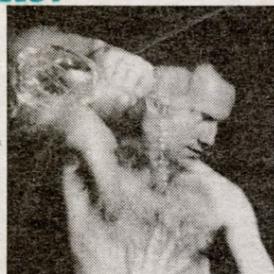


VOICE

Taking Pride in Our Culture

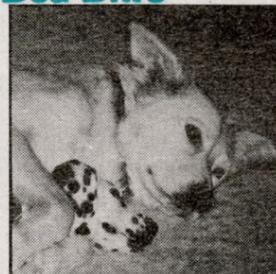
HOT



Atlanta theatre
runs both hot & cold this
summer. Here are three to
consider.

9

DOG DAYS



Cats, too!
Meet the winners of our Pet
Photo contest and learn how
PALS helps PWAs and
their pets.

24

RELIEF



Jeanne White
and ARTCARE '91 helped
raise \$100K for local AIDS
groups. Ryan's mom is
alright.

15

D.C. group outs Pentagon spokesperson

by Cliff O'Neill
and from staff reports

Washington, D.C. — On June 28 ten to twelve activists from the newly-formed chapter of Queer Nation/National Club gathered in front of a local gay nightclub to kick off a citywide poster campaign intended to expose the alleged homosexuality of head Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams.

Queer Nation's Michael Petrelis, a D.C. activist known for his controversial tactics, charged "Pete Williams, an openly closeted gay man, hypocritically remains silent in his job as Pentagon spokesman while the Department of Defense continues its irrational policy of ejecting thousands of gays and lesbians from the armed services."

The Department of Defense discharges up to 2,000 service people a year based upon a long-held but increasingly discredited policy that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

The Queer Nation posters, which feature a large picture of Williams at a Pentagon press briefing, are emblazoned with the statement, "Absolutely Queer, Pete Williams" across the top. Below the picture appears the statement "Pentagon spokesman, tap dancer, consummate queer."

Williams was profiled in a recent *Washington Post* article, which among other things indicated the bachelor is a resident of the heavily-gay Adams Morgan neighborhood

HRCF staffer Gregory King reacts with disgust about the outing of his friend Pete Williams

and is an experienced tap dancer.

Williams, who normally is accessible to reporters, has not chosen to comment and did not return a number of telephone calls placed by this reporter about the matter.

The activists said their action came because of what they called Pentagon "harassment" of Air Force Captain Greg Greeley in late June, when officials held up his impending discharge for two days after they learned he led D.C.'s gay and lesbian pride parade a day short of the end of his service career.

At the press conference, Petrelis issued an ultimatum to Williams. "Either come out and use your position to help end this groundless and harmful Pentagon hypocrisy, or stop enjoying the fruits of the gay and lesbian community while contributing nothing in return."

Although Petrelis and others stated that "certain data" supported the claim that Williams is gay, the only proof they provided was that Queer Nation member Stephen J. Smith, a bartender at several D.C. gay clubs, claimed he saw Williams patronizing some of those establishments.

Smith further stated that a male friend once dated and

engaged in sex with Williams, but said he didn't "feel comfortable" giving his friend's name to reporters for independent verification.

Petrelis described Williams' homosexuality as an "open secret" in Washington and pointed to Williams' friendship with Gregory King, communications director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

King, angered by the Queer Nation announcement, acknowledged that he has maintained a friendship with the Pentagon spokesman since the early 1980's when they both served as chief press aides to two members of Congress.

"I've been a friend of Pete Williams for many, many years," said King. "We both worked as press secretaries, and as press secretary I was friends with (people in) both parties and I think it's an outrage that someone presumes that all my friends are gay."

When questioned, King declined to say whether he was aware of Williams' sexual orientation.

"I am opposed to outing and have no comment," he stated.

King added, however, that he has discussed the matter of gays and lesbians in the military with Williams, whom he said was "very open to receiving the information" and has been "very helpful to our cause."

King also said that since his acquaintanceship with

See page 2

Gay Life in Israel

Denied by their culture, gay Israelis struggle for identity

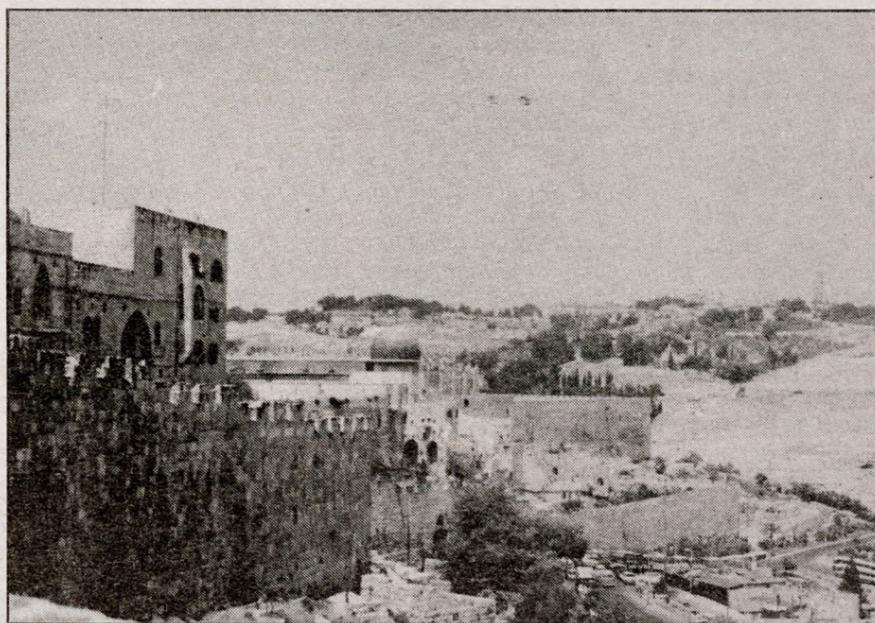
by Steve Alper

Upon arriving in Israel one's first impression is the overwhelming mixture of diverse cultures, races, ethnic groups, political identities, and religious sentiments. It is in this context that political and social awareness in Israel's lesbian and gay community is slowly developing, mostly through the efforts of immigrants from western Europe and North America. Native Israeli women and men do not identify deeply with being gay or lesbian for a number of reasons. Canadian-born Ron Ben-Ezra believes that "they are frightened of being gay or lesbian in Israeli society especially as Israel is very small and very intimate. If you come out, you come out to the whole country. Wherever you go you will meet someone you know."

Ben-Ezra, a board member and spokesperson for the SPPR (Society for the Protection of Personal Rights), was active in gay politics in Sydney, Australia, before coming to Israel seven years ago. According to Ben-Ezra, "Israel is very nonaccepting but very tolerant towards gays and lesbians," suggesting that this attitude is shaped by three forces. First,

Middle Eastern notions of sexuality distinguish less between the gender of the sexual object than between dominant party and submissive party. Indeed, there is no word either in Hebrew or Arabic for "homosexual." Second, Israel is the product of a social revolutionary movement. Each movement assumes that it has cured all social "ills;" consequently, homosexuality simply no longer exists in Israel. Finally, social attitudes are powerfully shaped by Jewish ethics and tradition. While Jewish law forbids homosexual acts, the ethics that produce strong family connections among Jews tend to soften the condemnation or exclusion of anyone who does not quite fit the mold. These three forces combined create a culture which denies the existence of its gay people, leaving gays free from restrictions for the most part but also without a sense of cohesiveness and a culture of their own.

Israel is a nation with a large immigrant population and a clear division in attitudes between immigrant and native gays and lesbians is evident. "In the U.S. being gay is almost a separate ethnicity, it is a com-



munity," says Ben-Ezra. "In Israel there is no such separation. Israeli lesbians and gays try to fit in. Israel is such a small country that there is not a sufficient economic base to support separate or special facilities. Israel is not an alcohol-based society so people do not go out drinking so there is no economic basis for gay bars, disco, or a gay ghetto defined by bars. The notion of 'Gay Pride' or 'Gay Community' has not caught on. The emphasis is on the individual who has rights rather than a community that has status."

But awareness of homosexuality in Israel is growing, primarily due to the media's coverage of the AIDS crisis. Coverage of lesbian and gay issues now occurs independent of AIDS related matters and is, except for the inflammatory and sensationalist gutter press, "on the whole, factual and unbiased," says Ben-Ezra. Israel's three youth newspapers also run stories on homosexuality, including surveys, interviews with gays and lesbians, and question and answer sections. One

See page 20

Queer Nation barred from Cracker Barrel property

14 Queer Nationals buy CB stock but are still denied access to restaurant

by KC Wildmoon

Atlanta—Fourteen Cracker Barrel stockholders, who are also members of Queer Nation, were barred from Cracker Barrel property on July 14, as were some 100 other protesters. The fourteen stockholders carried day-glo orange signs bearing Cracker Barrel stock certificates. Larry Pellegrini, Jerry Earwood, Robin Reid, Zan Thornton, David MacDonald, Lynn Cothren, Stanley Mobley, Richard Cantrell, Sandra Riley, Cheryl Summerville, Jeff Cheek, Patrick Allen, Tom Payton and Richard Braddock purchased the stock last week, but were denied access to the Lithonia restaurant with no comment by Cracker Barrel representatives.

"We thought they might let us in since we were stockholders," said Pellegrini, "but it didn't make a difference to them. I guess they'll deal with us at the stockholders meeting."

The fourteen plan to attend the meeting, scheduled for later this year. In addition, Queer Nationals plan to buy more stock in the company.

Protesters were met at the entrance to the restaurant's parking lot by Lithonia store manager Melvin Jones and Cracker Barrel attorneys Stacey Conyers and Raoul Lerow. The representatives identified themselves to Queer Nationals, the first time they have done so. They recited what sounded like a rehearsed speech to each protester individually, telling them "based on your previous disruptions to our business, you are not welcome at this Cracker Barrel or any other, and that's why I'm asking you to leave at this time."

Immediately after the CB representatives delivered their message, protesters were told by DeKalb County police to move to the side-



KAREN DUNGAN

Cracker Barrel representatives Raoul Lerow, Melvin Jones and Stacey Conyers explain to Queer Nationals Richard Cantrell, Larry Pellegrini (with camera) and Zan Thornton why they cannot step onto Cracker Barrel property.

walk where a legal picket was taking place. Conyers, Lerow and Jones made no other comments, and ignored questions and statements from the Queer Nationals. The three left the area after speaking with about 2/3 of the protesters. Police remained on the scene directing traffic and blocking access to the restaurant.

Alan Arfken, a Cracker Barrel attorney who allegedly pushed at least one Queer

National at the last action on June 30, was present, but was told to remain inside the restaurant by DeKalb police. The protesters involved in the earlier altercation with Arfken are still considering bringing charges against him. Jody Waller, CB District Manager, was not at the protest, as he had been at all previous actions.

Queer Nation's boycott of Cracker Barrel continued to gain support, as members of

LEGAL, NOW, Georgians for Choice, ALFA, and other local organizations attended Sunday's demonstration. In addition, Pellegrini reported that the Nashville Coalition to Boycott Cracker Barrel had gained the endorsements of 23 unions. A demonstration at a Nashville Cracker Barrel on July 14 brought out 40 Tennesseans. The protesters successfully carried out a sit-in in the restaurant, ordering only tea and coffee. They remained in the restaurant for two hours with no questions or harassment by CB management.

Plans were also announced for a march on the Lebanon, Tennessee, headquarters of Cracker Barrel. Queer Nation/Atlanta will work with the Nashville group to organize a Southeastern regional meeting about the boycott on August 10, with a rally and picket at corporate headquarters scheduled for 11:30 am on August 11.

"There have been four additional firings [three in Mobile, Alabama, and one in Valdosta] since they allegedly rescinded their policy of firing homosexuals," said Cheryl Summerville, a Queer Nation spokesperson who was fired from the Douglasville restaurant. "It's not over, so we're calling on people from all over the South to join us in Lebanon."

In addition to the march on Lebanon, Queer Nation/Atlanta is planning fundraisers to support future actions in the metro area. A benefit will be held at Petrus on July 28, at 8:00 pm.

"We desperately need financial help from the community due to fines and bail," said Summerville. "We're in debt, but we want to continue this struggle, including further arrests."

New queer group hits the streets

Q.A.C. members want different focus, structure than QN

by KC Wildmoon

Atlanta - Over the July 4th holiday, a newly formed direct action group made itself known literally on the streets of Atlanta. Queer Action Caucus, or Q.A.C. (pronounced "Quack") spray painted day-glo triangles emblazoned with the words "hate crime occurred here" or "gay man bashed here" on sidewalks where hate crimes had occurred. The group formed when some members of Queer Nation became dissatisfied with QN's focus on Cracker Barrel.

Q.A.C. member Padraig McManus-McLoughlin said that he and others involved with Queer Nation wanted to take a stronger stand against violent homophobia on the streets. "We couldn't get that done [in Queer Nation]," he said, "so we started Q.A.C. We will fight homophobia and gain more visibility by direct action means. We have done a second wave of spray painting [since the holiday weekend], and we will do more."

Q.A.C. is modeled after some of the first Queer Nation groups formed in other cities, according to member Joe DeRose, and plans to use some of those groups' tactics, such as Queer Nights Out, to increase lesbian and gay visibility. The first of those actions, a "Queer Sunday Morning" visit to First Baptist Church on July 7, was "relatively uneventful," said DeRose. "The two of us were assigned an escort, who sat with us through the services. He was actually very nice," he said.

McManus-McLoughlin said the group, which currently has ten members, is planning future actions. "We've talked about promoting the whistle-safety training, Queers on the streets with whistles to blow if they are attacked or see an attack," he said. In addition



KAREN DUNGAN

Q.A.C. is planning a "Take Back The Night" march for Queers, either to coincide with the August march of the National Organization for Women, or later in the fall.

In addition to disagreement with Queer Nation's focus, some Q.A.C. members disagree with QN's structure. Unlike QN, which has two co-chairs and five media spokespersons, Q.A.C. will be unstructured. "We have no leaders or spokespersons," said McManus-McLoughlin. "Any of us can say anything."

Gay man sues for lesbians' baby

Davis, California - A gay man who provided semen to two lesbians for artificial insemination has sued the women for joint custody of the child. The plaintiff sued for visitation rights six months after the birth of the boy in March 1990. The case is expected to go to trial in a California Superior Court this month.

The couple, Andra and Mary Northup, used two donors so that paternity could not be automatically assumed. Blood tests ordered by

Judge James Stevens in November showed that the plaintiff was in all likelihood the father and that he should have visitation rights and pay child support pending this month's trial.

The Northups have unsuccessfully fought the decision to allow visitation rights, claiming that the visits are causing the boy "stranger anxiety."

California law says that donors providing semen for artificial insemination may not claim paternity, but the plaintiff argues that the law applies only if the semen is provided to a licensed physician. The insemination in this case took place privately. Superior Court Judge Donna Petre is expected to rule this month in the case.

Group outs Williams

Cont'd from pg 1

Williams began in 1983, he has never seen the Pentagon PR chief at a gay club or restaurant. "I think we have some people who are making some charges that genuinely surprise me," he said.

King also called into question the credibility of the Queer Nation leader. He noted that last year Petrelis staged a similar press conference on the Capitol steps where he read aloud a list of federal and state politicians he alleged to be gay. King called many of the politicians on Petrelis' list "well-known heterosexuals." Some of those names are Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR); Speaker of the House Tom Foley; Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD); Rep. Jim



McCrery (R-LA); and music mogul David Geffen.

"His credibility on the topic of outing people is very low in my book," King remarked. "I wish he'd get some therapy instead of constantly making a horse's ass out of himself."

According to Petrelis, mainstream media who covered the QN action have chosen not to report on the outing of Williams out of fear. Petrelis suggested that reporters would not be satisfied unless he "charged into (Williams') bedroom and snapped pictures."

Day Of Action To Overtturn Gag Rule



KAREN DUNIGAN

Health professionals and elected state officials converged on the Georgia capitol on July 9 to call on the Georgia Congressional delegation to overturn the Title X "gag rule," which prohibits any health care service provider that receives federal funds from discussing abortion with clients or patients. Dr. Teresa Clark, president of the American Medical Women's Association, and Georgia state Rep. Nan Orrock were among the participants in the day's action. Legislation overturning the gag rule is expected to be voted on in Congress during the month of July.

Trial Date Set For Alleged Handcuff Man: Robert Lee Bennett, Jr., is scheduled to go on trial for attempted murder and arson in Tampa, Florida, on October 21. He is charged with a Feb. 22 attack on Gary Clapp, who was found ablaze by Tampa police. Clapp's injuries were so severe that his legs were amputated. Bennett is also charged in Atlanta with aggravated battery in the beating and burning of Michael Jordan last May and Max Shrader in 1985. Jordan was found behind the Ponce de Leon Hotel on May

13, prompting stories of The Handcuff Man who has allegedly been preying on male prostitutes in Atlanta for over 20 years. Fulton County District Attorney Lewis Slaton said that the trial date for the Atlanta cases will be set after Tampa's trial is over. "We'll let them move ahead," said Slaton. "Our resources are available to them, as theirs will be to us." Bennett is free on bond and is living with his mother in Clearwater, Fla. —KC Wildmoon

Companies Hold Firm In NC: *Q-Notes*, a lesbian/gay newspaper in Charlotte, NC, reports that right-wingers have attacked The Omni Charlotte Hotel and AT&T for supporting "radical homosexuality." The Hotel is targeted because it is hosting the Tenth International Convention for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) in October. Complaints against AT&T center around the company's decision to allow a gay organization to dispense information during Gay Pride Week. According to *Q-Notes*, both companies are holding their ground despite cards and letters from Concerned Charlotteans, a fundamentalist group headed by Rev. Joseph Chambers of the Paw Creek Church of God in Charlotte.

Federal Judge Doesn't Like Homosexuals: U.S. District Judge Sam B. Hall Jr. called homosexual inmates "a bunch of queers" from the bench while questioning a witness during a civil rights trial in Beaumont, Texas. According to an AP report, the trial involves overcrowding at a county jail. Hall, who has been a federal judge since 1985, later said that he "doesn't like homosexuals."

Sex In Stupid Places: First, from Nashville, Tennessee: *Query* reports that two Nashville women were charged with "homosexual acts," a misdemeanor according to Tennessee law, when a police officer found them behind a trash dumpster "naked and passionately involved." The officer said he was driving through the Lee's Famous Fried Chicken parking lot when he saw the two. And in Atlanta, a police officer arrested a man for disorderly conduct outside Loretta's Disco. The officer put the suspect in the back seat of her patrol car with another prisoner. While writing her report, she glanced into the car and saw the two engaging in oral sex. Both men were arrested on sodomy charges.

Payless Shoesource Settles: ACT UP Kansas City successfully pressured Payless Shoesource into settling with an employee the company had fired because of his presumed HIV status. Three days before ACT UP had planned to begin demonstrating in front of the store, the company and the employee, Paul Hornburg, reached a settlement. In addition, the company sent ACT UP Kansas City a letter outlining an addition to their employment policy specifically prohibiting discrimination based upon HIV status.

Gay Synagogue Joins Council In DC: The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington voted on June 12 to admit Bet Mishpachah into its membership. Bet Mishpachah is the first gay synagogue in the nation to be admitted into such a council.

This Beats Even Maynard: Cincinnati Mayor David Mann did issue a proclamation for that city's Gay and Lesbian Pride Day this year, but it wasn't what Pride organizers had in mind. According to *Gaybeat*, the Mayor issued the first recognition of Pride in Cincinnati in 12 years when he proclaimed June 15 "Gay and Lesbian Tolerance Day." At least he said "gay and lesbian."

Gay Air Force Captain's Discharge Delayed: The *Washington Blade* reports that Capt. Greg Greeley's discharge from the Air Force was delayed for a day last month after he was prominently featured in the *Washington Post's* coverage of DC's Gay Pride celebration. Greeley carried the banner leading the march. According to Greeley, he was interviewed extensively on Monday following the march, including questioning about who else in the military he knew was gay. "I refused to answer," said Greeley. "They said if I cooperated and gave them names of people, that they could sanitize the information. They said they wouldn't be prosecuted." Greeley continued to refuse, and was finally discharged on Tuesday afternoon.

Apparent Murder/Suicide In The Army: A soldier at Ft. Irwin in California who was facing court-martial on charges of having a sexual relationship with another soldier allegedly shot and killed the soldier and then himself. Sgt. Timothy Karl Miller had been charged on three counts of sodomy and four counts of indecent acts, all stemming from his alleged relationship with Spec. Terry Wayne Stephenson, Jr. Stephenson was scheduled to be a prosecution witness in the trial. "It was a case of fraternization between a supervising noncommissioned officer and subordinate officer," said Maj. John Wagstaffe, public affairs officer for Ft. Irwin.

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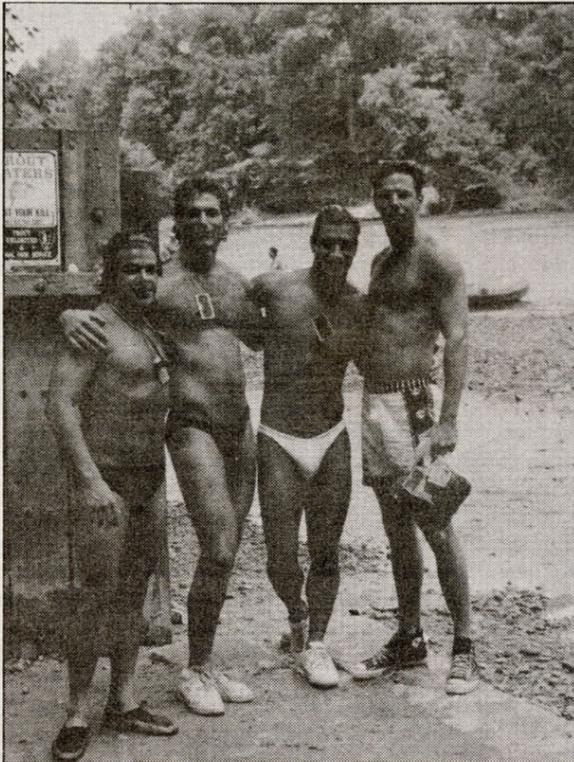
Begun in '79 as a one-day float down the Chattahoochee, Expo has grown into what may be the biggest ongoing gay party in the country according to President Walt Greer.

This year's "untamed madness" begins on Thursday Aug. 1 with the Miss Hotlanta Queen Contest in the Colony Square Ballroom. On Friday, Aug. 2 the setting switches to the Civic Center where muscles replace mascara and men from around the country compete for the title of Mr. Hotlanta. There's a hot, hot stage show, too.

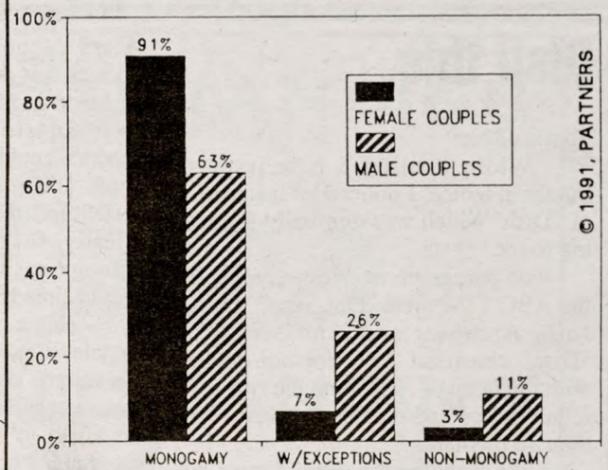
On Saturday night the scene shifts to the Georgia Freight Depot and Garden (next to Underground) for the Flamingo Fling Dance and Cabaret.

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Registration fee for the whole weekend is \$160.00. Individual tickets to some events are also available. Call Steve Dearduff at 872-7412 for more info.



SEXUAL AGREEMENTS



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Monogamy rules for most

by Stevie Bryant & Demian, Partners

Gay and lesbian relationships may seem revolutionary by some standards, but most organize their sex lives on the traditional principal of monogamy. In a national survey, 91 percent of female couples were found to be monogamous, as were 63 percent of male couples.

The survey of 1,266 same-sex couples was conducted by *Partners Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples*.

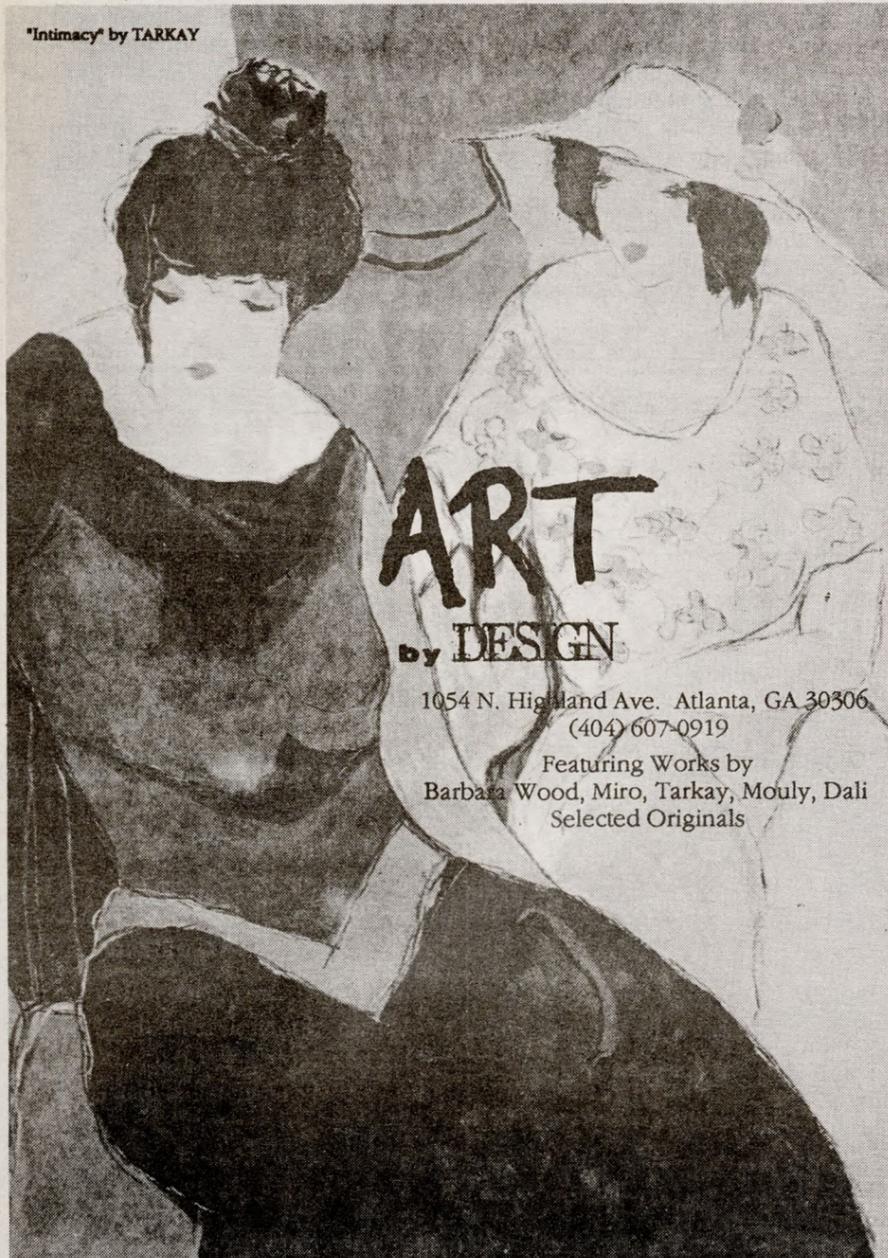
Of the female couples who were not monogamous, seven percent were "monogamous with agreed exceptions" and three percent were non-monogamous. Male couples were less inclined to monogamy: 26 percent permitted "agreed exceptions" and 11 percent were non-monogamous.

Many partners whose agreements allowed outside sex were sexually exclusive in practice. Outside sex was reported by less than three percent of female partners and 26 percent of male partners.

Interestingly, men reporting outside sex also had more frequent sex with their partners. In addition, the longer male couples had been together, the more likely they were to report outside sex. Neither of these patterns was observed among women.

A free summary of results may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to *Partners* survey, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109.

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Dish this

To the editor:

While reading a past issue of Southern Voice, I noticed an installation of "Dish" which was unusually distressing to me.

The paragraph in question regarded the ABC TV-movie "Our Sons" starring Julie Andrews and Ann-Margaret. "Dish" chastised ABC for not dealing with the issue of AIDS and the two sons' relationships and dealing primarily with the two mothers.

After watching the show, I must disagree. "Dish" may not have been through the trauma of coming out to Mom about being gay or having AIDS. Fortunately, I had no trauma associated with sharing the news with my parents but so many of my friends have. And I think it is about time society knows there is more to our relationships than the two principals involved. When one person has AIDS, the entire family is effected. The only thing I found offensive about the program was when President Bush's "war against drugs" PSA was aired.

My hat (or my tiara, depending on the day) is off to the two talented and seemingly sympathetic actresses who portrayed the mothers in this drama. Also, to the producers and the network for allowing this show to air in the first place. Just think... thirty years ago the FBI was raiding homes where they suspected gatherings of homosexuals; now we are able to deal with the subject on the national airwaves.

Sincerely,
Mark duPont

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WXIA
c/o Ron Bilek, News Director
1611 W. Peachtree St.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

Re: Program misinformation
Meeting with GLAAD/Atlanta and
NAPWA

Dear Mr. Bilek,

I am concerned about your station's pattern of misinformation about the AIDS issue. Recently Channel 11 ran Hal Suit's editorial which was full of uneducated, sophomoric statements about AIDS. The statements were unsupported and reckless.

Suit's editorial was more recently followed by a news report on the June 16 11:00 news about whether or not a real estate agent should be legally required to inform prospective buyers that a person who occupied the home had AIDS or died of AIDS.

Would you have run a story about whether or not a waiter should be legally required to inform white patrons of a restaurant that black people had previously eaten there and might have used the same silverware? Of course not. You would have recognized that story for what it was—an insensitive, racist and inflammatory example of yellow journalism.

Why are you so willing to support AIDS coverage that is so patently wrong and only perpetuates the fear and hatred of gays and lesbians, and validates violence and harassment against the community? Any educated person knows that

AIDS cannot be transmitted through contact that does not involve the sharing of blood products. There is no evidence available to the contrary. Any cub reporter could have easily researched the topic and informed themselves about AIDS and the method of transmission. Clearly, if AIDS could be transmitted through casual contact, millions more would already be infected with the virus.

Seeing a supposedly credible reporter on television making statements that people assume are facts legitimizes and gives instant credibility to those statements. In an effort to educate yourself and your reporters, I hope you will make good on your promise to meet with members of the gay and lesbian community to understand why these issues are so important to us and the community in general.

You and your station have a duty to the people of Atlanta and to the FCC to ensure that your programming does not violate the public's trust. Please be worthy of that trust.

Sincerely,
Randall Stephens

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear George,

Immigration restrictions on people with HIV are not medically justified and violate human rights. Take your health officials' advice and lift the HIV ban.

Focus America's attention on genuine protection and not misinformation and hysteria. Refuse to let political pressure overrule responsible medical opinion.

I was brought up to respect the President but these days I do not—in fact I hate your guts. Your non-policy regarding AIDS has resulted in so many of my friends dying that I have become numb. It is not a good feeling.

A person dies of AIDS every nine minutes. Happy 10th Anniversary of the Plague, Mr. President.

Disrespectfully yours,
J. Bruce Almond

cc: Southern Voice

Dear Mr. President:

My name is Erik Barker. Until recently I was a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps. My unit, the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, was the first Marine unit in Saudi Arabia.

While serving my country in the Persian Gulf, it was alleged a sexual incident took place between myself and another Marine. I categorically denied the incident, but an investigation matching my word against the word of a supposed witness was initiated anyway.

Without proof, the military believed my accuser. My Officer in Charge ordered me to give him all my ammunition—while serving in a war zone. In addition, my Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in charge reduced my Proficiency/Conduct marks from a 4.8/4.8 to 4.1/4.2. The marks were endorsed up through the chain of command to the Commanding Officer. I was also threatened with a General Court Martial for the "crime" of sodomy. I wrote my Congressman Tom Lantos for help.

When Lantos sent an inquiry, the Staff Judge Advocate replied that my accuser's statement had been corroborated by the other Marine involved. This is not true. When I contacted the other Marine, he even attempted to file a statement denying the incident with the Criminal Investigative Division at Camp Pendleton. They refused to let him make one. The outcome of any hearing before the Administrative Discharge Board became clear. Fearing an Other than Honorable discharge, I waived my right to a "hearing."

On April 2, after seven years of an honorable military career, I was given a General Discharge from the Marines. The DD-214 states "discharge involuntarily - homosexuality-admission."

My chosen career, Mr. President, has been destroyed. It has been destroyed based on an accusation. It has been destroyed based on a policy (Directive 1332.14) which has been repeatedly discredited by Department of Defense studies. It has been destroyed based on a policy that advocates discrimination. Did you not recently say while you were in Los Angeles that discrimination can not be tolerated in any form?

Mr. President, I respectfully request

you issue an executive order ending this unAmerican policy, and do so before any other careers are destroyed. Gay men and lesbians serving their President and their country should not be welcomed home this way.

Sincerely,
Erik E. Barker

Marketing Department
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Dear Prodigy marketers,

Yesterday I received your direct-mail offer describing the benefits of Prodigy. I am well aware of your service and its many advantages. At one point I intended to sign up, and had gone so far as to obtain a start-up kit.

However, I then learned that Prodigy practices censorship—in particular, against gay and lesbian users who want to meet and communicate via your bulletin boards. I read about this in *Lesbian Connection* as well as other gay publications and the mainstream media.

I am a lesbian, and unquestionably one of my key interests in using Prodigy was to meet other gay and lesbian folks around the country. A lesbian friend of mine who uses Prodigy says it is possible even under your current regime of homophobic censorship. She and her on-line friends must use subterfuge to identify each other and then switch to private chat; they cannot openly post notices on the bulletin board.

I am outraged that Prodigy treats my friends like drug dealers because of who they love. I refuse to pay you to treat me that way. You won't get my business until you give me the same respect as any other customer.

Sincerely,
Gareth Fenley

cc: Southern Voice



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

When The Going Gets Tough, The Tough Write About It

There's one of those erasable marker boards here in our office. Actually, it's two smallish ones side by side, but that's irrelevant. Not much ever happens on those boards, except every now and then somebody writes something on one, and then somebody else responds, and then somebody else responds to that, and so on,

until it becomes this wild commentary on our lives. The best one we ever did was a take off on David Lynch's "Angriest Dog in the World," only ours was "Angriest Production Manager in the World," and it pretty accurately depicted what's it's like to put out a Queer newspaper.

One of those things is going on right now. Somebody wrote up at the top of one of the boards "When the going gets tough, the tough _____." The idea, of course, is that we fill in the blank. And we have. We have covered the board with 57 (oops, 58—it keeps growing) ways of escaping tough going.

Some of these are funny, very very funny. In fact, a lot of them are. And writing them up is certainly a cathartic way of dealing with the stresses of newspaper production. But somewhere around the edges, I'm feeling a little bit sad. I'm sad, I think, because for the most part these 58 (now 59) responses to tough going are frighteningly accurate. Too often we do tend to look for an escape rather than face whatever is in front of us.

And who can blame us? Hey, when the going gets tough, I'd much rather "hide" (the very first response on the board) than do something about it. I certainly don't want to work. That's just entirely too hard when I can much easier "get back in bed" (number 7) or "watch The Price Is Right and pray to be picked for the at-home showcase showdown" (number 31). Wouldn't you? Besides, what if we win and all our problems are solved? Bob Barker would become a hero...

A little voice inside my head just said to me "Get a grip." Winning The Price Is Right wouldn't fix whatever made me choose a number from the magic board.

Refusing to do the work has gotten more people into more trouble...just ask the organizers of the National Lesbian Conference. And then sometimes *doing* the work gets you in trouble with the folks who didn't do it, because *you* didn't do it right, because they had picked a number and not done the work...

Arrgghh. It's no wonder we prefer

choosing a number. It's so much easier. Our whole society is geared around quick fixes, immediate gratification, and most importantly, shoving the responsibility onto someone else. That's why our survey says that response number two is "Blame someone else." That takes care of everything. If I blame someone else, then I'm not responsible and I can get back to The Price Is Right.

No cares, no worries. What a world that would be. But, you know, I tend to agree with this comment from a popular movie: "It's not that kind of world, Thelma." No, Louise, it sure ain't.

Sometimes I've just got to go ahead and do the work no matter what. No matter what gets said, what gets thought, what happens or what the work is. There's too many other folks out there more than willing to opt for the easy way out.

And I've got an erasable board by my desk with 59 (damn, 60) ways to do it.

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815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

prayer and if you still can't find acceptance, support and love for your fellow man, please do the right thing and resign your position as presiding Bishop.

Dear Bishop:

I am writing to you concerning the statement you made regarding the ordainment of Elizabeth Carl, an open lesbian, I read in the *Southern Voice*, June 20-July 3, 1991, Volume 4, No. 9, that you were said to be "surprised and upset."

Your statement, at first, "surprised and upset" me, for as an Episcopalian, you and I both know that the creation of our church was through society changing. I have been proud of my Episcopal upbringing and participation. And whether you are aware of it or not, we gay and lesbian people are loving, giving, accepting and prayerful that you will overcome your narrow and judgmental attitude. An attitude that keeps a great many excluded from participating in the church.

And if in fact you are homophobic and narrow, I encourage you to seek the "peace that passes all understand" through

Peace be with you,
Jason F. Nevoit

cc: Southern Voice

Mayor Maynard Jackson
55 Trinity Ave., SW
Atlanta, GA 30335

Dear Mayor Jackson,

This morning I called your office to address a concern to your Senior Advisors for Lesbian and Gay Affairs. I asked to speak with (or get a phone number) for Joan Garner. Your receptionist quite rudely informed me that she "never heard of her." Mayor Jackson, please, tell me just what level of importance you place on your Senior Advisors if your receptionist

has never heard of them. This incident is just one more piece of evidence that lesbian and gay concerns either take the back seat in your administration or, as I presume, no seat at all.

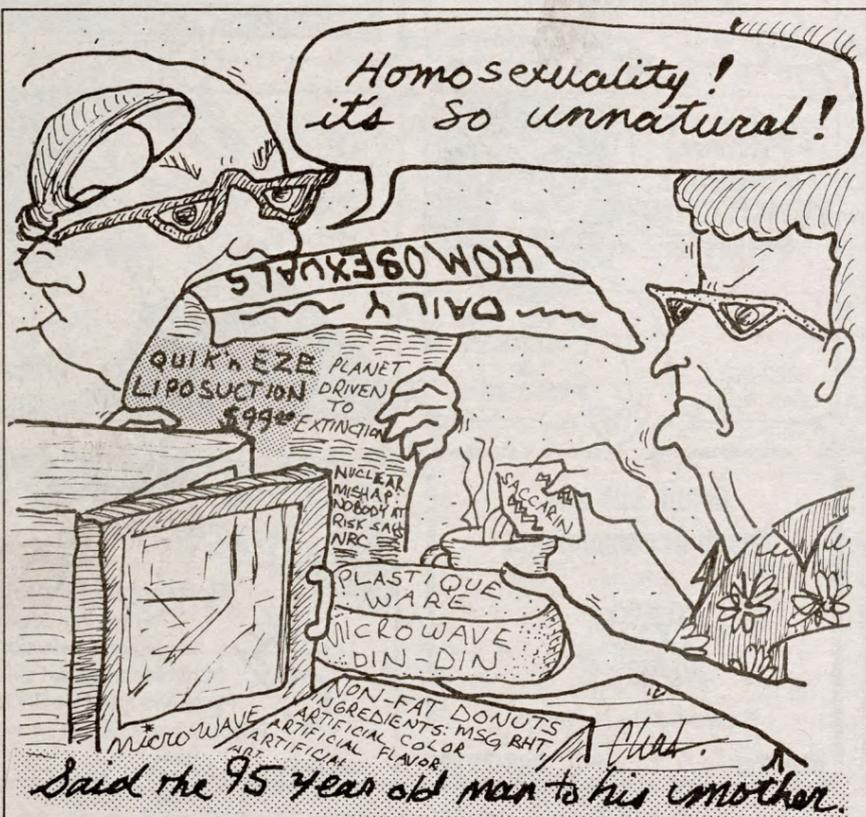
Months ago you made several promises to the lesbian and gay community. One of these promises was to appoint Senior Advisors to act as a conduit for information to and from the lesbian and gay community. This conduit apparently flows only one way—from you. Your words are not reaching this community because you refuse to listen to what gays, lesbians and your advisors are saying. You choose to address the problems presented by saying they don't exist (one that immediately comes to mind is "Eldrin is not a homophobe"). I don't think you realize that your words have no meaning when your actions don't back them up. It is quite obvious that your so called advisors are only tokens—"show pieces" to point to when someone criticizes your lack of action toward gay and lesbian concerns.

You and your administration continue to ignore our community. The snails-

paced action on your promises, your refusal to attend any of the Lesbian and Gay Pride festivities this past weekend and your refusal to intervene in the rapidly deteriorating relationship between this community and the Atlanta Police Department, all point to one conclusion—You just don't care about gay and lesbian concerns. I only hope that the estimated 30,000 people who attended the Pride festivities remember your uncaring attitude in the next election. If so, we will surely turn our backs on you, just as you have turned your back on us.

Sincerely,
Keith Stanley

cc: Senior Advisors
ETC Magazine
Southern Voice
Mary Davis



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:

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

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Atlanta summer theatre is both hot and cold

by Charlene Ball

Actors' Express is one of the most vital theatres in Atlanta. This production of Euripides' ritual celebration of the principle of ecstasy proves that once again.

The God of Ecstasy is a compelling production—theatre, pure and simple. Acting, singing, dance, intellectual concepts, conflict—this play has everything.

The performances are excellent. Stephen Petty (who also choreographed the show) is Dionysos. Like a rock star or cult leader in lacy shirt, tight jeans, earring, and long hair, he exudes gender-bending sexuality, danger, and charisma.

Peter Ganim plays Pentheus, the king who seeks to wipe out the cult of Dionysos and thus brings on himself the vengeance of the god. Ganim, his darkly handsome face and clipped hair making him resemble a Roman portrait, evokes Pentheus' pride and arrogance well. His is a Pentheus full of the arrogance of youth, rather like a contemporary corporate executive in his 20s. My one criticism is that Ganim does not bring out the secret side of Pentheus, the sensual, repressed side that the god works on, quite as much as he might have. Thus his change—when he agrees to put on women's clothes and go with Dionysos to see the Bacchae—is too abrupt.

The chorus moves and sings beautifully. Their dance movements in one scene bring to life the figures on Greek vases, stepping in stylized procession. In another scene, they evoke flower children from the Sixties, as does Petty in his lace wrist ruffles and shoulder-length hair.

Annette Coleman as Tiresias brings warmth and authority to the role of the blind prophet, while Theo Harness plays Kados, Pentheus' grandfather with humor and restrained dignity.

The actors all handle the play's poetic, heightened language with assurance and conviction. That in itself is worth applause. The translation uses beautiful language that turns blunt and colloquial at the right moments.

It is hard for a feminist to review classic plays. Their fundamental assumptions are so often appalling. Euripides, being a gentleman of fifth-century Greece, assumes that women are naturally irrational and when

THEATRE REVIEWS

The God of Ecstasy: A Retelling of the Bacchae
Actors' Express
Thru July 28

The Colored Museum
Jomandi Productions
Thru August 4

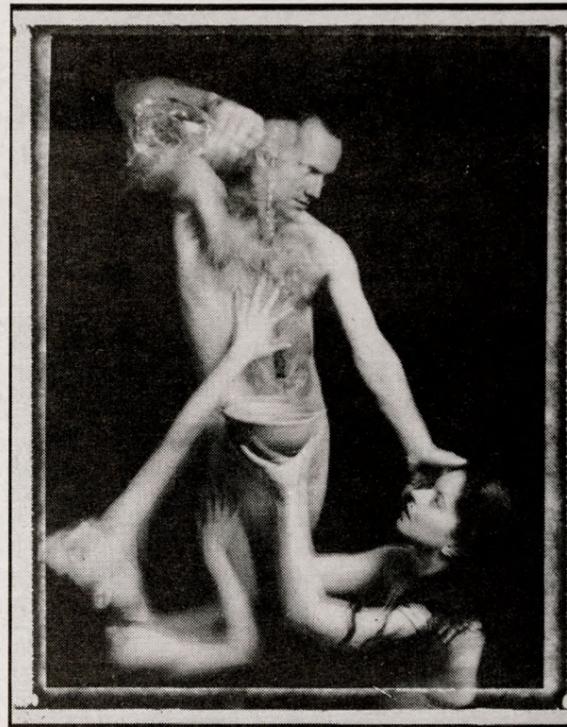
Shirley Valentine
Theatre in the Square
Thru August 11

unrestrained, turn destructive. The play is a man's nightmare of female power running wild without the restraint of reason.

In spite of that obstacle, I have to say that I loved the play and found it compelling. Long-time feminists are used to winnowing out the wheat from the chaff of our culture—the grain of truth obscured by the patriarchal bias that husks it. Euripides knew an essential truth about human life as a male god called Dionysos. Chris Coleman, artistic director of Actors' Express and director of this production, is able to see that truth and bring it to life. His vision goes to the heart of a play from another time and puts it in front of us as though it were written last week, with immediacy and conviction.

The Colored Museum has a simple and potentially effective concept: a series of "exhibits" that represent different aspects of Black American life and history. Satire is the name of the game as stereotypical characters such as Aunt Jemima, the glossy models in *Ebony Magazine*, a "snap" queen, a gyrating teenager, a young unwed mother and others are presented. Satire, all theatre, must rely upon stereotypes to a certain extent. But *Colored Museum* relies exclusively upon negative stereotypes of Black women and Black gay men for its laughs. It's a cheap shot and instead of liberating its audience the play solidifies all the myths and misunderstandings people hold about women and gay people.

"Last Mama on the Couch" which purports to satirize



DAVID ZEIGER

Stephen Petty as Dionysos in *The God of Ecstasy*.

over-emoting in Black drama comes across as a strong putdown of the works of Lorraine Hansberry and Ntozake Shange. In "The Gospel According to Mis Roj" a drag queen drinks to excess, hangs out at a bar called The Bottomless Pit, and is herself a bottomless pit of rage. And she has no friends in the community. In the "Man and the Kid" a respectable adult stuffs his rebellious younger self into a garbage can along with cultural icons of the 60's—making a good point about how rejecting one's past often means rejecting one's self. Unfortunately, the man is portrayed as rejecting "true" Black culture by tossing away Eldridge Cleaver's *Soul on Ice* and replacing it with "white" culture with *The Color Purple*. Cleaver boasted of

Continued on page 20

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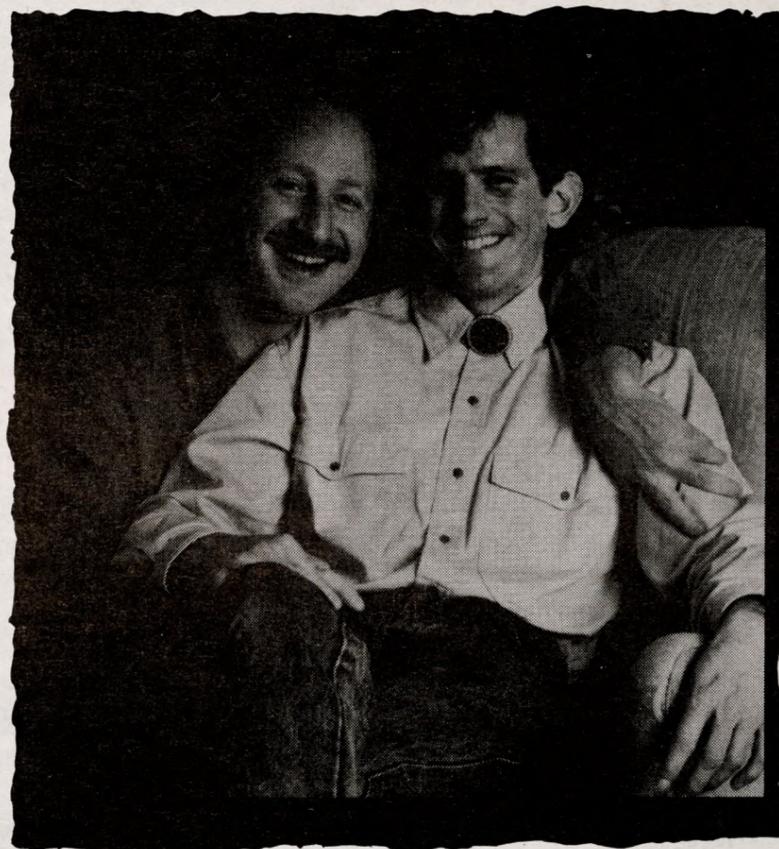


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COOL MEDIUM

Atlanta media queers-up, but misses the point

by David Salyer

I recently took an informal poll of my friends, most of whom are known homosexuals. I asked them simply, "How would you rate all the recent (mainstream) media coverage of queers in Atlanta?" Respondents to my unscientific survey described coverage as everything from "superb" and "decent" to "vague" and "unfocused." I prefer "fetid" and "godawful." It's my column and I'll carp if I want to.

Television cameras were rolling on Pride Sunday. Pride Parade and Rally attendance surpassed everyone's expectations. It was a day of historical significance for Atlanta's lesbian and gay community, a legitimate news story worthy of much more than the usual 15 seconds of drag floats and leathermen video TV news producers usually employ. But we fared no better on local newscasts this year than last year. Even the inclusion of WXIA-TV news producer Rick Mitchell as a Pride Rally emcee couldn't insure improved coverage on that station.

Unquestionably the Nightmare Coverage From Hell Award goes to WSB-TV, Channel 2. WSB devoted almost the entire first block of their six o'clock newscast Sunday to Lesbian and Gay Pride. It amounted to approximately eight minutes of the most wildly unprofessional, disconnected and blatantly homophobic bit of TV you're likely to see outside of Pat Robertson's 700 Club.

Anchorman Bill Nigut, whom I used to actually respect, lost all objectivity during a pointless interview with Bill Gripp of the Atlanta Gay Center. Looking like



M. Deeb

some contemptuous, oversized Teddy Ruxpin, Nigut sadistically grilled Gripp in Geraldo-like fashion about the logic of coming out and who's really to blame for all those hate crimes.

And there was that graphic looming behind Nigut and co-anchor Kimberly Kennedy—a video freeze of a guy wearing a leather harness with his arms spread wide, very much like a bird in flight. I love the image itself, but object to the way it was used by WSB. It's lazy, unimaginative and further perpetuates the myth that gay men just want to play dress-up. I am not knocking the leather lifestyle. Leather folks are among the most active members of our community and willing to be there and be counted. Unfortunately, TV uses them, as it does drag queens, in an all too obvious attempt to distract viewers from the real point. The point here is that on Sunday, June 23rd, about 30,000 gay and lesbian Atlantans marched in celebration of pride and progress. It's really not about

clothing.

Finally, Nigut and Kennedy pitched to charmless reporter Jeff Dore for a live update from the Rally as it continued in Piedmont Park. Dore made no attempt to hide his disdain for this assignment. Whose idea was it to send this insensitive, terminally heterosexual malcontent to cover a gay and lesbian event?

Of course, many Atlantans began Pride Sunday like any other Sunday by reading the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Right there on the front page, just above the fold, were three words larger than any others on the page: *Gay in Atlanta*. It looked so promising. But what followed was unfocused and relied heavily on the results of an ill-conceived poll of 1,048 metro Atlantans.

The *AJ-C* folks touted their poll as "the first detailed survey of attitudes in the metropolitan area." I openly admit my contempt for polls. But this one in particular is inexcusably absurd. Do we really need a poll to tell us a lot of random Southerners think the gay community as a whole has had a negative impact on the city?

Further, the pieces accompanying the poll results were full of tired writing and questionable descriptions. Homosexual relations are called "technically illegal," and Queer Nation is referred to as "confrontational." When was the last time anti-abortion activists were deemed confrontational by the *AJ-C*?

I knew about "Gay in Atlanta" before it hit print because I was interviewed by *AJ-C* staff writer Deborah Scroggins. Ms. Scroggins questioned me for the better

part of an hour primarily about being out of the closet in my job at CNN. In the resulting article, Ms. Scroggins writes that one day I heard a CNN anchor call Ryan White an "innocent" AIDS victim and immediately complained to a copy editor that "I just can't stand for us to perpetuate the myth that gay men who get AIDS are guilty." Frankly, I wish I had said or done that, but this story is total fabrication on the part of Ms. Scroggins.

I told Ms. Scroggins a very different story. I told her that the day after Ryan White died one of the morning shows on CNN ran a news quiz question I found offensive. The question was, "How did Ryan White contract the AIDS virus?" I told Ms. Scroggins that I located the supervising producer for the newsroom and objected to the trivialization of White's death by turning him into quiz fodder before he was even buried. I also suggested that the news media, CNN included, had shamelessly exploited White's teenaged, asexual face and his situations while ignoring thousands of gay men with AIDS. And finally I asked the supervising producer if she'd have approved a quiz question about how someone contracted the virus if the answer was "anal sex" instead of "blood transfusion." No, she would not have. That's what I told Deborah Scroggins.

I had hoped for a positive, accurate, well-researched feature about our community. I believed the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* sincerely wanted to hear what we had to say about being gay or lesbian in Atlanta.

I was wrong.

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INTERVIEW

Julie Miller on Marilyn, recovery and gays

by Dave Hayward

"They're saying to me 'I dare you, no way'" Julie Miller reports of audiences in Florida, California and now Atlanta who judge her believability as Marilyn Monroe. "There are different people out there, every single night they're daring me —and I like a challenge. This is a hell of a one."

Created by Broadway actress Miller in collaboration with director Sheri Myers, "Marilyn... In her own Words" takes audiences through Monroe's last photo session as she recounts her pinnacles and nadirs —and the Kennedys. The aim is to persuade audiences they're privy to Monroe's first-hand confessions, but Miller is adamant she's no impersonator.

"I've done impersonations of Streisand and Dolly Parton" Miller declares, blue eyes bristling. "That is entertainment, it's about making people happy and laughing a whole lot. This play goes so deep that it hurts. It's years of study, because I don't think it's anything to be messed with. You're going out there and you're doing somebody's life."

So Marilyn is a warts and all Monroe, exposing the icon's paranoia as well as panache. Monroe's showdown with demons parallels our own bouts with abuse and abandonment.

"I think not knowing what love is becomes true for anyone who isn't raised right, in her circumstances being adopted so many times" Miller reflects. "Today is an interesting time, more people are reaching out to find out who they are and why things happened when they were kids. You can black out feelings until they're brought up again; you don't even realize what you for-



got. Back then people didn't reach out far enough to find out what was going on, they were the way they were. Today people are really reaching out to heal themselves."

It's Miller's hope that audiences will respond more to the redemption than the revelation of Monroe's sexual and substance excesses. In particular, gay men's affinity for Monroe can be linked to feeling vulnerable and victimized, but Miller highlights different factors. "I think gay men are attracted to beauty, to glamour, to stardom, also to someone they could take care of. I know a lot of my gay friends are protective of me, they'll watch over what I do."

One thing that isn't equivocal is Miller's support for gay people and combating AIDS. "I want there to be a cure so bad" she insists. "Yes, our problem is AIDS but ...not the gay community. It's children with guns, children with drugs" she continues. "We live in a wonderful place. Let's look at the real problems in our communities."

REVIEW

Marilyn shows us what not to do

by Dave Hayward

No, you won't believe you've met Marilyn Monroe when you see "Marilyn... In Her Own Words" at Center Stage Theatre. Nor will you experience one of the greatest acting turns ever. But you will discover a powerfully written piece of theatre with a gut performance by a hot singer/actress who'll only get better. Watch for Julie Miller.

Doused in white stain, the stage is set for Monroe's last photo shoot the day she died—August 5, 1962. Recorded voiceovers bark commands at the beleaguered bombshell alternately ordering and cajoling her. It's her invisible photographer and the effect is clumsy. An unseen camera whirring away is effective, however, as Monroe slowly reels her before the attention she clamored for and later hated. Steadily her postures strip away until she becomes fetal and defenseless. Monroe becomes the epitome of what not to do with relationships, substances and self-love.

Yet the play highlights Monroe's idiosyncratic irony and wit so there's lots of fun on the road to ruin. Best of all Julie Miller sings and dances Monroe's signature tunes and it's here she emulates MM eerily. Miller seems most confident musically and she wows the audience.

Greg Thompson's script is impeccable in its authenticity, it's Monroe verbatim, and the soul reached is one of an artist, a jester, a glutton and an orphan.

Sex with JFK is a coup and romance with Joe DiMaggio, Arthur Miller and Yves Montand is exciting and then disillusioning. A classic addict, Monroe has a lot to teach about the dead end road of alcohol and drugs.

Exploited for her assets and her giddy compliance, Monroe exploits her market value in return. Her cry of "big breasts, big ass, big deal" resonates both for women and for gay men who feel pressured to cultivate and sustain big muscles, smooth skin and thick hair.

Sheri Myers' direction is naturalistic, with Miller knocking over objects and lurching more and more as she dissipates. Guido Girardi's ricocheting lighting effects add glamour and horror as intended, and Ed Johnson's costumes are true to the star.

Near the end Monroe says it would be a relief to finish the race, to come to the goal and be done. Marilyn artfully depicts the passion of the person, and the possibilities for transformation open to each of us.

Marilyn... In Her Own Words is scheduled to run through August 3 at Center Stage Theatre.

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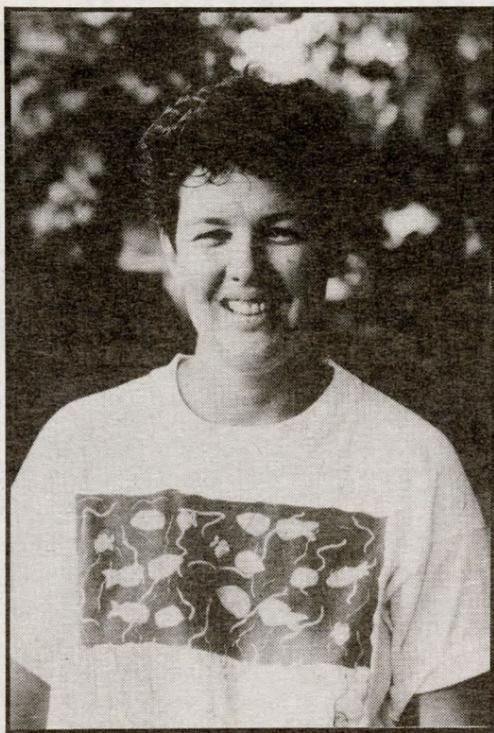
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KAREN GENEY



KAREN DUNGAN

Occupation: Social Worker

Age: 35

How long in Atlanta:
8 years

Relationship status:

In a relationship for 3 years

Hobbies: Gardening, water-color painting, reading

Personal/professional goal:

To replace the Grand Czarina of the Digging Dykes of Decatur

Karen Geney's front yard in Decatur is colorful and welcoming with plants and flowers that keep growing in spite of her roofers' efforts. "They said they would put up something to protect my flowers," she sighs as she picks up pieces of old roof from among red impatiens. In spite of her stories of rain leaking around a mislaid tarp, the home Geney shares with her lover is neat and inviting.

Geney came to Atlanta in 1983 from Columbia, South Carolina, where she got her undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina. Before that, she moved when she was nineteen to Pawley's Island, South Carolina from her family home in Detroit. "I love South Carolina. I considered that my home, until Atlanta. I don't really have any ties to Michigan," she explains. But she says, "I really hated Columbia," adding, "I had some really wonderful friends there, who eventually all moved to Atlanta."

Geney met her lover, Cathy Woolard, three years ago at a 24 hour AIDS rally on the steps of the Capitol in downtown Atlanta. Geney introduced herself because a friend she worked with suggested she would like Woolard (Matchmaking in the lesbian community? Quelle surprise!) "We met and started talking. We spent the night there together," not sleeping, of course (Remember, they were on the steps of the Capitol!). They have been a couple ever since.

In addition to being the club herstorian for the Digging Dykes of Decatur (an irreverent garden and social club for lesbians), Geney's social responsibilities now include a support group she started in order to fill a need she saw in the community. "I started a group for lesbians who are thinking about having babies. I wanted a group of people that were still ambivalent about it," she says. The group has three couples who meet every other week.

A Social Worker in Atlanta AIDS programs since 1985, Geney has worked for AID Atlanta and for the Department of Human Resource's AIDS program. Currently she works

for Hemophilia of Georgia, where part of her responsibilities include coordinating its AIDS program in the state's five treatment centers. She has also done volunteer work for NAPWA (National Association for People With AIDS). "For a long time, I did only AIDS volunteer work, and then I got really burned out on it. So I started doing some work with women's programs." She has volunteered on the crisis line at the battered women's shelter, has served as an escort at abortion clinics, and has worked with the Georgia Privacy Coalition, and "I got arrested at Cracker Barrel," she adds proudly.

Though working with AIDS was not necessarily her original plan, it is becoming her career. "I had volunteered with AID Atlanta," she remembers. So when it was time to do an internship to complete her MSW at the University of Georgia, "AID Atlanta was the only place I applied." Classmates tried to discourage her from doing her internship with an AIDS program, insisting it was too specialized; "you'll never get a job," they told her. "Something told me then that it (AIDS) would be a bigger problem than they thought," she adds.

Geney feels it is important for her to be out at work, and only partly because her lover is so often in the media. "I decided at work I had to come out right away or they'd figure it out," she laughs. Her office is outside the Perimeter in Dunwoody. "For a lot of them, I am probably the first gay person that they know," she says, adding, "that they know about." So far, there has not been a problem. "I didn't act like there was anything wrong with it, and they didn't either," she explains. "I hear people coming out and sounding apologetic, like there is something wrong with it, and there's nothing wrong with it."

Hopefully, role models like Geney will nudge more lesbians and gays out of the closet.

—Debbie Fraker

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Dionne Warwick to host Atlanta AIDS Benefit Gala



On Saturday, August 2, Dionne Warwick will be joined by a number of special friends as she hosts the Atlanta AIDS Benefit Gala. Gladys Knight, Anita Baker, Byron Allen and a host of entertainers and celebrities will donate their time and talent to appear with Ms. Warwick at this major fundraising event.

According to Blanche Blackwell, a spokesperson for the Gala, organizers have set a goal of \$400,000, which will be divided between the Warwick Foundation and seven local benefactor agencies. The Foundation's current focus is on developing a National

Pediatric AIDS Network which will foster and advocate a comprehensive approach to pediatric AIDS programs. Among the local benefactors are Childkind, Project Open Hand, and the SCLC Women's AIDS Program.

In addition to appearing on stage, many celebrities will participate in AIDS education seminars to be held as part of the Gala's events. The seminars will be conducted at Perry Homes on the Friday preceding the concert and at Carver Homes on the day of the concert.

Ms. Warwick has hosted the AIDS Benefit Gala for the past two years, both in New York City and in Detroit. This is the first time in its five year history that the Gala is being held in a Southern city.

Tickets, which still are available are priced at \$15, \$25, and \$100, and may be purchased through Ticket Masters.

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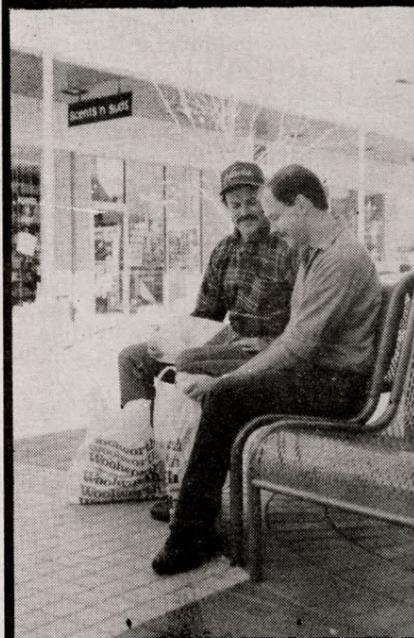
- ▶ More than 20 Atlanta AIDS service organizations display information from 6-7 pm
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- ▶ Question & Answer period to follow presentations

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INTERVIEW: JEANNE WHITE

"Everyone is an innocent victim"

by Steve Alper

On Saturday, July 13, Jeanne White was greeted with a standing ovation by more than 1,000 persons as she opened the 1991 ARTCARE auction at the Hotel Nikko in Buckhead. Ms. White, whose son Ryan, a hemophiliac, contracted AIDS through a tainted blood product, was thrust into national prominence by his struggle against the disease and their struggle against the fear and prejudice associated with AIDS.

During a break in her busy schedule, which included a signing for the recently released book, *Ryan White: My Own Story*, Ms. White told *Southern Voice*, "We were thrust into a situation no one really knew how to handle... Ryan was one of the first children to come down with AIDS. It was new to everybody. Back at the time Ryan was diagnosed, the only people getting this disease were gay men and I.V. drug users. People really thought Ryan had to be gay to get this disease."

Although Ryan was not gay, he encountered much of the same abuse and prejudice that gays face. He was called "fag" and "queer," graffiti was sprayed on his school locker, and a bullet was fired through the window of the White's home in Kokomo, Indiana. Ms. White reflected, "Ryan knew how the gay community was being treated because that's how people were treating him. That's why Ryan and I set forth to educate everybody we could, so we could stop this prejudice."

She continued, "People like to say that Ryan is an 'innocent victim.' But, everyone is an innocent victim. We all are innocent whether it be Kimberly Burgalis, Ryan White, or Rock Hudson—nobody deserves this disease. It was not put forth here to kill anybody or destroy anybody or to point a finger and say 'you are at fault.'"

Ms. White emphasized that "AIDS is not a religious issue, it is not a gay issue and I think it is so important now for us to set aside all the barriers, stop pointing fingers and blaming [others] and get down to fighting this disease." However, she continues to experience frustration in the fight for funds for care and research. An example is the Ryan White Care Bill, of which Ms. White "is ashamed right now. It is not fair in memory to Ryan and to all the work that I do and to everyone else's efforts. It's taken another year, it's supposed to be \$800,000,000 and we've



Jeanne White and Michael Venezia of ARTCARE

only gotten \$300,000,000, part of which were funds already designated for AIDS care."

Ms. White remains involved in a number of activities including the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the Names Project quilt, and the Ryan White National Education Program. She hopes to establish a program to help the mothers of gay men understand and cope with what their children are going through.

For Ms. White, education is critically important. "We really have to concentrate on education because 16-21 year olds are the one's being affected by AIDS right now.... They are the first to experiment with sex and get involved with drugs so we really have to educate them so that they can be protective of their own lives. We have to give them the facts and tell them exactly what is going to happen. Education is

the only thing that is going to save people and we've got to get it to them."

According to Ms. White, attitudes are beginning to change "but it is difficult when you have a President and government officials who won't even mention the word AIDS." She also expressed her anger and bitterness towards religion and those churches which excluded her and her family, and which still continue to condemn and exclude others.

ARTCARE raises \$100k for local AIDS groups

by Steve Alper

The ballrooms and hallways of the Hotel Nikko were filled with light, colors, and movement as more than 1,000 persons examined and bid on 250 works of art at the third annual ARTCARE auction. This year's auction, held on Saturday, July 13, raised more than \$100,000, which will be distributed among community service organizations meeting the needs of PWAs in the Atlanta area.

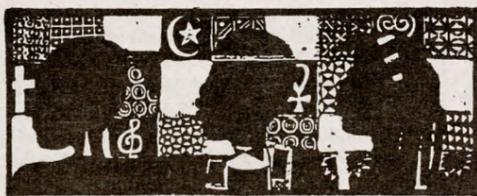
Jeanne White, whose son Ryan died of AIDS a little more than a year ago, was honorary chairperson for what has become one of the nation's largest charity auctions to benefit people with AIDS. She opened the evening by calling ARTCARE a "perfect example of how people can work together in a common cause. ARTCARE reaches the heart and the matter of taking care of people living with AIDS and making life as pleasant as possible right now."

Last year ARTCARE raised over \$70,000, nearly double the donations raised in 1989, the first year the auction was held. This year, the more than 100,000 monies will be divided between the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation and Helping Hands of Atlanta, which will distribute them to local community service organizations. According to Michael Venezia, co-founder of ARTCARE, Helping Hands of Atlanta is able to distribute funds on more of an "as needed" basis while MACF's grant procedure is more highly structured. However, the advantage of MACF is that "it is able to receive matching funds from the Ford Foundation."

AIDS Forum will focus on people of color, women

A public forum sponsored by the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta, Inc. (ARCA) will be held Wednesday, July 31, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Civic Center Auditorium. ARCA members, who attended the Seventh International Conference on AIDS in June, will review and assess the conference, with special emphasis on drugs available for treatment and new drugs in development. Also included will be presentations on "People of Color and AIDS" and "The Status of Women and AIDS."

B.T. Solomon, an African-American PWA writing for NAPWA (National Association of People With AIDS/



Atlanta) News, believes that learning to live with AIDS and learning the treatment options available are two significant challenges facing the African-American community. Much of the information at the Forum will be about clinical trials. Solomon believes, "It is important for people of color to participate in trials because biological differences

between races may mean the drugs work differently in our bodies. It is the same for women. Drugs tested on men may not work the same in women. Women and people of color have been underrepresented in drug trials. This means that we don't have all the information we need to determine the effectiveness or side effects of certain drugs in these populations."

Solomon has been working with ARCA's Outreach Coordinator, Janet Cleveland, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA) to encourage people of color to participate in the Forum.

OBITUARY

Rick Fratzke

Rick Fratzke, 37, formerly of Atlanta, died June 19, 1991, in Houston, Texas. He is survived by his mother, Laura Bagenstos, of Waterloo, Iowa; his sister, Sue Smith, of Marshalltown, Iowa; and his brothers, Rocky, of Sugar Land, Texas, Randy, of Waterloo, Iowa, and Rory, of Houston, Texas.

The family had a private service in Houston, and, in accordance with Rick's wishes, his remains will be sent to Atlanta, where friends will hold a final memorial service.

Rick was a fighter and a positive role model to the many lives he touched. He will be dearly missed.

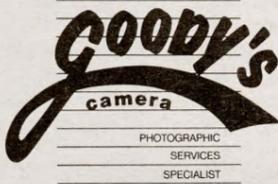
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JoAnn Loulan says there are 25 distinct lesbian sexual styles and identities. Wonder what hers is. Catch the fun on July 19 & 20. 231-0751 for info. Photo by Irene Young

13th NAT'L. LESBIAN AND GAY HEALTH CONFERENCE. July 24-28. More than 225 presentations dealing with topics such as: lesbian and gay health, mental health, substance abuse, and lesbian and gay youth issues. Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, LA. (202) 797-3578.

THE ATLANTA FANTASY FAIR. July 26-28. Whether your taste runs to Star Trek The Next Generation's sensuous phsyic Marina Sirtis or the beautiful Beastmaster, Marc Singer, this fair of the future has something for everyone. Check the Japanimation Room with the best animation from the Land of the Rising Sun. Atlanta Hilton. 413-9566.

Health

AIDS 101 WEEKEND. July 27 & 28. 8:30-5:30 Sat., 11:30-5:30 Sun. This seminar will focus on treatments, pediatric AIDS, testing, women and AIDS and people of color with AIDS. General sessions will cover all info you need to know about AIDS whether you are a PWA, a volunteer or interested in knowing everything you can about the disease. \$30. Scholarships available. 872-0600.

Music

PENELOPE WILLIAMS/STEPHANIE PETTIS. Thru July 27.; Thurs.-Sat. Superlative entertainment: hot somba and swing from even hotter women at one of Atlanta's hottest clubs. The Otherside/Key Club. 924 Piedmont. 8 7 5 - 5238.

MUSIC FOR ART. Thurs., July 25. 7 pm. An evening of great music to raise funds for women artists. Joyce & Jacque and Natalie Farr perform. Homage Coffee House. 255 Trinity Ave. Free parking. 681-2662.

FREE ASO CONCERT. Sun., July 28. 7:30 pm. Bring a blanket and a buddy and loll along the hillside while the Atlanta Symphony plays just for you under the direction of George Hanson. Picnic optional but a dandy idea. Piedmont Park.

BOINK DEE DEEK. Sat., July 20. Michelle Martin, DeDe Vogt, et al stir up a tasty night of musical entertainment. Joyce and Jacque follow for an ultimate evening of talent. Trackside.

MAINLY MOZART. Thru July 30. A Viennese Summerfest celebrates Wolfgang's Greatest Hits including his "Jupiter" Symphony and the debut of the concert opera, "The Magic Flute." Also works by other homeboys like Mahler, Strauss and Brahms will be featured. Symphony Hall. 892-2414.

Personal Growth

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. I'm looking forward to JoAnn's discussion of 25 distinct lesbian sexual styles and identities. Hope there's a handbook for easy reference. 231-0751.

JOHN BRADSHAW. July 25-28. Sharing his 20 years of experience as a marriage and family counselor and alcoholism and drug abuse counselor, John brings new methods to combat dysfunctionality, and hope for a healthy and fulfilled life. A nurturing and healing weekend of discovery. Hyatt Regency Ravinia. 1 (800) 745-1364.

LESBIAN MOMS AND THEIR MALE CHILDREN. Thurs., July 25. 7:30 pm. Claudia Scarbrough from Partners in Health explores the problems and kudos of mothering the male of the species. An evening you especially won't want to miss if you've ever been banned from gatherings because of the gender of your offspring. Charis Books & More. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

Political

PUBLIC HEARING ON GRADY/IDC. Sat., July 20. 10:30 am. The Fulton Co. Democratic Party sponsors this forum on state funding for Grady and the increasing AIDS caseload of the IDC. Atlanta-Fulton Co. Branch Library. Corner of Forsyth and Carnegie. 239-9339.

ALFA'S 19TH BIRTHDAY. Sat., July 20. 6:00 pm. Celebrate the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance's birthday with the traditional potluck at the ALFA house. Bring presents. There's also a renovation party at the House July 21 10-4 w/ lunch provided. 378-9769.

Spirituality

AIDS HEALING SERVICE. Sun., July 28. 6:00 pm. The Reverend Chester Grey consoles and empowers all those who are infected or affected by the AIDS epidemic. Service includes celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the rite of Healing or Laying on of Hands. Everyone welcome. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. 1790 Lavista.

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SUMMER SOLO SERIES. Thru Aug. 3. Four Southeastern artists present a visual feast with thought provoking themes. Sculpture, paintings, drawings and colorful monofilament orchids and butterflies; an unusual and enigmatic collection. Nexus Gallery. 535 Means St. 688-1970.

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.

SENSUAL IMAGES '91. Thru Aug. 12. Nude figure studies in black and white photography and dazzling glass sculpture. Nipples and asses and thighs, oh my! Reception on Aug. 2 & 3 during Hotlanta Expo weekend. Meet the artists. Burnhoff Gallery. Clear Creek Center. 875-3475.

JAPANESE TSUZURE-ORI. Thru 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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ART. Thru September 1. 19th and 20th Century paintings, sculptures and photographs show a rich cultural heritage influenced by life in America. Hammonds House Galleries. 503 Peoples St. 752-8730.

ART OF OUR TIME: 20th CENTURY WORKS FROM THE COLLECTION. Thru Sept. 1. Modern art from many disciplines including works of Picasso, O'Keeffe, Ernst, Ringgold and many, many more. An interesting overview of various approaches to art and how they have developed and influenced one another. High Museum of Art. Woodruff Arts Center. 892-HIGH.

Comedy

NO... WE'RE LAUGHING WITH YOU. Fri., July 26 at 8 pm & Sun., July 28 at 2 pm. Original comedy sketches from Horizon include spoofs on phone sex ("The Brother Line") and much more. Horizon Theatre. 1083 Austin Ave. 584-7450.

WET DREAMS AND OTHER GAY AND LESBIAN TALES. July 30 & 31, Aug. 1, 6 & 7. 8pm. Funny That Way and Friends present an evening of improbable fairy tales in which the wicked queen has five o'clock shadow, and kissing a frog may yield a princess cursed by an ex-girl friend. New stories in this continuing saga include Snow White and the Six Dykes and Gayliens. Lavita's, Cheshire Square, \$4. 633-0452.

Conferences

GAYLAXICON '91. July 19-21. The 3rd annual convention broadens its horizons with an art show emphasizing Gay, Lesbian and Science Fiction themes. Guest of Honor is Samuel R. Delany. One of the panel discussions will explore S & M in Fantasy and S.F. A gathering chock full of amazing stuff. Tewksbury, Mass.

LAMBDA LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP. July 20 & 21. A weekend of work, learning and fun for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual youth and students will bring together leaders and active members of groups to discuss goals and strategies for the coming year on campuses in TX, OK, LA, AK, and NM. Other regions welcome. Dallas, Texas. (214) 526-5417.

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Sports

HOTLANTA CLASSIC III VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT. July 27 & 28. 38 teams from all over the country compete in this third annual event. Free to watch. For info call 633-4384 or 636-5601.

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

AVSBOWLING. Every Monday, 8:30pm. Come down and see why Judy Tenuta says bowling fingers are so much fun. A sport with excitement to spare. 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 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. Men play at noon at Glenlake Tennis Center, call David Black at 399-5010. Women's division Wed. and Sat. afternoons at Chastain Park thru July 31 includes lessons and round robins. 662-GAME.

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL. Fridays, 7:30-10:30pm. Hands-on fun for spikers and spectators alike. Fall leagues are now forming. Hellenic Center gym on Cheshire Bridge Rd. 621-5062.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE. Thru July 28. A delightful comedy about what happens to a middle-aged housewife when she runs away from home to an isolated Greek island on her dream vacation. Will she return to her husband who is less interesting to talk to than the kitchen walls, or sip wine beside the sea forever? Theatre in the Square. 11 Whitlock Ave. Marietta. 422-8369.

THE GOD OF ECSTASY: A RETELLING OF THE BACCHAE. Thru July 28. A contemporary, athletic retelling of Euripides' classic "The Bacchae." The God of wine, sexual roles and madness knew how to have a good time. His party scenarios sound a bit like a Gay Pride celebration held in the Roman baths. Actor's Express. 280 Elizabeth St. 221-0831.

MARILYN... IN HER OWN WORDS. Thru Aug. 3. Julie Miller has received rave reviews for her torrid, true-to life performance of the world's greatest sex symbol. Set at Monroe's last photo session, this powerful, one-actress play allows The Blonde to tell her life story with humor and perception. Center Stage Theatre. 249-6400/873-2500.

THE COLORED MUSEUM. Thru Aug. 4. Jomandi brings its hilarious spoof to 10th and Peachtree for an evening of fearless, fiery and side-splitting humor. Stay home if you don't like to laugh. Theatrical Outfit. 873-1099.

REHEARSAL FOR DEATH. July 18-27. Aug. 9-17. This family oriented play is a who-done-it for the light of heart filled with love, hate, treachery, skeletons in the closets, power, money and glamour. Something for everyone who enjoys an evening of theatre filled with hystionics, hysteria and hypertension. 14th St. Playhouse. 627-1756.

Television

TONGUES UNTIED. Sun., July 21. 11:00 pm. Reviews for this award-winning documentary about being black and gay run from finding it totally offensive to incredibly enlightening. Decide for yourself, and thank channel 8 for having the courage to run a segment which has been banned in many parts of the country. Channel 8. WGTU.

ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES WORTH. July 21 & 22. A tv sitcom with Atlanta's own Jennifer Maddox Perry and the fabulous Lily White. This week, two groupies have the meetings of their dreams with their favorite teen idols and find that there is sometimes a fine line between dreams and nightmares. Prime Cable. Channel 12.

DEAUNDR PEEK'S ULTRA STYLE BIN. Wed. and Fri. at 11:30 pm. An infotainment-type newsmagazine for those who are farther out than most. This week's movie section features the classic film "The Wild Thing" with RuPaul as an abandoned child raised by possums in the kudzu who fights to save his wilderness from the Presidential Parkway. People TV - Channel 12 on Prime Cable.

Theatre

GEORGIA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL. "Richard III," the bad boy of British royalty, kills his way to the crown. On alternate nights, "The Three Musketeers" protect it. Daggers, diabolical plots, and delightful dialogue. More action than mud wrestling Tina Turner. Oglethorpe University. 264-0020.

ARTHUR, KING. Thru July 20. John Stephens captures the magical story of the boy who would be king in original music and puppets. An evening for children the whole family will enjoy. 14th St. Playhouse. 876-1138.

Upcoming

ATLANTA AIDS BENEFIT GALA. Fri., Aug. 2. 7 pm. Dionne Warwick and friends Gladys Knight and Anita Baker among others come to town to raise \$ for local AIDS organizations. Tix (\$100, \$25, \$15) are available thru all Ticketmaster locations. 249-6400.

A FAMILY BY ANY OTHER NAME. Tues., Aug. 6. 7 pm. A forum for lesbians and gay men who are considering parenthood. Get advice from legal and medical experts and hear other parents relate their experiences. Sponsored by the L/G chapter of the Ga. ACLU. MCC Church. N. Highland Ave.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. Wed., Aug 21. 5:30 pm. NOW sponsors a rally to help make women equally safe and free from fear and physical retribution on this Women's Equality Day. The escalating problem of violence directed at women and girls will be emphasized outside a special session of the legislature. Georgia State capitol. 270-7934/377-8054.

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.

CELEBRATING GAY SPIRIT VISIONS. Sept. 20-22. Gay and bisexual men gather in the Highlands to explore the relationship between their sexuality and spirituality. Poet and seer James Broughton will lead workshop in chakra balancing. Other workshops include Exploring Erotic Brotherhood and Life Mask Making. Mountain Retreat Center, Highlands, N.C. (704) 252-0634.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. Tues., Oct. 8. Tickets are already on sale as the Phantom comes to the fabulous fox. The classic story of obsession unfolds under the stars in the fall season. Fox Theatre. 873-4300.



Rehearsal for Death is billed as a "family-oriented play" So what's with these two guys? Check it out at the 14th St. Playhouse. 627-1756.

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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 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—provides access to altere treatment for the HIV community in the Southeast. Currently we can help you obtain ddC and clarithromycin. We are working on access to several additional treatments. For further information contact us at (404) 874-4845, or PO Box 77003, Atlanta, 30357.

Childkind—Foster care, day care, and emergency assistance for children with HIV and their families. For info or to volunteer, 936-9655.

First MCC AIDS Ministry—Spiritual and emotional support for PWA's and Families. 872-2246
Georgia AIDS Therapy Information Network—Examines current info on HIV/AIDS therapies. Meets twice quarterly. Call the GA AIDS info-line for info. 1-800-551-2728

The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—Meets 1st Tues. of month, 633-0634.

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

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

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

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

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—A community-oriented chorale group of women's voices. Membership open to all women interested in singing. Practice each Sunday. 294-8983.

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

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

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

BARS

The Armory—836 Juniper. 881-9280

Backstreet—845 Peachtree St. 873-1986

Blake's—227 10th St. 892-7535

Buddies—Cheshire Square. 634-5895

Bulldog & Co—893 Peachtree. 872-3025

Burkhart's—Ansley Square. 872-4403

Conference Room—1086 Alco St. 634-6478

The Cove—586 Worchester. 875-2477

Crazy Ray'z—1492 Piedmont. 873-4655

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

The Eagle—308 Ponce De Leon. 87EAGLE

551 Downstairs—551 Ponce De Leon. 873-4052

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

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

Lavita's—Cheshire Square. 633-0452

Loretta's—708 Spring St. 874-8125

The Metro—48 6th Street, 874-9869

New Order—1544 Piedmont. 874-8247

Options—2329 Cheshire Br. Rd. 634-4584

The Otherside—1924 Piedmont Road. 875-5238

2069 The Page—2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 728-9045

The Pear Garden—11 Luckie St. 659-4055

Petrus—1150 Peachtree St. 873-6700

Phoenix—567 Ponce De Leon. 892-7871

Scandals—Ansley Square. 875-5957

Tin Lizzie—Ford Factory Square. 874-3961

Tower Lounge—735 Ralph McGill. 688-5463

Traxx—306 Luckie St. 681-5033

Weekends—688 Spring St. 875-5835

DIRECT ACTION/POLITICAL

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

AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—Direct action group with the purpose of fighting homophobia, AIDS, sexism and racism. Meetings held Tuesday at 7:30 PM, NAPWA offices at 98 6th St. 286-6247.

Atlanta Committee for the 1993 March on Washington—Join us July 22 at 7:30 pm, 118 Trinity Place, Decatur. For info, call Jeffrey at 627-6603 or Laura at 659-0315.

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. 286-7477.

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.

National Organization for Women—reproductive rights, lesbian/gay rights, civil rights, human rights. Stop Violence Against Women Rally on Aug. 21, - Capitol Steps at 5:30pm. Located at the YWCA, 957 N. Highland Ave. Call 875-0176 for more info.

Neighbors Network—counters hate crime and hate group activity/threats with with information, organizing, and non-violent direct action; to aid communities and individuals victimized by hate-motivated violence and intimidation. Special emphasis on youth concerns. 874-5171.

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.

HomeGirls—a business and social networking group designed to encourage entrepreneurial efforts among (but not limited to) women of color. 662-9101.

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 appt. Same sex Holy Unions performed. Sun. at 11:00am and 7:30pm. Weds. 7:30pm. 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

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.

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

SPORTS/OUTDOOR

Atlanta Team Tennis Association—Men and women's divisions. All levels of players welcome. 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.

Professional Tennis Network—Free introductory lessons. 1st time players welcome. Rackets available. 8 certified pro's on staff. Stay for the ATTA round robins afterwards. Call 325-2288.

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 interracial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome. 794-BWMT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—Addresses unique issues that lesbian and gay drug addicts deal with in their recovery. Meets Mon. & Fri. at 8pm in cafeteria of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 25 Boulevard, NE. 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. 627-7387.

Lesbians With Children—Social support group forming for lesbians and children. Come plan child oriented outings & participate in monthly get-togethers. 740-1729.

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. 370-1317.

Out Youth—has formed in Atlanta! If you are a lesbian, gay, or bi-sexual youth and are interested in socials, demonstrations, safe space, and/or a support group... We want your help! For more information about how you can become active...call Chance at 688-1954.

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

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

Young Adult Support Group—For men and women 14-24, meets at Atlanta Gay Center, 63 12th Street, 6:30pm every Tuesday. 876-5372.

YOUTH—For Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual young people. Support group, contact point, voluntary political org. Weekly meetings. Contact Randy or Michael at 633-9569 or Jefferey at 607-1967.

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—Meet every Wednesday during school quarters for discussion/speakers/activities. 497-0684.

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.

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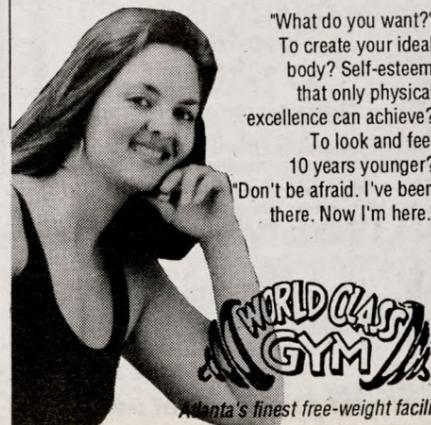
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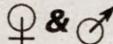
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Gay Life in Israel

cont'd from page 1

youth paper publishes the telephone number for the White Line, the SPPR's telephone counseling service. And over the last year there has been a 100% increase in the number of calls received from people under the age of twenty-two. White Line volunteers report that Israelis, who once waited until their mid-twenties to come out, are coming out at a much earlier age.

However, as awareness increases, so does hostility. "To date, harassment of gays and lesbians has been limited to verbal abuse, primarily from gangs of youths harassing men cruising the parks," Ben-Ezra reported. He explained that the elimination of the law against homosexuality, an artifact of British rule prior to 1948, was not so much a legalization of homosexuality but the result of "the revision of the whole law dealing with sexual offenses. The new law left out anything dealing with homosexuality. However, even as early as the 1970s, the Attorney General directed that the law against homosexuality not be enforced." Since that time there has been intermittent police harassment aimed mostly at the parks. "No arrests were made but names were taken," he explained.

While the laws against homosexual relations were abolished in 1988, there are no laws protecting gays and lesbians against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Gays and lesbians face a variety of responses in the workplace. A major Israeli bank readily extended benefits to the partner of one of its employees but El Al, Israel's national airline refuses to do so. And Ben-Ezra noted that several lower court decisions have extended pro-

tection to gays and lesbians, citing the Jewish experience of the Holocaust as precedent. A bill pending in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, would ensure such protection but it has little chance of passage due to opposition from Israel's powerful religious parties.

The most potent and pervasive socializing agent in Israel is its military. Men and women, unless exempted, serve two to three years from age 18 and thereafter serve in the reserves. Ben-Ezra explained "sexual orientation is not grounds for exemption from military duty; however, officially homosexuals are not allowed to serve in battle units, cannot obtain security clearance and are unlikely to become officers." He added that in practice gays and lesbians serve at all levels and positions, and that enforcement of the exclusionary policy really depends upon the personal attitude of any given commander.

It is in this milieu of the denial of homosexuality and yet a tolerance for it that the SPPR operates. In existence since 1975, the society handles membership lists, writes grant proposals, and is involved in fundraising both in Israel and abroad to support its projects. The SPPR has established the White Line as well as coffee houses and reading rooms in Tel Aviv and Haifa. The SPPR also has a speakers bureau which sends representatives to the country's medical schools, universities, professional associations and kibbutzim (farm collectives). Through its "Israel Hospitality" program, the society offers home accommodations to lesbian and gay tourists.

While the SPPR remains involved in quiet, behind the scenes politicking, a new group, Otmah (Power), has opted for a publicly active stance, including organizing the 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, primarily a social event which drew only 25-30 participants. The more successful 1990 Equality Week had a political focus, included street pamphleting, a Cinema Week which attracted an audience of 400 people, and garnered 1500 signatures on a petition calling for the passage of the Equal Opportunity in the Workplace bill.

For further information on gay and lesbian life in Israel write to: Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, PO Box 37604, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Theatre Reviews

cont'd from pg 9

raping women in his book. Is his book a better reflection of Black culture than *The Color Purple*? What does that say about the value of Black women and their experience? What does it say about the values of this play?

A weak play can be compensated for somewhat by a good production and good performances. But that doesn't happen here. The actors, although talented, have been given little direction; they shout and scream and run around the stage as though noise itself constitutes comedy—or profundity. LaTangela Reese and Marsha Jackson are good singers, but their musical numbers start loud and just get louder. No build, no variety, no sense of shaping a song or a scene.

I went hoping to enjoy this play. I did not.

Shirley Valentine offers a bravura role for an actress and the production from Theatre in the Square presents it to Brenda Bynum, a favorite with Atlanta audiences. Bynum is known for her range of characterizations and accents from Cabbagetown to New Orleans, from Victorian London and now Liverpool. The play is mediocre but the show is worth seeing for Bynum's perfor-

mance alone.

Bynum is a masterful actress and more than equal to a one-woman show like this. Her Shirley Valentine is a bright, spirited, working-class British woman who has little by little slipped into a life of deadly sameness. She loves her husband, but the two have drifted into boredom. So Shirley talks to her kitchen wall about life, men, sex and growing older. Then she is offered the chance for a fortnight Greece with a friend. How Shirley gets the courage to leave and how the trip changes her provides the plot for the play.

The play is full of familiar worn cliches that sounded like profundities in the 60's (or was it the 50's?) about Living Life to the Fullest and Finding Oneself. For Anglo-Saxons those almost always imply traveling to lush tropical climes and having raucous sex with the native folks. Why Georgia doesn't qualify I have no idea—we have all the requirements—heat, humidity, natives and picturesque poverty.

But if Shirley Valentine offers little insight or wisdom, it does offer entertainment. Bynum brings the audience into complicity with her as she takes a risk and finds her life richer and fuller as a result, with no material change. We would like to believe this is possible and so Shirley gives us a little bit of hope—sentimental though it may be.

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270 compete in first G/L Pride Run

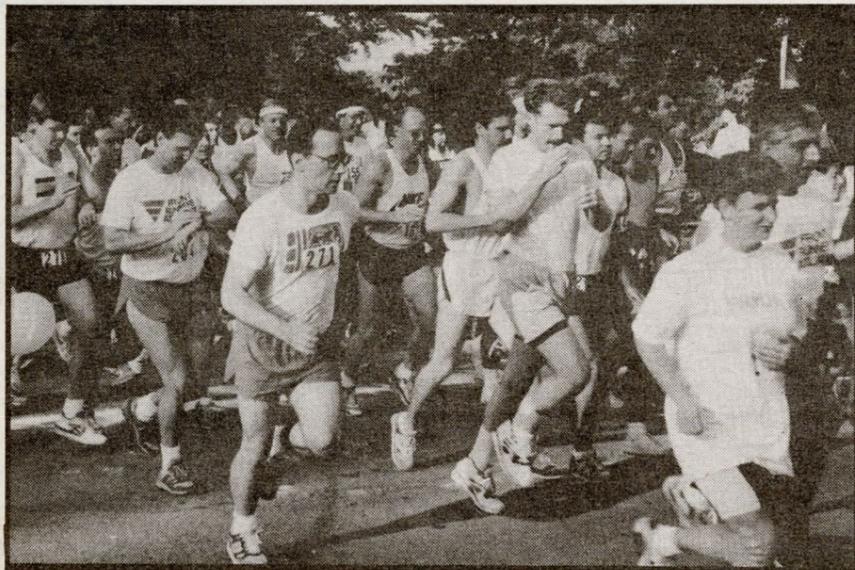
by Steve Alper

Two hundred and seventy runners took part in the first annual Front Runners Atlanta race held as part of Pride Week festivities. The 5K (3.1 mile) event, started by DeKalb County Commissioner Sherry Sutton, began at Grant Park. Among the women, Tracy Steele took first place with a winning time of 20:03, while among the men, Lee Fidler won with a time of 16:37.

Shelton Haynie, President of Front Runners Atlanta, was elated with the results. According to Haynie, the Atlanta race fielded a host of runners larger than Boston, Philadelphia and Washington. "We were completely surprised with the response," he stated and then added, "Next year we are planning for over 500 [runners]."

Front Runners is a loose organization of independent local clubs throughout the United States and with clubs in France, Australia and Israel. Front Runners Atlanta was organized in September, 1990, by Scott Gove and Shelton Haynie and currently boasts a membership of sixty men and women. Runners of all levels of ability participate in twice weekly local races.

In June, Front Runners Atlanta placed tenth in a field of forty-one teams in the North Georgia Relay, a one hundred twenty mile relay race which lasted thirteen and one half hours. An independent women's team which included some women members of Front Runners Atlanta also participated in the relay.



Falcons, Angels and Aces Take Armory Classic

More than 1,000 players and spectators participated in the 7th Annual Softball Classic Tournament held at Southside Park in Jonesboro, from July 5-7. The Armory Falcons took first place in the Competitive Open Division and the Armory Angels won first place in the Recreational Division. The Atlanta Aces, who placed 2nd in last year's Gay World Series, took first place in the Competitive Women's Division.

Thirty-one teams, including eight women's competitive teams, nine competitive open teams and fourteen recreational teams, took the field during the

weekend. The Classic is a double elimination invitational tournament with teams chosen from among the member teams of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance. It is considered an important testing ground for those teams hoping to participate in the Gay World Series.

The importance of the Classic is not limited to the competitive events, according to Sybil Smith, Women's Competition Liaison. According to Smith, the Classic, like *Pride Week*, serves to showcase the networking and organization that exists within the gay/lesbian community. This is evidenced, in part, by the tournament program, which describes a variety of local organizations, especially those which are AIDS-related, and which includes advertising by supporters of the Classic. Further, proceeds from the Classic are returned to the community, usually in the form of donations to AIDS-related charities.

Hotlanta Volleyball to host 38-team tournament

Thirty-eight teams, from the Southeast, New York, Chicago, Dallas and Omaha, will participate in the Hotlanta Classic III Volleyball Tournament to be held here July 27 & 28. The three division, North American Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA) sanctioned tournament will be held in Woodruff Gym at Emory University and in the Courthouse at Mercer University. The Hotlanta Classic will also host a banquet and show

Saturday night at Zoo Atlanta.

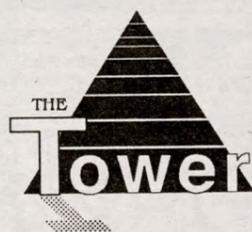
While NAGVA includes women's teams and women have participated in past tournaments, none are registered for this year's tournament. Dave Nelson, Assistant Tournament Director, expressed his regret that organizational difficulties resulted in women's teams not being invited to participate this year. Organizers plan to correct this problem in time for next year's tournament. Nelson noted that eight teams from Atlanta will play, including last year's BB division winner, Peach Fuzz.

Saturday's play, which will begin at 8:30 a.m., will consist of scrimmages to determine the seeding for Sunday's tournament play. Spectators are welcome and there is no admission fee.

Sunday, July 21

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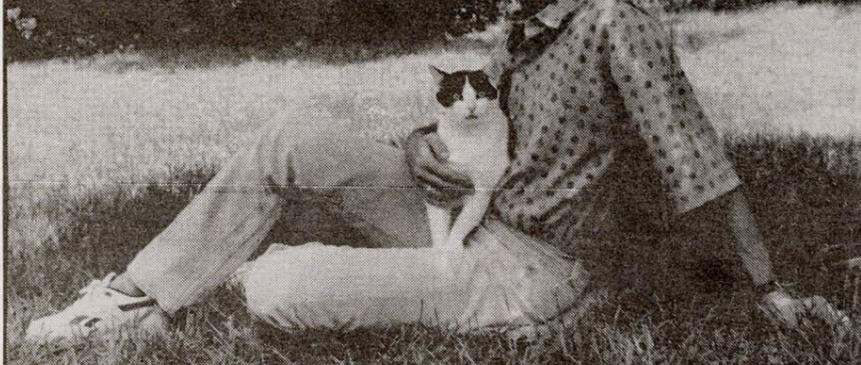
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FAMOUS LAST WORDS
By ALISON BECHDEL

GINGER HAS CONSESSED TO INDULGING IN FLIRTATIUS BEHAVIOR AT THE NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE.

OH, WOW. LET ME GET THIS RIGHT. YOU SPENT A WHOLE WEEKEND TOGETHER AND DIDN'T EVEN HAVE SEX?

LOIS, WE WERE BUSY! THERE WAS RACISM TO CONFRONT! BATTLES TO JOIN! STAGES TO STORM! AND ANYHOW, WE ONLY JUST MET.

GINGER, DID YOU EVER HEAR THE PHRASE "CARPE DIEM"? WHAT IF SHE GOES HOME AND FALLS FOR SOMEONE ELSE OR GOES STRAIGHT OR WANDERS OFF TO FOLLOW HER GURU?

WHAT IS WITH YOU TWO? LOOK. I MET A WOMAN AT A CONFERENCE, SHE WAS ATTRACTIVE, WE HAD SOME GREAT CONVERSATION, WE BOTH FLEW BACK TO OUR RESPECTIVE HOMES WHICH ARE 2,000 MILES APART, THE END.

HAS SHE DONE THERAPY? DID YOU GET HER RELATIONSHIP HISTORY? IS SHE EMOTIONALLY AVAILABLE?

WHAT'S SHE LOOK LIKE? HOW BUTCH IS SHE? DID YOU SWIM NAKED TOGETHER IN THE HOTEL POOL?

IT DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT JASMINE? I MET HER AT A MEDITATION RETREAT WHERE NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO TALK. AT THE END OF THE WEEK SHE GAVE ME HER ADDRESS AND WE EXCHANGED REAMS OF COSMIC LETTERS AND EROTIC POEMS. SO ROMANTIC!

I MET A WOMAN AT AN ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE ONCE... WE HAD PHONE SEX LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE FOR MONTHS AFTER, TILL HER BOSS FOUND OUT SHE WAS USING THE WATS-LINE.

WELL THAT'S ALL VERY TOUCHING, BUT I DON'T WRITE POETRY AND I PREFER TO HAVE SEX IN PERSON.

IT'D BE CRAZY! PHONE BILLS! PLANE TICKETS! TORTURE AND LONGING! UN-UH, THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I AM GETTING INVOLVED IN A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, EVEN SUPPOSING MALIKA WAS INTERESTED.

A GINGER JONES LIVE HERE, SONNY?

YES, SHE DOES, THANK YOU KINDLY, MA'M?

ROSES? FOR ME?

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T HAVE SEX WITH HER?

SLURP LAP LAP

DING DONG!

BOW OW OW OW!

URF!

Bittersweet

By Charles Haver

DAD, HOW COME THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF ANIMALS IN THE WORLD?

WELL MARGO, GOD MADE ALL CREATURES— GREAT AND SMALL! EVEN THOUGH WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THINGS EXIST, WE JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT EVERYTHING HAS ITS PURPOSE.

IT'S LIKE A HUGE BALANCING ACT THAT MOTHER NATURE DEvised... AND JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO US DOESN'T GIVE US PERMISSION TO SAY IT DOESN'T BELONG!

BESIDES, IF THERE WASN'T SO MUCH DIVERSITY AND EVERYTHING WAS JUST THE SAME, IT'D BE A PRETTY BORING WORLD, RIGHT MARGO? HMM?

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DISH

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Encore! Encore! Dish gave up doing criticism (at least in print) years ago. But... Jim Chappelleaux's and Tommy Parlon's performance of Mr. C's "Temporary Satisfaction—Layer by Layer" at Seven Stages two weekends ago sure did get our (and much of the audience's) juices flowing. We've always admired Chappelleaux's energy and commitment, but his performances have seemed somehow, shall we say, a bit didactic. But words like energetic, hot, fun, touching and real are what came to our lips as we watched Messers P. & C. do their dance of seduction. More, please. And soon.

Rub My Rubens: We are indebted to the A-J/C for letting us know that one of this country's finest collections of Baroque art is jes' up the road a piece in Greenville, S.C. It's in the gallery of one of this country's most retrograde institutions of higher learning, Bob Jones University. What Dish found most amusing about all this is that "modest dress is required" for admission to the gallery. (Reaffirming the right wing's penchant for double standardizing us, this utterance appeared immediately below the photo of a painting of Christ clad in little more than a gauze Speedo.) Dish believes that it would be good for all involved (especially the poor lesbian and gay students at B.J.U.) if such fashion forward souls as Eleganza and Deandra Peek (escorted by some leather queens and cycle dykes) were to organize a Sunday afternoon outing to the gallery.

Toll Free: Speaking of right wing raunchiness, it seems that AT&T's Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week for its employees (in existence now for three years and considered an industry model) has become the target of a hate campaign organized by the Christian Broadcasting Network. Last time these loonies threatened to cancel their long distance accounts was over AT&T's funding of Planned Parenthood. And they won. Don't let it happen again. You can support AT&T's Awareness Week by calling (toll free) (800) 323-4357. Or write to Anne Fritz, Division Manager, AA/EEO/Diversity Programs, AT&T, Room 3D-28, 100 Southgate Parkway, Morristown, N.J. 07962. If you are an AT&T subscriber, be sure and let them know.



SHERRY BOREN

How Does Martina's Garden Grow? When Dish got the phone call that Martina Navratilova would be living in Decatur (she plays for Atlanta Thunder, the Team Tennis group whose home is in DeKalb County), we immediately called Sherry Siclair, Grand Czarina of the Digging Dykes of Decatur, to find out if the Dykes would soon have a new member. Alas, it's not to be. "She's welcome to the neighborhood," said the Grand Czarina, "but she just can't be a member. We have concerns about how she treats her girlfriends." Sigh. But we know that Martina is in good company. DeKalb County Commissioner Sherry Sutton, shown above with Our Hero, is not a Digging Dyke either. I guess we'll cancel our plans to start a garden and just fork out the dough for tickets to the Thunder's matches.

Hot Flash: The August issue of DC Comics "The Flash" does an altogether real (well, as real as comics like these get) and sympathetic job of introducing a gay character—the Pied Piper, a gentle super-villain turned good. It is with the Piper's help that the Flash rescues Jimmy Olsen from that "meta-human bank robber" Silver Squid. Dish still prefers Peanuts or Pogo, thank you, but that's not the point. Millions of impressionable preteen and teenage kids read comic books. When their publishers present good gay characters they deserve to be thanked. Write to Jeanette Kahn, President, DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.

Consciousness Raising: Convinced that George Bush is going to do no more about upping the importance of AIDS on his agenda than Ronald Reagan did in his 8 years of mismanaging response to the epidemic, ACT UP is preparing to go after Bush with a series of protests and demos this fall. But before they launch their major assault, ACT UPpers intend to soften Poppy (and Barbara) Bush up a bit by sending copies of obituaries of those who have died of AIDS to the White House. So start clipping and mailing to President George Bush (Or Mrs. George Bush), The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20500. If the obit doesn't specifically mention AIDS, just make a small note in the margin noting it as the cause of this person's death.

Bewitching Times: Strange days indeed. During the Peachtree Road Race festivities on the 4th, straight people galore—complete with offspring—converged on Blake's on 10th street for libations and shade. Funny how the queer bar had no problem with all those het customers and their public displays of affection while Jocks 'N Jills across the street had queers tossed out a while back for having a drink and a smooch. Another bewitching tale was passed on to Dish this week. Dick Sargent, Darren of Bewitched fame, was seen sipping a few cocktails at Collier Road Library recently. Dish would love to hear more about celebs spotted about town. With Elton and Martina in town there's no telling what you might see. Let us know.

July 18 - July 31

RULING PLANETS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLORETTI

by Mary Bailey-Rule

Summer intensifies as the Sun enters the fixed fire sign of LEO on July 23. A Lunar Eclipse on the 26th indicates new energies and influences moving through our lives.

ARIES—As the Sun joins Jupiter in your 5th house of creativity and self-esteem, you may experience a surge of energy and inspiration which will aid you at home, at work and in your personal growth. Have clear priorities.



TAURUS—With Mercury, Venus and Mars all sitting in your 5th house, you have an excellent opportunity to appreciate and express your own creativity and passion in new projects and relationships. Make time to enjoy yourself.



GEMINI—With Mercury, Venus and Mars in your 4th house of home, family, personal roots and parents, you may be dealing with situations involving one or more of the above. Be patient, focused and gentle with yourself and others.



CANCER—As the Sun moves into your 2nd house of material resources, personal comfort and income, it is a good time to plan expenses, investments and savings for the coming year. Also look for opportunities.



LEO—HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you! With the Sun and Jupiter in your 1st house, it is the perfect time to celebrate life with friends and family. Let others know how much you appreciate their presence and gifts in your life.



VIRGO—With Mercury, Venus and Jupiter together in your 1st house of personal appearance and self-awareness, you may have more attention from friends and associates. A good time for changes in your wardrobe and appearance.



LIBRA—With Mercury, Venus and Mars in your 12th house of the unconscious, unseen and unknown, you will have wonderful opportunities to explore your own psyche. You may need to set aside personal time for growth and reflection.



SCORPIO—As Pluto in your 1st house moves into direct motion, you may find it easier to reach decisions and act on them. You will still have many emotional and psychological factors to work with, but the rewards are numerous.



SAGITTARIUS—With the Sun and Jupiter together in your 9th house of metaphysics, foreign travel and spiritual ideals, it's the perfect time for personal renewal and healing or travel that offers you new experiences and perspectives.



CAPRICORN—Mercury, Venus and Mars are grouped in your 9th house of higher learning, foreign travel and personal ideals. Make time in your busy schedule for experiences that will give you new perspectives and broader viewpoints.



AQUARIUS—The Sun and Jupiter in your 7th house of close personal relationships are illuminating and expanding your opportunities to enhance current relationships and to develop new ones as fresh faces appear in your life.



PISCES—Mercury, Venus and Mars in your 7th house of close personal relationships create opportunities to clarify current situations and to meet new and wonderful friends and potential partners or significant others. Don't be shy!



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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Winners will be judged by Southern Voice staff members based on overall "appeal." Be sure to include your name, address, & phone number and S.A.S.E. if photo needs to be returned.

Darcie & Coyote

This issue's winners: This tender photo of Darcie, a dalmatian at 6 months of age (owned by Margie Deeb), and Coyote, a shepherd-spitz mix at five years old (owned by Debora Gray), was unposed!! Their owners report that the happy, healthy loving pups (both female) no longer sleep together, but are available for modeling jobs. Darcie, now three years old has modeled professionally for Macy's.



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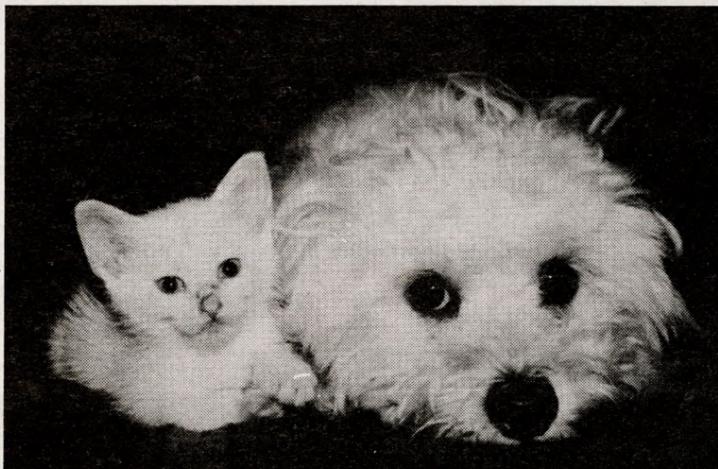
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Marlee & Harry

Honorable mention goes to this photo of Marlee and Harry sent in by John Corbett. Harry is a two year old Bichon mix, and his adorable little friend, Marlee, is deaf. She was named after Marlee Maitlin, the actress best known for her Oscar-winning performance in *Children of a Lesser God*. These two are best friends, so inseparable in fact, that when Harry goes out for a walk, Marlee cries at the window until his return.

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Atlanta Group Enables PWAs to Keep Their Pets

by Ian W. Ginsburg

In the frequently, anxiety-ridden world that surrounds PWAs, there is often little time to care for pets and attend to their needs. A group in Atlanta called PALS (Pets Are Loving Support) was created specifically to deal with the problems created by people who have pets and are stricken with HIV.

Margaret Schulte and the Wynn family, Linda, Jack and their daughter Susan (a veterinarian) began the organization a year ago because, according to Linda, "so many people who are sick, have lost so much—their family, their friends—why should they lose the support of a beloved pet, just because they can't take care of it?"

PALS provides reduced-cost veterinary care, free food and an adoption or foster-home program for those pets who need or who will need placement. "We make sure the animals are being taken care of so the PWAs have one less thing to worry about." PALS also provides literature and information on safe pet guidelines for persons who are HIV+ or PWAs.

A year ago PALS began monthly clinics at Inman Animal Hospital. Today they have a network of veterinarians throughout the

Atlanta Metro area who participate in the reduced-fee program. Janette Friel, D.V.M. at Inman Animal Hospital considers PALS to be "a much-needed service in our community and we are pleased and very happy to be able to participate with PALS."

Linda has many touching stories, including one about a particular couple who were both PWAs and came from small towns. "All they had left," Linda recalls, "were their pets—and they realized the time would come when they were going to need to find a home for them." The couple asked to "write a paragraph about each dog—so that the future owners would know what they were like."

The Wynns handle the paperwork, coordination and phones. They keep in constant touch with AID Atlanta and keep a supply of pet food there. To reach PALS or to volunteer, call 255-7461. Calls are returned if a message is left. "We as a society," concludes Wynn, "must recognize the depth of love and commitment PWAs have to their pets. PALS exists so that these people don't have to lose what they love so much, at a time when they need more love and support than ever before."

Classifieds Reach more than 35,000 readers! Call 876-2709 to place your ad.

AIDS Services & Education

HIV+ ACM Cares- We are Atlanta's Continuous Matching Unlimited. We understand the need for friendship/relationships with others who understand! Our service can help! Complete Confidentiality! FREE details, send \$3.00 s/h. Dept. H Box 957542, Duluth, GA 30136. Start meeting others soon! (V4,#13)

Project A.R.I.E.S. - HIV-negative gay and bisexual men - meet other healthy men who want to stay healthy and have fun, too. Six session AIDS risk-reduction program and social network. Call AID Atlanta at 872-0600 for details. Confidential.

THE ATLANTA BUYERS CLUB provides access to alternate treatment for the HIV community in the Southeast. Currently we can help you obtain ddC and clarithromycin. We are working on access to several additional treatments. For further information contact us at (404) 874-4845, or PO Box 77003, Atlanta, GA 30357.

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 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,#11)

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 information.

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

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

ACT UP/Atlanta: (404) 286-6247

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

AID ATLANTA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS*
PWAs - Wednesdays; Hispanics with HIV - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays; Lymphadenopathy/ARC - Mondays; Families, Friends, Partners I - Mondays; Families, Friends, Partners II - Wednesdays; Bereavement - Mondays; Worried Well - Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. *All meetings are from 7pm to 9pm weekly, unless otherwise specified. Call 874-6517 for locations.

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

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. A social network of HIV persons who want to meet similarly oriented people for social and emotional interaction. Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 8:00pm. For info call 872-9954 or 294-9407. PO Box 8569, Atlanta, GA 30306.

Announcements

OUT YOUTH - has formed in Atlanta! If you are a lesbian, gay, or bisexual youth and are interested in socials, demonstrations, safe space, and/or a support group... We want your help! For more information about how you can become active... call Chance at 688-1954. (V4,#13)

FORMER & CURRENT EMPLOYEES OF RACETRAC: If you have experienced any homophobic treatment at Racetrac, contact KC Wildmoon at Southern Voice. (404) 876-0789. (V4,#11)

AUDITIONS Auditions for the 1991-92 Tenth Anniversary Season of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus will be held on Saturday, July 27, 1:00-3:00pm and Sunday, July 28, 2:00-4:00pm at Morningside Presbyterian Church. The season includes performances at the AIDS Walk "From All Walks of Life," three full concerts produced by the Chorus, and a trip to Denver, Colorado in the summer of 1992. These are guaranteed to be PAINLESS auditions! For more information, please call Jeffrey McIntyre at 627-6603. (V4,#11)

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Employment

HAIRSTYLIST-F/T station to lease in exclusive N. Buckhead location 256-3200. (V4,#11)

PRESS OPERATOR - A.B. Dick press operator. Specifically 360 and 9810 with color head. Medical benefits, pleasant working environment, convenient location in Buckhead area. Call Paul or Larry for interview between 12 and 5pm. 231-0852. (V4,#12)

STUDENTS! FALL, SPRING AND SUMMER GUARDIAN INTERNSHIPS - Break into radical journalism. Learn valuable skills to take back to your school or community paper / organization. Blacks, latinos, lesbians, gays and other minorities are encouraged to apply. Contact Guardian Intern Committee, 24 W. 25th Street, NY, NY 10010; (212) 691-0404. (V4,#11)

Employment Wanted

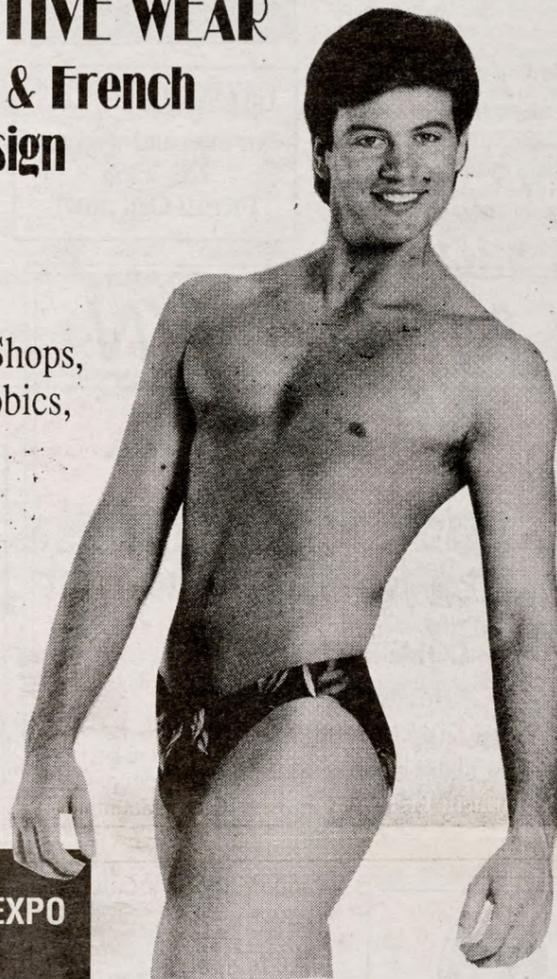
GWM,38, neat, clean-cut, mentally handicapped seeks job clearing tables in a midtown or intown cafe or diner. Please, no dishwashing. Call Willy at 296-9475. (V4,#11)

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Ad Placement: Classified ads may be placed by mail, in person, or by phone (404) 876-2709, 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

Deadline: Tuesday noon prior to publication.

Classified Line Ads other than personals or **VOICE CONNECTION®** are \$15.00 per issue for 40 words or less. Additional words are .25 ea. Giant Headline is \$3.00. Use the form below to compute your cost.

VOICE CONNECTION® personal ads are published FREE in *Southern Voice* for 4 issues. You will be mailed an instruction sheet, your box number and your own private security code number. Your phone number will be billed \$1.49 per minute when you retrieve messages.

Personal Ads (other than **VOICE CONNECTION®**) will be published for two issues in *Southern Voice* at a flat rate of \$25.00. You may use your own personal P.O. Box or we will assign you a *Southern Voice* forwarding box for an additional \$5.00. Just fill out this coupon completely and mail to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

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Limit to 40 words.

Check appropriate box.

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DECATUR AREA - 2BR, 1 BA. Large eat-in kitchen. W/D connections. Cable-ready. Fully carpeted. Professionally managed. In Pen Corp. \$410. Call Phil 373-4368. (V4,#14)

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WOODSTOCK AREA - 1 BR. 10 minutes to Town Center near lake. Perfect for single woman. \$350+ deposit. 681-2729 (4-9PM). (V4,#11)

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Atlanta Northside Center for Women - A division of Northside Gynecological and Obstetric, P.A. A unique concept in women's care offering quality medical attention and flexible hours at affordable prices. Board-Certified Gynecologist. Nurse Practitioner. Quality Gynecological Care. Premarital Exams and Bloodtesting. Pregnancy Testing. Birth Control Services. PMS Treatment. Educational Services. Please Call (404) 252-1125 for an appointment. 960 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 350 (Located in Northside Doctors Centre). (V4,#11)

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GWM, 35, tall, slim, teacher, mature, gentle, sincere. Interests: nature, plants, arts/culture, travel, people. Seek GWM 25-40 for friendship, eventual relationship. Quality friends, not one-nighters. Call or write POB 2629, Auburn, AL 36831-2629. ☐ 45059. (V4,#14)

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CLASSIFIEDS

Attractive, trim, warm, understanding GWM new to the HIV+ scene (good at massage) seeks other HIV+ guys. Let's talk! ☎ 45061. (V4,#14)

GWM- 21, dk hair/eyes, 5'5". I'm sincere, stable, attractive, and intelligent. So are you. Not interested in one-nighters. If you're between 18-35 and want a passionate love—we need each other. ☎ 45055. (V4,#13)

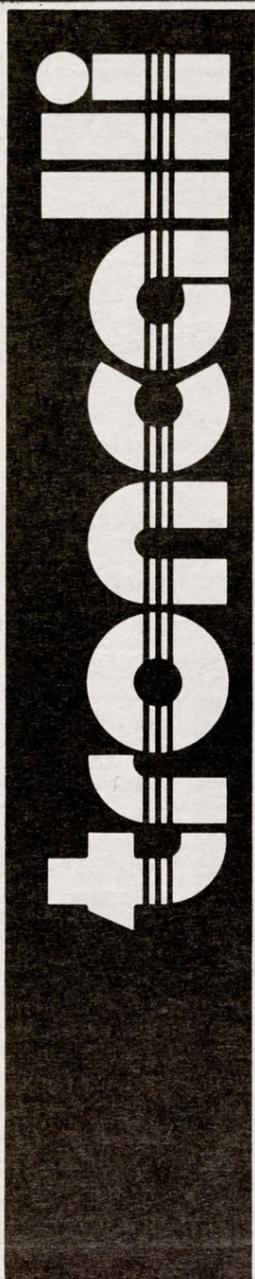
GWM- couple. Mature, versatile, discreet, nice looking. Members 4-H club-hot, healthy, hung, horny seek singles or couples any race, age, who can give and take. Safe but good! No fats, ferns, Jos. Stout OK. Call today and you'll like it. ☎ 45057. (V4,#13)

Fun, Fun, Fun! Join us for summer fun. Young lesbian couple desires to meet other lesbian couples for friendship. Enjoy movies, partying, cookouts, travel and arts. No Bisexuals. No drugs or heavy smoking. We'd like to meet you. ☎ 45053 (V4,#12)

Do you exist? I am an attractive, sincere GWM, 27, who is seeking a caring masculine GBM, 20-40 who desires a long-term relationship. ☎ 45051. (V4,#11)

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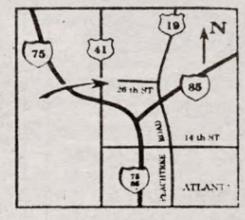
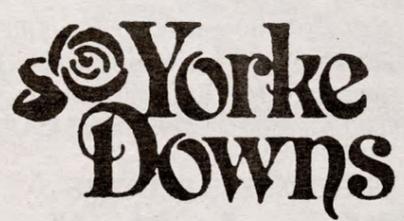
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CLASSIFIEDS

Chubby GWM, sincere, masculine, 25, 6'1", Brn/Blu, hairy, 225 lbs, seeks honest, sincere, monogamous relationship. Is there anybody in Atlanta that is not a barfly or who has any motivation besides finding the next trick? Whatever happened to honesty and integrity? ☐ 45049. (V4,#11)

Personals

HOW TO PLACE

a personal ad: Fill out the classified coupon on the first page of the classified section and check the personals

box. Personals will be published in two issues for a flat rate of \$25.00. If you want a forwarding box, include an additional \$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.

Goodlooking professional GWM. Business owner. 32 years old, 6'2", br/gr. Seeking smooth younger guys, especially dark eyes & hair, for fun and mutual satisfaction. Write with photo / description to: SV 2416. (V4,#14)

LONGTIME NATURIST

whose exposure to male nudity and fond memories of several youthful indiscretions finds himself becoming gay. Seeking stable GWM friend for socials, sunny days, and warm evenings. I'm a professional, masculine, friendly GWM, 38, 5'11", 195 lbs., handsome, healthy, versatile, hung, and eager for hot nights. Interested in nude weekends, evenings at home, movies, sports, dining out, reading, photography, and saving the world over pizza and beer. Photo/phone if possible, all answered. Stefan, PO Box 8131, Atlanta, GA 30306-0131. (V4,#14)

GBM- 29, 6'3", 195 lbs., intelligent, very masculine, fun-loving, humorous, seeks GWM (18-28). Must be very slim, boyish looks, down to earth for friendship and/or possible relationship. Send letter to P.O. Box 11576, Atlanta, GA, 30355. (V4,#11)

GWM - Travelling with job. 26, 5'7", 145 lbs., sandy hair, dark mustache, 38" ch, 7" cut. Enjoy modern rock, dancing, trailriding, partying. Very active, non-smoker seeks Al Parker fans for friendship or hot times in the back of my 4 X 4. Rick Williams P.O. Box 280596, Memphis, TN, 38168. 901-387-0437. (V4,#11)

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Room to roam. Tired of dealing w/the constant hassles of city life? GWF, 30, seeks same to share 2 BR, 2 BA house off 32 acres in Dawsonville. Must like cats, be responsible, honest. No smoking, drinking, or drugs. \$175 + 1/2 util. \$200 deposit. (404) 265-7736. (V4,#11)

Condo to share - Retired professional man seeks compatible, non-smoking, moderate drinking, professional man to share spacious condo located in Peachtree Battle area. Easy access to MARTA. Character & Job references required. Rent \$300 monthly + 1/2 util. Call 351-0992. (V4,#11)

Ladies of Atlanta - HELP! Young dyke, recently out... (out of law school, out of a job, out of my home, but hopefully not out of luck) desperately needs a place to stay in Atlanta while conducting a professional job search. Willing to exchange housekeeping duties for reduced rent. If you have a kind heart and extra space, please respond! Call 315-7152. (V4,#11)

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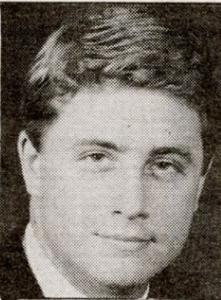
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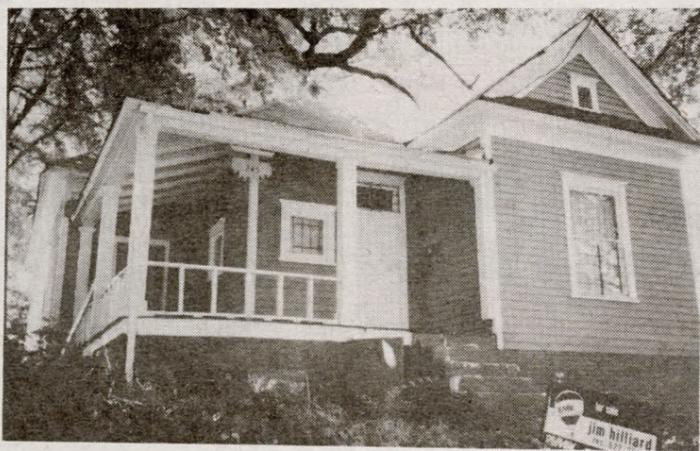
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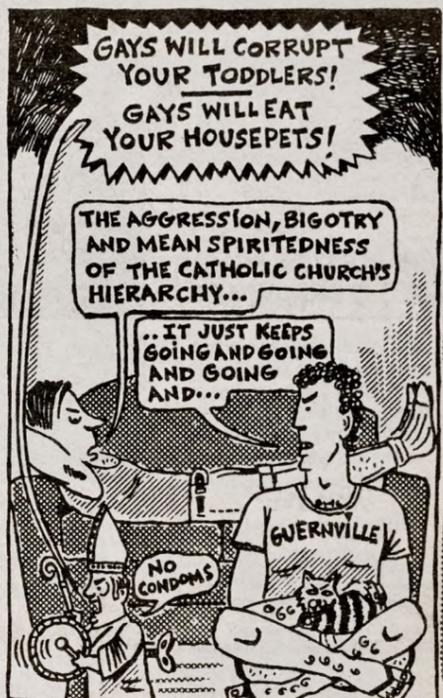
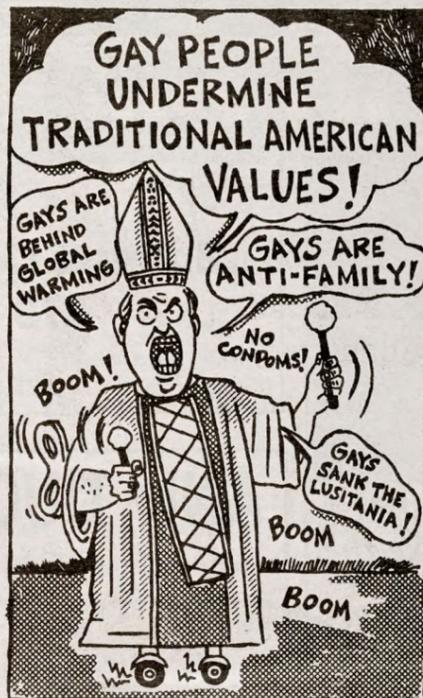
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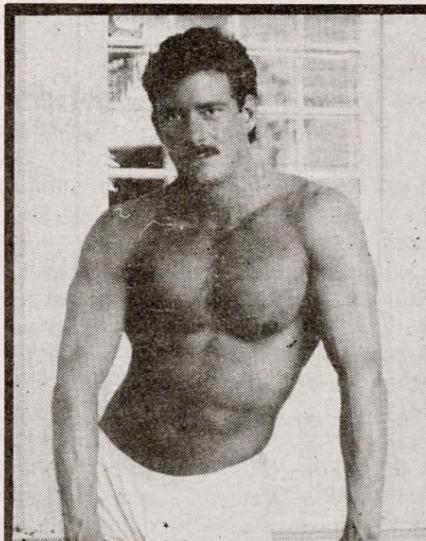
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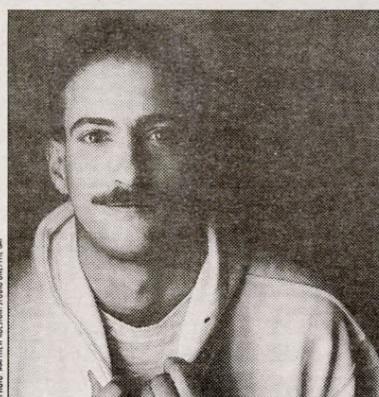
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Southern by Birth, Gay by the Grace of God

Breaking the ties that bind and
discovering the gift of difference

by Gary Kaupman

If you live in Atlanta it can be easy to forget (or deny) the fact that you also live in the South. And if you are lesbian or gay and live in Atlanta, dismissal of that part of your life can also be easily negotiated. But when the mercury hits 95, the humidity flatters it with imitation, and the magnolias begin to blossom, such acts of self-deception become difficult to support. Even if you do live inside I-285.

Maybe that's why so many men and women born gay in the South flee the region for environs more hospitable—both in climate and attitude.

But before we can scurry off to San Francisco or the Big Apple, we must grow up. And we must do that growing, that learning about ourselves and the world, in a region still deeply steeped in tradition—much of it sweet and sultry as a gardenia-scented night illuminated only by the lazy flicker of fireflies. A night perhaps interrupted by gatherings of white-hooded men so fearful of change that they will utilize terror to prevent it.

Confronted by such blatant contradictions, it's not difficult to see how denial has woven its way so thoroughly into the regions' culture.

In the South funerals are frequently orchestrated by clergy who speak in glowing euphemisms of "going on to greater rewards" and "joining our maker," as they assiduously avoid uttering the word "dead" or any of its more honest correlatives.

"In the South we bury our dead in closed coffins," says poet Franklin Abbott, a native of Tennessee.

And if you think Southern tradition has done a number on death, just take a gander at how it deals with sex. Several years ago, a friend of mine, Georgia born and raised, told his Baptist family that he was gay, with these words: "I have AIDS, but you've got to understand that I'm not a drug user."

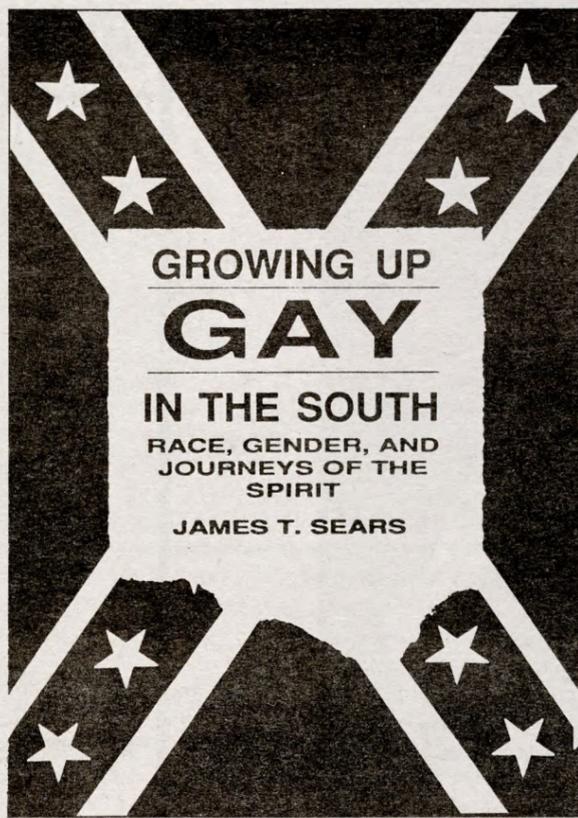
Combine generous portions of this institutionalized denial, a near-neurotic penchant for politesse, and an absolute addiction to all things melodramatic and it's easy to see why the published accounts of the lives of lesbian and gay Southerners have been tended to be fictional rather than factual.

Enter James T. Sears, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policies at the University of South Carolina.

Sears is gay, though not a Southerner, "I was born in a Midwestern farming community that had a checkerboard flatness....In my town...there were no shades of gray. There were no long-kept secrets....I learned that only girls wore dresses and sported stylish, long hair. I learned to write within the broad-lines of my ruled paper as I sat beneath an American flag and a scantily clothed crucified Christ. I learned that God punished sinners but loved the repentant. I learned that homosexuality was sinful; that I was a sinner."

Well, if someone other than a Southerner was to write the definitive volume *Growing Up Gay in the South*, surely it is only right that he should have been raised in the Midwest—the other region of the U.S. from which queers regularly flee in droves as soon as they are able. It's funny, like Sears, a few of them even come south.

Growing Up Gay... is a book that works on a number



BOOK REVIEW
**Growing Up Gay in the South:
Race, Gender and Journeys of the Spirit**
by James T. Sears, Ph.D.
Harrington Park Press
\$24.95

of different levels. On the surface it is a well-documented weaving of the stories of 36 Southern lesbians and gay men. Sears offers thirteen of their stories in depth in chapters with titles like: "White Trash' & Female in a Southern Community—Norma Jean, ROTC, & The Live Oak Tree;" "Honoring and Carrying on the Family Name—Terry & the Two Tux Prom;" and "Questioning Authority in a Southern Black Family—Obie and the Breaking of Ties."

If you grew up hereabouts and are between 18 and 30 (the age range of Sears' subjects) surely you'll find yourself and your friends in these pages. Those who are older, even by several decades, will easily recognize the fear, the denial, and the distinctly Southern, whacked-out joy in these stories.

•Everetta, committed to a mental hospital at 15 because of her sexuality: "While I was in the hospital, I had a guy walk up to me from out of the blue. I didn't know him and he didn't know me. He said, 'Don't ever admit to yourself that you're gay. I've lost my family, my home, lost everything because I admitted I was gay.'"

•Alston, describing his friend Timmy in the 1983 Miss Collard Festival Parade: "It wasn't supposed to be a contest for men. But Timmy just went there, did her talent, and won. She rode in this little redneck town parade and her picture appeared in the state's newspaper. Another guy won it the following year. That's when the town fathers stopped having it. They said it wasn't right

to have men get up in dresses to be judged by other men and looking better than the women."

•Norma Jean talking about high school: "...I was floundering for some kind of identification. I kept telling myself that I was an individual but I was so strange from everybody else. I didn't have any label or something to give myself to say, 'This is the way I feel.'"

•Cory, now 21, on the breakup of his first gay relationship at age 16: "He looked at me and said, 'I love you. It's been marvelous. But it has been too much for me. It would kill my mother.' I went back home and died. That is the day that I lost all use whatsoever I had for that person. It ended right there. Yet to this day, I still love him. That person has been haunting my life for years."

But Sears is also an academic, and *Growing Up Gay...* takes a look long, hard look at the lives of these 36 "[homo]sexual rebels" through five "prisms": the religious South; Southern communities; Southern families; gender and sexuality; and sexuality and adolescence. His commentary on and analysis of the experiences of his subjects and the culture that defines their lives is personal, political and even spiritual.

Sometimes the analysis gets a bit wordy, but invariably those words are strong and right on the money. "The journey of the spirit is an exploration of, so to speak, a house of many selves, of which sexuality is but one, albeit important, room. The importance of feeling sexually different is not that we are, in fact, sexually different, but that in a particular historical moment within a specific culture those feelings have particular personal and social meanings. These meanings place us outside the world of respectability. The gift of difference prevents us from becoming too comfortable in an ephemeral world. This difference to seeing the world upside down."

The "upside down" reference is to Armenian mystic G. I. Gurdjieff's contention that ordinary people must work on themselves through the "reflecting of reality in one's attention upside down."

This academic bent and the book's somewhat daunting length (500 pages) may be off-putting to readers whose needs are for little more than a collection of grippingly familiar, often heart wrenching, often hilarious coming out stories. Although it is possible to breeze by Sears' commentary and theory and use the book in just that way. One reviewer went so far as to say that *Growing Up Gay* "is reminiscent of good fiction....It reminds me again and again of Eudora Welty and Carson McCullers."

But this is not fiction. Sears' work is a chronicle of the anguish, travails and triumphs of a whole generation of flesh and blood human beings who just happen to be born both Southern and gay. Through painstaking research and searingly honest analysis he has succeeded in painting an elegant and academically irrefutable portrait of his subjects and the communities which sometimes support them, and, other times, threaten to extinguish them because of who and how they love.

Growing up Gay in the South is mandatory reading for anyone how works with kids or families. It is a must for those who create and adjudicate public policy. And for religious leaders. Jesse Helms, Donald Wildmon and the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States need to read this book. They probably won't, but that doesn't mean that they shouldn't.

John Bradshaw: ATLANTA

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