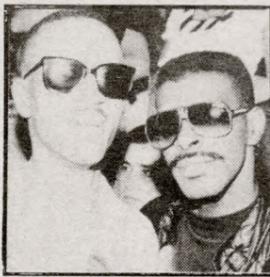


VOICE

Taking Pride in Our Culture

MEN



Intimacy
between gay men is
the focus of two new
books. 15

MADONNA



Truth or Dare
is hot.
Switch is not. 17

MEDICAL



AIDS treatments
are available through the
newly-formed Atlanta
Buyers' Club. 11

Cracker Barrel Threatens Queer Nation With Arrest

by Larry Pellegrini

Douglasville, Ga. — Friendly service was not the order of the day when Queer Nation/Atlanta took over all seating at the Cracker Barrel in Douglasville on May 12. For the first time since Queer Nation began its demonstrations against Cracker Barrel in March, there was a pervasive tone of intimidation set by management. Police were on the premises when the group of more than 100 arrived and at several times during the day members were threatened with arrest. "By our adherence to strictly non-violent protest, we are evidently putting such pressure on Cracker Barrel to change their anti-gay employment policies that it is really having an affect," said Queer Nation organizer Lynn Cothren.

Intimidation began as soon as protesters entered the restaurant. As they lined up to be seated, CB management attempted to discern who was from QN to tell them they were "not welcome." Their job was made particularly difficult because of the presence of children and mothers of some QN members. (The May 12 demonstration fell on Mother's Day and members were encouraged to bring along their mothers and other family). Concurrently, three members of the press were immediately threatened with

arrest. Management stated there was a "new policy" which banned cameras from inside the store and some people's belongings were searched for cameras. Despite management's attempts to delay seating, within an hour QN had taken over all tables in the restaurant.

Once seated the group ordered beverages as they have done at each demonstration. But unlike previous seatings, managers went to police and asked that all be arrested for criminal trespass because beverages did not constitute "ordering from the menu." ACLU attorney Michael Hauptman, who accompanied QN, told management that drinks were indeed items on the menu but suggested that police call the County District Attorney for his opinion. The DA responded by saying that the police should "honor management's request" because it was up to Cracker Barrel to determine what was "ordering from the menu." While awaiting the DA's response, management went to each table and threatened arrest again, but no QN members left their seats.

When the DA's opinion was announced, QN organizer Lynn Cothren went to each table and told members to order toast or a biscuit in order to avoid arrest. While food

orders were being placed, management once again asked police to arrest QN members for trespass because the group was "taking too long." Hauptman stated that he did not believe anyone could be convicted of criminal trespass but added "if management were to swear out arrest warrants, the police would have no choice but to make arrests. Arrests, yes. Convictions, no."

QN decided to leave as they had been in the restaurant longer than planned because of delays caused by management. At the cash register some people were told they did not have to pay because "we need to get you out of here." However, everyone insisted on paying their bill. Most paid with a credit card and wrote "Gay money" on the receipt. The average tab was a little over a dollar per person.

As Cothren led the group out, Cracker Barrel District Manager Jody Waller told him, "you and your group are not welcome here. We don't want your kind. You have been costing us business and you will be arrested if you come back." Waller's statement was the first admission by Cracker Barrel that the demonstrations are financially

See page 10

Androgyny goes pop...

but is it lesbian music?

by Arlene Stein



22-year-old Danielle Brugmann of Rochester Hills, Michigan, has never heard of women's music, *On Our Backs* magazine, or even *off our backs*. She attends a monthly gay coffeehouse in Detroit, twenty miles away, when she can get to it, though she much prefers riding her motorcycle or going hunting. But Danielle can recall the day, four years ago, when she spotted k.d. lang on a late-night TV talk show, with a butch haircut, a man's western suit, and no make-up, like it was yesterday. "I took one look at k.d.," she says, "and I said to myself: is that a guy or a girl? There was something about her attitude that I liked."

Danielle's room is filled with k.d. videotapes, promotional CDs, posters, autographed photos, T-shirts, and ticket stubs—paraphernalia she has collected through ads placed in magazines and bookstores. She finally got a chance to see her star in the flesh last year in Detroit, an experience she exclaims was "amazing."

"lang thangs" like Danielle, primarily young women, mob k.d. wherever she plays. When a fan club sponsored a

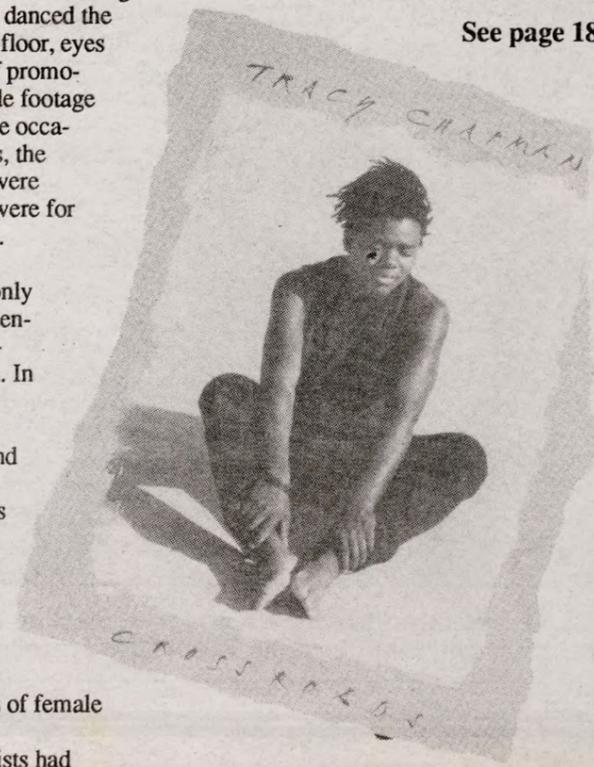
video night at one of the oldest women's bars in San Francisco last year, the place was packed tighter than anyone can remember. k.d. lang look-alikes wearing bolo ties and cowgirl skirts danced the two-step. Others sat on the floor, eyes transfixed by the collage of promotional videos and homemade footage assembled especially for the occasion. The glee in their faces, the longing for identification, were proof of how starved they were for celebrities to call their own.

lang, a cross-dressing crossover artist, is not the only performer to capture the attention and imagination of lesbians throughout the nation. In 1988, Michelle Shocked, Tracy Chapman, Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge, and Phranc also burst upon the music scene, and journalists pronounced the arrival of a "new breed of women" in popular music. "Neither their songs," one critic wrote, "nor the images they project, cater to stereotypical male fantasies of female pop singers."

While many of these artists had

received initial exposure through the nationwide network of coffeehouses, bars, and music festivals that cater primarily to lesbians, once they achieved commercial success, it wasn't something they were quick to mention. They studiously avoided male pronouns in romantic ballads and carefully constructed their personas to assert a strong, sexually ambiguous female presence. Through the subtleties of self-presentation, whose message was often lost on those who weren't cued into the

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Man Found Burned in Ponce Parking Lot

Police response slow

by KC Wildmoon

A 21-year old Florida man was found naked and badly burned in the parking lot of the Ponce de Leon Hotel on May 13. The hotel desk clerk found Kenneth Smith (a pseudonym) curled in a fetal position around 7:15 that Monday morning. Smith was listed in critical condition at Grady Hospital as this issue went to press, with a second surgery scheduled on May 22 to perform more skin grafts.

David Atkins, the desk clerk, said that a woman tenant at the hotel told him that a naked man was sleeping in the parking lot. "I went to the back and saw him lying there," said Atkins. "At first I thought he was 30-35 and very dirty. I nudged him with my foot, told him to wake up. Then I realized it was blisters all over his body and he was just a kid."

Atkins said he waited outside with Smith after calling 911 for police and an ambulance. The ambulance arrived but police did not. "I went back in and called again," said the desk clerk. "They told me a report had been filed. But I don't know how since they never came. I was with him (Smith) the whole time."

Later in the day, Atkins again called police and was told that Smith had been treated and released after saying he did not want to file a police report. Atkins then called Grady and was told that Smith was in critical condition in intensive care.

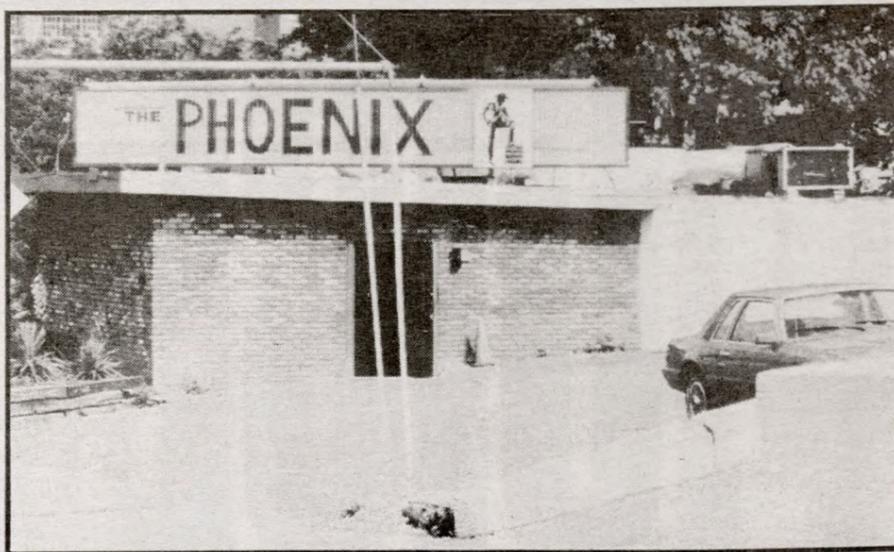
"That's when I called the (Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of) the ACLU," said Atkins.

Chapter president Cathy Woolard was able to obtain a copy of a police report on Smith's case. According to the report, which was marked a bias crime by the reporting officer, Smith gave a statement to police before he went into surgery on Tuesday morning.

According to Smith's statement, he drank three pints of vodka on Sunday evening with a man driving a large white car with Florida plates. He stated that the man "looked like Woody Allen." A bartender at the Phoenix, next door to the Ponce de Leon Hotel, said that he had seen a young man matching Smith's description in the bar around 7 pm that night.

"He came in and asked what kind of bar this was, like he was new in town," said Bill Adamson. "Then he said 'this guy outside just offered me \$20 to drink a pint of vodka.' I told him that sounds like the Handcuff Man and to stay away from him, he's dangerous. A white Lincoln pulled by the front just then, and the kid says 'that's him there.' I said that is the Handcuff Man. Stay away from that mother--"

Adamson also said that the man known as the Handcuff Man has been operating in Atlanta "as long as I've been here, and that was 1968." His *modus operandi*, according to Adamson, is to offer men first \$20 to drink a



KAREN DUNIGAN

pint of liquor, then \$50 to drink a second. He then dumps his victims naked and beaten or burned, sometimes handcuffed to poles.

Adamson also said that hustlers have long known to stay clear of the white Lincoln driven by a man around 5'10" with black hair and glasses.

David Atkins called the police again on Wednesday to relate the information he had gotten from Adamson. Inspector Ray Whittaker, who had been assigned to the case, responded, "I don't deal in hearsay. I have too many other cases to investigate. When you've got some facts, call me back."

When *Southern Voice* reached Inspector Whittaker, he said he had not talked with the victim since he had been in surgery. When told that the police report indicated that Smith's case was a bias crime, Whittaker said, "I don't know about that. I handle my cases differently (from the reporting officer). That's

why I'm the investigator." Whittaker also said that "nobody has come forward to give me any information."

Cathy Woolard told *Southern Voice* that Whittaker was arranging a meeting with Phoenix bartender Bill Adamson on Tuesday, May 21, but that this was coming only after a week of pressure from Smith's family, the ACLU, and Atkins.

"I'm concerned about the fact that it's taken us five days to get any action on this," said Woolard. "We've had nothing but a runaround since the boy was found on Monday. We're just hoping that the police take this case as seriously as we do."

Woolard also cautioned anyone who sees the Handcuff Man to avoid him. "This guy is obviously very dangerous. If you see him, call 286-BIAS and leave a message. Then call Inspector Whittaker at the police department."

March on Washington Scheduled for Spring '93

by Jim Marks

A third March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights inched closer to reality May 12, when nearly 100 gay activists at a "grass roots" meeting overwhelmingly voted to hold a march in the spring of 1993. Previous marches were held in 1979 and 1987. Although naming an exact date for the '93 march was deferred to a planning meeting scheduled for August 3-4 in Chicago, the activists indicated they were looking at a late April-early May window of opportunity, with April 25 being the most likely date.

The impetus for a third March on Washington grew out of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "Creative Change" conference last November, and a Boston meeting of gay elected officials the same month.

Formalized by a "Call to Action '92" from openly gay Minneapolis city council member Brian Coyle, 70 gay activists met in Washington on March 9 to discuss the possibility of a march. That group failed to take any action, calling instead for a more representative "grass roots" conference on the issue.

Debate at the May conference centered on the timing and the nature of the planned gay rights action. At times, the meeting seemed like a mass calendar juggling exercise, as individuals brought up conflicts with planned state rallies, a proposed 1992 national health care march, the 1994 25th anniversary of Stonewall, and a 500th anniversary anti-imperialism Columbus Day rally slated for Washington in 1992. While the conflict with the Columbus Day event protesting "the genocide of indigenous peoples in the Americas" primarily scuttled the 1992 date, it was only the most visible of many objections to the earlier date, ranging from a lack of time for preparation to a desire to focus the gay community on electoral politics in 1992.

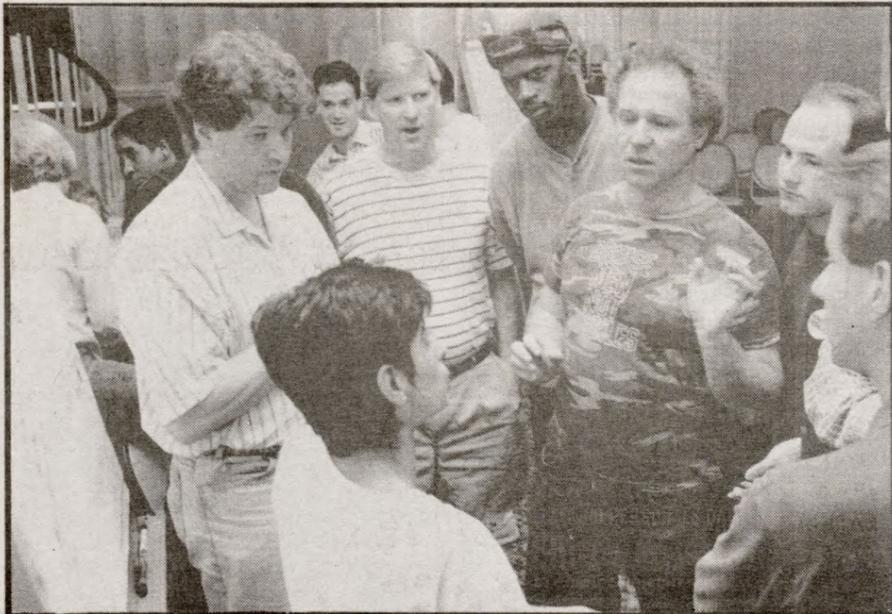
Once a time for the action was settled upon, debate turned to the type of action. While the vast majority of the participants said they could support a march in the nation's capitol (the vote was 78-9 with 3 abstentions), a sizeable minority supported holding the march elsewhere (the vote was 31-45, with 13 abstentions). "It's been done, I'm tired of it," said D.C. ACT UP member Michael Petrelis; "Dubuque is where the real action is." There was also much discussion of coordinated regional and state marches, but little actual support for separate marches once the voting began.

After the meeting, some participants complained about the laborious and time-consuming process, which was designed to achieve consensus, not majority rule. "I could tell by 11 a.m. Saturday that there was a consensus for Spring '93," said one participant, "but it took the facilitators over 24 hours to come to the same conclusion."

But NGLTF executive director Urvashi Vaid, who at one point expressed frustration that the meeting was becoming bogged down in ancillary issues, expressed satisfaction with the final outcome. "It was the right thing to do. The decision makes sense. The march will be held near the beginning of a new presidential term and new Congress. 1993 will mark the 50th anniversary of the military's anti-gay policies, so that will give us a major issue to focus on, and it will be a boost for local organizations. In 1987, [when 600,000 gay people came to Washington], the community got energized, and went home to create new grass roots organizations. In 1993, we will again get energized and go home and build those organizations."

The August 3-4 Chicago meeting, open to representatives from all gay organizations, will elect a permanent March steering committee and set the March's goals and agenda. For more information, call 1-800-832-2889 or write:

National Planning Meeting for the March
c/o NGLTF
1734 14th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009



JIM MARKS

NGLTF Executive Director Urvashi Vaid (back to camera) holds a heated discussion with 1987 March on Washington organizer Steve Ault.

Ga. AIDS Lobbyists Plan Full Schedule

by KC Wildmoon

Local efforts for the upcoming National AIDS Lobby Days are being coordinated by the Community AIDS Network in the metro Atlanta area. The Days are being organized to give citizen lobbyists a chance to meet with US Senators and Representatives while they are at home during the Memorial Day recess.

Community AIDS Network spokesperson Carrie Jane Singleton said that plans are already in place to meet with 5th District Rep. John Lewis, 4th District Rep. Ben Jones, 9th District Rep. Ed Jenkins, 7th District Rep. Buddy Darden, and 3rd District Rep. Richard Ray. Singleton said lobbyists are also hoping to meet with 8th District Rep. Roy Rowland later in June. Rowland has been increasingly supportive of AIDS-related issues, according to Singleton.

While these meetings are already set, Singleton encourages interested parties in all districts to contact her office. "We'd like to continue these meetings beyond the Lobby Days time period," she said. "Ideally we need to get in touch (with Representatives and Senators) a minimum of three times a year to really make a difference."

In addition to the planned meetings with Representatives, a group of local activists met on May 13 with Senator Wyche Fowler. According to Dr. Joe Wilbur of the Dept. of Human Resources, the main topic of the discussion was the Ryan White money.

"We told him the situation in Georgia," said Dr. Wilbur, "that there are 60,000 people who need treatment and only 10,000 getting it, and that 40% of them are indigent."

The group meeting with Senator Fowler explained how Georgia would be using the money received from the Ryan White Fund, but that much more is needed. "This is seed money," said Dr. Wilbur. "The numbers needing treatment will double or triple in the next 5-10 years. We need more money."

Dr. Wilbur said that while Senator Fowler made no promises, he did say that he appreciated the meeting and would use the information he got from the group when he returned to his committees in Washington.

Georgia NOW Endorses Ashe

Georgia NOW announced that it was endorsing Kathy Ashe in the run-off election for the Georgia 25th House District on June 4. Ashe finished 872 votes ahead of real estate investor Alex Peterson in the May 14 election. "We feel Kathy is more progressive based on every question in our interviews with the candidates," said Atlanta NOW president Samantha Claar. The questions in the NOW interview included the ERA, civil rights for lesbians and gay men, campaign reform, and health issues.



KAREN DUNIGAN

LEGAL Honors Lewis, Woolard: Rep. John Lewis and activist Cathy Woolard were honored for their outstanding political and community service by LEGAL (Legislate Equality for Lesbians and Gays) at a banquet on May 4. Mr. Lewis gave the evening's address in which he downplayed his outstanding role in co-signing the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill. He stated, "I did the right thing." He concluded with the impassioned statement, "We must not tolerate discrimination. We must speak out, act out, and act up against this at all times." Ms. Woolard was presented with the Tim Forshay Memorial Community Service Award (named for a founding member of LEGAL who died in 1988). Woolard is the Southeast Regional Field Coordinator of HRCF, a member of the Georgia Privacy Coalition, and president of the ACLU Gay & Lesbian chapter. - R.S. Kezh

Queer Nation/Athens Has Hands Full: Gay men and lesbians in Athens, GA, announced a QN/Athens chapter, and obviously just in time. The first of two major projects for the new group is the "Religious Right Watch," a newsletter from the Christian Coalition at the Univ. of Georgia. The coalition is trying to shut down the lesbian/gay/bisexual support group at

UGA. The second problem is University chemistry professor Dr. Henry Schaeffer, who has recently published editorials in "The Red & Black," a student newspaper, condemning homosexuality and calling for a "Just Say No" campaign to stop Queers in Athens. QN/Athens also raised some ire in Augusta, GA, where *The Augusta Chronicle* published an anti-QN, anti-homosexual editorial in its May 1 issue.

HRCF Dinner A Success: Keynote speaker Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) told attendees at the 4th Atlanta Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner that the U.S. court system was no longer responsive to questions of equality, and that the time had come to turn to Congress for equal rights for lesbians and gay men. The May 18 dinner and silent auction netted \$150,000, according to dinner organizers. During the program, Atlanta HRCF awarded the Dan J. Bradley Humanitarian award to AJ/C editorial page editor Tom Teepen, and the Community Action Award to LEGAL. 730 people, including DeKalb County Commissioners Sherry Sutton and Jackie Scott, Atlanta City Councilperson Mary Davis, and 4th District U.S. Rep. Ben Jones, attended the dinner. City Attorney Michael Coleman, attending from Mayor Maynard Jackson's staff, met briefly with the Mayor's Senior Advisors but was unable to stay for the dinner.

Sojourner Honored: Sabrina Sojourner was honored for "Accepting Difference," an editorial that appeared in *BLK*, a national black lesbian and gay magazine, by the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists. The award marked the first time in its 14-year history that the association has honored an out gay person. Sojourner is an Atlanta-based freelance writer and NOW's Racial Diversity Program Director.

Amy Has Two Mommies: The Hennepin County, Minnesota, Juvenile Court awarded joint legal custody of 7-year-old Amy Snetting to Donna Snetting, Amy's biological mother, and Jackie Fendler, Donna's partner of 14 years. According to the two women's attorney, Suzanne Born, this is the first case of its kind in Minnesota. The two women filed for adoption last April, and the decision was issued by Judge Isabel Gomez on March 28.

But Not In New York: The New York Court of Appeals denied a lesbian non-biological parent the right to seek visitation with the child she raised with her former partner. The court ruled that Alison D. is "not the biological mother of the child or is she a legal parent by virtue of an adoption." The Court refused to accept the argument that a parent should be defined by function instead of merely biology.

Gay Flag On ROTC Pole: Three San Jose State University students were arrested on April 10 after they ran a Rainbow Flag up a flagpole belonging to the Air Force and Army ROTC units on campus. The three bypassed a lock on the pole and chanted "R-O-T-C, Just Say No To Bigotry" during the University's Gay Pride Week. They were released without being charged since no damage had been done, circumventing any vandalism charges.

Lesbian/Gay Studies Center at CUNY: The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York gave final approval for The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) in April. The Center will be affiliated with the CUNY Graduate School, and marks the first time lesbian/gay studies have been given institutional recognition in the U.S. at the level of an academic research center.

HIV Counts As Disability For HUD Funding: Attorneys for the National Gay Rights Advocates and others reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in a case involving funding for a project that would have served persons with AIDS. The case was filed in September of 1989 after HUD refused a loan to a San Jose non-profit housing agency. HUD argued that AIDS or ARC alone did not qualify as disabilities. The agency reversed itself in the out-of-court settlement.

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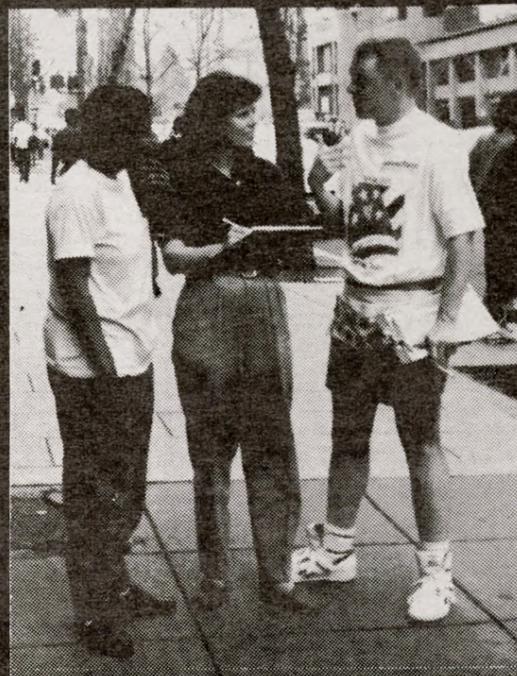
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NEWS

Insurance For Domestic Partners

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on May 6 to extend health benefits to the domestic partners of city workers. Partners of unmarried city workers are eligible to enroll at the standard family group rate after completing an affidavit certifying that the domestic partnership does in fact exist. In a related story, Fireman's Insurance Company, a Washington, D.C., writer of homeowner's insurance, announced that it will now recognize domestic partnerships as it recognizes legal marriages on its policies.

Yard Hospitalized: National Organization for Women president Molly Yard was hospitalized last Wednesday night after suffering a stroke while working in the NOW office. Ms. Yard, who was elected NOW president in 1987, was scheduled to address the American Women in Radio and Television convention in Atlanta on Saturday. A NOW spokeswoman said that another representative would speak in Ms. Yard's place.



M.J. MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

Olympic Testing?: An advisory council to the U.S. Olympic committee's Sports Medicine Council has recommended that athletes in potentially bloody sports like boxing and wrestling be tested for HIV. The panel rejected routine testing as "costly, unnecessary and an invasion of privacy," according to a report in the *AJ/C*. Because of the panel's concentration on the possibility of U.S. athletes being infected by athletes from other countries, some nations are upset with the recommendations. The International Olympic Committee has not taken up the question of testing for HIV.

Cleveland To Get Lavendar Stripe: The City of Cleveland has agreed to mark that city's Gay Pride parade route with a lavender stripe, according to a report in the *Gay People's Chronicle*. The June 22 march will be Cleveland's second annual pride march.

International News:

Isle of Man- The BBC reported last month that 13 men from the Isle of Man are set to stand trial for violating the island's laws against adult male homosexuality. The Isle and the Republic of Ireland are the only countries in Western Europe that still maintain laws against consenting adult homosexuality.

U.S.S.R.-Moscow gay newspaper *Tema* won a libel suit against the newspaper *Karetny Ryad*. The International Lesbian and Gay Association reported that a Moscow court fined *Karetny Ryad* and ordered it to print a retraction after it reported that *Tema* promotes necrophilia and pedophilia.

England-Manchester gay magazine *Scene Out* reported these differences in that magazine's male and female readers: the average male reader is 30, single, makes \$19,000/yr, and is a left-wing Labor party supporter. Women are 24, coupled, make \$7600/yr, and are more right of center.

Mexico-Chicago *Outlines* reported an article in Mexico City's *La Jornada* that police raided a Mexico City disco in February, threatening patrons with guns, billy clubs and taunts. The patrons were taken to a lockup where they were told by a commander "We're going to give you an AIDS test and if anyone is contagious, we'll put him in jail and maybe give him a life sentence for walking around and making others sick." The victims were released after several hours of "beatings, fear and terror."



HELP WANTED: Men, Women and Children "From All Walks Of Life" who care about helping their fellow Atlantans affected by AIDS. Must also be willing to help create an environment for much needed AIDS awareness. See below.

On September 8, 1991 AID Atlanta will sponsor Atlanta's first annual "From All Walks of Life" AIDS Walk. Thousands of men, women and children will walk down Peachtree Street to raise money to benefit 9 direct service agencies that provide care for Georgia's citizens from all walks of life. Planning and organization of this major event is currently underway to make this the largest AIDS fundraiser in Georgia history.

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All interested volunteers or team captains are urged to attend

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ACTUP is staging a DEMONSTRATION, Friday, May 31, 11:30 am.

Are you, or someone you love, waiting for an appointment at the Grady AIDS clinic?

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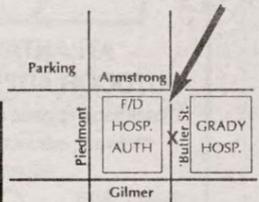
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How safe are you inside the closet?

by Al Cotton

One reason people give for not coming out of the closet is fear for their personal safety—that out in the world, it isn't safe to be an open lesbian or gay man. Because they perceive the closet as a safe place, then life outside of it must be scary and dangerous and unsafe. They ask themselves the question, "With all of these problems, how can it be safe to be gay in the 1990's?"

No one can deny that life is not easy for the typical gay man or lesbian nowadays. But gay men and lesbians are frequently misrepresented by a homophobic society. Openly gay people often experience very different realities from the pictures painted by straight people or reported in mainstream media sources. Some of this misrepresentation is intentional—homophobia has a vested interest in making homosexuality look unattractive. And some of it surely is accidental—it's hard for straight people to think through the gay situation from a positive context.

To accurately answer this question, openly gay people need to respond to these issues to give those in the closet, as Paul Harvey would say, "the rest of the story." Do we perceive our lives as dangerous? Perhaps we know of other dangers, ones that closeted people have grown accustomed to facing that can be just as threatening as those we face on the outside. Let's discuss some "safety issues" often raised by society.

"What about gay bashing? I hear it's not even safe for gay people to walk around nowadays?"

Lesbians and gay men have recently called attention to the violence directed by society toward our community, and it's about time. But we are comparing the violence in our lives to what straight people face in similar situations. This exaggerates the extent of every day violence for the average gay person. It even obscures the fact that most violence occurs to men who frequent places looking for anonymous sex. Indeed, in the majority of circumstances, a more accurate term might be "closeted-gay" bashing.

Cathy Woolard, President of the Lesbian and Gay chapter of the ACLU, notes that "a high percentage of the license plates near popular cruising areas are from suburban counties. They are probably married men who know where to cruise in their neighborhoods, but don't want to get caught there." It is true that openly gay people do get bashed more frequently than straight people. But closeted people looking for anonymous sex in cruising areas are far more vulnerable than the average gay male in a bar.

The difficulty in getting exact figures can be attributed, Woolard says, to the fact



that bashings of closeted men are far less likely to be reported, "since they are afraid that by pressing charges people will find out they are gay. The crimes perpetuate themselves, because the bashers know their victims won't report it, so they keep doing it."

Gary Kaupman, former editor of *Southern Voice*, reinforces Woolard's statements. "Of the hundred or so calls I got from people who were in trouble, I heard primarily from people who were unable to deal with the horrible experiences they'd been through, and yet who couldn't give their names and phone numbers or ask someone for help."

Woolard feels that the gay community must "handle this aspect of crime prevention itself. We've got to get militant and report it and press charges and keep this from happening to someone else. But closeted people are not likely to do this, so it goes on."

"Well, there's AIDS. Why come out if it's not safe to have sex?"

As our community has taught itself, the only thing that makes AIDS unsafe is ignorance about its transmission. Since the urge to come out usually surfaces when a person realizes he doesn't want to spend the rest of his life without fulfilling sexual relations, closeted men find themselves choosing between the challenge of coming out and the dangers of sex without the knowledge of how to minimize the risk.

Ethiopia Alfred, coordinator of African-American Outreach at AID Atlanta, notes that "none of the organizations that I know, gay or AIDS-related, has a program for closeted gays." She emphasizes that safe sex education should focus on the act, not the sexuality of the person being educated, and notes that issues of privacy prevent any sort of effective outreach to closeted

people. "Their right to remain in the closet is respected here. We can educate society, and we can educate specific communities. We do not intrude into sexual preferences. It's a matter of privacy."

Louisa Basarrate, also of AID Atlanta, notes the difficulty in getting safe sex information out to closeted people. "It would be hard to identify and reach them. We do education for the community at large and specifically to the gay community. But if a person's not in a place to reach that information, they're not going to hear it."

Closeted men, then, find themselves in a dangerous Catch-22 around sex—they are frustrated if they remain celibate, or they risk their lives if they are sexually active without knowing how to protect themselves.

"Don't gay people get blackmailed, like someone victimizing them by threatening to tell their employer or family?"

Actually, only closeted people can be blackmailed, since they're the ones with dangerous secrets. An openly gay person cannot be blackmailed because he or she is not hiding.

Take the example of U.S. Army Sgt. Perry Watkins, as related in ABC-TV's "20/20" segment on gays in the military last month. When Watkins enlisted in the Army in 1967, he answered "yes" to the question "Are you homosexual?"; the Army accepted him anyway.

During his tenure in the Army (almost 17 years), he was regularly promoted and attained the highest level of security clearance. The logic used to approve his clearance was that an openly gay person cannot be a security risk—he has no secret that he can be threatened with the exposure of. Only when the Reagan administration decided to actively eliminate gays from the

military did Watkins find his career in danger.

"Gay people seem to have so many psychological problems, like alcoholism and drug abuse and suicide, don't they?"

There is a reason lesbians and gay men initially have problems when they come out, says Atlanta psychotherapist Franklin Abbott. "Coming out is often painful, confusing, dangerous and desperate. In the closet, we knew who we were; out of the closet, all we know initially is who we are not. Many people find their way through this treacherous place only with assistance—a wise friend/teacher/mentor, a psychotherapist/support group/12-step program like AA/CODA/Alanon. Those who do not find help at all can find themselves in trouble.

But as the old saying goes 'There is safety in numbers.' Take bashings, for example. When I am connected to the gay community, with access to more resources, the way I deal with the rock that was thrown at me is to talk with other people who have had rocks thrown at them. Then, slowly but surely we find a way to integrate the pieces of ourselves, keeping what is valuable, adding what is necessary."

"So you're saying I should come out?"

Not necessarily, Abbott says. "Coming out of the closet is not always the best policy regardless of consequences, and I don't encourage people to do it 'no matter what.' If a coming out step makes a difference in the quality of my life (like with my parents or job), I do it; if it doesn't, like with the guy who fills the gas tank at my service station or my 90-year-old grandmother, I don't. We should choose our battles carefully."

"So what's the answer—is it safe to be a lesbian or gay man in the 1990's?"

As Gary Kaupman says, "Personally I feel that when we walk with pride, the energy that we give off is different from the energy we give off when we are hiding, and that energy protects us as we try to make our way through the world."

The reality experienced by many gay people outside of the closet tends to teach a lesson different from that heard in the media and society at large—that there is, in fact, safety in community. The fear and loneliness inside the closet is often so oppressive that once out, the dangers are outweighed by the support, the lighter burden, the openness about one's life.

Coming out is a choice each individual must make for him or herself. But he or she should make it with as much accurate information as possible. Don't just listen to a homophobic society; find a way to also hear the words of the people who have already done it.

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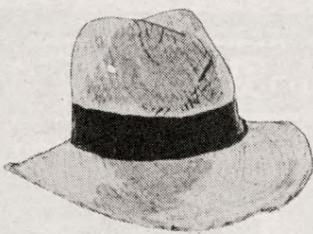
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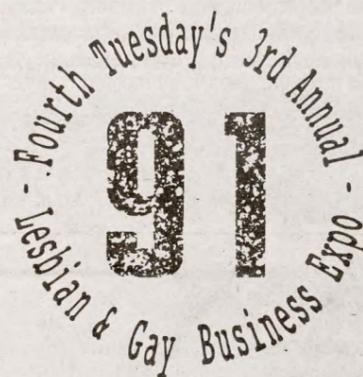
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Why I'll be in the Gay and Lesbian Pride Run

by Matt Montgomery

On Saturday morning, June 22, I plan to don my neon pink jogging shorts for the first ever Gay and Lesbian Pride Day Run. And I'm going to run for my life—my life as an openly gay person.

As a young boy growing up in a rural community in central Georgia, I remember running through a watermelon field and down to a little creek in the woods every evening. My trek wasn't for exercise or fitness as the aerobics age had not yet happened, or at least it hadn't reached rural Georgia. I ran because it was the only way that I could escape from what I thought it meant to be gay in the rural South.

During my lifetime, I've run away from many things. I frantically ran from my sexuality until I discovered that it was like trying to run from my shadow. I ran from the boys in the playground who wanted to beat up the sissy. Eventually I felt like I'd run away from the pressures of home when I went away to college.

And even today, I run from the shadows that might bash me as I leave a gay bar. I run away from business events that would require a date of the opposite sex.

In spite of all the running in my life that was really just run-around, I have also arrived at places that were definitely worth the trip. Recently I ran in a 5K (3.1 miles - the length of the Gay Pride Run) race at Georgia State University. I had not adequately prepared for the race except for a little stretching that morning and it was a very hot day. Before the race I had been chatting with one of the other runners about unimportant things like the weather and his shoes which he had since high school track. Even though he was very cute I decided to separate from him for the

race since he was very straight.

As I exited Oakland Cemetery and approached the last mile of the race I began to feel my breakfast get heavier and my pace get slower. I fell back from the guys I had been running with and tried to catch my breath by tempering my pace a little more. My lone agony distracted me from the fact that my friend from before the race had joined me and had noticed my trouble (I was panting loudly).

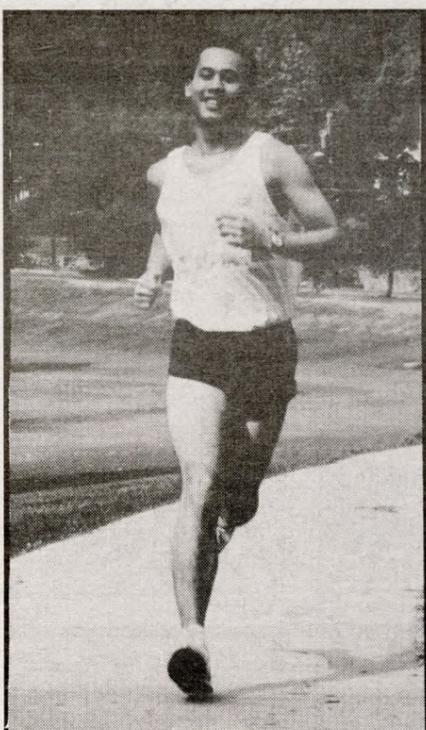
He began to give me encouraging cheers like, "come on this is the last hill" and "let your arms relax, breathe." The attention really did help and my pace picked up. He continued this until we came around the last corner and were in view of the crowd at the finish line. He whispered "come on baby you can do it" and ran off into the cheering spectators.

I held my head up and trotted across the finish line, slapping hands and grabbing cups of water to splash in my face. And a friend even commented that I looked like I was taking a walk in the park.

As an openly gay boy in South Georgia, I was denied the type of bonding experiences like the one that I had with this straight guy and the type of pride that comes from being a part of a group of athletes. I've had to work hard to be proud of my body and myself and my life as an openly gay person.

As gays and lesbians we are constantly reclaiming what we've been denied, and if you've ever done that, you know how good it feels. So don't miss the chance to run in a race that declares our pride the way the Gay and Lesbian Pride Day Run will.

If you don't run any other race this year, run as a proud gay or lesbian. Look for an



"As a young boy growing up in Central Georgia, I ran because it was the only way I could escape what it meant to be gay in the rural South."

application and more information about the race in this issue. The 5K race can be walked and is being sponsored by Frontrunners, the Gay and Lesbian running club in Atlanta and Southern Voice in celebration of Pride '91.

PRIDE '91 UPDATE

Atlanta's 20th annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration, Pride '91, is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 22 & 23. On Saturday there will be a "Family Reunion" in Piedmont Park that runs from 11am until 10pm. Activities include sports competitions,

entertainment throughout the day, a commitment ceremony and a candlelight walk to John Howell Park to honor those who have died from AIDS and hate crimes.

Also, the Pride Committee has announced an Artist's Market on Saturday and Sunday. Interested artists call 662-4533. Booths are \$30 for one day or \$50 for both days. A limited number of tents are also available at \$20. Call now to reserve a space.

On Sunday the Lesbian and Gay Pride March steps off at noon from the Civic Center and proceeds to Piedmont Park. Plan to line up by 11am. Entertainment and speakers begin at 1:30pm in the park with festivities continuing into the evening. Lea Delaria will emcee for the day. See our next issue for a complete line-up of entertainment.

There are quite a few activities before June 22&23. Some are new since our last issue.

Thursday 5/23: "Luminaries of the Abyss" highlighting music from the past 20 years at Petrus. A benefit for Pride sponsored by Etc. and Hotlanta River Raft Expo.

Sunday 6/9: Pride Benefit at TRAXX, 306 Lucky St. 6 PM.

Sunday 6/9: Pride Benefit at Deana's. Cook-out and entertainment from 6pm until.

Monday 6/10: Pride Benefit at the Armory. Co-sponsored by Southern Voice.

Saturday 6/15: Fourth Tuesday Business Expo at Westin Peachtree Plaza Grand Ballroom. 10am-5pm. \$3.

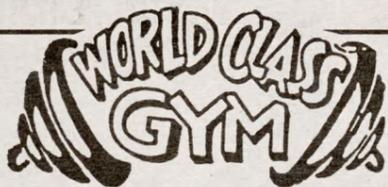
Saturday 6/15: Pride Prom at 2069 The Page. 8pm 'til. \$12. Theme: "Over the Rainbow".

Friday 6/21: Southern Voice Open House, 1189 Virginia Ave. Food and entertainment celebrating "Taking Pride in our Culture." Donations to Pride appreciated, encouraged.

Friday 6/21: Interfaith Service. All Saint's Episcopal Church. 7:30 PM.

Saturday 6/22: Gay and Lesbian Pride Day Fun Run. 8am sharp at Grant Park. T-shirts to all contestants. Registration form in this issue.

For more info on participation/support for all Pride events call (404) 662-4533.



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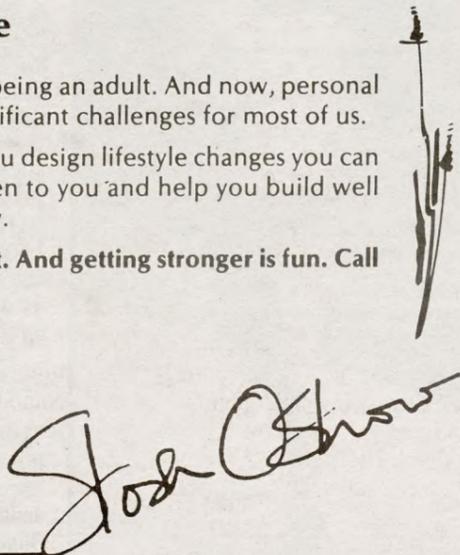
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Don't Miss Hollywood Hots

by Debbie Fraker

Get out your best summer frock or your favorite muscle-t and prepare for an evening of charity and fun. This year will mark the third production of Hollywood Hots put on by Morningside Chase Apartments. The event takes place June 8 at 7:00 pm at Morningside Chase on Monroe Drive. Charlie Brown will emcee live music and entertainment, including some of the city's premiere female impersonators. Proceeds will go to Project Open Hand, Charlie Brown's Signature of Love, Grady Hospital's Infectious Disease Clinic, and the Morningside Chase PWA Fund.

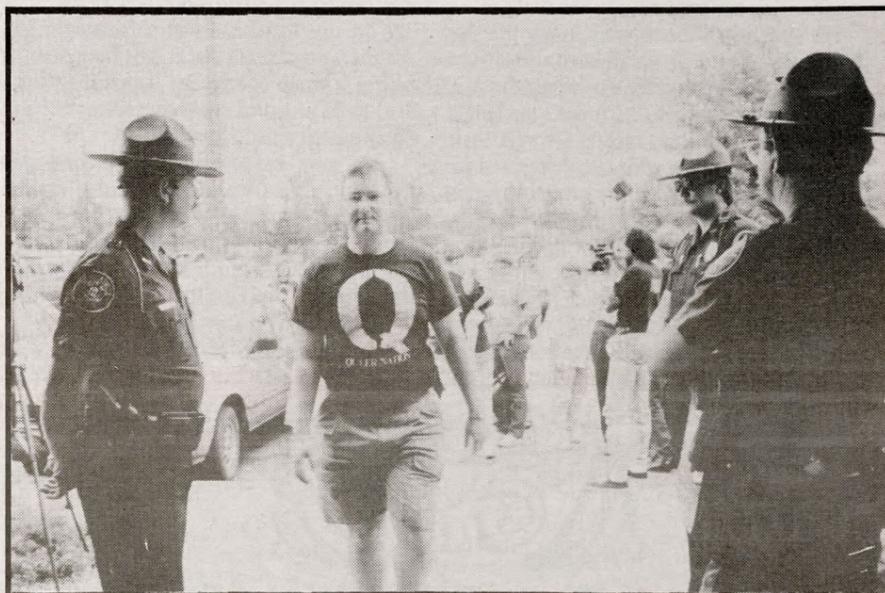
This event has a very successful history. In 1989, the first year of Hollywood Hots, approximately 1,000 people attended, and \$14,000 was raised. Last year, about 1,600 people attended, and they raised \$20,000.

This year about 3,000 people are expected to come together at Morningside Chase Apartments for the fundraiser. According to Mitchell Kennedy of Morningside Chase, "all proceeds go directly to PWAs." He adds, "we are the only apartment community in the Southeast that hosts this type of fundraiser." They are probably the only one in the country.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the event. Ticket cost includes the entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, and complimentary beer and wine. Advance tickets can be purchased at Morningside Chase leasing office, Boy Next Door, Brushstrokes, and Ansley Beach. Parking will be available at Ansley Mall with a complimentary shuttle to Morningside Chase. Get your tickets now, you don't want to miss this!

Cracker Barrel threatens QN with arrest

Cont'd from page 1



KAREN DUNIGAN

Members of Queer Nation were threatened with arrest several times during the Douglasville demonstration.

hurting the restaurant.

QN met the following evening and reaffirmed its intention to keep pressure on Cracker Barrel via legal, non-violent sit-ins. Three people from the Martin Luther King Center who attended the Douglasville demonstration as observers attended the meeting and gave a presentation on "The Six Steps for Non-violent Social Change." They plan to attend future demonstrations and QN meetings.

In a related note, William Bridges, CB Vice President of Human Resources, is no longer with the company. Calls to corporate headquarters in Lebanon, Tennessee provided no information regarding the circumstances of his departure. Bridges is rumored to have been the source of the anti-gay employment policy that sparked the QN protests.

QN's next demonstration is scheduled for May 25 at the Lithonia Cracker Barrel.

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Atlanta Buyer's Club Opens, Seeks Input

by David Garner

The Atlanta Buyer's Club (ABC) is now open for business. The Club is a volunteer run HIV-support organization, applying for non-profit status. We are dedicated to serving the needs of the HIV community in Atlanta, and the southeast, by providing access to compounds and treatments not normally available to people with AIDS/HIV.

After three weeks in business we have almost 60 members. We are receiving calls on a daily basis from prospective members interested in our organization and the treatments we are supplying.

It is important to note that we are NOT medical professionals. We will make every effort to provide information on compounds we provide, but monitoring, dosage, and side effects are issues members must discuss with their primary health care providers. We believe that HIV disease is survivable through a combination of self-empowerment and sound medical advice. To this extent we are committed to helping our members obtain access to compounds they believe will help them in the battle against HIV.

To be truly successful and to fulfill our mission of serving the HIV community we need your help and direction. Summarized below is a list of drugs and treatments that are generally carried by buyer's clubs around the country. Please take a few minutes to review this list. If there are treatments which interest you please fill out the ballot insert below and return it to us. The responses to this survey will determine other treatments we will work on acquiring.

• **AZITHROMYCIN**

antibiotic—Anecdotal evidence for prophylaxis/treatment of MAC - Mycobacterium Avium Intracellulare (MAI - atypical TB), Toxoplasmosis, Cryptosporidiosis and Pneumocystis. Reports are that it is not as strong a drug as clarithromycin in the prevention or treatment of MAI.

• **CLARITHROMYCIN (KLACID)**

antibiotic—Anecdotal evidence for prophylaxis/treatment of MAC (MAI) and toxoplasmosis. It is more expensive than azithromycin and is available in 20 countries as an antibiotic.

• **COMPOUND Q (TRICHOSANTHIN)**

antiviral plant protein—Anti-HIV drug reported to target HIV infected cells.

Initial studies report increase in T-cells for some people. Side effects range from flu-like symptoms to coma. Drug must be administered intravenously by trained medical personnel.

• **ddC (DIDEOXYTYDINE)**

nucleoside analog antiretroviral—Anti-HIV drug reported to inhibit reverse transcription of HIV. Initial studies report good results in combination with low dose AZT. Initial clinical tests with higher doses reported side effects of peripheral neuropathy. A high percentage of people on ddC will experience atheros ulcers (canker sores).

• **DICLAZURIL**

broad spectrum anti-protozoal—Reports positive for treatment of cryptosporidiosis. Some patients report problems with absorption. Diclazuril in combination with Humatin has also cleared cryptosporidium

• **DNCB**

(**DINITROCHLOROBENZENE**)

immunomodulator—Anecdotal reports that it provokes a systemic immune reaction to induce Langerhans cells to signal T-cell production. A resurgence has occurred when used with AZT.

• **DTC (IMUTHIOL)**

(**DIETHYLDITHIOCARBAMATE**)

immunomodulator—Similar to but weaker than Levamisole in that it stimulates the immune system. Side effects can be nausea, cramps and diarrhea. Do not take in conjunction with alcohol. Approved in New Zealand for people with less than 200 T-cells or intolerant to AZT.

• **GLUTATHIOL (GLUTATHIONE)**

antioxidant—Glutathione in the body reportedly decreases with the progression of HIV disease. This may work as an immune modulator necessary for T-cell activation.

• **HYPERCIN (ST. JOHNS WORT)**

antiretroviral—Low dose herbal tablets available only. Reported side effects are reversible elevated liver function tests.

• **ISOPRINOSINE**

immunomodulator—Anecdotal evidence that it may help people with CMV. Approved outside the U.S., used for treating herpes simplex and other viral diseases.

• **LEVAMISOLE (HYDROCHLORIDE)**

immunomodulator—FDA approved for colon cancer, and is used as a de-

wormer. Believed to stimulate the immune system.

• **NAC (N-ACETYLCYSTEINE)**

immunomodulator—Anecdotal reports of increasing the level of glutathione in blood (abnormally low in PWA's). Believed to counter tumor necrosis factor which activates HIV.

• **ORAL ALPHA INTERFERON**

protein secreted by human cells in response to HIV—Low dose wafers associated with anecdotal reports of increased energy, weight gain.

• **PENTAMIDINE**

FDA approved for PCP

prophylaxis—The single US source keeps the cost of the drug high but it is available overseas for less money.

• **PRIMAQUINE**

PCP prophylaxis—In combination with clindamycin it is used as a PCP prophylaxis of people allergic to pentamidine,

bactrim and dapsone. Currently available from CDC on a compassionate use basis.

• **SPIRAMYCIN**

antibiotic—Trials show limited results against cryptosporidiosis, possible benefit against toxoplasmosis. Intravenous administration required.

We appreciate your input and look forward to serving you. We welcome input from the HIV and the medical community as to treatments you would like to see us try to access. We can be reached at:

Atlanta Buyer's Club Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 55225
Atlanta, GA 30308-5225
Phone (404) 874-4845
FAX (404) 233-5613.

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<input type="checkbox"/> DICLAZURIL (DECADRON)	(DCL)
<input type="checkbox"/> DNCB (DINITROCHLOROBENZENE)	(DNC)
<input type="checkbox"/> DTC (IMUTHIOL) (DIETHYLDITHIOCARBAMATE)	(DTC)
<input type="checkbox"/> GLUTATHIOL (GLUTATHIONE)	(GLT)
<input type="checkbox"/> HYPERCIN (ST. JOHNS WORT)	(SJW)
<input type="checkbox"/> ISOPRINOSINE	(IPN)
<input type="checkbox"/> LEVAMISOLE (HYDROCHLORIDE)	(LYM)
<input type="checkbox"/> NAC (N-ACETYLCYSTEINE)	(NAC)
<input type="checkbox"/> ORAL ALPHA INTERFERON	(OAI)
<input type="checkbox"/> PENTAMIDINE	(PNT)
<input type="checkbox"/> PRIMAQUINE	(PRQ)
<input type="checkbox"/> SPIRAMYCIN	(SPR)

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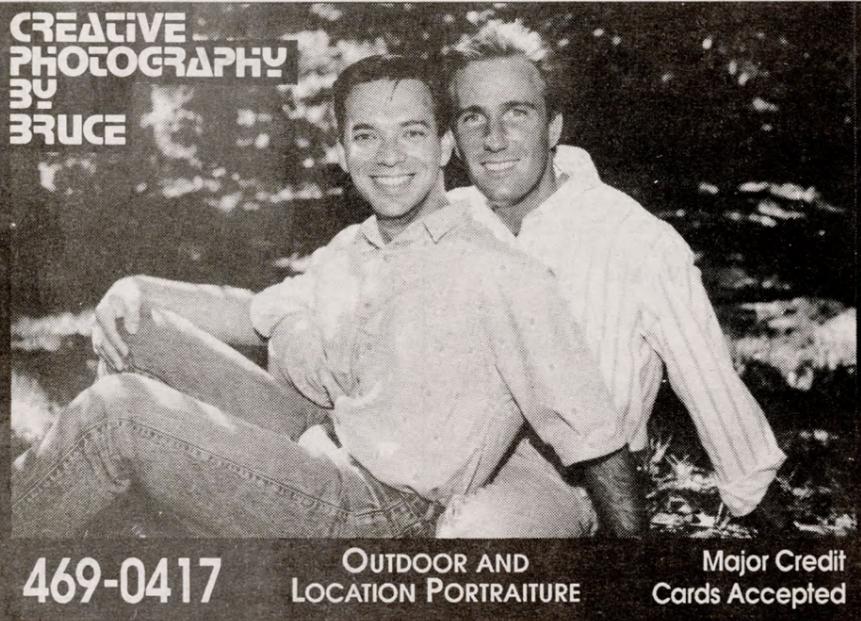
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EDITORIAL
Thanks to QN, Cracker Barrel
feeling the pinch

Something quite remarkable is happening in Atlanta. Since April, members of our fledgling chapter of Queer Nation have been staging protests at area Cracker Barrel stores. Twenty or so brave souls showed up at the first demo. Then thirty. Then fifty. At each of QN's last three sit ins—during high traffic, after church Sunday breakfast hours—there were more than 100 participants. At each of those actions, activists—planting small rainbow flags on their tables as they were seated—succeeded in taking over the entire restaurant. And in each case, Cracker Barrel was forced to turn away an estimated one hundred-plus customers because of the demonstrations.

Cracker Barrel ought to be feeling the pinch and taking this show of power seriously. The fact that arrests were threatened at the most recent action on Mother's Day suggests

that they are (see story page 2).

More importantly, though, every lesbian, gay man, and supportive straight person ought to be taking the tenacity and organizing skill demonstrated by Queer Nation/Atlanta seriously. And offering a long and loud cheer of thanks to those involved.

Face it, Atlanta's lesbian and gay community does not have a particularly stellar reputation when it comes to the quality or quantity of its public demonstrations. ACT UP has managed a half dozen or so effective and visible zaps. The anti-Helms demo at First Baptist (and its precursor several years earlier against Rev. Stanley's AIDS-phobic rantings) were inspiring as was the turn out, back in the mid '80s, at hearings on repeal of the City's meager gay/lesbian employment rights ordinance. And we sure did raise hell about Anita Bryant. In 1979.

It's almost as if our idea of a significant protest is not showing up for a Macy's One Day Sale. Maybe not even that: nary an organized peep was heard last summer when it was announced that Storehouse discriminates blatantly against its gay employees by putting a \$25,000 cap on HIV-related coverage. God forbid we should make a fuss about the policies of a store that sells so many stylish items with which to adorn our equally stylish homes and condos.

But times may be changing. We urge readers, even those who object to the use of the "Q" word, to attend one of Queer Nation's demos. And we urge readers not to let Cracker Barrel's silence to both media and activists lull them into thinking that the issue is either dead or not winnable. Cracker Barrel's willingness to escalate the situation means that they are feeling the pressure.

In addition to supporting Queer Nation's actions with your presence and/or donations you can do the following:

- Don't assume that your friends and co-workers know the story. Continue to talk about Cracker Barrel's refusal to change their policy and to rehire the lesbians and gay men who they fired. Urge everyone you know to

join the boycott and the demonstrations.

- Whenever you drive past a Cracker Barrel, take the time to go in and tell the manager or host that you are taking your business elsewhere because of the company's anti-gay policies. Remember many employees are on our side, so be polite, but demand that they pass your message on to CEO Dan Evins.

- Write (even if it is for the second or third time) to Evins at PO Box 787, Lebanon, TN, 37088-0787. Tell him that you know Queer Nation's protests are hurting his business and his image, that you are boycotting Cracker Barrel, and that you are urging your friends to do the same. Tell him that you will meet any escalation on his part (specifically the refusal to serve or the arrest of peaceful protesters) with similar escalation. Tell Evins that he must back down because you and your queer friends—whether they be homo- or heterosexual—have no intention of giving up this fight.

For information about how you can help Queer Nation's action against Cracker Barrel, call 286-2355.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Networking with Pride

The Lesbian and Gay Business Expo, an annual project of Fourth Tuesday, gives the community a chance to get to know some of the lesbian/gay and supportive businesses in Atlanta—those who truly value and welcome you as a customer. It's a good feeling, and good feelings are rare these days as a consumer, to know that you will be treated with respect and that you're helping a "friendly" business survive and succeed.

4th Tuesdays' 3rd Annual Lesbian and Gay Business Expo will kick off Pride Week this year on June 15. This year's Expo theme is "Networking with Pride." Walking into a huge ballroom with nothing but lesbian/gay owned or supportive businesses truly gives a feeling of pride. It also gives a feeling of power—financial power. Our collective financial power is something we have yet to fully recognize or utilize. The Expo lets you see, first hand, the potential we have.

Fourth Tuesday has sponsored this event for the past three years with the help of co-sponsors. A few of the co-sponsors have been *Southern Voice*, *Etcetera Magazine*, *The News*, HLM Services, Inc. and Lazerage Desktop Publishing, Inc. In 1989 fifty booths were sold to various retail, service businesses and organizations that are lesbian/gay owned or supportive. Each vendor had an 8 x 8 booth to display a sample of their business. The public was invited to stop in and view the wares sample the food, get a teaser of the service or just talk to the business owners and operators. In 1990, 100 booths were sold. And we had to turn away perspective participants due to lack of space. This year we expect to have at least 100 booths again.

Attending the Expo is a great way to support our community's businesses. A lot have survived economic hardships, but even more impressive is the fact that they have survived in a predominantly heterosexual society. Let's support them, ourselves and our collective prosperity by showing our numbers June 15.

If you are a business owner and want a booth at the Expo, please call 662-4399. A few spaces are still available.

Lynn Manning
 HLM Services, Inc.

Lessons of the NLC

To the Editor:

Ah, an ideal vacation! Hobnobbing with 3,000 diverse women from all over the country and the world. My excitement welled as I anticipated the groundbreaking event, and contemplated the peace I envisioned as imminent in a lesbian nation. Sure, there will be differences, disagreements, conflicts; but, the common bond of women loving women will transcend. Right? WRONG!!!

Maybe it was the impending full moon in Scorpio; or perhaps, PMS was rampant. Or, could it have been the culmination of numerous energies, resulting from the intermixing of attendees' personal agendas in a "safe" space?

Since the inception of the National Lesbian Conference, women were encouraged to voice their opinions, and assured that no one individual or faction would be overlooked. The National Steering Committee, as well as regional planning groups, did everything they could to meet parity, so that lesbians of color, old lesbians, and lesbians with disabilities would be equally represented. In addition, months of group "isms" training sessions were held to help women deal with their own oppressive feelings and behaviors. Recognizing and accepting diversity within the lesbian community emerged as the prevalent theme.

The irony of it is, with so much of the focus on differences, the commonality of women loving women was totally lost in the fervor. Issues were processed to the nth degree, with little or no resolve. Consensus was extremely difficult to reach, even in a situation as minute (in my opinion) as where lesbians who did not want to be photographed during Saturday's pre-plenary session would sit. That decision took about twenty minutes of a self-designated group's efforts to reach. The solution rendered was deemed fair, did not appear to "offend" anyone, and allowed those that did not want to be photographed equal access to seats in the auditorium. I personally felt that the energies used to ponder this dilemma could have been better spent, particularly since the root of the problem seemed to stem from internalized homophobia.

True, grave mistakes were made that warranted explanations, apologies, and okay... processing. However, once these problems began to be addressed within the large contingency of lesbians, everything became an issue for somebody. There were so many issues going that it was difficult to keep abreast of them. The only place free of such was the Labrys Lounge, where the daily entertainment occurred. Although it had a moment or two of conflict, the lounge consistently offered comic relief, and relaxation. Thank Deborah Padgett, Michelle Martin, and the Goddess for that!

Attending the National Lesbian Conference brought KC Wildmoon's notion of processing at the expense of progressing (*Southern Voice*, "Process of Processing," 3/28/91) to light for me. We did so much processing and diversifying that we neglected to make progress on the issues pertinent to all.

What about the plight of Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson? How about domestic partnerships, and sodomy laws? What do we do to ensure that lesbian mothers are given a fair shake in divorce and custody cases? How do we deal with the Cracker Barrels, the bureaucracy, the patriarchy? What about establishing political clout so that legislators will know that we are a force to reckon with? Aren't these things that affect all of us, regardless of whether we eat meat, wear make-up, are of color, or chose to be military dykes?

I salute Michelle Crone, and the other women who worked with the NLC from beginning to end. I hope there will be another conference in the distant future which will promote the collective lesbian consciousness. With the lessons learned from the first one, we can build a foundation, and establish common grounds.

Bottom line: Despite our many diversities, we can only make progress when we focus on the common factor...lesbianism.

L. Lavonne Casey



heterodoxy, n.

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

a monthly column by KC Wildmoon

Begin Again

What a country! The Good Ole U.S. of A., I mean. I was just musing about how the mainstream political process in this country is controlled by those with the most money. No surprise, of course, what with television commercials to be made, full page newspaper ads and votes to be bought. And the "Money Talks, People Mumble" rule holds true for a number of gay organizations too.

But down at the bottom of the economic ladder, where large numbers of lesbians

reside, the money tends to go to things like rent and food, maybe a house note and the attendant house upkeep if we're lucky. These lesbians tend to reject mainstream political process, and all that goes with it. We call it "Patriarchy," and we've set off in search of a better way of doing things, a way that is fair and equitable to all.

That was the underlying premise of the "organization" of the National Lesbian Conference. I've put that in quotation marks because I'm not sure that any organization ever actually happened. See, in rejecting "Patriarchy," the planners of the NLC rejected organizational necessities like having someone in charge so that everything not only gets done but is coordinated with everything else.

Instead, the planners processed until their faces turned blue. For two and a half years they argued about things like whether or not vegetarianism is racist (some cultures eat meat), whether or not putting a map in the NLC program is ableist (the blind can't read it), and whether or not it is classist to pay performers and speakers (apparently so).

What they did not do was things like effectively raise money, have a coherent workshop schedule, or make the conference appealing to the vast majority of lesbians.

I know that parts of the conference—some workshops and the Marketplace for example—went very well. And I truly believe that the planners' hearts were in the right place. But I suspect that some minds were off base as the planning took place.

I suspect that because with all the anti-thism and anti-thatism, and all the emphasis on a non-hierarchical structure, it looks to me like a crucial issue was overlooked. That issue is Power and Control, which brings me right back to where I started this column.

Just how do those with no money get their agendas heard and enacted over anybody else? Pretty simply, really. It's done by replacing communication with confrontation. And she who has the loudest voice and the best supply of names that end in -ist to hurl will be the winner.

Press releases and news and eyewitness reports of the NLC planning process said as much over and over again. As a result, I

didn't go. I didn't go because I don't have enough oppressions listed after my name to matter. KC Wildmoon, Lesbian. That's it. No more, no less. But it's a shame that at the National Lesbian Conference just being a lesbian wasn't enough.

I would never even begin to tell you that those social ills are unimportant in the lesbian scheme of things. They are, or should be, whether we are lesbian, gay, strait or unknown. But when setting a lesbian agenda, it would seem logical to me to start with the commonalities. I didn't grow up a lesbian because I hate racism, ableism, fatism, environmental illnesses, or even men. I am a lesbian because I love women.

To tell you the truth, I don't hate anything anymore, not even my dear old mom and dad. Because I love women, I want the best for all women. I don't want to beat them into agreement with my view, literally or figuratively. But I do want to foster a world of understanding and communication, rather than distrust and confrontation.

May the next National Lesbian Conference begin with that simple premise.

Carbon Copies

Mr. Michael Wilson
The Atlanta Gay Center
63 Twelfth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Mr. Wilson:

This memo is in reference to our telephone conversation of April 16, 1991, informing you that Bulldogs will no longer carry your publication in our place of business.

In response to my initial statements, regarding your form of negative journalism, I can appreciate your being quick to point out that 1) *The News* is an award-winning publication, 2) that you have high credentials as a journalist and 3) that the Gay Center does more for the community than all other agencies combined. However, I have neither the credentials nor desire to ascertain whether these facts are true or not. Nor would any of those statements have any bearing on our conversation or on Bulldogs' decision. Our concern is strictly towards the negativity expressed toward AID Atlanta, your apparent desire to hinder their ability to attract needed volunteers and your negativity to the community as a whole. We have had many, many customers advise us from a volunteer and client's viewpoint of the many good works accomplished by this agency. I might add that these are customers whose opinions we greatly respect.

One would question who seeks to gain

from your type of biased writing, which through omission and half-truths would make the unknowing become very suspect of AID Atlanta's right to keep their doors open. But the more important issue is not who will gain, but rather who stands to lose. That answer is easier to define than the first. It would be the clients of AID Atlanta, if your "exposé" by an anonymous Buddy were to be totally believed and applicable in all cases. This also applies to other comments made in your publication regarding their scandalous hiring practices, the AIDS walk, alleged censorship of your paper and other assorted juicy "tidbits" printed in the style of the *National Enquirer* and *Star* publications.

We have never seen AID Atlanta publish allegations against the Gay Center, question their records, or take the time to simply provide rebuttals. Could it be they are too busy doing positive things for the community in general? I can imagine it takes a great deal of time to assemble, write and publish your negative articles. Surely, you can agree they are not of a positive nature, at least. It would seem your time would be better spent doing more constructive things that could conceivably benefit the gay and lesbian population of Atlanta.

In all fairness, I have, on occasion, heard customers air complaints regarding both agencies and defend both agencies. Again, this is not our present area of concern. We are, however, deeply concerned with the attitude of an agency who appears more intent on dividing a community rather than trying to

unify it.

Your allegation that Bulldogs is dropping *The News* because of any personal association, past or present with AID Atlanta staff, is a further example of your "modus operandi." Bulldogs has a strong, positive image in the lesbian and gay community and would not allow their reputation to be put on the block, for the sake of past or current associations. Also, I feel that most people in Atlanta would attest to my own personal integrity. If I may reflect for a moment, it appeared to be this point in our conversation, when I began to detect a growing level of hostility in your voice, which really did not surprise me, since this same attitude is the basis for our decision.

As a courtesy to our professional peers in the Atlanta bar industry, we are forwarding a copy to all bar managers and owners.

David L. Kanis, General Manager
John Foutz, Owner

The News
Atlanta Gay Center
63 Twelfth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Sirs:

I've been a reader of your publication since I moved to Atlanta from New York City several years ago. I was then impressed with *The News* and the other gay media here: for a city as small as Atlanta, there are a remarkable number of diverse gay publications.

Recently, however, your paper has been publishing a series of vicious articles blasting the work of AID Atlanta. While my contacts with AID Atlanta have not always been perfect, I've found the work of the Atlanta Gay Center to be worse. I've contacted AGC regarding service referrals, HIV support groups, and HIV antibody testing on several occasions. I'm sorry to report that each of these visits to the Atlanta Gay Center had some sort of problem, particularly from unprofessional staffers.

Sirs, I'm not writing to "take sides" for AID Atlanta, nor for AGC. I'm writing to suggest that your time, efforts, and monies would be better spent in working together with all available resources in the city. The articles you've published don't offer suggestions for improving the problems you describe. This tirade against AID Atlanta appears to have become a personal vendetta and only serves to divide a gay community that desperately needs all the unity it can get. These articles, which I hope were initially conceived as constructive criticism for AID Atlanta, have done a great disservice to Atlanta's gay community.

In sum, I wholeheartedly agree that this city needs the best AIDS services it can get, and that AID Atlanta's operations need improvement. But your seemingly-endless series of yellowed stories isn't helping to achieve a better situation—and ignores AGC's own need for internal improvements.

Sincerely,
John Burger



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

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

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



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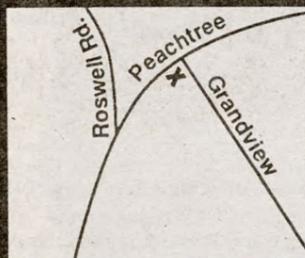
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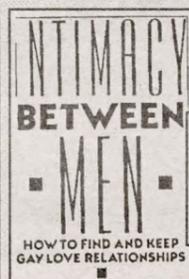
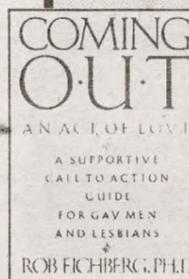
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Two new books for gay men on nurturing relationships

by Al Cotton

Relationships—how to prepare yourself for them, how to find them, how to fix them, how to recover from them—is a perpetually hot topic in the gay community. Last year, two books by women authors dealing with both lesbian and gay relationships were published—the wonderful *Permanent Partners* by Betty Berzon (now out in paperback, Dutton, \$9.95) and the average but recommendable *Gay Relationships* by Tina Tessina (St. Martin's Press, \$17.95).

This year, symmetrically enough, two books are out by male authors—*Intimacy Between Men* by John H. Driggs and Stephen E. Finn (Dutton, \$18.95 hard cover), and *Love Between Men* by Rik Isensee (Prentice Hall Press, \$9.95 paperback). Even the titles are symmetrical. And as those titles indicate, both books deal with the more limited topic of relationship issues specific to gay men.

It is curious to note that both books by women discuss lesbian and gay relationships, while the men's books deal exclusively with male relationships. Double standard? Perhaps. Or perhaps it just reinforces those old stereotypes—that lesbians are more relationship-proficient than gay men, that they have more to teach us than we have for them. Both men's books seek to help gay men deal with issues that hinder men specifically in learning how to create and nurture relationships. And many of us could use the help.

The better of these two books, *Intimacy Between Men*, is well-titled; it focuses on the gay man who wants to be intimate but isn't sure how. Its authors approach the material from different angles—one of them (Stephen Finn) is a gay man and the other (John Driggs) is straight. This combination ensures that *Intimacy* never loses its gay focus, and enriches its discussion of how male upbringing might be responsible for many

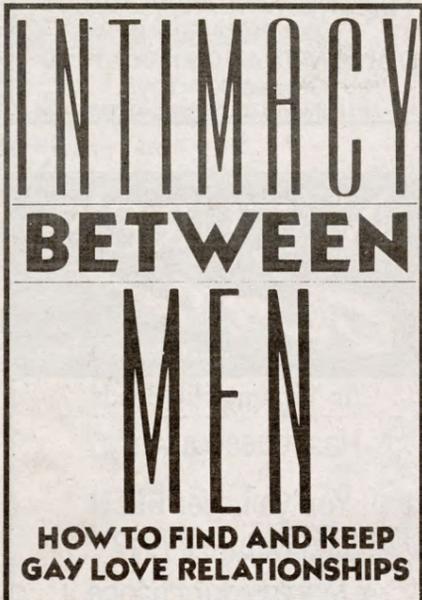
BOOK REVIEWS

Love Between Men

John H. Driggs and Stephen E. Finn
E.P. Dutton

Intimacy Between Men

Rik Isensee
Prentice Hall Press



of our problems.

Intimacy is also well-organized, its points logically and directly laid out. Driggs and Finn begin by defining intimacy—"a process in relationships enabling individuals to meet personal needs while accepting difference in each other." Then there follows an excellent analysis of what intimacy is, with an in-depth discussion of intimacy and a description of the roadblocks that can keep gay men from achieving it.

Among discussed topics are: (1) common experiences among gay men, subdivided into areas like "Being Different,"

"Denial, Secrecy and Shame," "Growing Up Male," "Coming Out," etc.; (2) the advantages (like freedom from sex roles and from the responsibilities of child rearing) and disadvantages (like lack of role models and lack of social support), of gay coupling; and (3) the fears that people use to avoid personal growth—including the fears of abandonment, of the loss of love, of selfishness, of being overwhelmed, and of feeling worthy.

Intimacy also shows spirituality as essential in developing intimate relationships. Driggs and Finn see a life of the spirit as necessary when trying to use intimacy to make things work. The solid points in their summary include: "Think of intimacy as a precious jewel... Discover the part of you that does not want to be intimate and embrace it... Work toward uniting sexuality and intimacy in a single relationship... Prepare for intimacy, as an individual, as if your life depended on it—it does..." and "See gay relationships as a window to God." If these sound like important lessons to learn, then this book is for you.

Intimacy succeeds in pinpointing relationship problems that are truly unique to gay men. Isensee's book, *Love Among Men*, is less successful in this area, being less conceptual and theoretical, more direct and practical.

Its practicality makes *Love* both more accessible and more banal than *Intimacy*. Emphasizing listening techniques and problem solving skills, Isensee deals with some issues much more directly than Driggs and Finn. His best sections are staged conversations between couples deciding whether to make their relationship monogamous, open or dealing with an AIDS diagnosis. His chapters on compulsive sexuality and abusive relationships are concise, listing symptoms and giving practical advice on choices and options.

But some sections are both poorly conceived and poorly written. Many of the

staged discussions are either artificial or irritating. Like the battle Al and Mike have over croissants and coffee at an outdoor café in Nice—the stereotype of gay men jetting around the world and bickering all the while bothered me. In another chapter, Isensee devotes four pages to gay men having children and dealing with coparenting issues. Is that broadly relevant to many men? If so, its treatment here is far too superficial; if not, it shouldn't be there at all. It seems clear that a good editor could have significantly helped *Love*.

The paperback publication of *Permanent Partners* presents the opportunity to remind people of Betty Berzon's inclusive, example-filled book on lesbian and gay relationships. She deals with everyday issues from a strong intellectual foundation, and still fills her book with practical examples from real relationships, both her own and those of the people she has counselled. Chapters deal with issues such as control in relationships, jealousy, sex, money, and the inevitability of change in relationships. The superbly educational chapter entitled "Fighting the Good Fight" is alone worth the cost of the book.

I would recommend *Permanent Partners* for all gay and lesbian couples' libraries. For gay men looking to grow in intimate matters, either with themselves or through their relationships, *Intimacy Between Men* would be an excellent investment. For men already into relationships, Isensee's advice in *Love Between Men* is practical and would be useful in many circumstances.

As Berzon notes, we have to start taking the steps necessary to assert our right to create permanent partnerships. Any of these books could be used to christen such an important journey.

THE MAGAZINE RACK

Gay 'zines push the limits of publishing

by Penn Collins

Let's turn to a lesser known area of magazine culture, the small press know as 'zines. According to Mike Gunderloy, publisher of *FactSheet 5*, 'zines are "publications that are done for love instead of money." 'Zines range widely in form and content—there are the well-produced such as *Green Prints* to the down-right odd bag'zines—'zines sent in bags with small columns, stickers, and other assorted items. Some are hand colored, drawn or printed. All are labors of love.

Mike Gunderloy's *FactSheet 5* is the definitive magazine of 'zines. Eight times a year Mike and his cohorts publish *FF5* (as it is known to its followers). In it you will find reviews on everything from the controversial punk 'zines to the silly (*Frostbite Falls Far-Flung Flier*—the newsletter for fans of Rocky and Bullwinkle). Always there will be several gems.

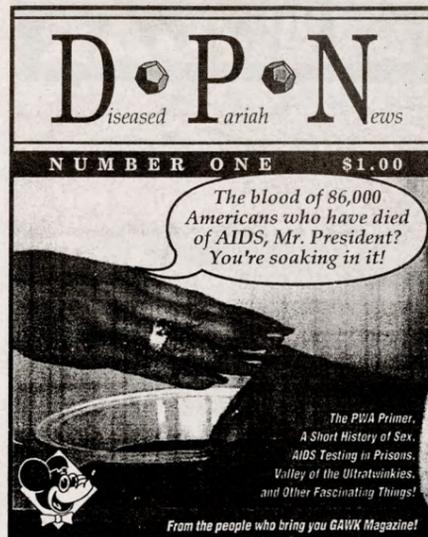
According to Mike, of the 'zines published (that he and his reviewers see), 2-3% are gay and lesbian in nature. He does point out that there are quite a few 'zines out there that are published by the lesbian

and gay community and not 'identified' as such, much in the sense that many publications do not label themselves as straight either.

In talking to Mike Gunderloy for this column, I discovered many things about gay 'zines (the following are excerpts from the interview). The main characteristic of the gay 'zines are that they tend to be more aggressive and experimental, which is basically why the 'zine industry exists—to push the boundaries, to try to take things a little further. And the publishers tend to be folks who aren't happy with the gay press or the straight press. Mike cites such "standards" as *Gay Community News*, *Lavender Network* and even *Southern Voice*. This is not to say they are not doing their respective jobs—they are. It's just that some feel that they can/could go further.

Examples include: *Fertile Latoya Jackson Magazine*—this is put out by a teenage black drag queen. According to Mike, it is "Hollywood gossip run amok, lots of in-jokes, very catty and very, very funny."

On the controversial end is Tom Shearer's *Diseased Pariah News*—the



first AIDS publication put out by a gay person "sick and tired of all the sweetness and light" that has been used. Tom even includes a graph/status report of his t-cells in each issue. Tom also produces G.A.W.K. a 'zine for "gay artists and writers collective."

The first of the "homocore" 'zines, following the gay/punk movement is Bruce La Bruce's *J.D.S.* published in Canada. This 'zine has created a lot of controversy when its video "Skin of my ass" was seized by customs. The Canadian film board tried to ban/restrict the film as they felt that toe sucking was objectionable—among other things.

Mike comments that the time and love

evident in the lesbian and gay 'zines was no more evident than in *Bimbox*—the publishers did a "pop-up" penis and vagina, requiring an incredible investment of time and energy. Definitely something you would not see in the mainstream lesbian and gay press.

A 'sub-category' of 'zines are the APA's. APA stands for Amateur Press Association—sort of a letter writing group devoted to various topics. Members traditionally send money with their letters to cover the cost of copying and postage for each "issue." These "round table" discussions are carried out via the postal system. Two examples of these are *APA Eros*—an adult APA devoted to discussing erotica, fiction and relationships. Another is *APA Tarot* devoted to, surprise, tarot and tarot related discussions. Many other APA's exist and are mentioned in *FF5*.

In the wild world of 'zines, nothing is too odd, too controversial—this is why they exist. It is free press taken as far as you and your mimeograph machine wants to go—'zines range in size from one pagers to the 110 page *FactSheet 5*.

Questions/comments? Call me at 364-2727 and let me know (Mon-Fri preferably, 9-5).

Enjoy! And see you at the newsstand.

6/23

IT'S TIME TO BE COUNTED!



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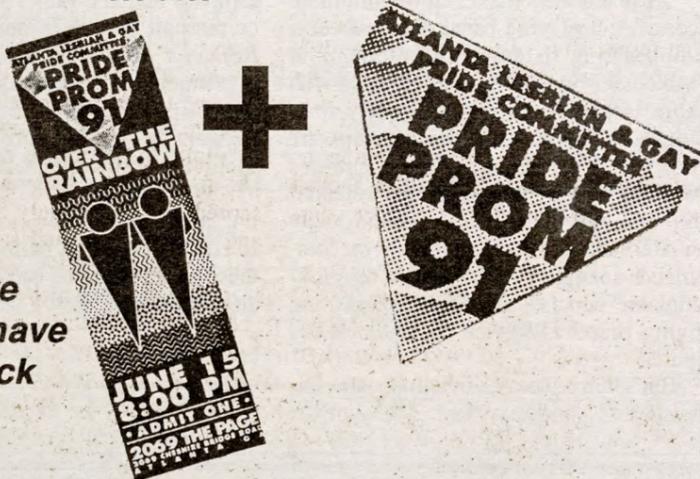
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THE PRIDE CALENDAR

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- Thu, May 23:** Petrus "Luminaries of the Abyss," music from the past 20 yrs. Sponsored by Etc.
- Sun, June 9:** Traxx T-Dance, 306 Lucky St.
- Sun, June 9:** Deana's Pride Cookout, 1890 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
- Sat, June 15:** 4th Tuesday Business Expo. From 10 am to 5 pm. Peachtree Westin Ballroom. Hotline: 662-4399. Admission: \$3.
- Sat, June 15:** Pride Prom at 2069 The Page. Theme is "Over the Rainbow" and the cost will be \$10 in advance. \$12 at door.
- Sun, June 16:** The Otherside, 50's & 60's Sock-Hop Fundraiser. Prizes for best dressed and dancers.
- Fri, June 21:** Southern Voice Open House. Entertainment, food. "Taking Pride in Our Culture." Donations for Pride accepted. 6-9 pm.
- 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.

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Three worth seeing and one to ignore

by Terry Francis

Impromptu ★★★ 1/2 Pure pleasure. It's the George Sand-Frederic Chopin duel of hearts again, with Liszt, Musset and Delacroix complicating things from the side. Judy Davis, wearing men's clothes of the era and practically no makeup, plays the indefatigable Sand, who goes after the frail Chopin (Hugh Grant, blissfully delicate), with the flash and energy of a lightning bolt. Bernadette Peters is fine as Countess d'Agoult, Liszt's socially compromised love interest, and Emma Thompson sparkles as the good-hearted duchess who takes them all on as her houseguests, ready to be lit by their brilliance and willing to have a small taste of their passionate romanticism.

A promising debut by James Lapine, best known for this work in the theatre, directing here from a witty, eccentric script by his wife, Sarah Kernochan, both of whose work benefits still further from Michael Ellis' quicksilver editing.

A Rage in Harlem ★★ 1/2 Bill Duke's direction is more than a bit ragged, and the gangster plot creaks along unsurely, but who cares when you're looking at a movie that's doing its damndest to entertain you and features a virtual parade of talented actors, all of them portraying characters so flavorful and distinct that most other recent movies seem obscure in comparison. Standouts include Fores Whitaker as a mild mannered funeral home bookkeeper, Danny Glover as a dog toting crook, and Robin Givens as a woman who uses her wits and sex appeal to stay alive. Givens is nothing short of spectacular, stripping away layers of anger, cunning, menace, tenderness and sex to reveal a character palpable in her fears, her corrupted humanity. There's something new going on in Givens' work here—is Hollywood ready for her?

Switch No ★'s Walking out of the

FILM REVIEWS
Impromptu
A Rage in Harlem
Switch
Truth or Dare

theatre after a screening of "Switch," the new Blake Edwards film starring Ellen Barkin as a man sent back to Earth in a woman's body, I wondered, does Blake Edwards own a calendar, and is there anybody left who still believes that he and Ellen Barkin are worth caring about as artists?

Edwards' career has been one long slide into uninspired vulgarity since "Victor/Victoria" back in 1981. And Barkin, who gave an emotionally complex performance in the 1982 "Diner," in which she played a young woman whose withering hold on both her marriage and her self-esteem was expressed in the hurt of her plaintive, bewildered gaze, has diminished gravely since making "The Big Easy."

However, "Switch" represents a new low for all concerned. To hell with the plot, just listen to these details: nearly all the women in the film whore themselves for money; a lesbian corporate executive assigns a multi-million dollar account to Barkin in exchange for her promise of sex; there's an endless running gag of Barkin stumbling around in high heels; witless jokes about Barkin's fascination with her new breasts and vagina; a tour inside a lesbian club included for easy laughs at the club's patrons, an assembly of women dancing and talking over drinks and whose faces suggest that they have been threatened with violence should they smile or make a sound above a whisper—it might as well be a club for vampires.

Then there's the repeated presumption that lesbian relationships are routinely



LUCINDA BUNNEN

Madonna and her dancers in "Truth or Dare".

structured in terms of who is the "man" and who is the "woman;" the implication that once Barkin spends some time in her new woman's body that nature takes over and prevents her from having "unnatural" sex with another woman (the real truth is that neither Edwards nor Hollywood has any guts, and their moral compass is guided by the magnetic power of the box office).

And then there's the matter of Barkin turning up pregnant by a friend who "takes advantage" of her while she's passed out drunk. (He claims she loved it.) Is this date rape or the golden male fantasy that all women really want sex even (especially) when they say no (they just need a little convincin') or that all any lesbian really needs is one night of hot sex with the right guy to set her "straight." In "Switch" it's probably both. Enough. Watching this film is like getting shoved face first into the gutter. Consider yourself warned.

Truth or Dare ★★★ Decadent good fun, but is there anything left to say either about Madonna or this new documentary, which is part a record of her world tour and part diary passed among her and her associates. It's all there: her female dancers doing an imitation of Belinda

Carlisle, the Catholic iconography, everyone serving as each other's antagonist and support group, the lone straight male dancer terrified of the gay ones (who are a riot and enjoy tweaking his irrational fears), Kevin Costner coming across like Mr. Deeds, Warren Beatty belonging to another era, the hypocrisy of the Toronto police department, the tasteless scene of Madonna visiting her mother's grave site, the tribute to Keith Harring, Madonna partying with Pedro Almodovar and lusting after his male star Antonio Banderas, the choreography reminiscent of Cabaret, the pretentious grainy film stock, Madonna fellating a Perrier bottle, her exposed nerves raw as her voice.

Has any Hollywood figure ever been so honest about certain aspects of his or her personal life as Madonna is here? Not on film. In her movie career, Madonna has made some bad choices, but she scored in "Desperately Seeking Susan" and "Dick Tracy," and scores again with this new film. She does her best acting, so far, in roles in which she can play characters one takes to be closest to her real self—modern, witty, accessible only on her own terms. I hope her next role gives her the freedom to act as confidently as she "acts" in this documentary.

Odd Night fulfills its billing

by Dave Hayward

The Theatrical Outfit's "An Odd Night in an Odd Place" fulfills its billing. Inhabitants of a 1950's coffeehouse carry on like the tribe out of "Hair," drinking, drugging and screwing their way to Nirvana—or death. It's fascinating to watch the post-World War II generation of many of our parents cut loose, completely unlike Dwight Eisenhower, Doris Day or the Beaver.

Odd Night is a kind of crash course in the beatnik ethic of the '50's, before the doctrine of free spirit spread beyond New York and San Francisco. As such, it may be confusing for people unfamiliar with the times of the beats, and we don't get to know them much past their postures: the kinky socialite, the brutish husband, the thrill-seeking professor, the assortment of cool, crazy musicians. The novelty is the '50's twist to the stereotypes, but what these subversives were up to and driven by is mostly unexplored.

Yet what is in Eddie Levi Lee's and Phillip DePoy's script is intriguing, either watching the collective silliness of everyone talking a Tai Chi coffee break or witnessing the S&M bloodletting between the socialite and the saxophonist (excellent musician Sam Garafalo). Most compelling of all is a detailed mainlining ritu-

THEATRE REVIEW
Odd Night in an Odd Place
 Theatrical Outfit
 Thru June 15

al excruciatingly performed by E.H. McQueen, including a stunning moment of full frontal nudity and a sexual surprise. Thus what characters later think are male-female or male-male encounters are not, making a witches' brew of sexual ambiguity and betrayal. Any gay person forced to ape heterosexuality may relate to the masquerade.

Caught in the gender fraud is coffeehouse emcee Jackie (Heather Heath), who almost experiences lesbianism as she strives to match the conquests of her straying husband Pete (George Nikas). Heath is the only fully realized character in Odd Night's best performance, an earth mother in a cesspool, and we get to know her inner life as well as her ingratiating front. By contrast, George Nikas is merely a jerk, lacking the bravado and charm needed for his character.

Clark Taylor is a standout as a Lenny Bruce comedian, who at first suspects the relentlessly taping professor of collecting four-letter evidence to imprison him again. Angrily threatening to expose him-

self, he later accepts her as the the academic she is and they "meet cute," Taylor shyly bunching his pants back up around his waist like a chagrined little boy. His Nikita Khrushchev monologue on the phone with his agent is also hilarious.

Though given a superficial character, Nita Hardy is sensual and biting as the socialite, delivering a great "life will spit your brains out" tirade. Overall, director James Brooks well orchestrates his cast in conveying the bitter non-conformism of

'50's counterculture and exuding a feeling of spontaneity and improvisation. Michael Allen's Chinese box set revealing secret rooms behind scrims and Hal McCoy's evocative lighting are enhancements.

It is ironic to contrast the high-living '50's with the clean your act up '90's, and realize the legacy of excess has helped bequeath AIDS. Meanwhile, Odd Night is a new frontier for adventurous theatre-goers.

CLOSET REVOLUTION

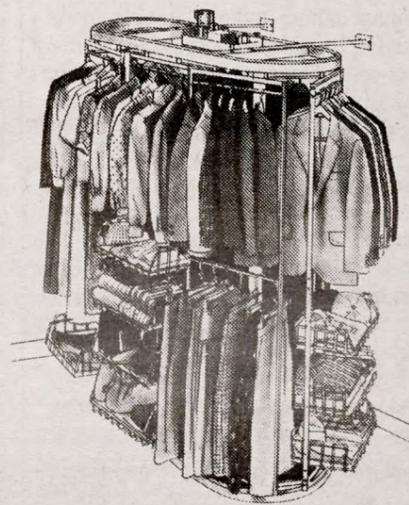
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Androgyny goes pop...but is it

Cont'd from page 1

codes, they presented themselves as objects of female as well as male desire. It was a fact that displeased some veterans of women's music who had earlier made a politics of their lesbianism.

"Almost twenty years after Stonewall and fifteen years after Alix Dobkin and Kay Gardner issued *Lavender Jane Loves Women*," said Ginny Berson, a founder of the pioneer women's music label, Olivia, "there are still no out lesbians in the national 'mainstream' music scene. There are plenty of out lesbians in the alternative music scene—and plenty who are not out—and plenty of closeted lesbians in the mainstream, but it seems that never the twain shall meet."

Nonetheless, a younger generation of women eagerly snapped up the new mainstream artists' records, crowded their concerts, and spread the word to friends, as a Chicago woman named "Mary," in a letter to New York's *Outweek*, proclaimed. "Ladies, let's be Phanc," she wrote. "We all love k.d., Tracy, Melissa and the Indigo Girls. Many of us knew and loved them long before they achieved their current mainstream popularity. I went to see Melissa in Chicago last week. I didn't go with my girlfriend or any girlfriends. I went with one of my little brothers. And you should have seen him dancing in the aisle!"

"All this bickering," she continued, "about whether these women should come out is like asking a bewildered junior varsity basketball star to come out at a pep rally. Let's just chill and enjoy the music, shall we?"

The arrival of the new breed of androgynous pop women, propelled in large part by an increasingly self-conscious lesbian audience, signals the fact that women can now defy conventions of femininity in popular music and still achieve mainstream success. But at what cost? Are "androgynous" women performers cowering to a homophobic industry, enacting a musical form of passing? Or are they pushing the limits of what is possible and, along with it, lesbian visibility?

A growing debate pits those who would stand outside the dominant culture and openly name their lesbianism (even if that naming restricts their audience) against those who, in search of broader appeal, represent their sexuality more covertly. Frequently, the sides are drawn along generational lines, with older women arguing for a more separatist strategy, and younger women championing an assimilationist stance. If lesbian-feminists of the 1970s fled the restrictions of commercial music to stand outside the dominant culture, today's younger artists are trying to carve out a space for themselves somewhere between the economic constraints of the industry and the imperatives of lesbian identity politics.

From Women's Music to Androgynous Pop

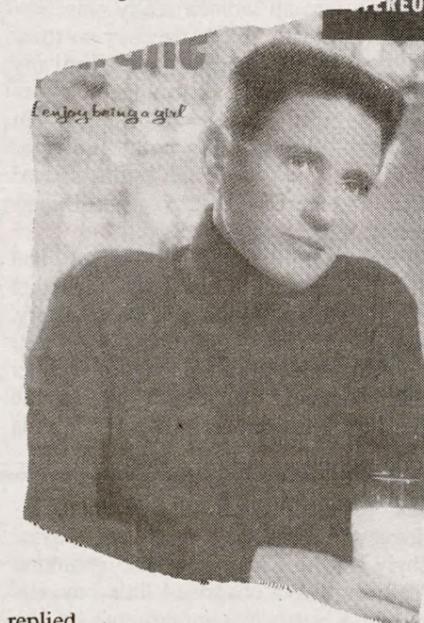
In popular culture, lesbians have long had to contend with both a scarcity of images, and ones that are either unflattering (as in the case of the typical Hollywood film) or unidimensional (as in the case of most pornography). While we have always found ways to "read" culture against the grain—changing the pronouns of songs in our heads and projecting our fantasies upon female icons—this has not aided the cause of group visibility. That began to

change in the 1970s.

Producers of women's music tried to create new cultural forms that would reflect the hopes and dreams of the communities they saw themselves building. Much like lesbian fiction, the mode of expression of women's music was expressive realism. Refusing to play to the desires and expectations of men, it created images of strong, "woman-identified" women that reflected the common texture of lesbian lives—girls' crushes on their gym teachers, their feelings of love and loss.

Derived from folk, women's music was rooted in the populist tradition of social protest and in the belief that unamplified and simple was best. Less lesbian-identified than "woman-identified," it was imbued with a belief in a universal female sensibility. Lesbian feminists who came of age in the 1960s and 1970s wanted to differentiate themselves from the image of the mannish woman, long synonymous with lesbianism in popular culture. They also wanted to distance themselves from rock-and-roll, which they dubbed "cock rock."

In 1974, *Ms.* asked, "Can a Feminist Love the World's Greatest Rock and Roll Band?" and theorist Robin Morgan



replied with a resolute "No!" She warned that lesbian feminists who listened to the Rolling Stones were no better than those who advocated non-monogamy and accepted transsexuals as allies: they had all adopted a "male style" which would destroy the movement.

But even in the early days, there was always controversy in the ranks. Was women's music for all women, or just lesbians? Was it an expression of art or politics? By the late 1970s, the waning of the movement and financial problems conspired to throw women's music into an identity crisis, revealing that the cohesive lesbian community was the product of a particular historical moment and that women's music rested on a precarious unity.

For one thing, it had become firmly entrenched in what was, for the most part, a European tradition—"sucky sister" music to many women of color, who resisted the claim that it represented the authentic voice of women's and lesbian culture. Confirming their suspicions was the fact that albums and tours by Black artists (such as Mary Watkins and Linda Tillery) failed to attract much-needed sales.

Criticism also came from women in

punk. Although punk embraced a politics of anti-identity, refusing to position itself as the affirmative expression of either feminism or gay liberation, from its early days it made a politics of disrupting gender and sexual codes. Punk's appeal to androgyny, and its embrace of brash, rhythmic music, was at odds with the notion of woman-identification at the base of women's music. In Boston, Rock Against Sexism announced itself as a cultural activist group comprised of "closet rock-and-roll fans" in the women's community, one of its founders explaining: "Women's music is really peaceful, not raunchy or angry; it doesn't really excite me or turn me on or get me energized."

By the mid 1980s, if an earlier belief that women's music could reflect an "essential" femaleness was increasingly becoming suspect, its undercapitalization forced it to remain rather conservative. As sales flagged, many women's music producers responded by moving away from the lesbian-feminist roots. Olivia formed a subsidiary, Second Wave, which released less feminist-identified music and broke with its commitment to use only female musicians.

"I thought they were playing a funeral dirge during the intermission at the album release



concert of Cris Williamson and Teresa Trull in Berkeley last month," Ginny Berson wrote in 1989. "For the first time in its history at an Olivia Records concert, there were more men than women on stage...I thought I knew that 'Olivia Records Presents' meant something—music about women's lives, music written by women, music performed by women. But what we had here were a few songs about women and a lot about horses; lots of songs written by men; and mostly men playing the music. Is this women's music?"

If the viability of women's music was thrown into question by a crisis of identity and by the competitive pressures of the capitalist market, its problems were exacerbated by the fact that the feminist movement had helped to create an audience and a market that was beginning to outgrow the counterculture. While lesbian musicians of the 1970s were forced out of the mainstream in order to achieve some artistic autonomy, fifteen years later there were signs of greater openings.

In 1988, as Olivia Records celebrated its fifteenth anniversary with a series of concerts throughout the country, larger-than-life posters of Michelle Shocked and

Tracy Chapman were plastered on every record store wall, while Olivia records languished in the "women's music" section in the rear, if they were there at all.

Gal Pals and Real Women

As women's music, in an effort to reach a broader audience, was looking less and less lesbian, mainstream music was looking more and more lesbian, or as the industry liked to refer to it—*real*. Tracy Chapman became a veritable household name in 1988, selling more than 10 million albums, signed by Elektra because she was "just so real," according to a company executive. Chapman's huge success sent other record companies scrambling to find "real" women artists of their own. Michelle Shocked was picked up by Polygram, and Phranc was signed to Island.

If an earlier move toward androgyny among male pop stars like David Bowie was influenced by gay drag's tradition of artifice and costume, the new wave of women's androgyny was typically described, by participants as well as critics, as a move "back to the basics," as a retreat from artifice and role-playing into authenticity.

Women performers, long forced into the boy-toy role, can now "be more than just pre-packaged gals," says Phranc. She should know. Her 1989 album, *I Enjoy Being a Girl*, sported her in a flat-top haircut (alongside a blurb which sang her praises as a "little daughter of bilitis")—proof that being natural, socially conscious, and even androgynous were qualities that were beginning to find their way into the mainstream.

It was a movement that confounded the critics. "The most astounding thing of all is that Tracy Chapman *et al* even happened," mused one. "Since when did the industry that insisted its strongest women play cartoon characters...allow a serious, powerful, flesh-and-blood female to stand firm on a concert stage?" The answer, as any informed observer could say, was rather simple. The "new breed" of pop women emerged once the industry was convinced that it would sell.

Historically, record companies spot a trend and quickly jump on the bandwagon to claim it as their own. Subcultures have long fueled musical innovation; hugely successful commercial disco and house music has its origins in the Black gay dance floors of Chicago and New York. Likewise, on the heels of feminist movement, female performers and fans became commercially important "properties" and "markets," placing both musicians and fans in a new position of power to define what they did and demand what they wanted.

The trail was blazed by such performers as Cyndi Lauper and Madonna, whose messages, though at times contradictory, affirmed an empowered female sexuality practically unseen in commercial pop. In 1983, Lauper released the single "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," a "powerful cry for access to the privileged realm of male adolescent leisure and fun," in the words of critic Lisa Lewis. Madonna, one of the most successful female stars of the contemporary period, exuded sexual invincibility, at times making allusions to lesbianism (as in her "Justify My Love" video, which was banned by MTV). "Clothed in the language of hererosexuality" but "soliciting a lesbian gaze," Sydney Pokorny proclaimed in the pages of *Gay Community News*, Madonna had

lesbian music?

transformed herself "from boy toy to gal pal."

Many female performers saw mainstreaming as an act no less subversive than the feminist disaffection from commercial music a decade earlier. Phranc toured as the opening act for the Smiths and other popular post-punk acts, playing for mixed audiences because, she said, "It's important to reach out to the kids." Two Nice Girls, an Austin group, made lesbianism an integral part of their act, but made the conscious choice to record on Rough Trade, a large independent label, because, band leader Gretchen Phillips said, "We don't want to be found only in the specialty bin at the record store. We want to be in your face." She later quipped, "We love men. We just don't want to see them naked." Younger than their women's music predecessors, they had been shaped by punk as much as women's music, and by a different political mood.

But there are limits to this new found power. While women performers today may enjoy unprecedented freedom to present themselves as they please, lesbians are still "safe" (read: marketable) only when their sexuality is muted. A woman singing a love song to another woman is, for the most part still taboo, as Phranc sang: "Everybody wants to be a folk singer. They want to be hip and trendy. They want to make sensitive videos and sing about politics. Androgyny is the ticket or at least it seems to be. Just don't wear a flat-top and mention sexuality, and girl you'll go far, you'll get a record contract and be a star."

In a homophobic culture, out gays and lesbians are generally believed not to be crossover material. Large record companies, organized to minimize risk, attempt to hold back discreditable information about a performer from the public. "This is a very conservative country and record companies like to steer away from potential controversy," says Howie Klein, Vice President at Sire Records, k.d. lang's label. Driven by big hits, companies often sink enormous sums of money into developing and promoting an individual artist and are loathe to take chances. They tend, instead, to seek out the lowest common denominator, hoping to turn out stars who can appeal to a broad audience rather than targeting specific markets defined geographically, ethnically or sexually.

While there has yet to be a promotional strategy in which a commercial record company specifically targets a lesbian audience, a few smaller companies at least recognize its existence. In marketing Phranc, Rick Bleiweiss of Island Records acknowledges that since her "core" (read: lesbian) audience already knows about her, the company's role is to seek out the potential crossover consumers—primarily the college and "independent" music audience, and to expand her reach into a larger, more mainstream audience. But Bleiweiss acknowledges that performers like Phranc, who make their lesbianism a central part of their act (that is, they mention it at all) may have a "limited consumer base."

A rare acknowledgment of the lesbian roots of the folk boom came from Michelle Shocked. Upon accepting the award for Folk Album of the Year at the 1989 New Music Awards in New York, for which she was nominated along with Phranc, Tracy Chapman, and Indigo Girls, Shocked quipped, "This category should have been called 'Best Lesbian Vocalist.'" She told *Outlines*, a Chicago

gay paper, "I resent like hell that I was maybe eighteen years old before I even heard the L-word." Yet Shocked herself later complained to an interviewer about being lumped together with all the other emerging women performers. Others avoided the subject entirely, refusing to be interviewed by lesbian/gay or feminist publications.

Even as they were being applauded by the critics for their fresh, unencumbered simplicity and their return to "honesty" and "naturalness," when it came down to it, most of the new androgynous women constructed their songs and their images with a sexual ambiguity that at times verged on camp. A video of Shocked's single, "When I grow Up" features a posse of her feminist friends. Shocked sings, "When I grow up I want to be an old woman" and all the friends say "yeeeah!" Then she sings, "Then I think I'm gonna marry myself an old man," and they respond, disappointedly, "oh." Then she sings, "We're gonna have 120 babies," and they say, "I get it."

On her 1989 album, *Captain Swing*,



more lucrative opportunities.

Dlugacz bristles when she recalls that Melissa Etheridge once sent a demo tape and was turned down with the reply that Olivia was not looking for new artists. Redwood Records, the label that Holly Near built, tried to sign Tracy Chapman when she was still in school in Boston, but could not compete with Elektra. As the producers of women's music see it, the new wave of sexual ambiguity signals the fact that the revolution has been stalled, gobbled up, and watered down by "the industry."

The terrain has shifted, they say, from lesbian-identified music created in the context of lesbian institutions and communities, to music that blandly emulates women's music, playing with signifiers

Still time to get to 8th Annual Southern Fest

by Debbie Fraker

It's festival time again, and no doubt some lesbians already have their Birkenstocks packed (not to mention their rain gear). On Memorial Day weekend, May 23-27, north Georgia will witness the 8th Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival. Festival organizer, Robin Tyler says, "It looks like it's going to be a great festival." She is particularly excited about a workshop being presented on How to Buy a Car. "It's probably the first time a festival has offered a workshop so practical." There is much more to get excited about as well.

one had to listen closely to "Sleep Keeps Me Awake" to make out the fact that it was a love song to a woman.

Shifting Loyalties, Mixing Identities

"We have gone through some magnificently bizarre changes," Judy Dlugacz of Olivia told representatives of the 2,000-member Association of Women's Music and Culture, the women's music industry organization, when they met in San Francisco last spring, "but the news is not altogether good."

As she tells the story, independent record labels close daily and women's music is being squeezed out of existence. The most loyal sectors of the audience—lesbian baby boomers—have aged, shedding some of their political commitments to alternative women's culture, while others have left the lesbian fold altogether. The number of women in powerful positions at the major labels, and in the music industry as a whole, has grown at a snail's pace. Successful lesbian stars don't declare their sexual preferences because they are scared of the possible impact on sales. And to make matters worse, as mainstream labels have offered more openings, it is becoming more difficult for Olivia to sign talented artists, many of whom would opt for

Among the performers will be Atlanta's own Moral Hazard and Penelope Williams. Festival speakers will include Atlantans Sabrina Sojourner and Becky Butler. Other musical performers include Ferron, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Deidre McCalla, Dianne Davidson, and Elaine Townsend. Comics Kate Clinton, Karen Williams, Sara Citron, Robin Tyler, and Matina Bevis will also perform. Other speakers will include Dr. Sonia Johnson, Diane Stein, Debra Rein, and Sonika Tinker.

If you haven't registered yet, you can call the festival office at (818) 893-4075 with a Mastercard or VISA through Wednesday, May 22, or you can register at the gate (cash only registration at the gate will cost an extra \$20). To get to Camp Coleman for the festival, take highway 365 north to Gainesville and 129 to Cleveland. Camp Coleman is exactly seven miles north of the Gateway Inn in Cleveland. The gates open at 8:00 am and close at 11:00 pm.

like clothes and hairstyle in order to gain commercial acceptance, but never really identifying itself as lesbian. "We've made the world safe for androgyny in the charts," said feminist singer-songwriter Deidre McCalla, referring, not so obliquely, to the likes of k.d. lang and Tracy Chapman. "but a few women musicians in the forefront is not what we wanted."

It is true that the dream of a body of music and art which expresses lesbian experience openly and honestly has not yet come to pass in the mainstream. The classic dilemma persists: a performer either becomes known as a "lesbian artist" and is thus doomed to marginality, or she waters down her lesbianism in order to appeal to a mass audience. The pioneers of women's music chose the former route. The new wave of androgynous women have chosen the latter. We have yet to see a lesbian artist who is able to integrate her sexuality into her art without allowing it to become either *the* salient fact, or barely acknowledged.

Yet to call the new wave of artists assimilationists and sellouts is to do them a disservice. Such criticisms set women's music up as the only authentic voice of lesbianism, and they obscure the efforts of women to make inroads into main-

stream pop. For the "new breed" of women are not particularly heterosexually identified, and many are no less out than their women's music predecessors. Phranc and Two Nice Girls are the two most obvious examples, but much the same could be said for k.d. lang, probably the butchiest woman entertainer since Gladys Bentley (even if she'd rather support animal rights than say the "L-word").

If many of today's performers are ambiguous about their identities it is not only because of industry constraints. It is also because, frequently, their identities *are* ambiguous. Tracy Chapman, a Black woman, is an obvious example of a complex personality with commitments to more than just the lesbian community. So, too, is Michelle Shocked, who is now rumored to be involved with a man. Ten years earlier, Holly Near often hid her bisexuality in order to appeal to a women's music audience, in the interest of providing a united front.

Today there seems to be greater tolerance for ambiguity, and even a certain attraction to *not* really knowing the "truth." Anyway, what *is* the truth? This is the 1990s, after all, an era in which "pleasure," says critic Larry Grossberg, "is replacing understanding." David Letterman, the baby boomers' late night talk show host of choice, celebrates alienation with a mocking self-referentiality. MTV blurs the boundaries of pop music and advertising. Quick-change, recombinant pop jumps from style to style, integrating new sounds and textures, new identities and images, and blurring cultural categories of all sorts.

A rap song samples the theme song from *Gilligan's Island*, while Peter Gabriel and Paul Simon borrow from African traditional music. Comedian Sandra Bernhard mixes and matches identities, alluding at times to her lesbianism without ever really embracing it, walking a fine line between ambiguity and reality. "I would never make a declaration of anything," she told Lawrence Chua of the *Village Voice*. "It's so stupid. Who even cares? It's so presumptuous."

Bernhard's smugness aside, the charge that the "new breed" of women pop stars are sellouts understates the extent to which they conspire in the making of their own images, and the degree to which they are working within the constraints of the industry to get their messages out to an increasingly self-conscious and sophisticated lesbian audience.

This is not to say that we have been liberated, represented, and made visible, *finally*. The new wave of androgynous artists reflects all of the potential and all of the ambiguity of our times. They signify a disaffection from the ranks of the Lesbian Nation and a cynicism about the prospects for liberation. They embody the triumph of commerce over a certain brand of cultural politics, and also a testing of the waters, and an increased freedom to maneuver. They reveal a new visibility of lesbian imagery in popular culture, and tell us, too, how much further we have to go.

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Art

VENEZUELA: THE NEXT GENERATION. Thru 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.

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.

WOMEN IN THE ARTS. Thru June 15. Multi-media works by Cecile Broz, Lucy Mitchell and Jinger Stuntz. Everything from photography and oil paintings to serigraphs and reduced wood cut prints makes this a curious collection well worth checking out. ALIYA Gallery. 1402 N. Highland Ave. 892-2835.

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.

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

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

JAPANESE TSUZURE-ORI. May 24 - Aug. 18. 55 examples of 19th century weavings using the slit tapestry technique in which the Japanese weavers beat down the weft threads with serrated fingernails on the left hand. Sounds eclectic, but being a fabric freak, I wouldn't miss it for the world. Atlanta International Museum. 285 Peachtree Center Ave. 688-2467.

Benefits

THE QUEER PARTY. Thurs. May 30. 9 pm. A benefit for Queer Nation includes outrageous entertainment and an auction of Cracker Barrel paraphernalia. \$2 donation is requested. The Metro. 48 6th St.

"FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE" KICK-OFF. Sun., June 2. 5 pm. Take some steps in the right direction and help earn money for nine local direct AIDS service agencies in the Sept. 8 walk-a-thon. Get involved early and make From All Walks of Life a big success. Colony Square Hotel, Grand Ballroom. 885-6800.

HOLLYWOOD HOTS '91. Sat. June 8. 7pm. The 3rd annual benefit for PWAs sponsored by Morningside Chase Apts. will be even bigger and better this year. Entertainment, music, and food are all covered by the ticket price. \$10 in advance. \$15 at the event. Morningside Chase Apts. 1445 Monroe Dr. 875-5622.

Direct Action

QUEER NATION AT CRACKER BARREL. Sat., May 25. 11:30am. Why don't you join QN this time? Cracker Barrel is starting to get nasty about having queers take every table in their restaurant. Lithonia Cracker Barrel on Panola Rd. off I-20 East. Meet there at 11:30 or at the Lindbergh MARTA station at 10:30am to carpool. 286-2355 for more info.

ACT/UP at GRADY IDC. Fri., May 31. 11:30am. ACT/UP urges everyone concerned about Grady's Infectious Disease Clinic's lack of space and staff for PWA's to join them in this demonstration to call attention to the problem. 378-7870 for more info.

Festivals

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC & COMEDY FESTIVAL. Thurs. May 23-27. The 8th annual SWMCF is happy happening again, just 80 miles from Atlanta. Music and dancing every night, diving every day. Workshops, women, and art in the beauty of the Georgia mountains. Send self-addressed envelope to SWMCF, 15842 Chase St. Sepulveda, CA 91343 or call (818) 893-4075.

DECATUR ARTS FESTIVAL. Fri. May 24-Sun. May 26. Cajun street party beings 6pm Friday. Weekend activities include juried art show, large artists' market, classic car show, garden tour, children's art fest and much, much more. Old Decatur Courthouse. 371-8386.

Health

SELF DISCOVERY SERIES. Thru 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.

WOMEN'S HEALTH, FERTILITY AND SEXUALITY. Wed. May 29. 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 of inaccuracies. Feminist Women's Health Center. 580 14th St. 874-7551.

Music

BOINK DEE DEEK. Thurs., May 23. She strums, she sings, she smiles and what can we do but listen and forget our troubles. Tracksie Tavern.

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.

STEVE WINWOOD. Fri. and Sat., May 24 & 25. 8pm. Stevie under the stars. Bring a hand to hold. Chastain Park Amphitheater. 231-5888.

WREK BENEFIT CONCERT. Fri., May 24. 9pm. An evening of entertainment to support the GA Tech alternative radio station featuring Holly Faith, Seven Simons, Hanging Francis, Deacon Lunchbox and Needle and Crash Lovely. Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid Ave. 524-7354.

SUGARSMACK. Sat., May 25. The founders and stars of Fetchin' Bones debut their new act dubbed "altermi-rock on the hip-house funk tip." What a mouthful. Velvet. 89 Park Place near the Ga. Pacific Bldg. 681-9936. Velvet by the way has been named one of four of the "Hot Clubs" in the US by Newsweek.

REGGAE SUN SPLASH CONCERT. Sun. May 26. 6pm. 7 hours of continuous music by 9 local reggae bands, a concert led by One Drop Plus sure to put you in a Jamaican frame of mind. Entrancing entertainment to benefit the Community Unity homeless mission. Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid Ave. 524-7354.

INDIGO GIRLS. Tues., May 28. 8pm. The homegirls are back in town and Atlanta should enjoy them while they can. If they get any more famous, they might have to move to L.A. Tour the bathrooms while you're there. The Fox Theatre. 249-6400.

CITY JAZZ BENEFIT. Fri., May 31. 8pm. Part of the Atlanta Jazz Festival. Features Bob James and Spyro Gyra. Chastain Park Amphitheater. 231-5888.

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.

NATALIE COLE. Wed., June 5. 8:30pm. Ms. Cole joins the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in a musical tribute to her father. Romantic melodies with just a touch of nostalgia. Chastain Park.

FOUR BITCHIN' BABES. Fri., June 7. 8:30 pm. Christine Lavin, Julie Gold, Megon McDonough and Sally Fingerett. Four female folk legends swap songs and funny stories. Gold is the Grammy-winning writer of "From A Distance." Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid Ave. 524-7354.

Sports

FRONT RUNNERS. Every Wed. at 6:30pm in Piedmont Park. Also every Saturday 9am at the Chattahoochee River off Powers Ferry Rd; 8am beginning June 1. Call Shelton Haynie (622-0739) or Lynne Patterson (438-1421) for info.

AVS BOWLING. Every Monday, 8:30pm. Its almost time to form summer leagues. Come down and see why Judy Tenuta says bowling fingers are so much fun. Express Lanes, Monroe Drive.

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. You'll get a kick out of it! 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.

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL. Fridays, 7:30-10:30pm. Whether you love to spike or spectate, these games will net your interest. Fall leagues forming now. Hellenic Center gym on Cheshire Bridge Road. 621-5062.

Theatre

DREAMS OF AN ARTFAIRY. Fri. & Sat., May 24 and 25. A witty and poignant solo piece looks into the lives of gay men through the eyes of some of the finest gay poets of the 20th century. Written and performed by Jeffrey Shanks. 14th St. Playhouse. 881-0817.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME. May 31- June 29. Classic comedy by Moss Hart and George Kaufman about the upheaval in Hollywood when the "talkies" came along. Neighborhood Playhouse. 373-3904.

THREE PLAYS IN MAY. Thru May 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. Seven Stages Theatre. 523-7647.

MA RAINEY'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. 892-2414.

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

A... MY NAME IS ALICE. Thru June 9. 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.

COMMEDIA DELL SHAKESPEARE. Thru June 2. Sat. only. 8 pm. A Shakespearean Vaudeville Show in the only Elizabethan performance tavern in the country. Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern. 499 P'tree St. 874-5299.

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.

ODD NIGHT IN AN ODD PLACE. Thru June 15. 8pm Wed-Sat.; 3pm on Sun. A musical homage to Ginsberg, Kerouac and the music of the Beat era. Wear black and come in a Lenny Bruce state of mind. May 29th performance is "pay what you can" night. Theatrical Outfit. 1012 Peachtree St. 872-0665.

ANGRY HOUSEWIVES. Thru June 30. 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.

Upcoming

SHOULD ALFA CONTINUE? Sat., June 8. 6pm. A potluck gathering to look at what ALFA is and whether it should continue to be. Bring your ideas, Now is a crucial time for the oldest lesbian organization in Atlanta. ALFA House. 378-9769.

CATHERINE FORREST. Sat., June 8. 7-9 pm. Reading and signing her latest, "Murder by Tradition." Charis Books & More. 524-0304.

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.

12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN PARENTS COALITION INTERNATIONAL. June 13-16. A TX style family reunion for the lavender tribe and their offspring. Write, GLPCI Box 7537, Houston, TX 77270.

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. Westin Peachtree Plaza. 662-4399.

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 325-4435.

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. 622-0739.

GAY & LESBIAN INTIMACY WORKSHOP. June 22 & 23. For singles and couples, the Into-Me-I-See workshop offers helpful insights into understanding and appreciating yourself and others. 333-0166.

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 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.

JOANN LOULAN. July 19 & 20. The Lesbian Erotic Dance, a new lecture and workshop, examines mating rituals in dykedom and how to get in step with a partner. 231-0751.

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.

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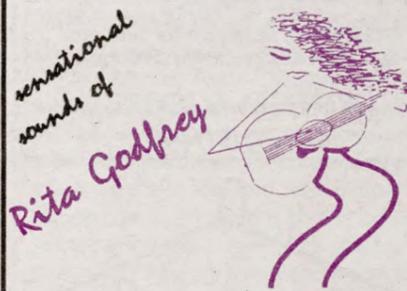
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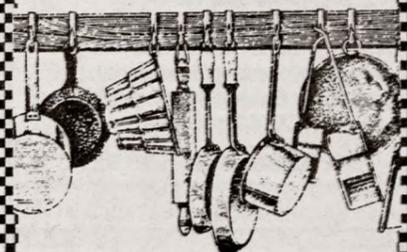
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Odd Night in an Odd Place is a crash course in the beat generation of the 50's, the generation who brought us Kerouac, Ginsberg and Lenny Bruce as well as Ike and the Beaver. Thru June 15. Theatrical Outfit. Pictured: Ellen McQueen, Klimchak and Sam Garafalo. Photo: Thomas Wells.

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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.
AIDS Legal Project—Free legal services to low income persons with HIV; civil cases only with focus on employment disputes, discrimination and assistance with public benefits (Social Security, Food Stamps, etc.) 688-5433.
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.

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The Cove—586 Worchester. 875-2477
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Loretta's—708 Spring St. 874-8125
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Options—2329 Cheshire Br. Rd. 634-4584
The Otherside—1924 Piedmont Road. 875-5238
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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

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Tower Lounge—735 Ralph McGill. 688-5463
Traxx—306 Luckie St. 681-5033
Weekends—688 Spring St. 875-5835

DIRECT ACTION/POLITICAL
ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—Working for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the metropolitan Atlanta area. 523-6201.
AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—Direct action group with the purpose of fighting homophobia, AIDS, sexism and racism. Meetings held Tuesday at 7:30 PM, NAPWA offices at 98 6th St. 286-6247.
BIAS Crime Hot Line Line—To report all bias/hate crime incidents and police abuse. 286-BIAS.
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—Works to lessen public expressions of homophobia, especially in the media. Meets First Mon., 7pm at Peachtree Library. 286-7476
Greater Atlanta Political Awareness Coalition—Meetings vary. The gay and lesbian political action committee monitoring and acting in the local political scene. 368-7420.
Human Rights Campaign Fund—The nation's largest Lesbian & Gay political + lobbying organization. Field office, 373-6330. Annual dinner committee, 365-8766.
Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians—A voice for lesbians and gays in the Democratic party. Mtgs. on 3rd Mon. of the month. 7pm at P'tree Library. 286-7476.
Queer Nation—Direct action countering homophobia and educating the public. Meets 2d and 4th Mon. at Peachtree Branch Library. 286-2355.

PROFESSIONAL
Atlanta Business & Professional Guild—A service organization of both gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals and businesspersons. Meets 2d Tues. 355-1800.
Fourth Tuesday—A networking organization for lesbian professionals and entrepreneurs. Regular dinner meetings on 4th Tues. Also special events. 662-4353.
Success Oriented Networking Group—Structured networking for gay/lesbian and non-gay professionals. Meets every other Weds. 662-4202

SPIRITUAL
All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—Serving metro Atlanta with positive Christian support for lesbians and gay men. Services 7 pm every Sun. at 575 Boulevard, SE. 622-1154.
Circle of Healing—Open to anyone in need of healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 7:30 PM. at First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. 378-5570
Congregation Bet Haverim Reconstructionist Synagogue serving the Gay and Lesbian community. Services every Fri. at 8pm at AIDS Interfaith Network 1053 Juniper St. Shabbat Seder 2nd Fridays monthly at 7:30pm. 642-3467.
First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta—A Christian church proclaiming God's love for lesbians and gay men. Counseling available by appointment. Same sex Holy Unions performed. Sun. at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM Also Weds. 7:30 PM. 800 N. Highland Ave. 872-2246.
Gay & Lesbian Mormons—Affirmation group organizing in the Atlanta area. For info call 570-2561 (dig. page).
Gay Catholics of Georgia and Friends—Support group for lesbian/gay Catholics and friends. Meetings and activities vary. 390-0739.
Integrity—Ministry of Gay Episcopalians 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. 7:30 PM. All Saints Episcopal Church, 3rd floor of Ellis Hall. 642-3183.
Lambda Light—A meditation group for lesbians and gay men. Meets weekly. 876-2203 or 872-5772.
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.

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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. 8am 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 outreach 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 over-come. 794-BWMT.

Codependents Anonymous-Lambda—A 12-step program of recovery from codependency for gays and lesbians. Meetings Tues. & Wed. at 8 PM and Sun. at 7pm. 239-1657.

The Cobb County Group—Monthly social and frequent recreational activities for those who live in Cobb. 438-1421.

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

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

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 battered and 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 In Kahoots—(WINK) Women-only group forming in the Cobb County area. Support, social, networking. Call 438-1421 for more info.

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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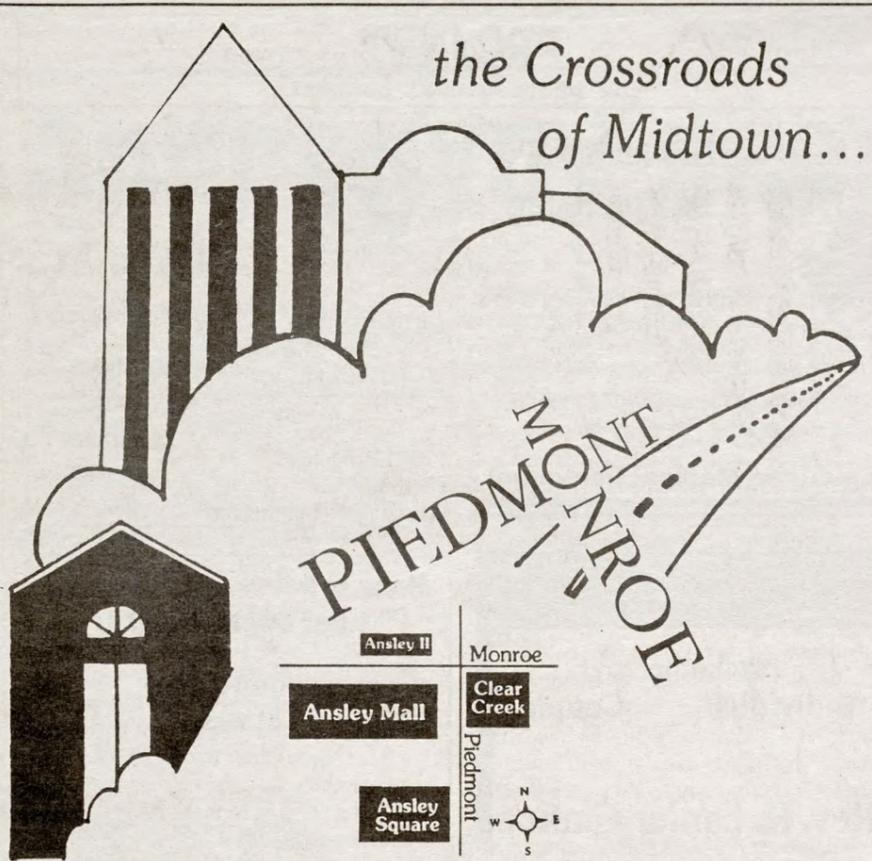
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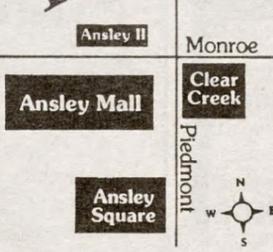
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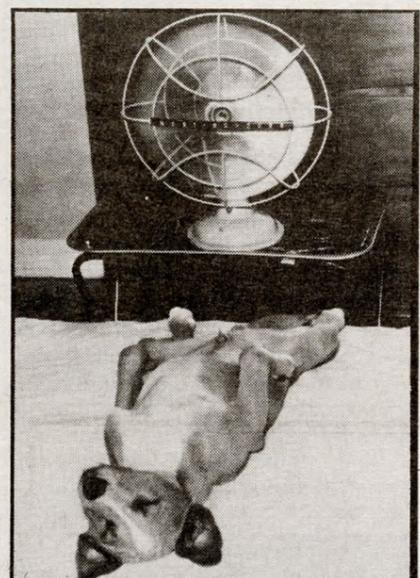
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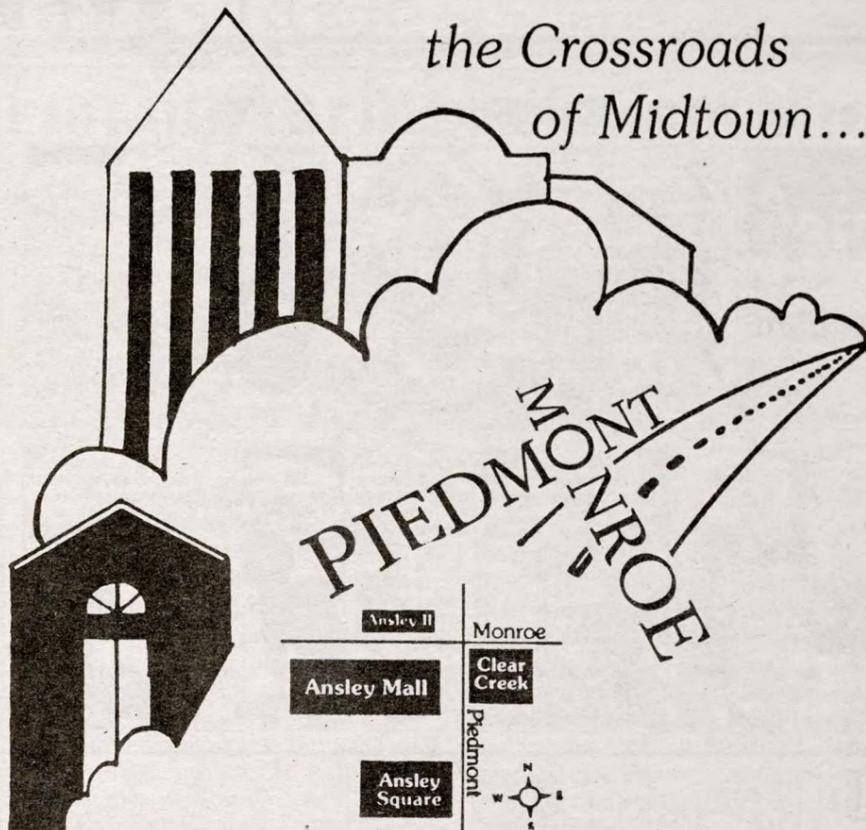
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DISH

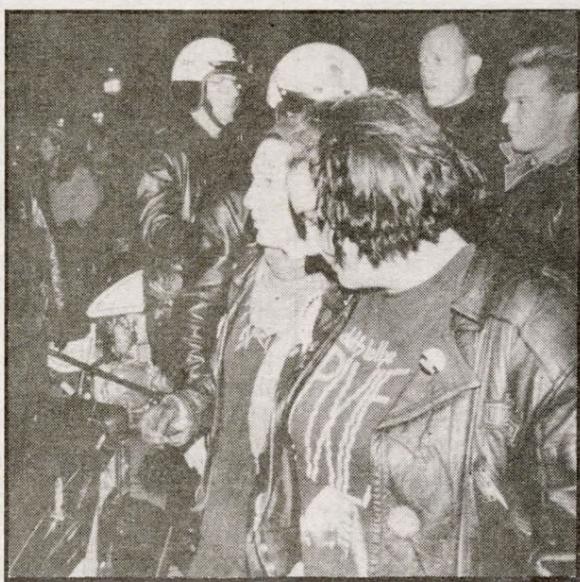
there's a fine line between telling the truth and talking trash

Nancy's Boys: Dish has been in a dither about whether or not to run out and drop \$24.95 for our very own copy of Kitty Kelley's hatchet job on Nancy R. It's a bunch of bucks for 603 pages of trash, but a small price to pay for the joy of knowing all the dish on one of the most unattractive women (Imelda and Leona notwithstanding) to come into public view in the late 20th Century. We found our answer in Joe Queenan's superlative analysis in the N.Y. Time Book Review (May 5). Mr. Q. let us in on some facts about Ronnie Jr's mom that we had not previously known, to wit: Nancy was "a known consorter with homosexuals;" "her grandmother was a lesbian;" and "as a girl she herself was known to hang out with women of Sapphic propensities." Queenan also tells us a soon to be released cassette version of the book (narrated by Kelley) that will sell for a mere \$15.95. Anybody wanna' loan us their Walk(wo)man?

Coincidence?: Dish notes without comment the following two headlines which ran side by side on the front page of the Atlanta Constitution two weeks ago: "Group paints bleak picture of job prospects for women" and "Female embryos become male as scientists find 'sex trigger'."

Get Met: Met Home that is, not Met Life. OK, we know that we go off regularly about the slickest and most often yapped-out of the shelter mags, but Dish is also regularly reduced to tears by the honest and touching ways in which Metropolitan Home treats AIDS and gay men—lesbians, alas, are not much in evidence in its pages. Check the article "A Collector's Garden: A living legacy" in the June '91 issue to see what we mean. Drop a "thank you" to Met Home's Editor in Chief, Dorothy Kalins at 750 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 and suggest that some visible lesbians (and people with other than white skin) would only make you happier.

...And Essence: Our thanks to GLAAD/NY for the news that the May edition of Essence magazine—their special issue on moms and daughters—carries an excellent article by that publication's Senior editor, Linda Villarosa, detailing the process that she and her mom went through when Linda came out. Such integrity and honesty is too seldom seen in mainstream publications, especially those aimed at the black



RINK FOTO

community. Essence, you may remember, refused (and then later agreed) to run an ad for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference last winter. Write the publisher, Mr. Edward Lewis, at 1500 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036, tell him how important articles like Villarosa's are and how much you would like to see more. Essence's fax is (212) 921-5173, the phone (212) 642-0600.

Coming Attractions: Dish was in San Francisco a couple of weeks ago and stumbled upon a group of demonstrators raising unholy hell near the Moscone Center—the two dykes pictured replaced two gay men who were yanked away by police when they tried to block the path of a film company limo. At issue is the plot line of Basic Instinct, a new action/mystery/thriller flic being shot in America's gay mecca. Instincts features a female bisexual ice pick killer and a lesbian murderer; the hero, naturally, is a white male het played by Michael Douglas. Members

of Queer Nation, NOW, GLAAD and other groups have been meeting with screenwriter Joe Eszterhas (who got a cool \$3 million for the script) and director Paul Verhoven to get the characters changed, but Verhoven seems to be stuck on his "artistic right and freedom."

Quote of the Week: From author Edmund White, "I hate wisdom. What drunks, politicians and the idle proffer so freely gives me an allergic reaction. Most wisdom, I'm convinced is made up of what S.I. Hayakawa used to call 'purr words,' reassuringly familiar and empty vocables that go down well uttered in any order, even in reverse.... wisdom Scuds." For a minute Dish thought White had been reading about Maynard Jackson in Southern Voice, but his comments, alas, were about French/Rumanian author E.M. Cioran, and his new book Anathemas and Admirations.

Michael With Muscles?: Madonna (who appeared at the Cannes Film Fest preview of *Truth or Dare* in a white lace bra with missiles sown on to its points—tits of death?) has told Michael Jackson that its time to ditch his post-Sgt. Pepper look and get a new image. But you knew that. What you may not know is that Michael has contacted photogs Bruce Weber and Herb Ritts for input as to what that new look should be. Michael Jackson (in Calvin Klein briefs) with muscles and a blond buzz cut? Or Michael (again with muscles), skin ever-so slightly glazed with sweat, holding up a big dirty tire? Wrong! Madonna may be right about Michael's need for a redo, but butch is *not* the answer to the begloved one's facade fantasies.

Political Expediency of the Week: The good news is that the House of Representatives in New Hampshire, one of two states which did not give employees a paid holiday on MLK Jr's birthday, has finally voted to do so. The bad news is that the third Monday in January will be called "Civil Rights Day" rather than "MLK Jr Day." And get this: in order not to spend any extra bucks in the process, the solons voted to do away with another paid holiday, Fast Day, declared in 1681 when the government ordered citizens to pray and fast for the state's ailing then-governor, John Cutts. Cutts croaked, but his healing holiday survived... for 310 years. Honest.

May 23 - June 5

RULING PLANETS

by Mary Bailey-Rule

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLOTH

Happy Birthday, Gemini's! The Full Moon is on May 28, so take it easy over the holiday. Use the time to regenerate rather than expend energy you may not have.

ARIES—With Mars moving into your 5th house of passion and self-expression, you will definitely need to explore avenues of creativity and play. Lots of energy to be expressed and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about yourself.



TAURUS—Mercury is in your 1st house of personality and self-awareness, so you may find it easier to organize your thinking and express your thoughts, perhaps your feelings, with other people. Also, a short trip may be in order.



GEMINI—Happy Birthday to you! With the Sun in your 1st house, Venus in your 2nd and Mars in the 3rd, it is going to be a very busy month, so keep your priorities in focus, and, please, try not to spread yourself too thin.



CANCER—Venus in your 1st house of primal personality and self-awareness should help balance all the shifts and changes in your 7th house of personal relationships. Expect, and enjoy, more internal peace and harmony.



LEO—Mars moves into your 1st house of personality and your physical body on the 26th, so expect an increase of energy and self-confidence. A good time for a medical check-up or at least a tune-up or a thorough massage.



VIRGO—Mercury is in your 9th house of travel and higher learning, so you may be feeling restless. If so, take a short trip, take a break from your routine, or take a metaphysical class. Seek out people with similar aspirations.



LIBRA—With Saturn, ruling chronological time and space limitations, retrograde in your 5th house of creativity and passion, you may feel pressure, as if you were running out of time. Not true, there is always time for essentials.



SCORPIO—Saturn is now retrograde in your 4th house environment of home, family, and parents. If you are feeling a strong urge to put down roots somewhere, try to be close to water even if it is only a stream or small lake.



SAGITTARIUS—The Sun is in your 7th house, ruled by Gemini, which means lots of new people in your life, friends, lovers, and potential business partners. Old friends may be in contact, so write down names and addresses.



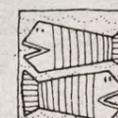
CAPRICORN—With the Sun in your 6th house of personal health and responsibilities, you may find your life at work a little chaotic. If so, take a personal day, prop your feet up and read the latest book on "chaos theory."



AQUARIUS—This may not be an easy month for you with Saturn retrograde and the Uranus/Neptune duo moving backward in your 12th house of the unknown and unseen. An excellent time to get to know yourself a little better.



PISCES—Venus is moving through your 5th house of play, creativity and passion, so look for new and exciting ways to express yourself. Be creative, innovative and put some fun in your life. Focus on what you enjoy doing.



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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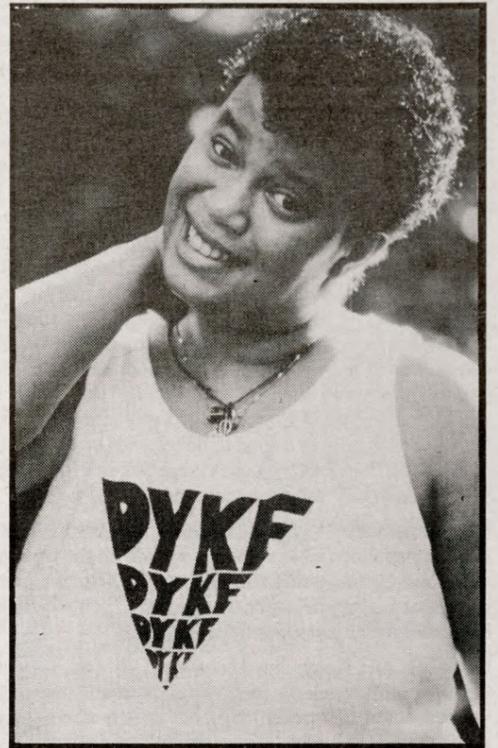
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KAREN DUNGAN

DENISE HASKINS

Age: 31
Occupation: Bartender
Relationship Status:
Four years in a relationship
Favorite comedian:
Rosanne Barr—
"She's funny; she's real; she's big; she doesn't care."
Professional Goal:
To be a sommelier

She's funny that way

I met Denise Haskins several years ago in the men's room at the Buckhead Drafthouse at a Joan Armatrading concert. She stood in front of my stall (do men tear the doors off the stalls in the bathrooms, or do they just make them that way?) while I peed. I have felt a common bond with her ever since.

Denise Haskins is a bartender by profession, but she has become best known to the Atlanta theater audience as a member of "Funny That Way," the only Atlanta lesbian and gay improvisation troupe. Funny That Way has been entertaining Atlanta audiences for about two years, and Haskins has been part of the troupe for 18 months. "When I first tried it, I was awful at it, so I said 'I'm never doing that again,'" she says. "But I was away for six months, and then I got it. You have to practically drag me off the stage now," Haskins adds.

Haskins has lived in Atlanta for nine years, after having done a lot of moving around before that. Until she was 14 years old her family lived in the Washington, D.C. area. "The only thing I liked about D.C. was what you could do there, the museums and stuff," she says. As a United Methodist Minister, Haskins' father moved his family to several states along the east coast until they eventually settled in North Carolina. Haskins liked North Carolina and stayed to go to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Creative Arts degree, which she describes as a degree in "artistic problem solving."

When she moved to Atlanta, Haskins says, "I was in love, and I was moving to Atlanta to be with my lover. Two months before I was to move, she found someone else. Being a Taurus, naturally I said, 'I'm moving anyway.'" Haskins also came to Atlanta to act, hoping to get her Actor's Equity card and eventually go to New York, but "that didn't work out."

Her first acting job in Atlanta was performing in Leather Dinner Theater at the Redoubt on Ponce de Leon (remember?). "That was pretty much the strangest theater I've ever done," says Haskins. She performed Googie Gomez in "The Ritz." Satan DeVille did all my

costumes," she says. "They made me a real girl though, as only boys can."

Haskins and her lover Lisa Doesburg began their relationship four years ago in July. "It was the classic lesbian love story," she says. "She was my friend, and on our first date she moved in." The only other woman in Haskins' life is Chicklet, a bright red van with pink triangle eyebrows that transports Funny That Way cast and props. The van is named after a character in "Psycho Beach Party," a SAME production.

She met some of the other performers in Funny That Way, including director Deb Calabria, through SAME (Southeastern Arts Media Education Project) productions, and joined the group shortly after its inception. Funny That Way has performed improvisation at local clubs ("We opened and closed the Court Bar and Grill in Decatur.") and at an annual gay and lesbian picnic in Tennessee held at Falls Creek Falls Park ("It rained all weekend, and we had a great time.")

Funny That Way has just completed a run of Deb Calabria's "Wet Dreams and Other Lesbian Tales" at 2069 The Page. "It's basically a set of lesbian fairy tales," says Haskins. The lesbian members of the troupe also performed "Wet Dreams" at the National Lesbian Conference. After their run at The Page, they are all taking to the road, performing "Wet Dreams" in Athens in June and at Rhythm Fest in August.

Haskins plans to continue to perform with Funny That Way and expects the group to stay together for a while. She says that she prefers to stay with one theater group rather than go from audition to audition. The next Funny That Way production will be a gay musical. "I get to be pregnant in that," she says; "it's going to be an interesting challenge."

—Debbie Fraker

AIDS Services & Education

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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 information.

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,#7)

A.B.C., (Atlanta Buyer's Club) is now forming. Goal: to become a non-for 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. (V4,#7)

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.

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

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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 more 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. (V4,#9)

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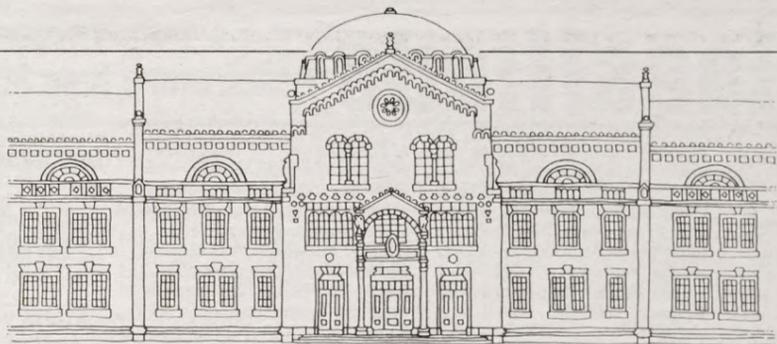
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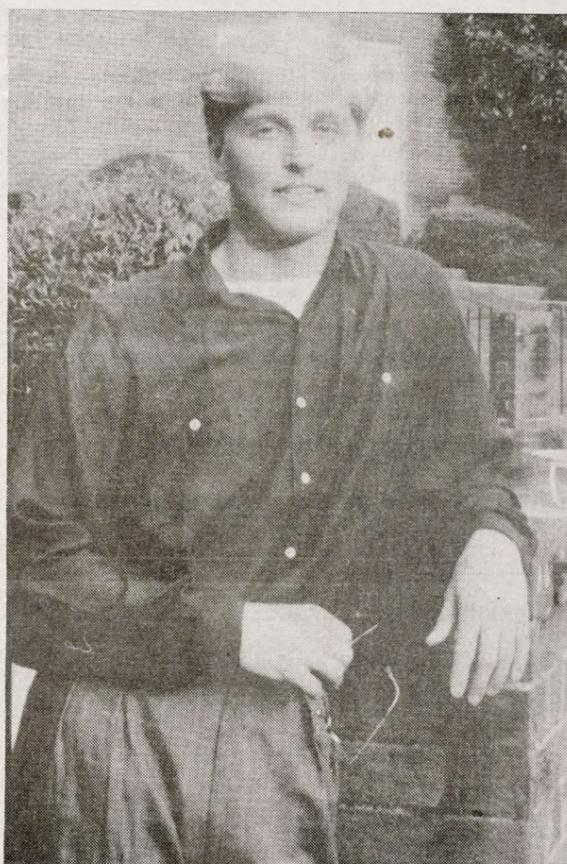
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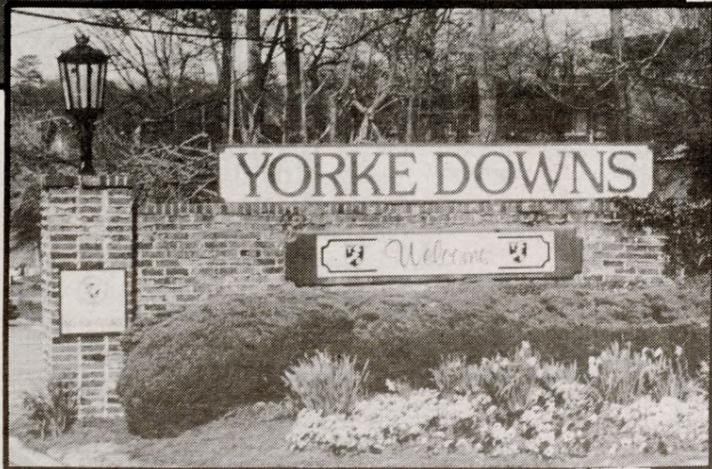
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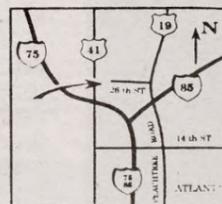
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AUTO FOR SALE - 1990 Jeep Wrangler. White/black trim w/grey soft top & bikini top. Fully loaded. Air / pull-out stereo, Bose speaker. Step. Hitch. Carpet / cloth seats. \$11,000. Call 622-6123 and leave message. (V4,#7)

1969 2D Plymouth Valiant, \$500. Call 876-4752 days, ask for Constance. (V4,#7)

Employment

Filipino Restaurant. Opening soon in VA/HIGH. Hiring for all positions. Call 441-9273. (V4,#9)

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)

HAIR SALON - PART TIME Buckhead salon needs experienced assistant. 237-3302. (V4,#8)

Account Reps Needed by THE ATLANTA BALLET for our 1991/92 season. The oldest Arts Organization in Atlanta invites you to earn money. Good wages, commissions, bonuses, await the motivated person. Call Emory Garner after 6PM. 873-5812. (V4,#7)

Full-time hand screen printer, experienced only, for an Atlanta Textile Co. Immediate position. Women encouraged to apply. Call 351-0902 (Michele or Renee) for an interview. (V4,#7)

For Rent

Winner of Atlanta's "BEST NEW DEVELOPMENT" Award. Exclusive one & two bedroom garden, loft and townhomes. 13 ft. ceilings. Full size gym w/regulation basketball court. National register of historic buildings. Minutes from downtown in Grant Park historical district. THE ROOSEVELT HISTORIC APARTMENT HOMES. 624-4424. (V4,#9)

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VA/HIGH DUPLEX - 2 BR, 1 BA. Utility room. W/D & small freezer 19 cu. ft. refrig. w/ice maker. Mini-blinds. Hardwood floors. Off-street parking. Gas grill. \$700 + deposit. 870 Barnett St. Call 876-2016 after 5 PM. (V4,#9)

GREENWOOD AVE - \$335. 1 Bedroom. Great space for the price in this small building. Nice eat-in kitchen. PREFERRED MANAGEMENT CO. 352-9100. (V4,#9)

LENOX/CHESHIRE BRIDGE - \$350. 1 Bedroom. Nice size. Carpet. CH/A. PREFERRED MANAGEMENT CO. 352-9100. (V4,#9)

MIDTOWN - \$365. Super renovated 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors. CH/A. Close to everything. PREFERRED MANAGEMENT CO. 352-9100. (V4,#9)

VA/HIGH - \$335. Nicest 1 bedroom apt. in VA/HIGH for the price! PREFERRED MANAGEMENT CO. 352-9100 (V4,#9)

VA/HIGH - \$350. Great space in nice brick building. Hardwood floors. Fresh paint. A/C. Convenient. PREFERRED MANAGEMENT CO. 352-9100. (V4,#9)

MIDTOWN CONDO - Clean 2 BR, 1 BA. New appliances including W/D. Cable. Off-street parking. 2 blocks from Piedmont Park. \$590. 881-0600. (V4,#7)

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to VOICE CONNECTION personal ads: Call 1-900-454-4242 (access 45). The system will guide you through the procedure for VOICE CONNECTION. You can only reply to VOICE CONNECTION ads identified by this symbol.

GWF - 39, striking, stable, successful. Wants to date women of similar nature. If you're 35-45, feminine type with general athletic tendencies, call me and let's discuss exercising our options. No cigarettes, smokeless tobacco or drugs. Non-drinkers preferred. 45047. (V4,#10)

GBF, 27, drug-free! I'm single, feminine, short, kinda cute, and ready to meet the woman of my dreams. If you're happy, single, kinda cute, "dominant," and strictly lez, you're the one for me. Call quickly before I'm taken!! 45045. (V4,#10)

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)

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-Blind),

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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 sensuous, 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,#7)

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,#7)

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,#7)

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,#7)

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 pecks, cute smiles, and cuddlers. Call or write and let's see what happens! ☐ 45001 (V4,#7)

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,#7)

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,#7)

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,#7)

From Michael - I'm looking for another guy who is smooth and muscular. I am 6', 170lbs, br/bl/mustache. Into intense rub-downs. ☐ 45015 (V4,#7)

\$5.00. Southern Voice will not publish personal phone numbers or home addresses. You may run a personal PO Box.

TO RESPOND BY MAIL

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.

GWM, 21, relatively out, political, environmentally aware. Enjoys mountain biking, modern dance, Cocteau Twins, camping, Vonnegut, evening runs, vegetarian cooking, Grateful Dead, and Almodovar films, seeks person, 20-30, with varied interests who does them well and has a passion for learning. Please send letter and phone number. SV 2407. (V4,#8)

BLACK LESBIAN Couple 26 and 40. Enjoy movies, the arts, music, travel, photography, outdoor adventures, and stimulating conversation. Desire to meet other lesbians for friendship. Any race. No drugs, heavy drinking or smoking. PO Box 115297, Atlanta, GA 30310-5297. SV 2406. (V4,#10)

In the "Burbs." Seeking male face to wake up to. Prefer age 35-50, but not restricted. Belief in God is a plus. Oriental a plus. Write SV 2409. (V4,#8)

GWM, mid-50's. 5'9", 160. Want GWM who needs love, care, and good home. Likes to travel and enjoy life w/older gentleman. Must be at least 18 years old. SV 2408. (V4,#9)

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)

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)



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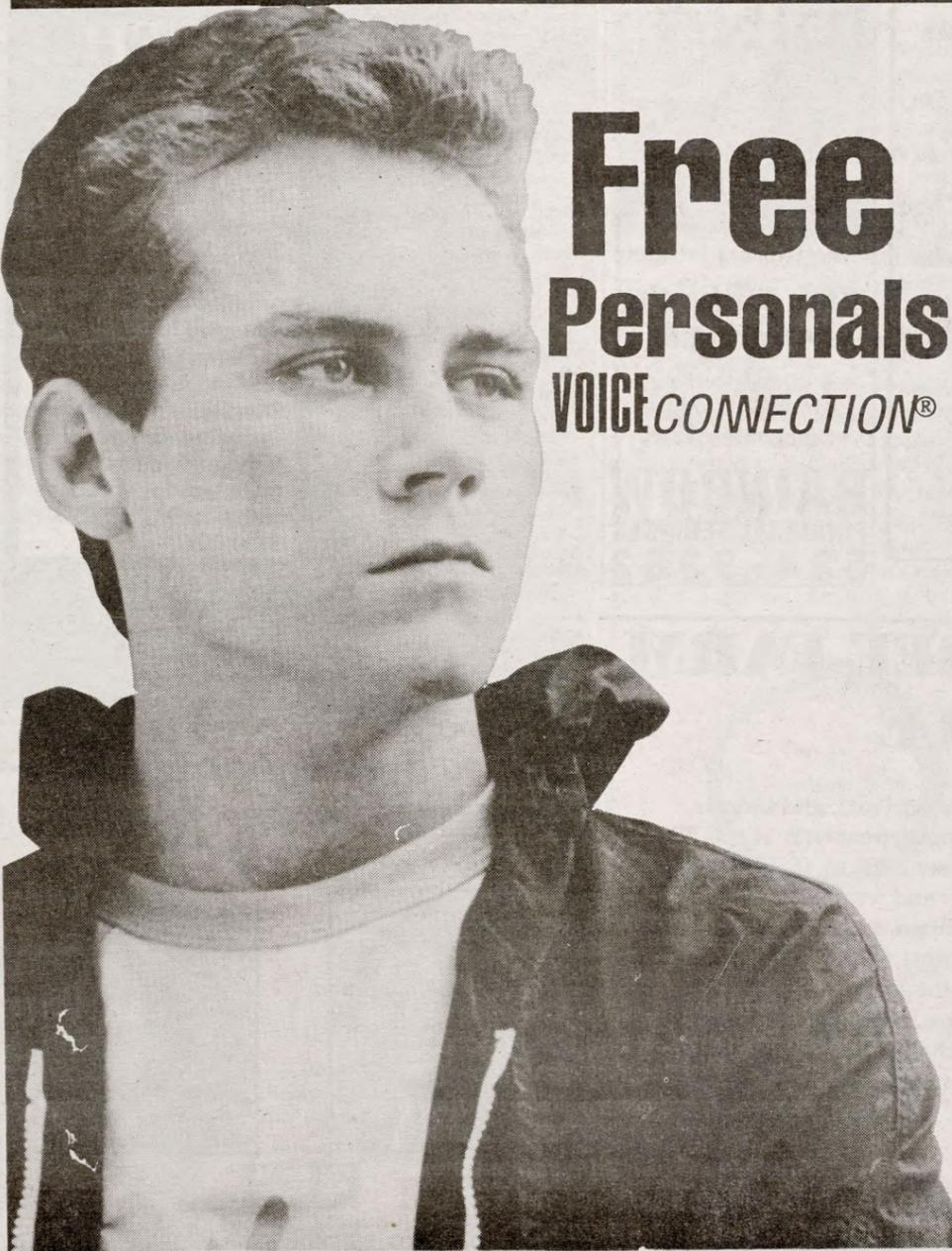
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Personals

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,#7)

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,#7)

Trim, easy-going (good at massage) white male new to HIV+ scene seeks others for safe fun. POB 53142, Atlanta, GA 30355. (V4,#7)

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,#7)

GWM - 28, 5'10", 155, Brn/Gm, 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,#7)

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 phonies, deadbeats, feds, sex addicts, liars, or mental cases. Photo please. Healthy in all respects and expect same. Mark, Box 130568, Birmingham, AL 35213. (V4,#6)

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

BLUE EYED TOP: clean-cut & 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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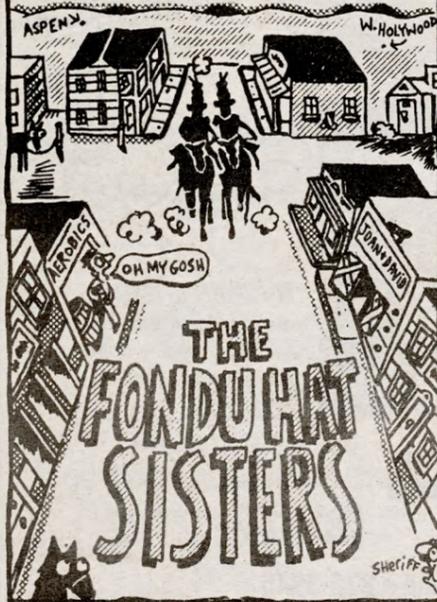
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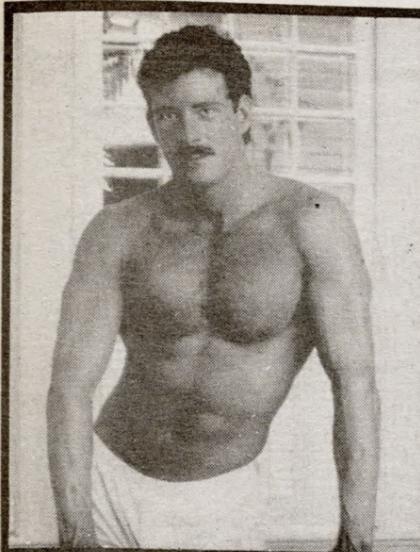
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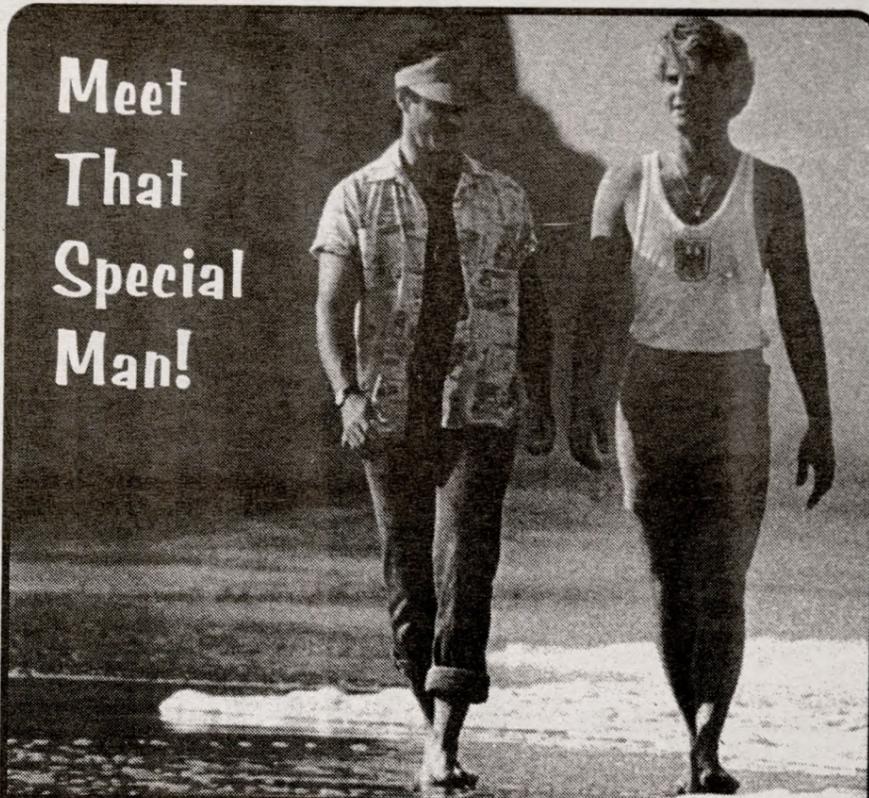
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