That Way, present a delightful romp through fairy tales in their truest sense. After all, why can't two princesses live happily ever after? 2069, The Page, 2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd., 728-9045.

RENO ENRAGED. Fri. May 17. 8pm. There are few things as rare and as funny as a feminist with a sense of humor and Reno is one. The New Yorker described her this way... "like Whoopi Goldberg, Reno fashions an androgynous chic." Need we say more? Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid Ave. 524-7354.

Direct Action

QUEER NATION AT CRACKER BARREL. Sun, May 12. Noon. This time bring your Mom along for a Mother's Day breakfast or lunch she won't soon forget. Douglasville Cracker Barrel. 286-2355.

QUEER THE ATLANTA OLYMPICS. Fri. May 17. 7pm. A town meeting to discuss the possibility of a 1996 National Gay & Lesbian March on Atlanta. 1996 is also the 10th anniver-

sary of the Hardwick decision upholding Georgia's sodomy law. Ponce deLeon Library. 688-1954.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP ACTION. Wed. May 22. 11am. QN is at it again. This time they plan to ask for marriage licenses to focus on the fact queer couples can't get one. Note: non-residents of Fulton Co. can participate. Fran and Ann, Bob and Rob come on down! Fulton Co. Marriage License Office. 132 Mitchell St. 286-2355.

Events

FIRST ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FESTIVAL. Sat., May 11. 10am-5pm. This is a great idea! Take your Mom or a Mom equivalent for this fun day which benefits Atlanta homeless mothers and their kids. \$10 adults; \$5 kids. Lenox Park. Roxboro at N. Druid Hills Rd. 669-0138.

GARDENS FOR CONNOISSEURS TOUR. May 11, 11-5pm, May 12, 12-6pm. The chance to tour eight of Atlanta's loveliest landscaped gardens. \$15. It's a Mother's Day tradition. Tickets, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Pk. 876-5859.

LINDA ELLERBEE. Mon. May 13. 12:30-2PM. Our favorite TV journalist is in town to sign her latest, "Move On: Adventures in the Real World." Oxford Books. 360 Pharr Rd. 262-3333.

KINGFEST INTERNATIONALE. Sat., May 18. 1-7pm. Free. A celebration of cultural diversity in arts, crafts and music. MLK Center. 449 Auburn Ave. 524-1956.

Film

15th ANNUAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL. Thru May 12. 15th annual showing of the best from 510 works from throughout U.S. and Canada. One of the country's premiere showcases for work by independent media artists. Of particular interest are: What Do Women Want? A Hard Reign's Gonna Fall and Now Cut It Out! \$4-\$10. 75 Bennett St., NW Suite M-1. 352-4254.

Health

WOMEN'S HEALTH, FERTILITY AND SEXUALITY. Wed. May 15 & 22. 7pm. Special workshop sessions to help women better understand their own bodies and take control of an area of their health that is often shadowed in myths or inaccuracies. Feminist Women's Health Center. 580 14th St. 874-7551.

PUBLIC FORUM ON GRADY'S INFECTIOUS DISEASE CLINIC. Mon. May 20. 7pm. Free. Treatment strategies and services will be the focus. Find out how to get a Grady card, how long it takes to get an appt., if Grady can help you get AZT, and more. Sponsored by NAPWA. Colony Square Hotel. Sherwood Room. 874-7926.

SELF DISCOVERY SERIES. May 21-June 25. Tuesdays only. 6:30-8:30pm. For HIV+ individuals. Six nights of "serious play" to help create more joy in your life. Group lead by Elizabeth Weathersby, ART. \$5. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 222-2440.

Music

JOYCE AND JACQUE. Sat. May 11. 7:30pm. Sweet soulful sounds in the intimate setting of Chrysalis. Chem-free. \$8. Chrysalis Women's Center. 2045 Manchester St. 881-6300.

FLOR DE CANA. Tues., May 22. 8pm. Latin American rhythms from one of the leading Latino bands combines melodies and tempos from all over Central and South America and the Caribbean. Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid, 524-7354.



Reno Enraged. The New Yorker describes her this way. "... like Whoopi Goldberg, Reno fashions an androgynous chic." Need we say more? Fri. May 17 at the Variety Playhouse.

ANDRE WATTS IN MASTER SEASON CONCERT. Thurs. May 23-Sat. May 25. And Yoel Levi conducts Beethoven/Overture to The Creatures of Prometheus; Beethoven/Piano Concerto No. 5; and Dvorak/New World Symphony. Symphony Hall. Woodruff Arts Center. 892-2414.

Sports

FRONT RUNNERS. Every Wed. at 6:30pm in Piedmont Park. Also every Saturday 9am at the Chattahoochee River off Powers Ferry Rd. Call Shelton Haynie (622-0739) or Lynn Patterson (438-1421) for info. Get ready for the Pride Day Fun Run!

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. A game with fun to spare. Express Lanes, Monroe Drive. 242-4899.

HOTLANTA SOCCER. Practice every Sun., 3 pm at Piedmont Park. Hotlanta is looking for a few good thighs for the 1991 spring season, and the upcoming International Gay Soccer Tournament scheduled for October in Atlanta. Men and women, beginners or pros are encouraged to participate. Call Steve at 577-0418.

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS. Every Saturday. Play to climb the competitive challenge ladder or just enjoy the game. Watchers welcome as well. Men play at noon at Glenlake Tennis Center, call David Black at 399-5010. Women start at 1:30pm at DeKalb Tennis Center. Call 662-GAME.

Theatre

MR. UNIVERSE. Thru 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.

BELLEIVES. Thru May 12. A moment of change is frozen in the footlights as a small southern city confronts the corruption of its old social structure. Jim Grimsley's newest. At 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. 523-7647.

MARANEY'S BLACK BOTTOM. Thru June 2. Kenny Leon plays the dynamic trumpeter and Sandra McClain plays the mother of the blues in this plays which explores Black musical history in the 20's. Alliance Theatre, 1280 P'tree. 892-2414.

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE. Thru May 18. Arthur Miller's compelling play about the tragic consequences that occur when a man allows his passions to rule his life. Based on a true story of an Italian family in Brooklyn. Neighborhood Playhouse, 430 W. Trinity. 373-5311.

ANGRY HOUSEWIVES. Thru May 25. A mad, mad musical where domestic goddesses wreck havoc in their lives as they abandon Betty Jean Cosmetics to form a "totally rad" punk rock band for a contest at the Lewd Fingers Club. Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave. 584-7450.

ODD NIGHT IN AN ODD PLACE. Thru May 31. 8pm Wed-Sat.; 3pm on Sun. A musical homage to Ginsberg, Kerouac and the music of the Beat era. Written by Eddie Levi Lee and Phillip De Poy. Theatrical Outfit, 1012 P'tree. 872-0665.

SUMMER AND SMOKE. Thru June 2. Two explosive souls in repressed Glorious Hill Mississippi in 1912. Hard to tell which is hotter, the sweltering weather or Miss Alma's hidden passions. Actor's Express, 280 Elizabeth St. 221-0831.

A... MY NAME IS ALICE. Thru June 2. Tues.-Thurs. at 8 pm; Fri. and Sat. at 7 & 10 pm; Sun. at 3 pm. What? A women only show in Buckhead? Yep, a cast of five women deliver 24 tunes and skits about the satisfactions and frustrations of being female. Buckhead Roxy. 249-6400.

THE NIGHT HANK WILLIAMS DIED. Thru June 9. The death of the ill-fated singing star is a catalyst for comedy and broken dreams. Having enjoyed comfortable runs both on and off Broadway, this Texas tale opens at the intimate Marietta theatre to be performed in the shadow of the big chicken. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave in Marietta. 422-8369.

THREE PLAYS IN MAY. May 9-25. Staged readings of new plays by three Atlanta authors. "Kafkaphony" (a must-see for Kafkaphiles) by Frank Wittow; "Housebreaking" (an absurd comedy of modern errors and mysticism) by Dennis Camilleri; and "Walkin' to Heaven" (a look at Atlanta from Cabbagetown to Grant Park) by Stephen Peace. 7 Stages Theatre. 523-7647.

A LADY AND A WOMAN. Thurs. May 16-Sun. May 19. 8pm except for Sun. at 2pm. This workshop production of a new play by Shirlene Holmes explores an African-American lesbian relationship set in the early 1900's. 14 th St. Playhouse. Tickets at Charis and ED's Gourmet Records. 881-0817.

Women's Festivals

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC & COMEDY FESTIVAL. Thurs. May 23-27. The 8th annual SWMCF is 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.

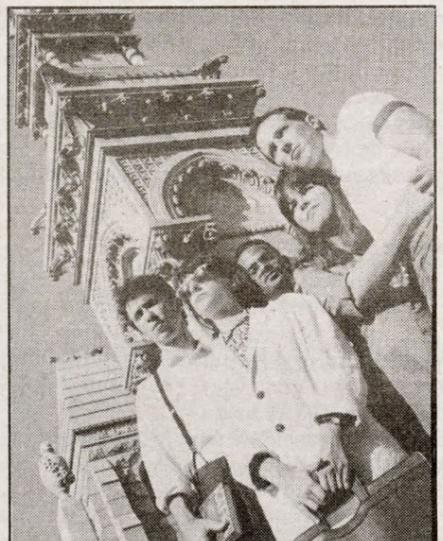
Upcoming

ONENESS-HAPPINESS SONG CONCERT WITH SRI CHIMNOY. Sat. June 1. The world-renowned musician will play a variety of Western and Indian instruments in the FREE, peace-inspiring concert. Music for the spirit and the heart and the future of the planet. Alexander Memorial Coliseum at Ga. Tech.

HOLLYWOOD HOTS '91. Sat. June 8. A good time for a good cause will be even better if you can donate door prizes, refreshments, or assistance to help make it happen. Morningside Chase Apts. 1445 Monroe Dr. 875-5622.

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. For info write, GLPCI Box 7537, Houston, TX 77270.

TOSCA. June 13, 15, 17. Puccini's fiery thriller tells a story of a Roman diva caught up in a revolution and love. Symphony Hall. Woodruff Arts Center. 892-2414.



Three Plays in May from The Academy Theatre New Play Series premiere at 7 Stages May 9-25. Pictured: Stephen Coulter, Mira Hirsch, Charles Reed, Kelly Lawrence and John Rice. Photo: Jason Vise

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.

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE DAY RUN. Sat., June 22. 8am. Held in conjunction with Pride '91. A 5k Race/Walk from Grant Park to Piedmont Park. T-shirts to all participants and age group awards. Sponsored by Front Runners and Southern Voice. See application in this issue. Grant Park. Parking lot off Boulevard. 622-0739.

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 marching down Peachtree under the lavender banner. For info call, 325-4435.

GOLDEN THREADS 5th ANNUAL CELEBRATION. June 28-30. A worldwide social network of Lesbians over 50 and women who are interested in older women gather to exchange ideas and enjoy one another's company. Dinner, dance and discussions. Write Golden Threads, Box 3177, Burlington, VT 05401.

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

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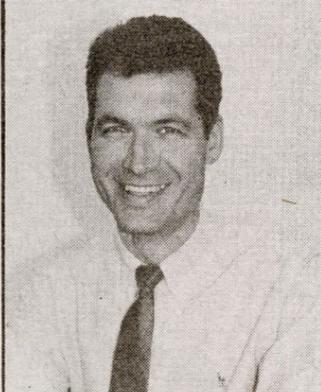
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COMMUNITY

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.

Atlanta Buyers Club (forming)—goal: to become a non-for profit source of treatment for PWAs. A.B.C., PO Box 55225, Atlanta, GA 30308.

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.

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 Worchester. 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

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—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.

COMMUNICATIONS

Roswell Unity—Gay-Bisexual Support Group. Time Square Shopping Ctr., 3000 Johnson-Ferry Rd. Thurs. 7:30, beginning 5-16-91. For more info call 368-7481.

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.

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

Athens Lesbian Information Line—Athens area lesbians call to find out about support groups, social gatherings, etc. (404) 353-2211.

Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service—Information for persons interested in issues of gender. PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 939-0244 (evenings).

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 inter-racial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome. 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.

Georgia Girth & Mirth—Social club for large gay men and their admirers. PO Box 9678. Atlanta, GA 30319. (404) 621-5710. **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.

Name the Violence—Support group for formerly battered lesbians. No fees. Share experiences, be empowered & empower others. A safe space in our community. Meet Tues. evenings at 7:30. 659-4520.

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.

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.

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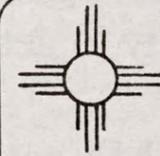
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AIDS

Cheaper AZT on the Way, But Does It Matter?

by Dave Gilden
AIDS NEWS SERVICE

Barr Laboratories, a large American manufacturer of generic drugs, has announced that it filed an application with the Food and Drug Administration to market an off-brand version of AZT. If approved, Barr would sell its version of AZT at one-half to two-thirds the price charged by Burroughs Wellcome Company, according to Barr spokeswoman Carol Rozek.

Burroughs holds a patent on AZT, and monopolizes the market with its brand-name version of AZT, called Retrovir. At present, it costs about \$3,000 per year to take a daily AZT dose of 500 milligrams. AZT is one of the most expensive drugs on the market, but it is also the only medication approved for treating infection with the HIV virus that triggers AIDS.

Most people with AIDS and less serious HIV conditions right now have little choice other than to pay for the Burroughs drug, either personally or through insurance or government programs. Burroughs refuses to divulge the actual costs involved in producing AZT, but estimates of manufacturing costs for AZT have ranged from a few pennies to 35 cents per capsule. This compares with a per capsule retail price of \$1.20 to \$1.50.

Rozek said that Barr gave Burroughs Wellcome notice on April 9 of its intention to violate the patent, and that BW has 45 days to respond legally to the challenge. She would not reveal what arguments Barr would use should Burroughs sue for patent infringement. In any case, Barr could not market AZT before March of 1992 because of exclusivity rights granted Burroughs as AZT's first manufacturer.

Barr's move was greeted by Derek Hodel, director of the People with AIDS Health Group in New York. Independently of Barr, the PWA Health Group filed suit late last month to revoke Burroughs Wellcome's patent. "Increasing competition to lower the price is one of the reasons we started our suit," Hodel said.

Hodel said that Burroughs has a weak claim on AZT because "scientists from the National Institutes of Health participated heavily in developing AZT for treating AIDS. The government abandoned its rights." AZT was invented 26 years ago, not by Burroughs Wellcome, but by Dr. Jerome Horowitz of Detroit Cancer Institute. Horowitz never tried to patent his creation because it failed to perform as the anti-tumor drug he was searching for.

Two decades later, AZT reappeared as one of a handful of substances Burroughs Wellcome submitted to the National Institutes of Health for testing against HIV.

It was the only one of the batch to prove useful. Cathy Bartlett of Burroughs Wellcome said that her company's patent was based on the claim that "Burroughs first thought of using AZT against AIDS and did most of the development including financing the large drug trials, in which more than 10,000 people have participated."

Burroughs Wellcome's patent also is being challenged in Canada, where a generic drug manufacturer known as Apotex is suing to void Burroughs' rights to AZT in that country. Simultaneous with Apotex's January announcement of its intentions, the Bahama-based Interpharm began advertising in US gay newspapers that it would sell mail order AZT to American customers at about one-third less than the average price in this country. Apotex reportedly was Interpharm's source of AZT.

Efforts to provide cut-rate AZT soon may become moot. Larry Tate of San Francisco's Project Inform pointed out, "For cheap drugs, the real interest right now is in ddC."

ddC, which works in a similar fashion to AZT, has not yet been officially approved. It is much less expensive than AZT and can sometimes be purchased from underground sources. The price is only \$50 to \$100 for a three-month supply, depending on dosage. Interpharm's AZT costs about five times that amount.

This week, ddC's developer, Hoffman LaRoche, began submitting a licensing application to the FDA for the drug. Speculation has it that when finally approved and regularly available, ddC might cost as little as \$200 per year. Such competition would have a powerful influence on AZT's price but would not mean the drug's complete demise: AZT would still have a role to play in multidrug therapies against HIV infections.

Announcement

A.B.C. (Atlanta Buyers Club) is now forming. Its goal is to become a not-for-profit source of treatment for PWAs. We now have access to ddC. We would like to know what other treatments the AIDS community would like us to carry.

Let us know by calling 874-4845, or write us at A.B.C., P.O. Box 55225, Atlanta, GA 30308. FAX # (404) 233-5613.

The Atlanta Buyers Club does not recommend any drug. Only your physician should recommend treatment. ddC is currently available at \$46.85 for 400 .25 mg tablets per bottle.

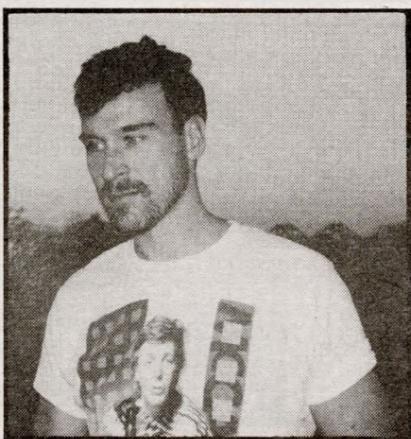
NOTE: ddC does not have final approval by the FDA. Price subject to change depending on supplier. The drug has been chemically analyzed for purity.

OBITUARY

Kevin Halliday, 36, died Tuesday of complications from AIDS. He is survived by his parents, two sisters, a brother, and many loving friends.

Kevin had many interests and enthusiasms, ranging from architecture to macrobiotics, but his first love was music. His work experiences centered around music in some form; he loved all kinds of music, especially the Beatles. Kevin was one of those lucky people able to fully enjoy life, and for this he will be fondly remembered.

A memorial gathering in Kevin's honor will be held on Tuesday, May 7, at 7:00 pm at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.



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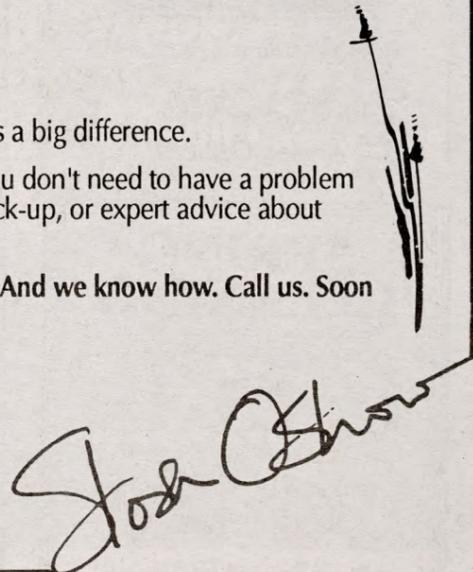
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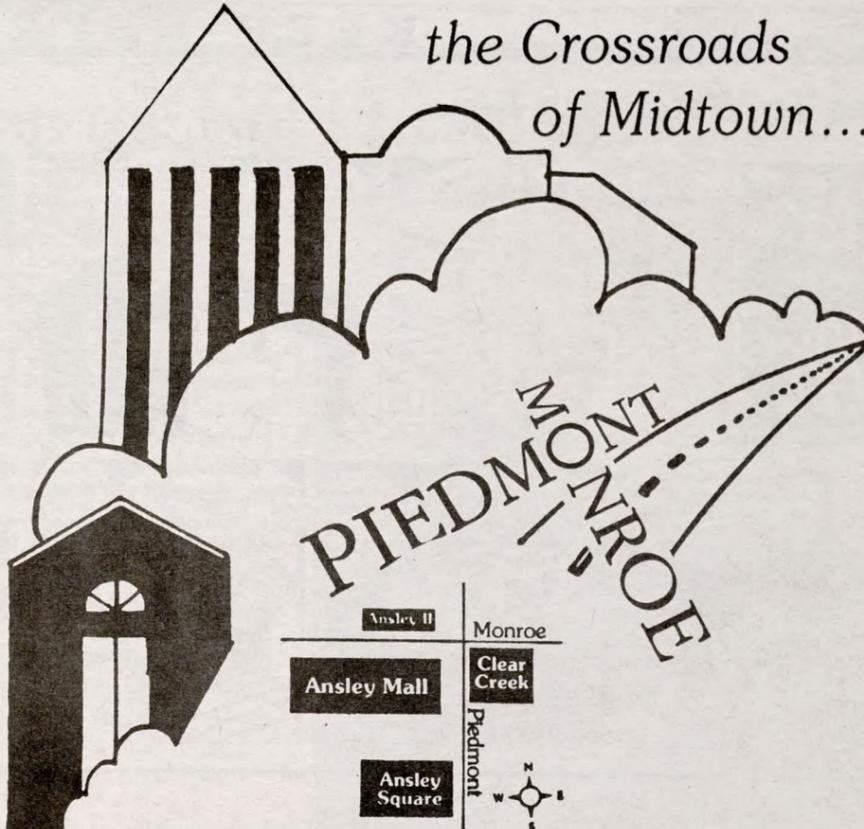
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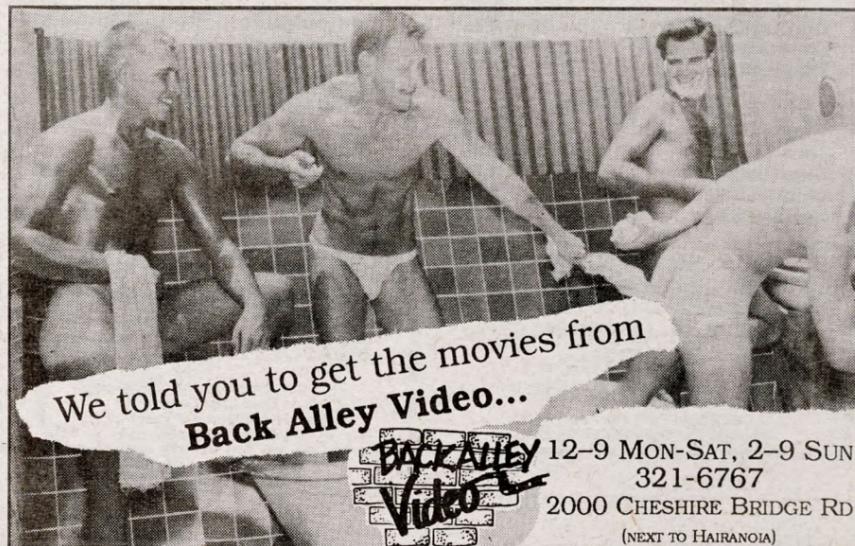


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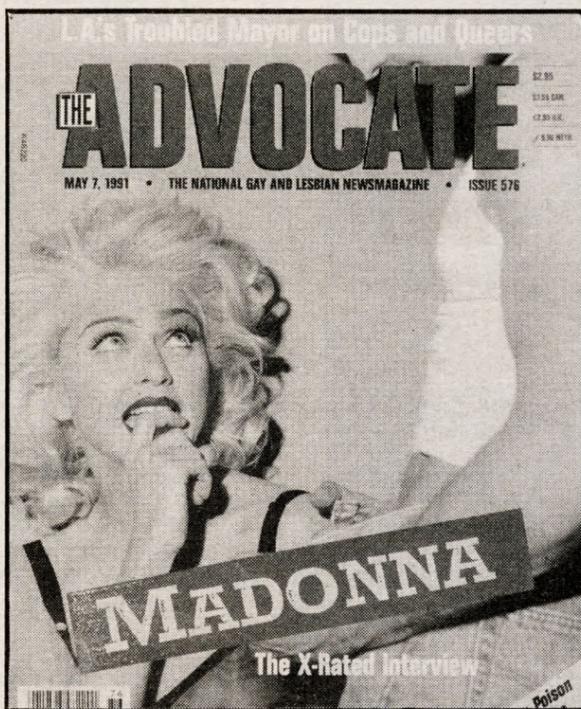
there's a fine line between telling the truth and talking trash

Not Banned in Boston: The good news is that the A-J/C even mentioned it. The bad, that they saw fit to do so with an ageist and lookist sneer. The event was a Boston performance of openly gay choreographer Bill T. Jones' "The Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin," a piece about racism, sexism and death. During the last part of said dance, "The Promised Land," audience members were invited to join dance company members and perform in the nude—39 did so. (You may remember that the appearance of a *single* nude dancer, discretely lit, in Jones' troupe produced police threats to close a performance at last year's National Black Arts Festival here.) "We won't all explode if we're naked in proximity to one another," said Jones, "a bolt of lightning won't come and strike us all dead." Quite the opposite in fact, such experiences can probably only cause us to better appreciate and trust each other. Dish hopes Jones will perform the piece when the NBAF returns so that we can join the fun.

L.A. Law Watch: Just when we were ready to believe NBC's insistence that *L.A. Law* would not return to the C.J./Abby date-line, they did. On the April 25 episode what should we see but dear precious Abby asking C.J. out. "You mean like a date?" said C.J. "No. Yes." said Abby. But hold the presses. Alas, it's not to be. On the very next episode, C.J. turned Abby down. Dish understands C.J.'s reluctance to bring Abby out (or possibly satisfy her curiosity), but we are very grateful there are some around who are willing to take that risk. Keep trying, Abby.

Feed Jake, He's My Brother: Well, not exactly. But Dish occasionally tunes in country radio and has been hearing a song by the Pirates of the Mississippi called "Feed Jake." Yes, it is about a dog, but that's not all. One verse of the song says that "if you have an ear pierced, some will call you gay, but if you drive a pickup, then they'll say you're straight." We know they're talking about the guys here, but it's the thought that counts. The next line says that "what you are and what you ain't, what you can and what you can't, doesn't really matter." Amen, brother.

Looking for My Donna: Dish, like many of the rest of you if news reports are to be believed, hit the ground running in search of a copy of the Madonna interview in the last



issue of the Advocate. And like you, we couldn't find copy. So, like you again, we borrowed one from a buddy. Now Dish doesn't know whether to laugh at the idea of all those supposedly straight Madonna-philes plunking down their three bucks for a gay mag, or cry because the interview is so, well, unrelentingly unrevealing. The divine Ms. M. is without doubt one hot performer, but do we really care about whether she uses dildos or not? Or the exact dimensions of Tony Ward's or Warren Beatty's private parts? (M. doesn't tell, but anyone really interested in such can easily guess from looking at a few photos of either.) The second part of this piece of shameless hype is due out as you read this. Dish thinks all but the most severely Madonna addicted will want to skip it.

And Looking for Your Mama: Julie Andrews and Ann-Margret (one *very* middle class, the other very not—you guess which is which) play the moms of two gay men, one of whom is dying of AIDS, in the ABC movie "Our Sons" scheduled to air May 19. Sounds like pretty brave stuff in view of TV land's skittery attitude about queers. But wait, the story focuses more on the relationship between the two women than it does on AIDS or homos. Why? Just listen to Director John Earman (who also directed "Early Frost" in 1985) in a NY Times interview, "I got Bill Hanley (the writer) to take out everything possible concerning the disease." And, "I wish television were taking bigger steps than it's taking [on AIDS and gay issues], but 'it's much safer to take the route of dealing with the two mothers.'" Dish is tired of mainstream media taking the "safer" route when it comes to our lives. The only kind of safe we want to hear about is safer sex.

Faded Blooms(ingdale): Manhattan's mecca of chic, Bloomingdale's, has roused the ire of GLAAD/N.Y. Dish is equally offended. Bloomie's, it seems, has been running a series of full-page ads that push a wildflower fashion theme by using these words: "No sir, not a pansy in the bunch. These buds are big, bold and beautiful." What's so ironic here is that there are bunches of very bold and beautiful pansies among Bloomie's workforce and clientele. Dish urges readers to write John Jay, the store's Director of Advertising, at 1000 Third Ave, N.Y., N.Y. 10022 (or call 212 705-2000) and let the store know that their precious play on words is anything but cute.

Wildmon's Wickedness: Ambitious letter writers and touch-tone fanatics may want to call GLAAD/N.Y. (212 966-1700) for a list of companies targeted by Rev. Donald Wildmon's American Family Association (think of him as a male Nancy Schaeffer taken to the third power—scary) because they have done something that could be construed by his warped mind as pro-gay—like sponsoring an episode of "L.A. Law" or "Golden Girls." GLAAD has launched a campaign to counter Wildmon's wickedness.

May 9 - May 22

RULING PLANETS

by Mary Bailey-Rule

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLORETH

Now that we are in the lusty month of May, it's time to be sensual and tactile, enjoying all the beauty of Spring. Mother's Day is on the 12th, followed by the New Moon, start projects on the 14th.

ARIES—Venus and Mars are moving through your 4th house of home, family and parents, squaring your natal sun position. You may need to focus more attention at home and with family, but all will benefit from your time and effort.



CANCER—With Venus joining Mars in your 1st house of self-awareness, and Jupiter expanding activities in your 2nd house of income, focus more on personal needs and wants. Don't hesitate to Speak Up for Yourself.



LIBRA—With Mercury in your 7th house of close personal relationships, you may find it easier to communicate with those you love. If there are difficulties, be patient and be sure you can hear the other person's side of the story.



CAPRICORN—Mars and Venus in your 7th house of close personal relationships is providing lots of energy for nurturing and developing these ties. Time spent with those you love will pay off for you in many ways.



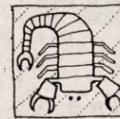
TAURUS—Happy Birthday! Mercury is in your 12th house of the unconscious until the 16th, so use this to your advantage by turning your attention from externals to your inner world. A good time to learn more about yourself.



LEO—The Sun in your 10th house of career, squaring your natal Sun, may indicate stress and tension around work, as well as potential opportunities to be developed with patience and care. Stay aware of your goal and your ego.



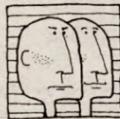
SCORPIO—As Venus joins Mars in your 9th house of higher learning and long-distance travel, you might consider a spiritual retreat or a workshop for self-renewal and personal empowerment. A good time to attend to yourself.



AQUARIUS—With Saturn in your 1st house of self-awareness opposing Jupiter in your 7th house of close relationships, you may feel pulled in two different directions at the same time. Be flexible in relationships, stay centered.



GEMINI—Venus and Mars in your 2nd house of income and property provide energy for doing things you love. You can accomplish a great deal right now by being centered. Get very clear about your personal goals and stick to them!



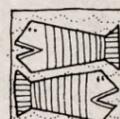
VIRGO—Venus and Mars are traveling through your 11th house of community affairs and networking. A wonderful time to expand your sphere of influence and contribute to worthy causes. Meet people and have fun!



SAGITTARIUS—Mercury in Aries (cardinal fire) and Jupiter in Leo (fixed fire) combine with your sign, providing loads of inspiration and energy. Excellent time to create a new life and a more satisfactory expression for energies.



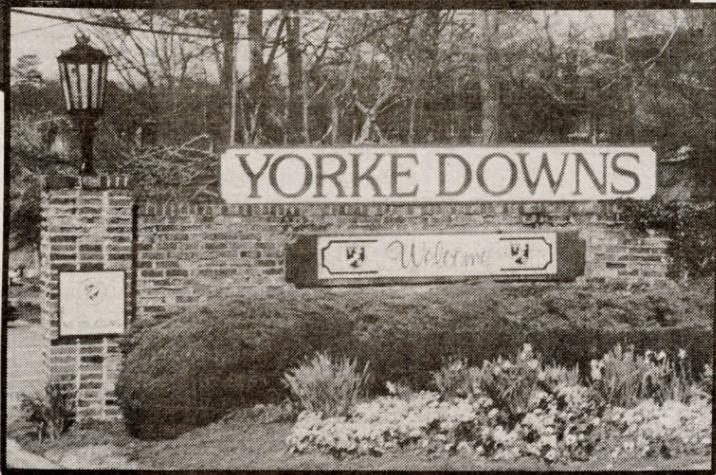
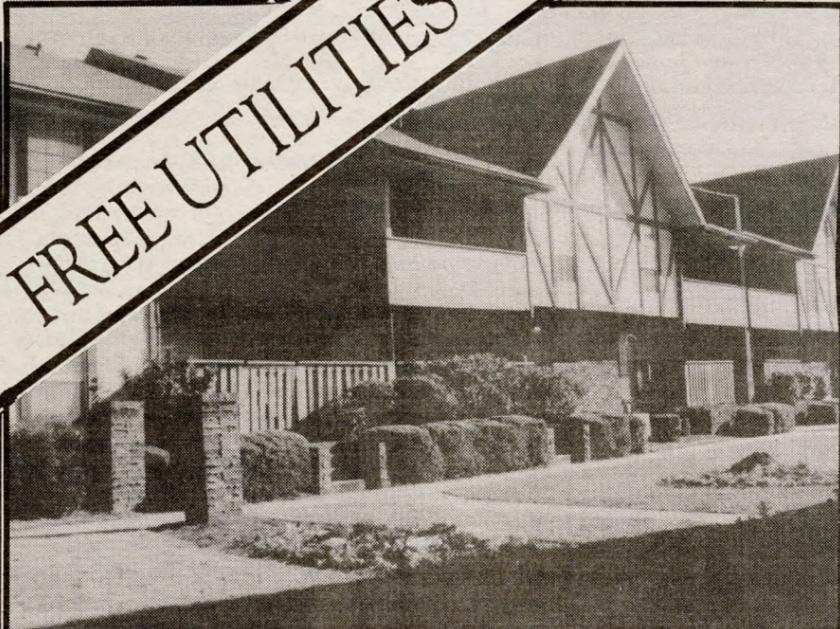
PISCES—As Mercury moves forward in your 2nd house of income and property, you need to be focused on financial priorities. Create a general plan for your personal needs and wants covering the next year and a nest egg.



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.

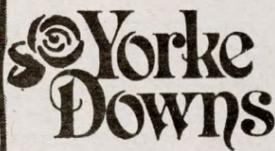
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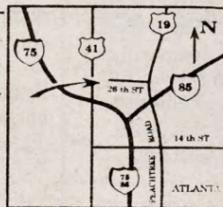
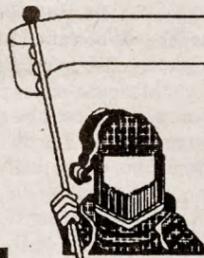
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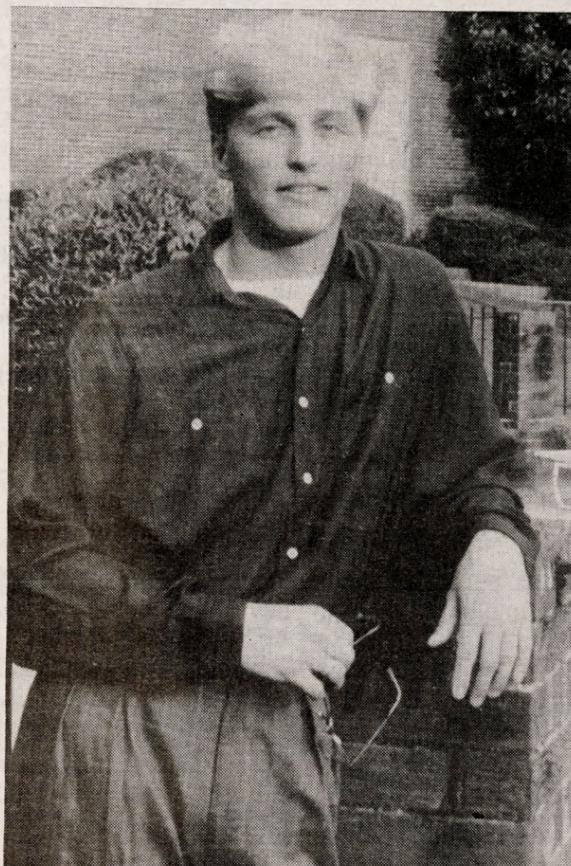
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AIDS Services & Education

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. Six session AIDS risk-reduction program and social network. Call AID Atlanta at 872-0600 for details. Confidential.

P.R.O. Series - Seven session educational support group for people living with HIV infection. Discussions include high-risk behavior, intimacy, safer sex, lifestyles, loneliness, informing others of HIV status, and life-planning issues. Call AID Atlanta at 874-6517 for details. Confidential

AID Atlanta: the Southeast's largest non-profit AIDS service agency. Services include education, case management, transportation, housing, buddy program, practical support, homeless services, pediatric services, support groups, AIDS Information Line. Call 872-0600 for more info.

AID Atlanta needs furniture donations for housing program. If you have furniture you would like to donate, contact the furniture bank at 355-8463. Free Pick-up. Specify your donation is for AID Atlanta. (Bedroom & dinettes especially needed) (V4,#6)

A.B.C. (Atlanta Buyer's Club) is now forming. Goal: to become a non-profit source of treatment for PWAs. Have access to ddC. Would like to know what other treatments the AIDS community would like us to carry. Let us know by calling 874-4845, or write us at A.B.C., PO Box 55225, Atlanta, GA 30308. FAX (404) 233-5613: The Atlanta Buyers Club does not recommend any drug. Only your physician should recommend treatment. ddC is currently available at \$46.85 for 400 .25mg tablets per bottle. (NOTE): price subject to change depending on supplier. The drug has been chemically analyzed for purity.

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

Tuesday Night at The Shrine - A weekly dinner open to ALL individuals with HIV. Tuesday at 6pm. Come and have some fun, laughs and great food. The Shrine is located at 48 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta on the corner of Central Ave. FREE. For information call Alan Dillmann, 521-1866.

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

Atlanta Gay Center Plus groups for HIV-affected people. Fridays, 8:00pm and Sundays, 6:00pm. 63 12th Street. Call 876-5372 for more 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*
PWAs - Wednesdays; Hispanics with HIV - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays; Lymphadenopathy/ARC - Mondays; Families, Friends, Partners I - Mondays; Families, Friends, Partners II - Wednesdays; Bereavement - Mondays; Worried Well - Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. *All meetings are from 7pm to 9pm weekly, unless otherwise specified. Call 874-6517 for locations.

AIDS Information Line / GA Toll-Free AIDS Hotline Free, anonymous information and referral services. In Atlanta: 876-9944; Toll-free: 1-800-551-2728 (voice/TTY)

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

Georgia Girth & Mirth Social Club for large gay men and their admirers. PO Box 9678, Atlanta, GA 30319. (404) 621-5710. (V4,#9)

ARTISTS WANTED - to exhibit in an Artists' Market in Atlanta's Piedmont Park scheduled to coincide with the two-day 1991 Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival. The market will be open from 10:00 am until 9:00 pm on Saturday, June 22 and from 1:30 pm until 9:00 pm on Sunday, June 23. Artists interested in exhibiting in the market should call 404-662-4533. Booths are priced at \$30 a day or \$50 for both days. A limited number of tents are also available for \$20 each day. Call now to reserve a space.

RISING TIDE PRESS, a new Lesbian publisher is soliciting manuscripts for full length Lesbian novels: romance, mystery, and science fiction. Non-fiction manuscripts are also welcome if they are unusual. Manuscripts are read and evaluated free of charge. FREE GUIDELINES are available to all Lesbian writers. Send SASE to Rising Tide Press, 5 Kivy Street, Huntington Station, NY 11746. Telephone (516) 427-1289.

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Employment

Full time hand screen printer, experienced only, for an Atlanta textile company. Immediate position - women encouraged to apply. Call 351-0902 (Michelle or Renee) for interview. (V4,#6)

Executive Director for New York's Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation seeks E.D. for \$450,000 non-profit organization. Requires extensive budgeting, fund-raising, public speaking, and personnel experience essential. Resume, detailed cover letter & salary requirements to: Search Committee. GLAAD NY, 80 Zarick St. #3E. NYC, NY 10013. Deadline 5/31/91. (V4,#7)

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X-Citing Opportunities for talented gay males! Needed: writers of erotica, masseurs, escorts, photographers, video actors. Talent more important than looks.
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Deadline: Tuesday noon prior to publication.
Classified Line Ads other than personals or VOICE CONNECTION® are \$15.00 per issue for 40 words or less. Additional words are .25 ea. Giant Headline is \$3.00, Use the form below to compute your cost.
VOICE CONNECTION® personal ads are published FREE in Southern Voice for 4 issues. You will be mailed an instruction sheet, your box number and your own private security code number. Your phone number will be billed \$1.49 per minute when you retrieve messages.
Personal Ads (other than VOICE CONNECTION®) will be published for two issues in Southern Voice at a flat rate of \$25.00. You may use your own personal P.O. Box or we will assign you a Southern Voice forwarding box for an additional \$5.00. Just fill out this coupon completely and mail to Southern Voice Classifieds, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

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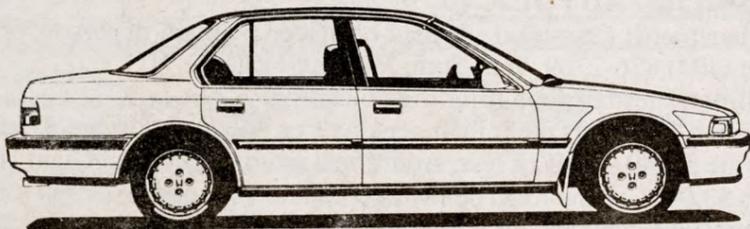
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Two and three bedroom apts. Excellent location. Screened porches. House-size townhomes and large garden apts. Great Price. \$200 off first month's rent. 321-1255. (V4,#7)

1 BR Duplex near GA Tech. W/D connections, screened porch. Off-street parking. Refrigerator / ice maker. DW and A/C. Water included. Available June 1. Security Deposit + references. 461-8395. (V4,#6)

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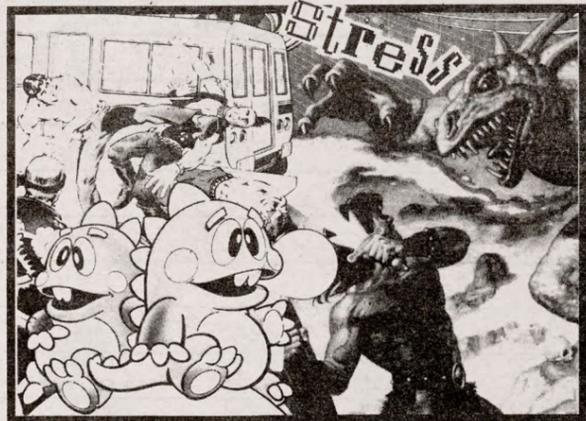
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TV/TS sought by masculine BM for first experience. Will consider "feminine-male" or very butch female (top). Am very oral and welcome oral-only encounters. HIV negative. Call - same day return call. ☐ 45043. (V4,#9)

GBF, full-figure (shapely), feminine, attractive, affectionate, seeks feminine BF for quality relationship. Let's dance the night away, watch the sun rise, share impromptu trips, quiet evenings conversing and cuddling. ☐ 45041. (V4,#9)

BLACK MALE, 38 yrs, 5'8", 165 pounds seeks feminine-type male or butch female for "first encounter." Open to any suggestions. Call or write POB 77365, Atlanta, GA 30357. ☐ 45039. (V4,#8)

Masculine Southern Guy Wanted. 35-45 only, to relocate to Chicago for a permanent relationship. I'm masculine, 37, 5'6", 140 lbs, hairy and stable. Prefer blue eyes, hairy, southern accents. Into affection, J/O, safe oral sex massage. No anal sex. Sincere only. ☐ 45037 (V4,#8)

GWM, 21, 6'3", 215lbs. Dark brown hair, clean shaven, masculine, HIV -, I like movies, dancing, varied music, and long walks in the park. Looking for GWM 20-35, fit, outgoing, self confident and fun loving. ☐ 45027. (V4,#8)

GWF, 36, enjoys all types of music, good conversation, and lots of laughter. Seeks other GWF for friendship and sharing. Get in touch and make a new friend. ☐ 45031. (V4,#8)

GBM, 30, 5'7", professional photographic fashion model, and currently a clinical psychologist, honest, sincere; faithful, financially secure. Seek GWMs 20-35 for serious relationship. If you love the theatre, movies, music, intimate dinners and not into the bar scene, respond. Going to Australia this summer - let's travel together! ☐ 45033. (V4,#8)

GWM, 23, sincere, stable, handsome and masculine would like to meet same whose interests include the outdoors, sports, music and quiet times together. No fats, fems, druggies or queens please! ☐ 45035. (V4,#8)

GWM, stable, professional business owner, 6'2", br/gr, 32 years old. Seeks friendly relationship w/ smooth GWM (21-28). Especially like guys with brown eyes and dark hair. Asian guys, too. ☐ 45029. (V4,#8)

Fat, outrageous bottom looking for a butch top who isn't afraid of an intimate S/M journey with a strong willed, sober, radical femme. Are you woman enough to handle me? ☐ 45025. (V4,#7)

GWF, almost 21, faux blonde, blue eyes, 5'10", butch (?) into punk/new wave (EJS/Conc-Blnd), movies, trees, roofs, long talks, searching for intelligent life in a non-femme, 20-25 package for friendship, poss. relationship - I like letters, eh, so try Box 59, 3000 Woodrow Way, Atlanta, GA 30319. ☐ 45021. (V4,#7)

Life begins at midnight. GWM, 42, 5'11", 160, masculine, muscular, passionate, professional, smoker, seeks hairy GM 30+ for companionship, more from midnight to noon. ☐ 45023. (V4,#7)

GBF, you took so long, still I believed somehow the one that I needed would find me eventually... I had a vision of love and it was a sensual, beautiful, upwardly mobile, feminine, Black woman, sincere, enjoys giving and being in love. Me, passionate, butchy, musically-inclined student. Positive Thinker, semi-vegetarian, non-smoker. ☐ 45017. (V4,#7)

Chubby GBM, 26, 5'11", 230, masculine, clean cut, casual, easy going, working stiff and all-around avg. guy. Seeks similar GWM (chubby, masculine, clean cut, NO BEARD) for friendship, movies, sports, more. No drugs, skinnies or pretty boys. ☐ 45019. (V4,#7)

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. Call or write: PO Box 8573, Atlanta 30306-0573. ☐ 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 pecs, 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)

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 (V4,#6)

Personals

HOW TO PLACE

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To respond by mail to a Southern Voice personal with a SV #, enclose your reply in a stamped envelope with the forwarding box # in the lower left corner. Place that envelope in another envelope and mail to: Southern Voice Classified, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316. Your reply will be forwarded to the appropriate party.

Romantic, artistic, honest, loving, drug-free, non-smoking GBF, 19, femme - I love new wave / industrial music (NIN, Mission, Depeche Mode) - positive thinking Leo looking for intelligent GF, 18-35, who isn't afraid of love, adventure, silliness, a sense of humor, and most importantly being oneself. All replies answered. SV 2404. (V4,#7)



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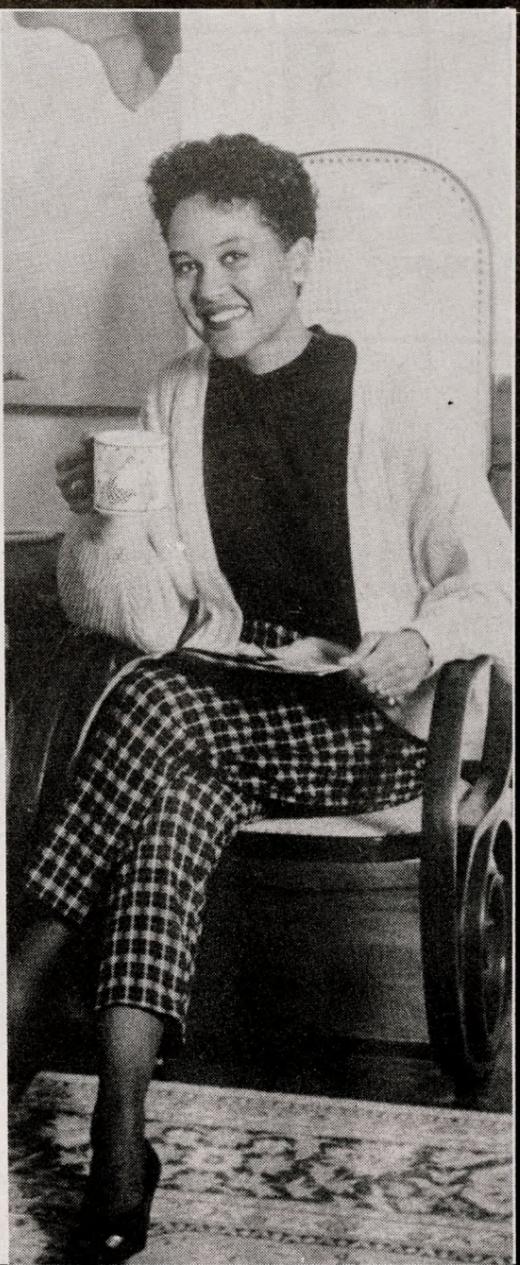
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Personals

Black Male, 25, 6', 187 pounds, professional, educated and well mannered. I'm the guy you take home to meet mom & dad. To pass time I work out, theatre, write, travel and train my two dogs. I want a guy who's masculine, tall, great sense of humor, in reasonably good shape, between 25-40. Send letter, phone and pic to "T.", 339 Plantation Circle, Riverdale, GA 30296. SV 2403. (V4,#9)

GWM: prof, univ educ, sincere, spontaneous, honest, handsome & healthy. Br/Br, 5'8", 162, dark complexion, hairy, masculine, 40 year old. Seeks GWM 28-38 with similar personal attributes. No fems - drugs. Sincere only please. Photo exchange desirable. Thanks. SV 2402. (V4,#7)

GWM - 30, 5'10" Teddy Bear seeks spring time playmates for outdoor fun, camping, bike riding, gym workouts - enjoys quiet evenings at home. Also like fine food, movies, good home cooking - a well rounded teddy. 1579 F Monroe Drive, Suite 828, Atlanta, GA 30324. (V4,#7)

GWF, typical Pisces, early 40's, gentle fish, looking for kind-hearted / nurturing soul to play with. Still mystified by and drawn to those girly things you do. Non-smoker, in recovery. Write soon, send photo to "Out of the Blue," PO Box 1725, St. Simons Island, GA 31522-0825. (V4,#7)

GWM, 40, husky, hairy, HIV neg. Light brown / hazel, mustache. Sensitive, romantic, sexually versatile, nice guy. Interests include reading Sci-Fi, gardening, romantic dinners, movies, etc. Seeking relationship based on reality, mutual trust and respect. You GWM or GLM 30-45 masculine, stable, romantic, sexually versatile. Prefer you smooth, GR, Light body hair, uncut and / or tattoo's an extra plus. Will answer all with recent photo. Write J.P., PO Box 95271, Atlanta, GA 30347-0271. (V4,#7)

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GWF, 30, seeks GWF to socialize with, down to earth and easy going. Not into drinking, drugs or smoking. I like the outdoors and the simpler things in life. Looking for a quality friend to relax with and enjoy life with. SV 2401. (V4,#6)

Attractive GWF - 49, 5'7", 140, secure, nice 4 BR house, pool - like to travel and every thing what is enjoyable. Seeking sensitive, caring-stable, clearheaded female from 35 to 55 for a beautiful, interesting relationship. Note - phone - perhaps photo, please. SV 2397. (V4,#7)

GWF, 39, wants to play the field but doesn't know how yet. If you're successful, single-minded woman age 35-45, write me with your address or phone. Non-smoker a must. No drugs. Non-drinker preferred. Just do it! SV 2395. (V4,#6)

Trim, easy-going (good at massage) white male new to HIV+ scene seeks others for safe fun. POB 53142, Atlanta, GA 30355. (V4,#6)

WANTED: One gentle man with good goals in life and ready to settle down to a relationship. ME: GWM, 18, 5'10", 155#, brown/hazel, spunky, spontaneous, career-oriented, romantic. YOU: GWM, 18-27, somewhat rambunctious, good sense of humor, drug-free, an all-American male. SV 2398. (V4,#6)

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)

Anyone here for love? GWM, 30, auburn/hazel, considered good-looking, prefers older man, 35-55, for romantic companionship, possible commitment. Must be gentle, kind, nurturant, distinguished, reasonably attractive. No phonics, deadbeats, fems, 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)

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 the 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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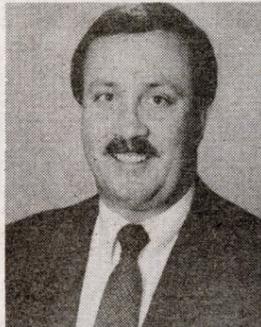
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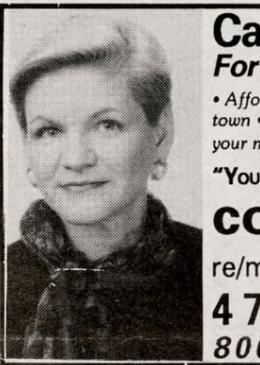


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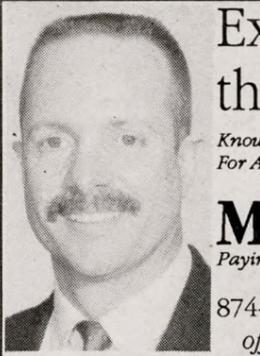
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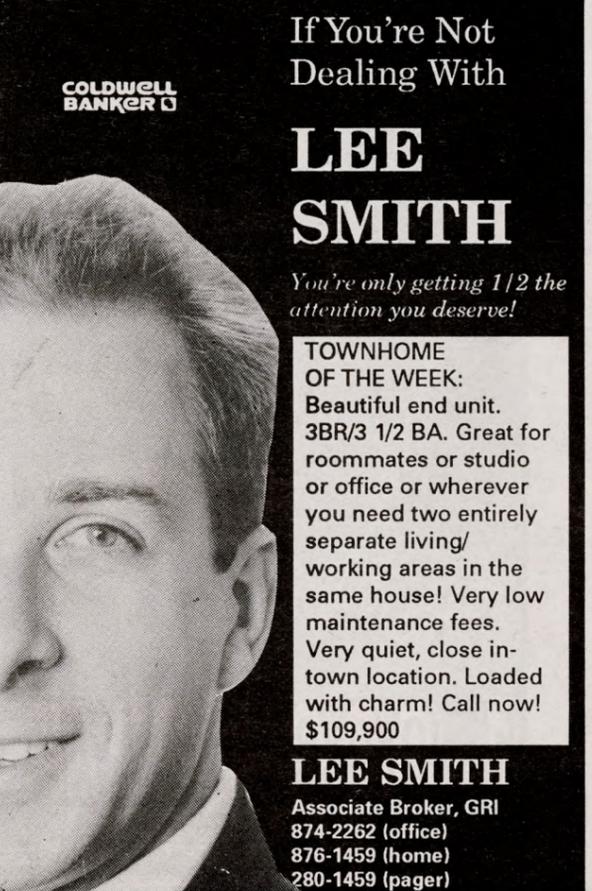
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Volunteers wanted to work on gay/bar outreach program. Call AID Atlanta for details. 872-0600.

QUEER NATION ATLANTA needs your help. Call or write. Queer Nation Atlanta, PO Box 50342, Atlanta, GA 30308. (404) 286-2355. (ongoing)

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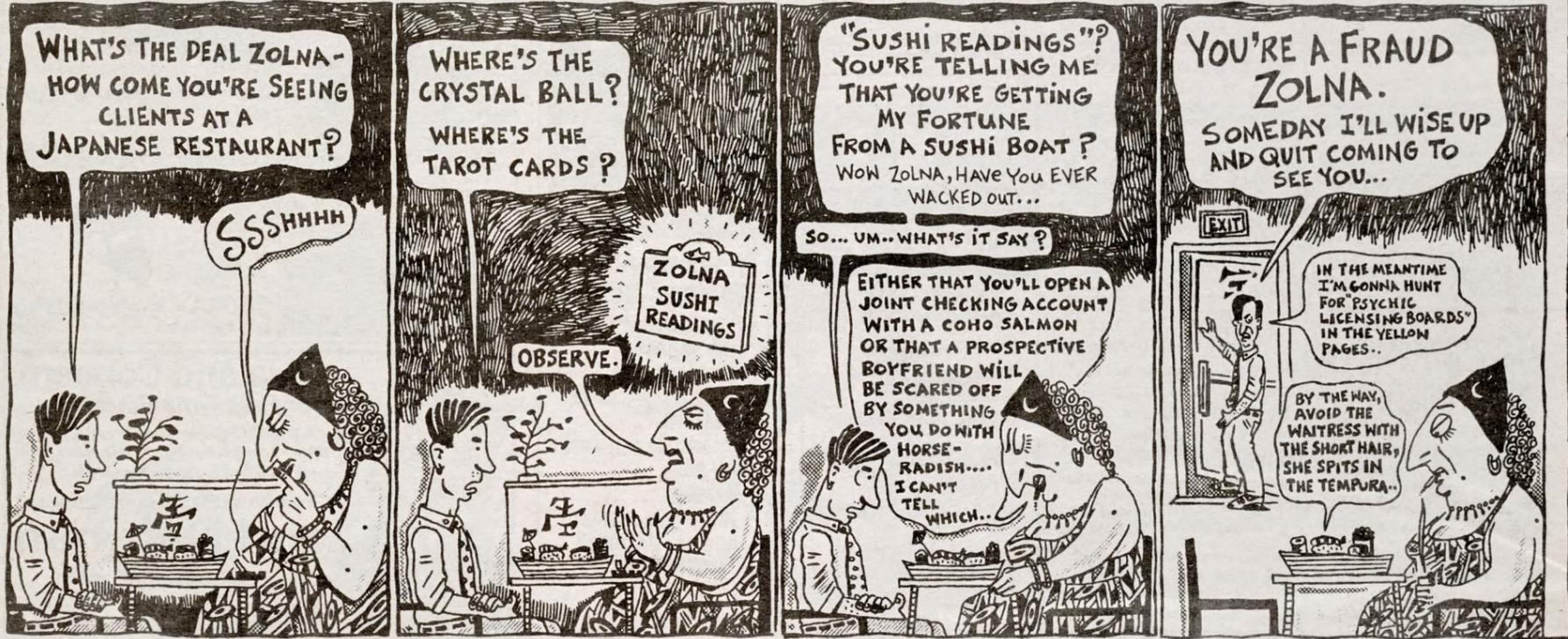
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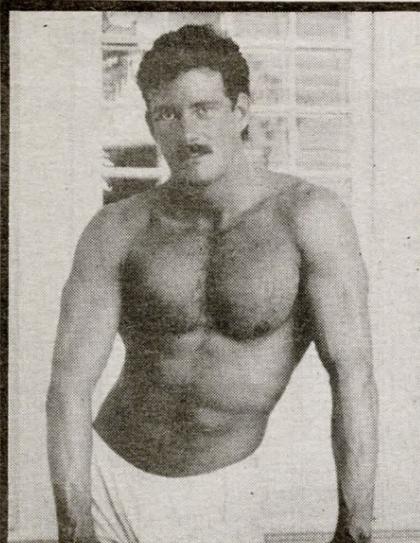
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