

# VOICE

Taking Pride in Our Culture

## PERSONAL



**Mending Hearts** traces two years in the lives of six Atlantans with AIDS. 5

## DRAG



**DeAundra Peek** brings drag back to television, at least locally. 13

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**Neil Jordan's film** glitters with an excellent cast and layers of meaning. 15

## First Atlanta AIDS Walk Raises \$560,000

by KC Wildmoon

Saying that he wished all people concerned with AIDS "would be as responsible and aggressive as has been the gay and lesbian community," Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson joined with British singer Elton John to lead "From All Walks of Life" AIDS Walk Atlanta on September 8. The walk drew more than 22,000 participants to Piedmont Park and raised over \$560,000 for nine AIDS service organizations in the metro Atlanta area.

Organizers said that the turnout exceeded their expectations. "I'm delighted," said Sandy Thurman, executive director of AID Atlanta. "We were hoping for something like this. It's heartening to see it actually happen. We had some of everybody. It really was from all walks of life." AID Atlanta used its staff and resources to organize the walk, which was billed as the first annual AIDS walk in Atlanta.

"I'll be back year after year," said Elton John, who has made Atlanta his home in the U.S. Noting the struggle for obtaining funds for AIDS services and research, he said, "It makes me angry. This disease strikes everybody."

The singer also said that he "completely agrees" with groups like ACT UP who are protesting what they see as government inaction to AIDS.

John sang with the Indigo Girls at the rally following the march, and then performed two numbers solo. He said that it was his first public performance in over a year.

### Mayor Jackson commends gays and lesbians for their work, announces commission on domestic partnership

Fifth District U.S. Congressman John Lewis also walked the 3.2 miles down Peachtree Street and through Ansley Park. Lewis drew loud applause and cheers when he told the crowd, "We are spending too much money on bombs...Shame on George Bush!"

Talking with members of the press backstage, Lewis said that he hoped walks like this would "put the necessary pressure on the federal government to spend the necessary money" to stop AIDS. He also said that there was too much misinformation about the disease. "Too many people [speaking out] have been experts at fear rather than medical experts," he said.

Organizers of the walk were also pleased with the turnout from Atlanta corporations. "It did attract a tremendous amount of corporate support, not necessarily at the top level, but from the employee level," said AID Atlanta's Thurman. "We did have a good amount of top level support from Atlanta businesses, but it's this groundswell from the employee level, the average citizen,

that will really make the difference in dealing with this disease."

During his remarks before the walk, Mayor Jackson introduced his special assistant and liaison to the gay/lesbian community, Marcia Okula. Okula announced that a study commission had been formed to write domestic partnership legislation for the city.

Speaking to reporters after the walk, Jackson said that he knew some citizens of Atlanta would raise objections to such legislation. "But that's how I think the city of Atlanta should be—fair," he said.

Okula acknowledged that work on domestic partnership has been a long time coming in Atlanta. "Now that we've announced it in Piedmont Park, I think it'll move a lot faster," she said.

City Council member Mary Davis said she was glad to hear the announcement. "I've wanted to do it for a long time," she said. "It's exciting. I think the chances of getting this legislation through council now are very good."

Gay and lesbian activists in the crowd who have been dissatisfied with Jackson's response both to AIDS and gay and lesbian issues chanted "What about you?" as the mayor spoke. Afterwards, some accused the mayor of using the day of the AIDS walk to ingratiate himself to the

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### ATLANTA ARTS FESTIVAL

## Two artists are openly gay, but their work is not

by Candace Chellew

Two of the featured artists at this year's Arts Festival of Atlanta are openly gay: visual artist Philip Carpenter and dancer Jim Chappelleaux. *Southern Voice* asked them to talk about their work and how openly gay artists function in the context of the Arts Festival.

Philip Carpenter is finding that you can get anywhere in Atlanta via Cheshire Bridge Road.

He often takes a camera along when he goes that route, so he can take a picture of the billboard that he designed for the upcoming 1991 Arts Festival of Atlanta in Piedmont Park.

"I've photographed it several times. Today I think I'll do it in color," he jokes.

The openly gay visual artist was commissioned by the Festival to produce the billboard as part of its Big Art show. Carpenter's billboard was one of five selected out of one hundred entries.

"There's something gratifying about

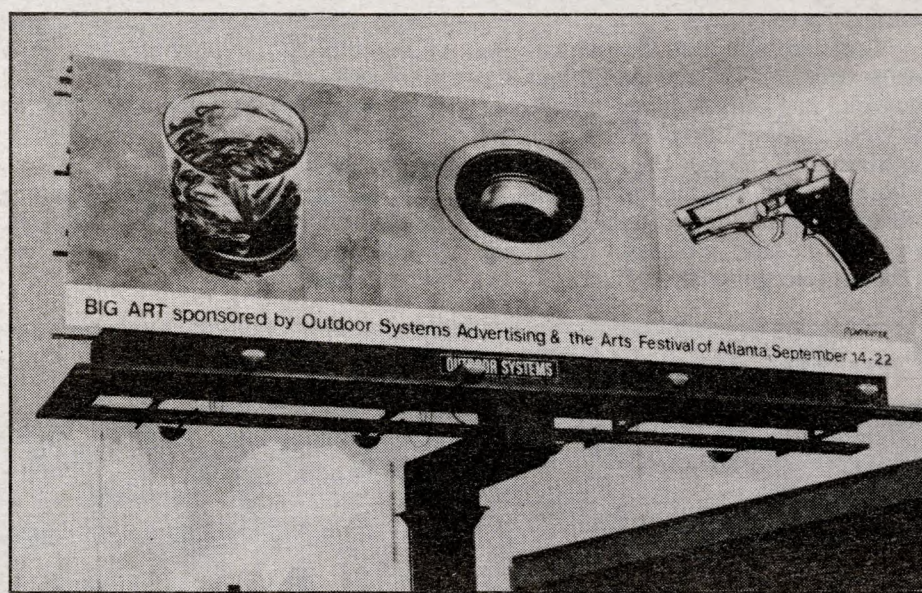
seeing your images in 14 x 48 feet," Carpenter remarks.

The billboard, located near 2069 The Page, depicts three images: an alcoholic drink, an automatic pistol and a drain. "The image to me, and this may be an after-the-fact interpretation," the artist explains, "had something to do with the seeming permanence of a cycle of poverty, drugs, and crime. It's a seemingly unsolvable problem."

Others have told him their interpretations of the piece. Carpenter says, "Some people thought it had less to do with poverty because of the drink. They felt alcohol use crossed all social boundaries."

But Carpenter leaves the final interpretation to those on Cheshire Bridge Road who will see the billboard. "I hope it is provocative enough that it stimulates some interest as to why these images are there. I wouldn't mind a little controversy," Carpenter says.

But controversy is apparently something the Arts Festival itself can do without. Carpenter calls it "disturbing" that the



Philip Carpenter's billboard comments on the interrelationships of alcohol, poverty and crime in his entry in the Arts Festival's Big Art show. It is located on Cheshire Bridge Road, near the 2069 The Page.

Festival censored a pro-choice billboard one year.

Carpenter is philosophic, however. "All artists deal with censorship at one time or another," he concludes. "It's a growth experience." Not only is it a growth experience personally, but also within the arts community as a whole. Carpenter points to the Mapplethorpe controversy and states, "Straight artists have begun to realize that they could be

next, for any reason."

Jim Chappelleaux, an openly gay dancer, agrees censorship is a problem, but sees a lot of self-censorship of gay artists at the Festival. "It's an open public forum that the mass population comes to," he says, "and they are just not very open."

See page 9

# New developments on HIV disclosure rules

by Steven N. Alper and Al Cotton

The movement toward requiring disclosure of the HIV status of health care workers, which started with the publicity around Kimberly Bergalis' possible infection with AIDS from her dentist, continues to gather steam, with several new developments. Meanwhile, questions about how Bergalis contracted the disease are being quietly raised in the media.

The action began on the legislative front in July shortly after Bergalis' letter to the media about her impending death, which created a firestorm of publicity, and generated a cover story in *People Magazine*. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) used the momentum generated by the publicity to pass two bills dealing with HIV in health care settings where invasive procedures are involved. The first would make it a criminal offense for an HIV+ health care worker to provide

medical or dental treatment to any person without first disclosing that condition. A second would require patients about to undergo "exposure prone invasive procedures" to submit to testing for the presence of HIV. These bills now await action by the House of Representatives.

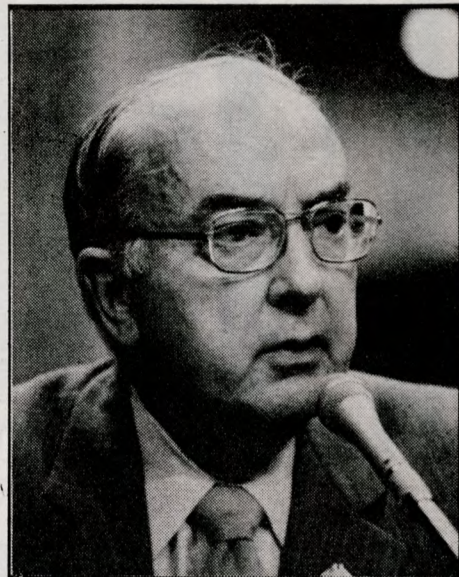
The potential to use these provisions against HIV+ health care workers depends upon the definition of "any invasive physical contact," the language used in the first bill. It is unclear whether this would include minor medical procedures, such as placing a tongue depressor in a patient's mouth. The second bill refers to CDC guidelines for determining what such procedures are, but to date no such guidelines have been promulgated, and may not be forthcoming.

A number of medical groups have refused to cooperate with the government

on the creation of such guidelines. These organizations argue that to work on such guidelines implies a risk to patients when there no significant risk from HIV+ health care workers. According to Dr. Roy Schwarz, a vice president of the American Health Association, "compiling [such a] list implies there is a significant risk, and thus would mislead the public and capitulate to public fears."

In Georgia, however, the Georgia State Examining Board has adopted an "Emergency Rule" establishing CDC recommendations as "the minimum standards of acceptable dental practice." Prior to July 15, 1991, CDC guidelines emphasized infection control, including the treatment of all blood and other specified bodily fluids as containing an infective agent. An

Continued on page 10



## Lotus offers benefits to gay couples

by KC Wildmoon

In what is believed to be the first such move by a major corporation in the country, Lotus Development Corporation has announced that it will extend benefits to the partners of lesbian and gay employees. Lotus is a computer software company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Russ Campanello, vice president of human resources for Lotus, said that same sex couples will sign a contract attesting to their partnership. Unmarried heterosexuals will not be allowed to sign such contracts, since heterosexuals have the option of legal marriage.

"We are providing a parallel process to getting married," said Campanello. "Fundamentally, we believe it's fair and equitable."

Lotus will provide medical and dental benefits as well as bereavement leave to partners and dependents of gay and lesbian employees. The company said that the policy stemmed from Lotus's recruitment of lesbian and gay employees.

Local activists were pleased with the announcement. "I'm sure there'll be some backlash," said Larry Pelligrini, president of the Lesbian/Gay Chapter of the Georgia American Civil Liberties Union, "but it's the right thing to do. It's the first of many. It will be something that companies use to respond to the fact that domestic partnership is not often recognized by legislation."

Pat Hussain, National Co-Chair of the Interim Coordinating Committee of the March on Washington, applauded Lotus's decision. "It's a damn shame that Lotus has to do something that the government is afraid to do," she said. "My hat is off to them for the courage to do the right thing."

"It sends a clear message that some segments of corporate America can behave in a responsible manner regardless of the irresponsibility of a Congress that refuses to enact domestic partnership legislation," continued Hussain, who is also Co-Chair of GLAAD/Atlanta.

Lotus has almost 200 employees in the Atlanta area.

## Cracker Barrel protest moves to S.C.

by KC Wildmoon

Columbia—About forty members of the newly formed Queer Nation/Columbia were joined by twenty members of Queer Nation/Atlanta in staging a sit-in at a Cracker Barrel in South Carolina's capitol on September 1. The protestors held nearly all the tables at the Bush River Road restaurant during a three hour demonstration protesting Cracker Barrel's policy of firing homosexuals.

"The management had been expecting us," said Larry Pelligrini of QN/Atlanta, "but there was no harassment. The staff was excellent."

Pelligrini said that unlike at previous demonstrations, at least one reporter was allowed inside the restaurant during the demonstration. That reporter was free to speak with anyone in the dining room. Cracker Barrel managers, however, still maintained the "no comment" stance they have had since the beginning of the boycott.

The protestors met for breakfast at a nearby Shoney's restaurant that hosts Queer Nation/Columbia's meetings. Between 10 am and 11 am, members left Shoney's as they finished eating and walked about a mile to the Cracker Barrel.

"No one wore any obviously Queer t-shirts or jewelry," said Pelligrini, "so the wait staff didn't know it was us until we only ordered drinks. But they were all very sympathetic. We talked with them, they talked with us. We were told that there were gays and lesbians working there, that everyone got along, and that the staff didn't understand management's problem."

Pelligrini also said that the staff had been told by management that the policy of firing homosexuals had been rescinded. Cracker Barrel did issue a statement earlier this year saying that the policy may have been "a well-intentioned over-reaction to the perceived values of our customers," but to date none of the 15 fired employees have been rehired.

Management called local police to the scene about ten minutes before the scheduled end of the protest, when those participating began tinkling forks and spoons on glasses. The protest ended at 2 pm, when demonstrators paid their bills and left the restaurant together. The police officer who responded to the call photographed

protestors as they left.

"He must have snapped over a hundred pictures," said Pelligrini, "but he never reloaded the camera. It was a silly attempt to intimidate us."

Cracker Barrel management did not visibly photograph the protest as that had at several previous demonstrations.

Queer Nation/Atlanta members who were arrested at the Union City and Lithonia demonstrations get their day in court later this month. The Union City hearing is scheduled for September 10, and the DeKalb County hearing is set for September 11. A total of eighteen Queer Nationals were charged with criminal trespass at those demonstrations.

Future demonstrations are planned for the Atlanta area, and in St. Louis, Missouri, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

The hotline to report bias crimes has been changed. Formerly 286-BIAS, the new hate crimes line is now **605-STOP**

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**Scholarship Winner Announced**



Fourth Tuesday announced that Cathy Clark Garey is the winner of a \$1500 scholarship from the Fourth Tuesday Scholarship Fund at their annual business meeting last month. Garey, a native of Columbus, Ohio, has lived in Atlanta since 1982. She received her undergraduate degree from Georgia State University, and will graduate the University of Georgia in March, 1992, with a Master's Degree in Social Work. She plans to work in community mental health upon graduation, helping to integrate lesbian and gay issues into traditionally mainstream organizations.

**ALGPC Officers Elected:** The Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee board elected officers for the '92 march committee last week. The new slate is: Dale Biggers, Chair; Shelly Robbins and Lynn Cothren, Vice Chairs; Paul Stone, Secretary-correspondence; Duncan Teague, Secretary-recording; and Lynn Manning, Treasurer. "I feel very good about the structure we have for this year," said Cothren. "The organization of the committee should mean an even better march and rally than last year."

**Gays Get Office On Emory Campus:** The newly formed Office of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Life has opened on the Campus at Emory University. The office is an administrative one, and came about as the result of discussion between University officials, the Emory Lesbian/Gay Organization, and the Political Caucus. Coordinators Donna Smith and Michael Wyatt hope that the office will increase the visibility of gays, lesbians and bisexuals on campus through programming, advocacy, and services.

**Motions To Be Filed In Bennett Case:** Motions to seal some records will be filed on Sept. 11 in Tampa and on Sept. 20 in Atlanta in the trial of Robert Lee Bennett, Jr. Bennett is charged with assaulting Michael Jordan and Max Shrader in Atlanta. Jordan was found nude and burned behind the Ponce de Leon Hotel on May 13, prompting an investigation of "the Handcuff Man," who allegedly has operated in Atlanta for years. Bennett will go on trial in Tampa on October 28, accused of attempted murder in the case of Gary Clapp. The circumstances of all three cases are similar.

**Clinic Tests Doctors For AIDS:** Kennestone Hospital has opened a clinic for the sole purpose of testing doctors and dentists for HIV. The clinic, located in Cobb County, is the first of its kind in Georgia. Hospital officials say over 50 professionals have been tested since the clinic opened eight weeks ago.

**Gay Lawyers Rejected By ABA:** The American Bar Association has rejected a request by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association for affiliate status. The request passed the ABA's House of Delegates by a 194-154 vote, but that was 37 votes shy of the two-thirds majority required for passage. The ABA's Assembly passed the measure by a vote of 140-53. Mark Agrast, a board member of the NLGLA, said, "One of the encouraging lessons for us is that we do have a working majority within the House and Assembly. Next year, we're going to win this one."

**LA Police Chief Ordered To Recruit Gays:** The Los Angeles Police Commission has overruled L.A. Police Chief Daryl Gates' decision not to actively recruit gays. The City Council of Los Angeles had recommended that the department recruit gay officers earlier this year. Gates decided to ignore the recommendation, prompting the vote by the police commission.

**NOW Files Brief:** The National Organization for Women filed an amicus brief with the Minnesota Court of Appeals in support of Karen Thompson's petition to be named guardian of Sharon Kowalski. Nine other women's organizations also signed the brief.

**Lesbians Discharged From Army:** At least two lesbians apparently have been discharged from the Army for sexual orientation. Sgt. Heidi Macy and Lt. Debra Frost, both serving at Ft. Lewis Army Base near Tacoma, Washington, were discharged after being investigated by the Army's Criminal Investigation Division (CID). The CID allegedly bugged Macy's home after her roommate told an agent that she was a lesbian. Frost was told she was going to be discharged in January, but was not discharged until the end of the Persian Gulf war.

**GLAAD Names New Executive Director:** The Board of Directors of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/New York has named Ellen Carton as the organization's new executive director. Carton was previously executive director of the New York State National Abortion Rights Action League.

**PFLAG Names Development Director:** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays has named Louis R. Mendonsa as its new Development Director. Mendonsa, who has a teenage lesbian daughter, will work with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to determine development goals and to increase financial support to the organization. Mendonsa has previously served as Division Director for United Way and as Western Regional Director of the United States Olympic Committee.

**Another Dentist In The Fray:** Manassas, Virginia dentist Dr. Robert A. Bunn has joined with other dentists across the country in advertising his and his staff's HIV-negative status. ACT UP/DC picketed the dentist's office on August 23, and is considering further actions to "help stave off" advertising of this type.

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# The paradoxes of *Mending Hearts*

by Candace Chellew and Debbie Fraker

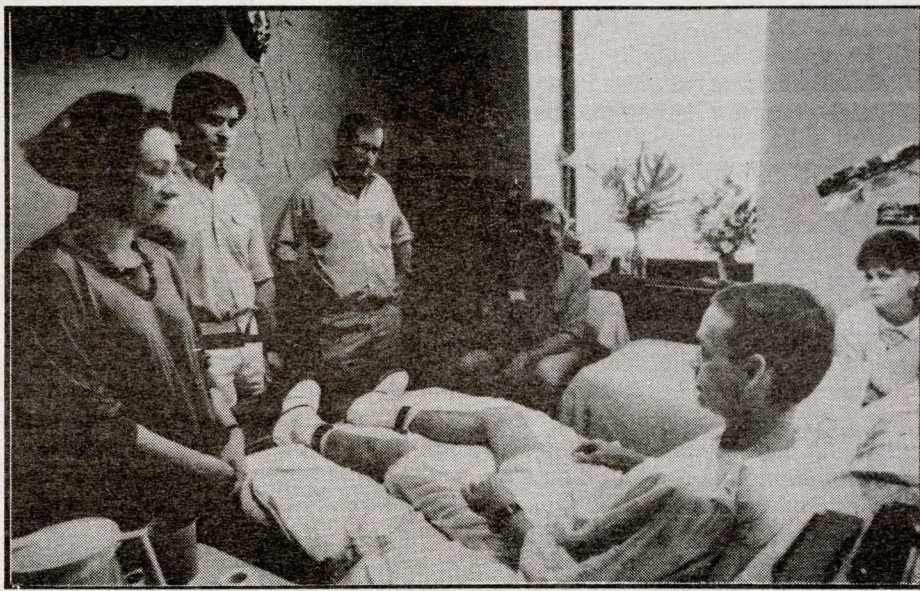
The award winning AIDS documentary, "Mending Hearts," is a paradox both off and on the screen.

The film, which traces two years in the lives of six Atlantans with the deadly disease, is about AIDS, but it is not about AIDS. Producer Scott Auerbach explains, "It's about what we learn about life by facing the realization that all of us have a limited time on this planet. The lessons (the film teaches) are about the importance of love and family and the courage of picking your life back up after a devastating setback."

Which brings another paradox. Auerbach calls the film "a reasonably optimistic look at a tragedy." The abrupt optimistic beginning of "Mending Hearts" introduces the viewer to six people through still photographs and their own statements. The very first of these is a man who calls the disease "a gift." Though he admits that this may be hard to swallow, he stands by his assertion.

But Auerbach claims the film is not a Pollyanna story about AIDS. "This is not a 'Pity the poor AIDS victim' sob story," he insists. "I think we have an unusually optimistic take on some aspects, at least on what we're learning from this."

Learning is a big part in this film, and another paradox. Auerbach says making the film was both hard and wonderful. He calls the people in the film ordinary and extraordinary. "They are burning up hours of their very limited time. That's an incredible gift to someone



KATHERINE LAMBERT

A scene from "Mending Hearts." Producers Bobbie Person, Scott Auerbach, Lon Holmberg and Keith McManus (left to right) film an interview with Philip Hauswirth and his sister Jane.

when you realize they may only have a couple of years to live and they spend that doing a documentary."

Auerbach says the film will open up doors of understanding for those unfamiliar with the disease, and those who are too familiar with AIDS. He says for him, he came to see death as a form of birth experience, and no longer fears dying. He hopes the film will ease the fear of dying that the audience may have.

The film is narrated by actor Christopher Reeve. Auerbach says

Reeve's involvement came when they realized that after ten years of the disease, a large portion of Americans are still afraid to talk about it. "So, we thought a celebrity would get the show seen. Especially to middle America, which needs to see it."

Reeve's broad appeal and his involvement with HeartStrings in Los Angeles made him an excellent choice, according to Auerbach.

Having the recognition value of Reeve's name is probably helping get

exposure for "Mending Hearts," and it is getting exposure. It won the 1990 CINE Golden Eagle for Social Documentary, a First Place Gold Award at the John Muir Medical Film Festival (a festival which included Academy Award winning "Common Threads"), and was a finalist in the New York International Film and Video Festival. It has been aired in Spain and has a broadcast commitment from PBS.

The U.S. Premiere of "Mending Hearts" will take place in Atlanta on Saturday, September 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the 14th Street Playhouse (formerly the Academy Theatre). Tickets for the show cost \$25.00 per person. The premiere will include a catered reception with the producers and some of the film's participants, including Debbie Dillon.

In the film, Dillon talks about the loneliness of being a straight woman with AIDS. Rather than focusing on her eventual death, Dillon concentrates on educating young people, and has given talks at high schools and colleges about AIDS.

"Mending Hearts" offers AIDS education in an uncommon way. Through personal introductions to these six people, the audience has the opportunity to learn about AIDS on an experiential level. And when the tears are dried at the end, the video has done more for the audience than educate.

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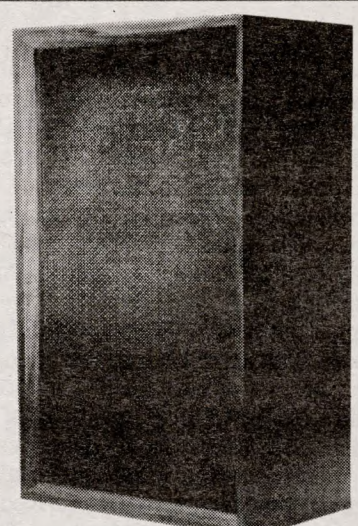
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GUEST EDITORIAL

# A trip to high school reunion heck

by Mark du Pont

"Hi, this is Mark, with helpful hints on how to survive your class reunion. Last week, I rented 'Texasville' and 'Peggy Sue Got Married'. And I worked myself into such a deep depression that anything that happens tonight is bound to cheer me up."

Those were the words I told the video camera at my high school class reunion in Attalla, Alabama. It was time, you see, for the group of people who went down in the history books of Etowah High School as the class with the worst attendance record and the most discipline problems to reassemble for its semi-decennial parade of who's got the most kids and the best job.

My mother—bless her—called me in March to tell me she had run into my class president at the Piggly Wiggly and volunteered me for the reunion committee. I called to see what I could do, and fortunately, there wasn't much which suited me, so I just noted the date and sent in my money. For \$82 I would receive an 8x10 class picture, a video of the picnic/dinner/interviews, a memory book with current photos and addresses, and a steak dinner.

A lot has happened to me since Graduation Day. I'm not the skinny guy twirling batons in the band anymore. I'm not the kid who used to beg his way out of delivering notes from the office for fear of having "faggot" yelled at him. I'm a grown man with a job at a Fortune 500 company. I have a college degree and the respect of my peers. My deepest fear, however, was that I would forget all that when I went to the reunion. Sucking in all my activism, pride and common sense, I drove those 135 mile

drive into the Never-never Land of my past really just to prove I could do it.

Part I, the picnic at Noccalula Falls near Gadsden, was a breeze. I recognized almost everyone with help from Glenda, who brought her yearbook, and Marilyn, who still lives there (as does 90% of our class). I strolled around from clique to clique, smiling and holding babies, reacting with excitement to the guy who had been named Pipefitter of the Month at the Attalla Pipe Foundry (he happened to be our Salutatorian) and telling one woman I envied her for being able to stay home and still be living with her parents and saving money. But the true test of my creative coping abilities would be at the dinner at Lake Guntersville that night.

I knew the first test I would face. Our class has lost 16 members to death, the first of which was Michael duPont, my twin. As per custom, those classmates' 16x20 sepia-tone senior portraits graced the far wall of the dining room; Michael's was the closest portrait to the door. I held my breath as I looked into this "mirror" which everyone else saw as a picture. I couldn't believe it had been so many years—only yesterday, it seems, we were planning our lives together. Now I felt like I was facing life without the other half of myself. I was startled back into reality by a hand on my shoulder. I turned to find Jerry, Michael's boyfriend from high school. I hadn't seen him since the funeral.

As we walked past all the pictures, Jerry explained how depressed he had been before deciding to attend. He knew I would

come and didn't know if he could stand seeing the person who looks so much like his former boyfriend. Our sadness was compounded as we neared the end of the line of photos—there was one of our star football players, who died of AIDS in 1987. As our emotions welled up, so did our eyes. We made a quick exit to the restroom, fixed our attitudes and faces and returned.

After sitting for my portrait, Jerry asked if I would sit for one photo with him. You can imagine the fireworks and gossip that that set off! Then I began my journey around the room, greeting all the people who hadn't come to the picnic. I found myself surrounded by Dynasty-wanna-be-cocktail dresses and fat ex-football players in suits and hightops. Between the two of us, Jerry and I ferreted out five prospective closet cases and made sure to obtain or give out home visit invitations. It's about time I made someone in that class squirm.

"Hi Mark!" said a woman I didn't recognize. She was four years behind us and had married one of my classmates. She remembered me from band. "Where are you living? What are you doing now?"

Here it comes—I'm either going to throw up or insult someone's redneck attitude. I chose the latter. "I'm in Atlanta working at Southern Bell. I also do volunteer counseling at AID Atlanta, the local AIDS agency." Heads visibly turned.

"How did you get involved with them?" Angela asked. It was then I realized she hadn't clued in, even after so many years.

"Well," I took a deep breath, "it was the

logical thing for me to do since I am part of the community AIDS has hit the most. Plus, I have always enjoyed counseling."

"Do you have AIDS?" she asked.

I must have looked as shocked as I was because she apologized instantly. Then she told me she knew better than to ask since she had been a nurse for quite some time now. Then her husband, Chris (gorgeous!—now in the Navy), came up and asked how I was. Angela told him of her embarrassment to which he replied, "Didn't you know Mark's gay? I thought everyone knew."

That was all the rush I needed. All night, everyone got basically the same answer. I decided if they asked the question, they were ready for the answer. Jerry and I even danced together for a couple of the fast songs.

My anxieties began to lift at that point. You see, I had been so wrapped up in the idea of going back to what I was that I forgot one important point—I have changed, but so has everyone else. It's not like Peggy Sue going back at all. I could never go back to that town to live despite all my desires to do just that. I have grown away from their way of life and have found my niche. And they have found theirs, too.

And realizing that, I cried along with the best of them as we held hands in a giant circle and sang the Alma Mater. We all hugged and promised to come back in 1996. Those people aren't so bad after all—just different.

And I am so glad I went.

## Carbon Copies

Jennifer Lawson  
Chief of PBS Programming  
Alexandria, VA

Dear Ms. Lawson:

How bravely you stood up to the self-proclaimed moralists with your airing of "Tongues Untied" over the protests of the American Family Association ("AFA") and others. I was proud to believe that the word "Public" in the name of your network in fact stood for all of the public. However, before my chest could fully swell with pride over your decision, you immediately proved once again to be a puppet of the AFA and other fringe groups who would be the watchdogs of our country's morals when you chose to pull "Stop the Church" and "Son of Sam and Delilah" from your P.O.V. series.

Where do you think the financial support for your programing is derived? Do you think that those Bible-toting fundamentalists in the backwoods of Georgia and Virginia are sitting around the television watching "Live at the Met" or "Wall Street Week in Review"? I submit that 25 million gay and lesbian viewers and their families will grow weary of supporting a network that finds most programs which may interest them "do not meet PBS's standards for quality." You had already accepted these programs and placed them on your P.O.V. schedule. What changed that suddenly made you realize that these programs did not meet PBS's standards for quality?

Please do not be willing to be swayed by pressure from any group. Present programming that is high quality and let

each member of the "public" decide what they want to watch and support. Do not tell me that you or anyone else knows what is best for me.

Sincerely  
Randall H. Stephens

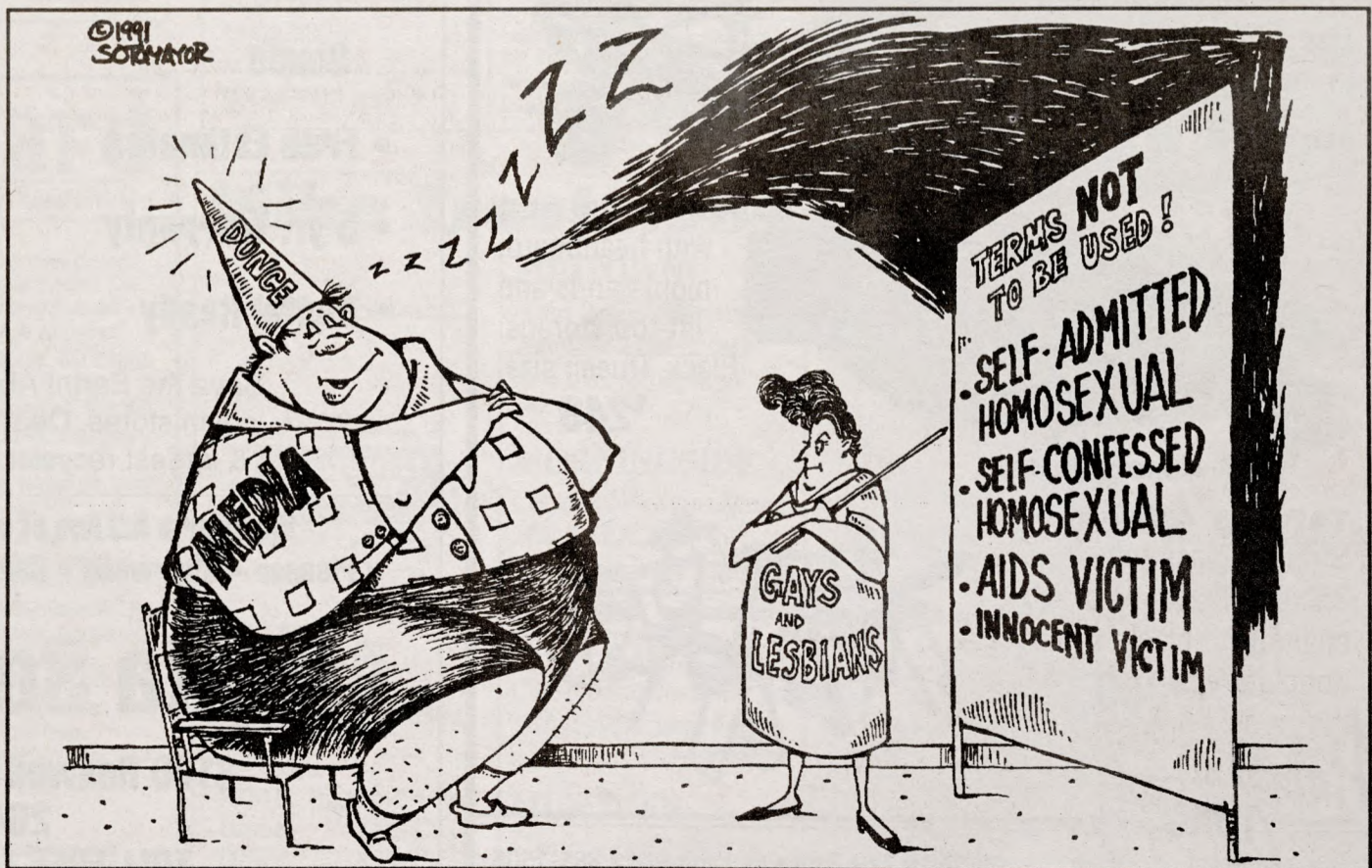
Senator Sam Nunn  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3121

Dear Senator Nunn:

My name is Kennon McCollum and I am a Georgia citizen who has never written any of my Congressmen before. However, an action has been taken by the U.S. Senate that is of great concern to me. As you are aware an amendment proposed by

Senator Helms on July 18, 1991 passed 81 to 18 that would impose prison sentences and monetary fines on health care workers who are HIV+ and perform invasive procedures on patients. I must come forward and inform you that if this amendment is enacted it will be a travesty and a shameful step backwards in the battle against AIDS.

I have great concern over the decision of the U.S. Senate over the passage of Senator Helms' uneducated and irrational proposal because I am a recent Nursing graduate and have just taken my state



**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

**A Ridiculously Blissful Wildmoon**

I must be sleepwalking through life this week. I mean, nothing is bothering me. The only thing that got my hackles up was an erroneous report in the minutes of the last meeting of the Digging Dykes of Decatur Garden Club that I had mowed over the Grand Czarina's day lilies. It's just not true. The Grand Czarina doesn't even have any day lilies, and it's not due to my mowing them down.

Frankly, that's just not much to be upset about. Besides, there'll be a retraction in the minutes of the next meeting. My character has been cleared.

Ever since I got back from RhythmFest...hey, wait a minute. Could that be the reason I'm so calm? Did I leave my concerns on Lookout Mountain?

It wasn't like my stay at the music fest was a vacation...a working one, maybe. I was the sound engineer on the day stage, a job that requires staying in a limited area from around 8:30 am to 6:30 or 7 pm everyday, so I missed out on most of the action.

But every morning I woke up early, climbed out of the back of my truck and walked up to Lookout Point, a break in the trees that afforded an incredible view over a North Georgia valley. Something about being there, seeing the fog over the farm land below, listening to a flock of birds gathering near a pond on the valley floor...

And then at night...what a sight! RhythmFest producers had rented an

acoustic tent for night stage. The thing was huge, with two canvas spires rising up from either side of the stage. It looked for all the world like a temple, or maybe a fairy castle, especially when the stage lights were lit—reds and blues, some nights mixing with a fog to give it a real majickal look. And then there was that moon through the clouds...

I guess I left some of my worries up there. But unlike a lot of festie-goers, I can't really attribute my change in attitude to being on a mountaintop with a few hundred women. I don't really like crowds, and I find that fifteen hundred lesbians make me just as nervous as would any other fifteen hundred people in a small area.

No, I'm afraid the woman-only space didn't do this to me, although woman-only space has been my salvation at many other stressful times. This time, I believe it was simply a change of routine. I still got up every morning, had breakfast, went to work, worked, had dinner, went to sleep...but I was in a different location, did different work, saw different

people. And then I came home.

The shift in my attitude has been subtle, I think—subtle enough that I'm not even sure if my week away is the cause of this change. I'm certainly not pining away for the glory days on the mountain...things like having to hike across a field in a rainstorm to the portajanes prevent me from having an inaccurately rosy picture of the Fest...but I am more content now than I was before I left.

Up on the mountain I missed my cats, I missed my job, and I sure missed the Grand Czarina. But now I'm more sure of myself. Maybe this sounds a bit corny, but it's true. Sometimes all I need is a slight shift of perspective to remind me that life's not always a struggle, that I can be grateful for what I have and still hope for more.

Being at the festival didn't change the world one bit, just the way I look at it. And there's still plenty about this old world to bother me. For now, though, I'm just going to enjoy this peaceful feeling a little bit longer. It could be a while before another one comes along.

**Carbon Copies cont'd**

boards. I am currently awaiting my licensure as a registered nurse. My concern comes from the fact that I am working in a Surgical Emergency Room at a large hospital in Atlanta, in which the largest portion of the patients that I care for on a daily basis are infected with the AIDS virus.

I have chosen a profession of caring for others, nurturing the sick, and putting myself into a situation of the danger of exposure to AIDS every day by caring for these people. I do this because I care, and I feel that I can make some contribution to someone's life. Each time I bandage a bleeding wound, or insert an IV needle into one of these persons arms, I am putting myself at risk, yet I never stop to refuse them or deny them, nurse them, and not once do they have to tell me of their HIV status.

My knowledge of the transmission of the virus and universal precautions are my tools of safety, not a bigoted and fearful restriction such as Senator Helms' proposal. Please do not let Senator Helms and his ignorance destroy a health care system

which is struggling to fight this disease. There is enough to conquer without having to fight Capitol Hill.

I am HIV- and have been tested on several occasions because of my daily contact with blood and body fluids. Because of my careful precautions and knowledge, AIDS has not entered my body. I suggest that you learn exactly how AIDS is transmitted from someone who knows the facts and not a radical, scared, homophobic, bigoted Senator. Learn the facts about AIDS and do not hurt those of us who are trying to help.

Remember one out of every 44 registered voters are nurses and the Georgia Nurses Association is a powerful organization. If you support Senator Helms' efforts you are not only threatening the practice of nurses but you are also penalizing those of us who are brave enough to help, love, and care for the persons who have this disease. Let us do our jobs—don't pass laws that will only hurt our efforts.

Sincerely,  
Kennon H. McCollum

**Brothers**

Dear Dish:

RE: Cause & Effect - 8/29, pg. 23

I read carefully the section in reference, and even after the fourth reading I was not able to find the connection between "The father who is cold, aloof or not physically present is much more likely to have a son who's gay" and "dads may get scared and start to withhold affection and attention when they sense that their sons might be gay."

I am not attempting to defend Dr. Brothers, but to question your thinking process. I have no issue with your statement, for I agree with it, but the way I interpret the passage you attribute to Dr. Brothers (I have not read the original), it seems to me that she is saying the opposite of what you infer.

The father was concerned that being too close to his son might turn him gay, and she responded that it is the distant (not physically present) who is more likely to cause harm. As the son of a

very physically present but emotionally distant (cold and aloof) father, I could not agree more! Because the issue was of great concern to me, long ago I got in the habit of questioning all my male acquaintances on the subject. While my poll is admittedly small and biased (I have not questioned heterosexual males), the fact is that the vast majority of them acknowledged their fathers to be either physically or emotionally—or both—distant. Only a very small minority indicated a close, warm relationship with their fathers.

Far from me to believe, let alone proclaim, that that is the **only** way to turn a child gay, or even a **necessary** factor, but I am convinced it is an important cofactor. I suggest you owe your readers—if not Dr. Brothers—an apology.

Sincerely yours,  
George Roderick



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

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

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

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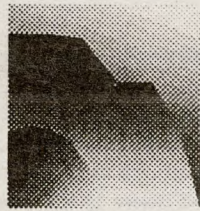
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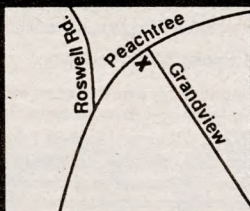
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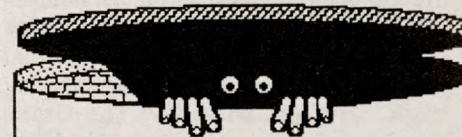
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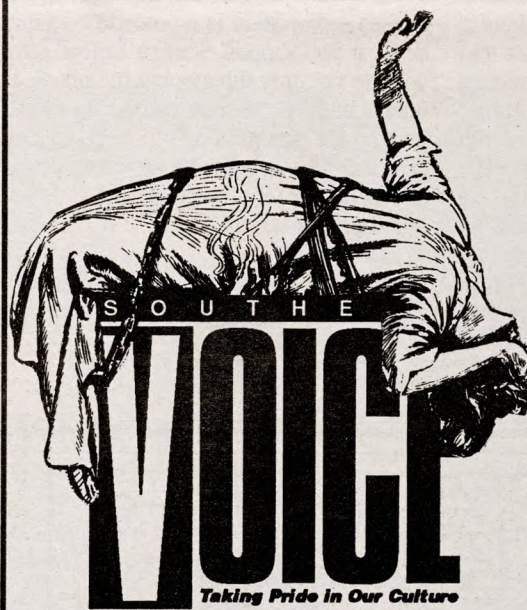


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"Chappstick & the Cars" consist of Jim Chappelleaux and Cherie Carson. They'll be performing at this year's Arts Festival on the Theatre Stage Sept. 18 & 19.

## Arts Fest

Cont'd from page 1

You can maybe do something subtly, but if you put it too out in front of them, they just go crazy."

Chappelleaux and his partner, Cherie Carson, make up the modern dance duo called Chappstick and the Cars. He explains the name, "When I was in school, people called me Chapstick as a name calling gig. So, I decided to take back my power and use Chappstick." Then they decided to shorten Cherie's last name to Cars.

They will perform three duets and two solos during their two performances at the Festival. One, says Chappelleaux, is a very androgynous piece with masks

### General Information

The 38th annual Arts Festival of Atlanta begins Saturday, September 14 and runs through Sunday, September 22, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Festival will feature over 800 national, regional and local artists, and attracts more than two million visitors annually during its nine day run.

The first Arts Festival was held in 1954 when 50 artists and 2,000 people showed up for a backyard exhibit at the Norman House in Buckhead. After the success of the first Festival, it was moved to Piedmont Park, where it has remained ever since.

In addition to the visual and performing arts, the Festival includes an artist market with individual booths featuring approximately 300 artists displaying their work.

A long time favorite of the Festival is the sandcastle building contest. This year, more than 200 tons of sand will be loaded into a giant sandbox, with teams creating sand sculptures to the theme of, "What does Atlanta Need Most?"

and business clothes, "to show the impersonality of the business world."

One of the premiere pieces is called, "Synth (E)", that Chappelleaux explains is about synthesis. "It's sort of animalistic with a lot of animal images. It's about two separate pieces coming together and making something new, which is the basic definition of synthesis."

The other premiere piece, "Paint a Rumor", received funding from the Arts Festival and the Georgia Council for the Arts. Original music for the show was composed by Atlantan Paul Jorgensen.

"This is the only piece that looks at the relationships between men and women. It's a very heterosexual piece," Chappelleaux says, but adds, "this is the Arts Festival."

Chappelleaux explains the piece is about a painter who fantasizes about his model. The fantasy comes in three parts; romance, lust and abuse. "What I'm trying to show in this piece," he says, "is how relationships can go in this direction. I'm trying to put it out in front of people so they will think, 'I can't believe this is happening'."

Chappstick and the Cars will perform Wednesday, September 18 and Thursday, September 19. Both performances are at 8 p.m. on the Theatre Stage.



Another act to look for this year at the Arts Festival is the performance duo called Isis. Composed of Lolita Woodward and Pamela Wright, Isis Performance Company is an Atlanta-based company whose works combines movement, text, sound and improvisation in their performance pieces.

Isis is the resident performance company at the Atlanta Metropolitan College. They have performed at Seven Stages, the Alternate ROOTS festival and the Little Beirut Arts Festival in Atlanta and have been featured in *Art Papers* and *High Performance* magazines.

They will perform "What the Man Said," a dance, theater and text piece that comments on information overload, on Sept. 18 & 19 at 9PM on the Theatre Stage.

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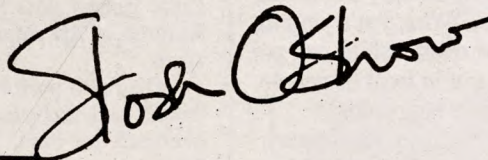
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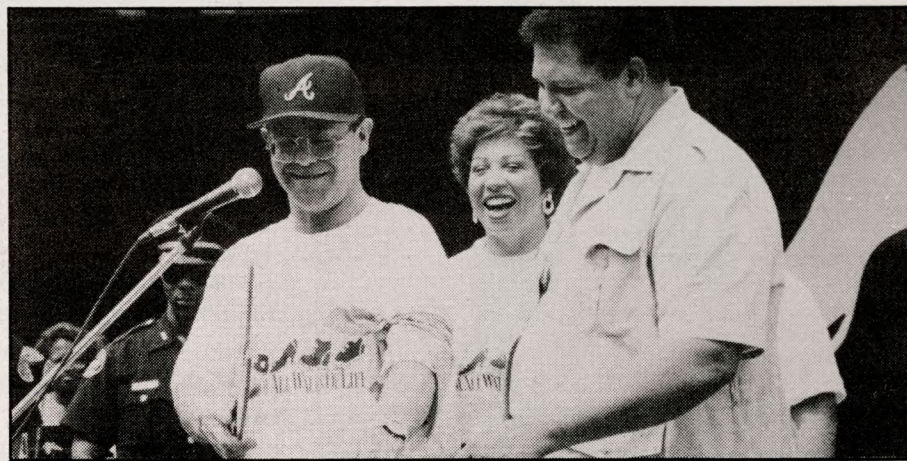
gay and lesbian community.

"That announcement (about domestic partnership legislation) was nothing but a rehash of old promises," said Lynn Cothren of Queer Nation/Atlanta. "He was trying to use that moment to his political advantage. It's a shame."

Domestic partnership legislation was

among the promises Mayor Jackson made to the lesbian/gay community during his 1989 campaign for mayor.

Jackson responded to charges that he has been unresponsive to the lesbian/gay community, saying, "I regret that perception, but it is not fact. I think it's a reflection of our not having brought onto staff earlier someone who is, as part of their official duties, liaison to the gay and lesbian community. I hope that now we can move beyond that."



SHERRY BOREN

Elton John and Valerie and Maynard Jackson cut the ribbon to start the AIDS Walk.

**HIV disclosure**

Cont'd from page 2

fied noted that the CDC language as adopted by Georgia in its Emergency Rule does indeed make testing mandatory, and predicted that it will be used as the basis for future legal action.

Meanwhile, a virtually unreported development in the Bergalis case would seem to indicate that she could have contracted the disease sexually. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported earlier this month that a court-ordered examination of Bergalis revealed in November 1990 that

Bergalis was infected with a papilloma virus, a benign, sexually-transmitted disease. This would seem to raise questions about Ms. Bergalis' contention that she could not have been infected sexually because of her virginity.

This information was part of a larger article discussing the unresolved questions around this issue, and did not explain why this information was not mentioned during the publicity that surrounded Ms. Bergalis' dramatic and bitter letter about her disease published earlier this year, or why it is coming to light now.

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SPORTS

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EAGLE

Happy winners of the tournament, Toby Tobias, Jessi McVay, and Jana Tyson.

About 100 women participated in the First Annual Golf Classic sponsored by The Otherside of Atlanta and Fourth Tuesday. The event took place on Saturday, August 31, at Tup Holmes Golf Course off the Lakewood Freeway. The winning team included Jana Tyson, Jessi McVay and Toby Tobias, who took first place in competition with a score of 66. Organizer Pat Garland says it was a big success, and the participants had a good time.

Second place went to Renee Wolf, Jamie Miles, Donna Allen and Jimmie Candy, who shot a 67. Third place went to the team of Dawn Young, Shirley McDaniel, Diane Jones and Barbara Green.

Special awards that were handed out included longest drives on the 4th hole (Debbie Adams) and 16th hole (Jessi McVay), and coming closest to the pin on the 6th hole (Kelly Williamson) and the 10th hole (Jessi McVay).

Organizer Garland says she is especially grateful to Dana Ford and Beverly McMahon at the Otherside and Chris Bishop of Fourth Tuesday for helping to make the tournament a success. "We'd like to start doing it twice a year, now that we know people are out there."

—Candace Chellew

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COOL MEDIUM

# DeAundra is burning

by David Salyer

Drag. Usually it means mammoth wigs, ostentatious gowns and the kind of singing Milli Vanilli is infamous for.

But, drag has been around forever in one form or another. It was common in Greek tragedies and Shakespeare's plays. Today, the film *Paris Is Burning* firmly establishes drag can and does transcend female impersonation. A recent article in *USA Today* assured readers drag performers have "never been so numerous, so visible, and so unabashed." Then the writer reports drag is back "after years of being unfashionable," and claims in the past "homosexuals looked down on drag because it seemed to present a perverse image of gays."

In truth, drag cannot make a comeback because it never really went away. And Hollywood's unrelenting depiction of gay men exclusively as swishy stereotypes, potential suicides, AIDS-ravaged victims, or demented, homicidal misfits is, collectively speaking, a far more perverse image to be concerned about.

So what the hell is drag about? Is it simply entertainment? A reaction to what's going on in our culture or society? Or just another choice for what we can do with our bodies? Maybe all of the above. Or, perhaps one of Atlanta's most legendary drag performers, RuPaul Charles, has the best answer: "You're born naked and the rest is drag."

Drag in the '90s does considerably more than coddle its audience with tired interpretations of Judy, Marilyn and Barbra. Modern drag is hipper, more satirical and often more overtly political than ever. Drag performers are just as likely to be

found at AIDS fundraisers or Queer Nation stings as they are in bars.

Over the years drag has even become a comedy staple on television. Legendary comedian Milton Berle donned a dress for laughs in 1948 as host of TV's *Texaco Star Theater*. Farcical '60s sitcom *The*



EVETT BENNETT

DeAundra and Friend

*Beverly Hillbillies* was a natural vehicle for actor Max Baer to portray both the ultimate country rube, Jethro Bodine, and his hulky sister, Jethrine. The men of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* regularly slipped on dresses and embodied TV's lunatic fringe in the '70s. And prior to making it big in films, Tom Hanks starred in the randy '80s ABC sitcom *Bosom Buddies* as an underpaid ad agency artist who becomes "Buffy" in order to live cheaply in a hotel for

women. No explanation was ever offered to explain how Buffy could afford tasteful dresses instead of rent.

These days, however, drag is generally confined to the nethermost nooks of cable TV. Local viewers can find it on Cable Channel 12. That's where DeAundra Peek, the superstar of Atlanta public access TV, has apparently found a niche.

What began a few years back as *DeAundra Peek's Teenage Music Club* has evolved into *Hi Class Hall o' Fame*, *Most Fun Summer Playhouse* and *Ultra Style Bin*, now seen on Channel 12 every Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 p.m. DeAundra is actually Rosser Shymanski and the shows are bizarre parodies of everything from Barbie dolls and south Georgia trailer parks to *Star Search* and TV newsmagazines.

DeAundra Peek is an extraordinary creation. Big, blonde hair and a foghorn voice. A wardrobe that is certainly the visual equivalent of an explosion at Sears. And make-up most accurately described as Merle Norman malpractice. In fact, Peek reminds me of the time my mother tried to dress herself after major surgery while under the influence of medication and not in her right mind.

Peek's programs are unlike anything else on TV. A lone camera nervously bobs and weaves about the set while disco pounds away in the background. The video quality of taped segments such as *Barbie Adventure* and *Frog Bride* is uncommonly dreadful. And DeAundra sings. Not content to simply carry a tune, Peek mauls it like a pit bull.

Peek's official TV sidekick is an endear-



M. Deeb


ing, elfish little fellow named Duffy Odum, who could be the love child of Don Knotts and Imogene Coca. If Regis and Kathie Lee can have their own show, then DeAundra and Duffy deserve national exposure, too.

In addition to DeAundra Peek and Gay Cable Network out of New York, People TV Cable Channel 12 will soon offer more programming of interest to the lesbian/gay community. *Out In Atlanta*, a locally produced talk and variety show premieres Monday, September 16th at 10:30 p.m.

Producer Eric Spivey and Director John Ishmael plan to focus exclusively on Atlanta's gay and lesbian community. The half-hour program will include interview and anchored segments with studio and on-location video.

Each show will be cablecast twice a week, Monday at 10:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Individuals, social or political organizations can sponsor *Out In Atlanta*. Contact them at 432-6916 or write Post Office Box 724968, Atlanta, Georgia 30339.





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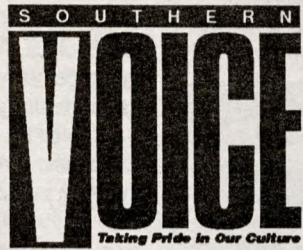
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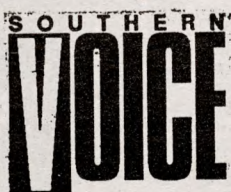
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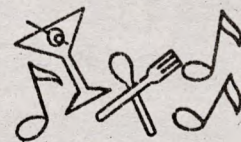


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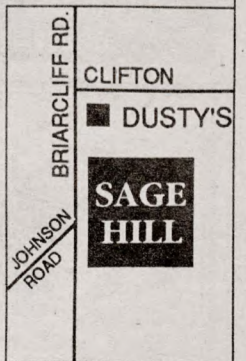
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# A Miracle of a Summer Movie

by Terry Francis

Set in the glittering Irish seacoast village of Bray, *The Miracle* ★★★★★, directed and written by Neil Jordan, is bathed in the soft glow of the languorous North Atlantic summer sun. The endless, high latitude dusks with their hallucinatory, burgundy shadows just naturally seem to bring out the eccentricities of the townspeople we meet.

The place is a kaleidoscope of activity: a festive stream of passers-thru liven its dance halls and pubs; and its theaters and restaurants are packed nightly. It also serves as summer home to a troop of exotic, wandering circus folk. Yet a sense of inertia hangs over everything.

One of the ironies gently understood by Jordan's film is the sense of boredom often felt by the natives of resort towns, even so beautiful a one as Bray.

As the film opens, we follow two teenagers, Jimmy (red-haired Niall Byrne) and Rose (quizzical Lorraine Pilkington), who respond to their boredom by devising fictional scenarios for the lives of the people they see around them.

Jimmy and Rose even speculate about the nature of their own friendship, including the possibility that, given the proper circumstances, Jimmy's feelings for Rose might take on the cool but romantic attachment she increasingly feels for him.

Perhaps. Then, a stranger (Beverly D'Angelo) walks into their lives. A blond woman wearing dark sunglasses, she steps off the train from Dublin. Has she fled to Bray after killing her husband, they wonder?

As Jimmy's curiosity about the stranger intensifies, Rose's pales. She

wishes Jimmy's feelings for her might ripen into a romantic approximation of her own longing for him.

But Jimmy's passion for the stranger continues its ascent. He behaves heedlessly, ignoring the woman's protestations at his romantic overtures and his own father's stern warning to him to stay away from her. Rose, meanwhile, continues experimenting with her own young life, setting out to tame a young, muscle-bound and entirely wild lion trainer from the circus.

*The Miracle* is one of the rare movies whose deepest meanings reside in mood, in the ways that its characters respond to the empty spaces in their lives. We feel their sense of forbearance about putting up with inconvenience for the sake of the vacationers, who at season's end will abandon them for winter's duration.

But there is a sense of abandonment in everything we see—in the way Jimmy's father openly drifts away from him beneath a tide of alcoholism, in the indifference Rose feels from her father on account of his absorption with golf and finances, and in the melancholy gleam of Philippe Rousset's vivid, darting images.

Jordan's film declares a thematic connection between its characters and the state of flux of their environment. It dwells on parallel themes of missed chances and present possibilities. What the picture leaves unsaid becomes palpable.

Rose comprehends her predicament completely. Her philosophy is that it is the quiet ones who weather storms. She plays her hand deftly, gambling that in

## FILM REVIEW

### The Miracle

their different ways she and Jimmy are moving toward some identical clearing wherein lies some possibility for communion between them.

*The Miracle* has been misread by some people as a sort of suspense film that depends on the revelation of the stranger's identity. Yet it's the obviousness of her identity that forms the basis for the picture's rich, contemplative subtext. This is a film that moves almost entirely on pure emotion. It is radically uninterested in the standard machinations of plot.

The picture discloses its characters to us in meditative turns. When Jimmy finally admits to knowledge of the woman's identity, the possibility that he has known the truth for a longer time than he lets on, works retroactively, powerfully deepening the meaning of actions we have seen him take.

Jimmy behaves recklessly, self-destructively, punishingly, like a lover grasping for any means at his disposal to wrench himself free of the rancorous binds of emotional conflict.

*The Miracle* is about seeing fire ahead in one's life and leaping into it at any cost, out of belief that immersing oneself in hell is sometimes the only way of getting through it.

And yet, says the film, we endure. Through some saving combination of comprehension, compassion and charity, we serve ourselves by finding the means to move ahead in our lives, shaken but



Beverly D'Angelo as the mysterious stranger who propels the action in *The Miracle*

enlightened.

*The Miracle* could not be the resplendent work it is were it not for the contributions of its fine and sympathetic cast. Niall Byrne goes through so many transformations as Jimmy, from mischievous young teen to would-be lover, that he brings forth emotional truths rarely found in an actor of any age. And Lorraine Pilkington gives a performance that comes at us like shafts of light in a darkened hallway, leading us through the film in strokes of feeling that constantly surprise us in their sensitivity.

As Jimmy's father, Donal McCann combines perfectly a drunkard's sentimentality with a father's real concerns, and Beverly D'Angelo's reticence as the stranger suggests hidden currents beneath her sad, clever face. This is the finest film I have seen so far this year.



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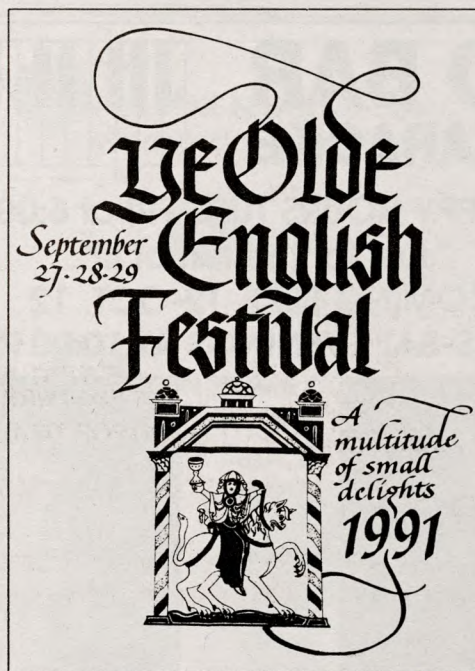
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**Art**

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**PATRICIA.** Thru Sept. 30. A one-woman show featuring her latest serigraphs and lithographs which celebrate the strength and charm of today's international woman. Excellent examples from the new school of figurative expressionism. BurnNoff Gallery. Clear Creek Center. 875-3475.

**GRACE UNDER PRESSURE: THE MECHANICS OF THINGS.** Thru Oct. 4. An exhibition of drawings by Randy Addison. Anatomical and high tech combinations depicting force and grace. For the diesel dyke in all of us. 7 Stages Theatre. 1105 Euclid Ave. 522-0911.

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**COMIN' FOR TO CARRY ME HOME.** Sept. 20 thru Oct. 12. Tina Dunkley draws inspiration from her recent trip to Lagos, Nigeria to address the complexity of the contemporary African-American self-image in relationship to both African and European history. A must-see mixed media show of merging cultures. Hughley Gallery. 142 Stovall St., S.E. 523-3201.

**THE WORKS OF KATHERINE MITCHELL.** Sept. 21 thru Nov 9. This retrospective of Ms. Mitchell's 20 year career as an Atlanta artist allows the viewer to see the progression of her visual thinking as she explores the concept and depth of reality through her meditative painting and drawings. Chastain Gallery (135 W. Wieuca Rd.) and Heath Gallery (416 E. Paces Ferry Rd.). 257-1804 and 262-6407.

**ENGULFED: IMAGES INSPIRED BY THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST.** Sept. 14 thru Oct. 5. The Arts Exchange's first exhibit of the season examines recent images of war. 750 Kalb St. 624-4211.

**Dance**

**THE DANCERS.** Thur Sept. 15, 8PM. Internationally acclaimed choreographer Marla Blakey's drama with breathtaking dance numbers, that picks up where "A Chorus Line" leaves off. \$12-15. Variety Playhouse, at 1099 Euclid. 524-7354.

**Film**

**MENDING HEARTS.** Sept. 14. 7:30 pm. This award-winning documentary which traces two years in the lives of six Atlanta PWAs has its premiere screening at the 14th St. Playhouse. The film focuses on what we learn about life by facing the possibility of death. Proceeds benefit Heartstrings. 14th St. Playhouse. 892-2414.

**Events**

**OPEN HOUSE FOR EMORY GAY AND LESBIAN STUDENTS GROUP.** Thurs., Sept. 12. Come celebrate the creation of Emory University's Office of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Life. Dobbs University Center, Rm. 251-E. 727-0272.

**MISS GEORGIA PAGEANT.** Sun., Sept. 15. Come and cheer for your favorite female impersonators as they compete in swimwear, evening gowns, and talent. The cream of the crop com-

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**"QUEER" LIFE AND SOCIAL CHANGE: EXPANDING LESBIAN & GAY HISTORY BEYOND IDENTITY.** Tues., Sept. 24, 8 pm. Lecture by Allan Bérudé, author of *Coming Out Under Fire: History of Gay Men & Women in World War II*. Harland Cinema in Dobbs University Center on Emory Campus. Free. 727-0272.

**Literature**

**AN EVENING OF POETRY AND PROSE.** Thurs., Sept. 19. Athens poet Mary Ann Coleman joins Sarah Gordon of Milledgeville and Blanche Farley of Atlanta for a prismatic look at love, family, nature and friendship. Delve through the many layers of relationships as women's words lead you on a journey of the spirit. Charis.

**Music**

**JAIME MORTON.** Thurs., Sept. 12. 7:30PM. Jaime's music is a cross cultural mix of sophisticated salsa and bebop jazz with a bluesy honesty that rings true whether she is singing of lost love or new passions. Charis.

**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.** Sept. 12-14. A world-premiere of works by composer in residence Stephen Paulus conducted by Yoel Levi. Symphony Hall. Woodruff Arts Center. 892-2414.

**PENELOPE WILLIAMS & MARLA ANKER.** Thurs. thru Sat., Sept. 12, thru Oct. 12., 10pm. Fine jazz with a feminist touch from the keyboard of local talent Williams and vocal harmonies from nationally known Anker. \$5. The Otherside, 1924 Piedmont Rd. 875-5238.

**DeDANNAN.** Thurs., Sept. 19. 8PM. Premier Irish folk music band featuring the fiddle of Frankie Gavin and the lovely vocals of Eleanor Shanley. Sure, 'twill do yer heart glad. Variety Playhouse at 1099 Euclid. 524-7354.

**THE McCOY TYNER TRIO.** Fri., Sept. 20. 8:30PM. Legendary jazz pianist in a concert celebrating the birthday of John Coltrane. Variety Playhouse, at 1099 Euclid. 524-7354.

**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHAMPAGNE AND COFFEE CONCERT.** Sept. 20 & 21. Fri. and Sat. evening at 8PM or Sat. morning at 11AM you can enjoy the music of France, with a program including "The Tales of Hoffmann" and selections from "Gigi." Complimentary beverages to add to your listening enjoyment. Symphony Hall. Woodruff Arts Center. 892-2414.

**SHANKAR WITH VIKKU VINAYAKRAM.** Sat., Sept. 21. 8:30PM. Classical Indian music to lift the spirit and open the chakras. Variety Playhouse, at 1099 Euclid. 524-7354.

**Spirituality**

**A SERVICE OF HOPE FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS.** Sun., Sept. 15. 4PM. Hope is a candle that burns bright in the darkness of despair. Charge your spiritual batteries at Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 48 MLK, Jr. Dr., S.W. 320-6610 or 409-0203.

**THE YEARNING FOR WHOLENESS: ADDICTION & THE SPIRITUAL QUEST.** Sept. 17-21. The second International Transpersonal Assoc. conference focuses on the intersection of the addiction and transpersonal fields. Music, dance, art, and ritual will be highlighted in an evening with Babtunde Olatunji and the Drums of Passion. Stouffer-Waverly Hotel. 1-800-533-3641.

**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 James Broughton and healer Andrew Ramer present the keynote addresses. Mountain Retreat Center, Highlands, N.C. (704) 252-0643.

**NATIONAL AFFIRMATION GATHERING.** Sept. 20-22. Nationally known author Chris Glaser will speak about the reconciliation of lesbian/gay and the Christian Community. Celebrate your whole spiritual and sexual being in a Christian context. Make a joyful noise. Grant Park Alderstreet United Methodist Church. 525-3272.

**FALL EQUINOX INIPI.** Sept. 21 & 22. A weekend of sharing, healing and growth includes use of a traditional Native American Sweatlodge. Led by Peter Bear Walks, a teacher from Florida, and Mary Bailey Rule. 264-6219.

**FRONT RUNNERS.** Sept. 11 & 18, 6:30pm. Join us for jogging at a different location while the Piedmont Arts Festival takes over the park. Inman Middle School corner of Virginia & 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

**Sports**



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 1pm on Sat. and 7pm on Fri. at Glenlake Tennis Center, 621-2699. Women's division Fri. evenings and Sat. mornings at Chastain Park. 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.

**ATLANTA VENTURE SPORTS LAKE LANIER OUTING.** Sun. Sept. 22. Reserve your space for a fun-filled day at the lake. An island Skimmer has been reserved to take 20 free spirits on a tour of exotic lands and visit friendly natives. \$20 covers food, soft drinks, beer and the boat. 351-6618.

**Television**

**DeAUNDRIA 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 Pkwy. People TV-Ch. 12 on Prime Cable.

**Theatre**

**CARMEN KITTEL.** Thru Oct. 5. Thurs. thru Sat. at 8PM, Sunday at 5PM. The U. S. premiere of East German playwright Georg Seidel's exploration of the conflict between an individual and her society—a vivid view of life before the fall of the Wall. Based on Bizet's *Carmen*. Seven Stages. 1105 Euclid. 523-7647.

**THE YUKON AND BEYOND.** Thru Sept. 14. An evening of tall tales, verse, song, humor and pathos direct to you from the Malamute Saloon performed by David Califf. Onstage Atlanta. 420 Courtland St. 897-1802.

**SECOND SAMUEL.** Thru Sept. 28. Second Samuel, Georgia is a sweet southern town where everyone is kind, and "even the mean ones are good to their mama." But the serenity of the town is suddenly shattered when Miss Gertrude passes on to her reward and her dark secrets finally come to light. Mercer Univ. Fine Arts Bldg. A Southern Fried production. 390-9779.

**OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY.** Thru Sept. 28. A funny and thoughtful boardroom thriller that explores the effect of the eighties economic boom on individual lives. The ruthless takeover artist Larry "the liquidator" is a corporate raider who considers himself a kind of Robin Hood, taking from the rich and giving to the middle class. Alliance Theatre. 892-2414.

**ANASTASIA.** Thru Sept. 29. Mary Nell Santacroe in her first role since her record-setting "Driving Miss Daisy" stars as the Imperial grandmother who must decide between reality and wishful thinking about the true identity of Anastasia (played by Ruth Reid). Theatre in the Square. 11 Whitlock Ave. Marietta. 422-8369.

**WRITES, RITES, RIGHTS.** Thurs. thru Sun., thru Oct. 13. SAME presents its new OUTPROUD Theatre production featuring music, dance and mystery! Exotic and bizarre experiences happen as five lesbian writers attend a writer's colony. May be more about who done who, than who done it. 14 Street Playhouse. 881-0817.

**THE HARVEY MILK SHOW.** Sept. 19 thru Oct. 27. Dan Pruitt and Patrick Hutchison, who also wrote "Different," present an astonishing story of inspiring power in this new musical about the first openly gay elected official. *Southern Voice* is a community sponsor for this not-to-be-missed production. Actor's Express. 280 Elizabeth St. 221-0831.

**PRIVATE LIVES.** Sept. 13 thru Oct. 12. Noel Coward has a gift for making the most awkward interpersonal exchanges hilariously funny. Fireworks go off in this one as a divorced couple on their honeymoon with their new spouses accidentally run into each other. Neighborhood Playhouse. 373-5311.

**THE HEIDI CHRONICLES.** Sept. 19 til Nov 3. The saga of Heidi Holland and her friends and lovers as they grow up from those awkward high school dances, to the Eugene McCarthy campaign trail, to 70's encounter groups, to 80's power lunches and beyond. Intersection of Euclid and Austin Aves., in L5P. 584-7450.

**Workshops**

**THE DEFINITIVE FEMME/BUTCH DISCUSSION.** Sat. Sept. 14 at the ALFA House. The ins and out of role playing and how it shapes our relationships. Call 956-0413 for information.

**ROLES IN RELATIONSHIPS.** Mon., Sept. 16. 7:30PM. Shirley Chancy discusses the whys and wherefores of roles and their many manifestations. Chrysalis Women's Center, 2045 Manchester St. 723-1112.

**THE YEARNING FOR WHOLENESS: ADDICTION & THE SPIRITUAL QUEST.** Sept. 17-21. A weekend focusing on the role of spirituality in understanding addiction, codependence, and recovery. Includes lectures and experiential workshops as well as art, music, dance, and ritual." Stouffer Waverly Hotel. 1-800-533-3641 or 415-453-1677.

**Upcoming**

**WOMEN'S RITES OF PASSAGE: THE MAZE SHOW.** Sept. 27 thru Oct. 27. The artists combine visual and auditory sensations as they examine turning points in women's lives—moments of intense growth into womanhood. The maze pattern of the exhibit symbolizes the problem solving process as women pursue achievement and self discovery. Tula Gallery, 75 Bennett St. 351-3551.

**1991 OLDE ENGLISH FESTIVAL.** Sept. 27-29. A good tyme for a good cause as a feast with Henry VIII benefits Jerusalem House for homeless people with AIDS and other services for low income families. A merrie pageant of music, dance, art, shops, and jesters to delight one and all. St. Bart's, at 1790 LaVista Rd. 634-3336.

**10th ANNUAL P-FLAG CONVENTION.** Oct. 11-14. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays hold their 10th annual convention to help do away with isolation, myths and lies and help those parents having a difficult time accepting or understanding their gay child's sexual orientation. A weekend of healing and help. Omni Charlotte Hotel. (704) 364-1474.

**HEALING INTO LIFE AND DEATH.** Oct. 5-6. 10 AM til 4 PM. Stephen and Ondrea Levine will present a weekend learning experience aimed at integrating death into life and living that life to its fullest potential. Their workshop is an investigation of life which gives an opportunity for one to uncover our real nature, the source of all healing. Georgia World Congress Center. 1-800-755-2520.

**THROUGH THE GLASS CEILING.** Oct. 9-11. An outdoor empowerment workshop for and by women. Learn about the invisible barriers that keep women and minorities from progressing in organizations. Learn about self-imposed obstacles and ways to overcome them. Break through to your own freedom. 881-6300 or 373-2012.

**ATLANTA BALLET.** Sept. 26-29. Twentieth-century choreographers are the focus as the Ballet opens its new season. Program includes "Escape" created by Lynne Taylor-Corbett (Footloose's fancy footwork creator) set to an original score by jazz composer Allen Shawn. Civic Center, 477 Peachtree St, NE. 873-5811.

**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.



Catherine Larson as the heroine of *Carmen Kittel*, the U.S. premiere of Georg Seidel's darkly funny drama about a young East German woman and her society, opens on Sept. 12 at Seven Stages. Photo by Chip Simone

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**AIDS ORGANIZATIONS**

**AID Atlanta**—Non-profit agency providing services to people with AIDS, families and friends. 872-0600.

**AIDS Info Line**—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). Answers about AIDS, referrals, etc., by trained volunteers staffing lines 9am-9pm daily.

**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 (See listing) 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 alter treatment for the HIV community in the Southeast. 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.

**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 Thurs. 8:00pm. For info call 872-9954 or 294-9407. P.O. Box 8569, Atl., GA 30306.

**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 choral group of women's voices. Membership open to all women interested in singing. Practice each Sunday. 987-9832.

**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 and 874-6782.

**Atlanta Committee for the 1993 March on Washington**—For info, call Jeffrey at 627-6603 or Laura at 659-0315.

**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.

**LEGAL**—A voice for lesbians and gays in the Democratic party. Seeking to expand. Help elect gay delegates to '92 Democratic Nat'l Convention. Mtgs. on 3rd Mon. of the month. 7pm at Ptree Library. 286-7476.

**National Organization for Women**—reproductive rights, lesbian/gay rights, civil rights, human rights. 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. 874-5171.

**Queer Nation**—Direct action countering homophobia and educating the public. Meets 2d and 4th Mon. at Peachtree Branch Library. 286-2355.

**STOP Bias Crimes Hot Line**—To report all bias/ hate crime incidents and police abuse. 605-STOP.

**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.

**Nat'l Federaton of Career Women**—a connector for professional career lesbian organizations and individuals. Promoting success within the lesbian community. (404) 659-0315.

**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 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. 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 AIDS Interfaith Network 1053 Juniper St. Shabbat Seder 2nd Fridays monthly. 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. 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. 409-0203.

**Integrity**—Ministry of Gay Episcopalians 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. All Saints Episcopal Church, 3rd floor of Ellis Hall. 642-3183.

# COMMUNICATIONS

**Lambda Light**—A meditation group for lesbians and gay men. Meets weekly. 938-3531 or 873-3559.

**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. 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.

**SCUBA Club**—Join the community's newest SCUBA Club. Trips and classes ongoing. Call Colleen at 289-0696.

**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 Gay and Lesbian Association**—Contact P.O. Box 2201 Athens 30612-0201 or call 404/549-9368.

**Athens Lesbian Information Line**—Athens area lesbians call to find out about support groups, social gatherings, etc. (404) 613-7661.

**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**—Welcomes lesbians of all races, religions, political orientation, economic status, occupation and degree of openness. 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.

**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.

**Black and White Men Together**—A gay interracial organization committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be over-come. 794-BWMT.

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

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

**Chrysalis Women's Center**—Provides social, educational and informational programs and services for the community. 881-6300.

**Delphi**—An ancient, mystic brotherhood. 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 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 25 Boulevard, NE. 237-6262.

**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**—For lesbian, gay, or bi-sexual youth interested in socials, demonstrations, safe space, and/or a support group. For more information call Chance at 688-1954.

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

**S/M Discussion Group**—Leather, S/M, fetish lifestyle group meets Thurs 7:30-10 at The Eagle, 306 Ponce. All welcome. Call 87-EAGLE for more info.

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

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**Wordsmith Society**—A Gay/Lesbian literary group. Seeking members. Open meetings every 4th Sat. thru Feb at Peachtree Library. 1-3:30pm. Call Ron at 892-2815 for info.

**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.

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**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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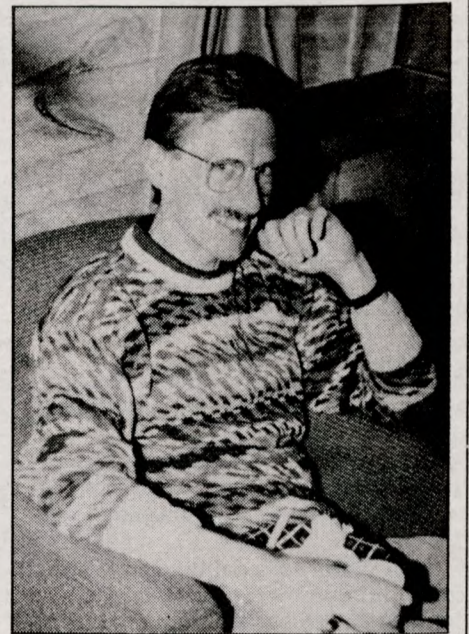
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Jim made his transition July 10, 1991. "A Celebration of His Life" will be held on Saturday, September 14th, 2:00 p.m., at the Fox Theatre.

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# OUT LINES

## SHELLY ROBBINS

Age: 40 something

How long in Atlanta: 6 years

Relationship status: "In love"

Personal Goal:

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Pet Peeve: People who don't meet their commitments



"Sometimes I feel like a mediator because I can see all points of view. I like to bring people together to affect positive change in the community, because infighting gets us nowhere," said community activist and Pride Prom Coordinator, Shelly Robbins.

At the end of the long Labor Day weekend Shelly was: in the middle of proof-reading a book of poetry by a local gay author, agonizing over the details of her not-yet-started baking business, getting set to type several thousand words for *Southern Voice* (something she has done since the earliest days of the paper), and thinking about how to improve upon this year's successes at Pride. In short, Shelly was "relaxing."

"I always feel like there is something I can be doing—especially if it's for the community," she explains. Shelly punctuates her remarks with an ever-present cigarette. Her deep, husky voice is often tinged with laughter and her comments, shaped by a genuine smile. While Shelly's presence is not overwhelming, there is a charisma to what she says and how she says it.

Shelly came to Atlanta via California, and a marriage that ended in an amicable divorce and with the joint custody of her son, Kyle. Her California software company of the time transferred her here to train a local Atlanta company and when that company made an offer, she "decided to go for it. I had just told my husband I wanted a divorce and was in the middle of my 'life enlightenment.'" she chuckles as she refers to her coming-out process and new life. "I moved to Georgia as a lesbian, though my coming out process was in California, and it was here where everything was new and fresh and different. I just wasn't another California Divorcee, here I was out and proud!"

Channeling her abundant energy and interest in positive change into volunteer work began with the 1987 March on Washington where she met Chris Cash, editor of *Southern Voice*. Chris learned of her remarkable 98 WPM typing speed (her license plate says TYPEON) and put her immediately to work. "I can't break that 100 barrier," she laughs, "but I love being a part of the paper."

Also in the late '80's she helped form a lesbian support group in Norcross called "LIFE," and eventually became the group's president. But it is "Pride" that dominates her volunteer efforts where she is a committee member and

Prom coordinator.

"I want to continue to help build "Pride" and see it rival New York City's and San Francisco's. To do that we are going to have to energize so many more people to become involved, because it takes so much time, money and effort to bring "Pride" off."

Shelly heard about Seattle's Prom from a friend and thought it would be a good idea to start one here. "Do you know that in Seattle, it is *the* event of the year and it is the predominant fundraiser for their Pride march activities. It's a night for leather, drag queens in full regalia, bikers, you name it, to just have a good time and be seen. I'd like to see that happen here."

"We're searching for a place for next year's Prom," she continues, which she hopes will function as the kickoff event for the entire month of Pride next year. "The bars view it as competition, so we're looking for a good space in neutral territory."

Shelly lives just outside the Perimeter in a quiet subdivision. She shares her large and comfortable split-level home with two roommates and as many cats. She speaks about her 13 year old son who joins her for the summers, with admiration. "He's here in the summers, so he's become accustomed to Pride. He's even a proud participant and helped paint the representative 'purple people' in this year's parade."

Currently Shelly is a vice president and branch manager for Computer Temps and Computer Professionals, Inc. An early pioneer in the software field, Shelly has gone on to make computers a career. Yet it is a hobby, baking, that may one day supplant her career in computers.

"I love to bake, especially at the holidays. Many people have said I should market my specialty baking items and I have finally decided that I can. But there is so much to starting a business in the food industry. From finding a place to bake, to the marketing. But I'm making a dream slowly but surely become a reality."

She returns to the theme of involvement in Pride, to make her final point. "If we as a community worked together the rest of the year as we do for Pride, think of the incredible things we could get done!" With a little help from a tireless Shelly Robbins.

—Jan Ginsburg



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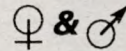
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DISH

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

**Hot Stuff:** Has Dr. Simon LeVay of California's prestigious Salk Institute found the cause of queerness? (Male queerness, that is—his research, of course, doesn't deal with why some women are prone to love other women.) Dish's initial response to LeVay's hypothesis is, "Who cares?" Well, obviously the mainstream media does. And obviously lots of queers do—everyone we've spoken to has had an opinion, most hypothesizing about how right-wing whackos will now be forced to admit that some folks really are just born this way. Others fear that Rev. Wildmon, Sen. Helms and other rabid homohaters will simply continue to see our difference as disease and propose Draconian cures—like abortions for women who might be carrying a kid who just happens to have a "small to vanishing" cluster in his anterior hypothalamus. We're also keeping an eye out for the first quack doctor to start advertising his "Hypothalamus Enlargement" pills, marketed to nervous parents who panic when little Johnny asks for his first Barbie doll.

**Bye-Bye Bieber:** Speaking of fundamentalist kooks, Irving Bieber, a N.Y.C. psychotherapist and professor has gone to his reward—in a hot and hellish place, if there is any justice in this universe. Bieber was the author of a 1962 study that suggested queerness was a disease which could be cured through therapy. He and other co-conspirators wrecked havoc on the psyches and lives of thousands of gay men who came to them for help. (If you are too young to remember all this, may we suggest that you read Martin Duberman's excellent book "Cures?") Dish is reminded of the wonderful scene in "Greater Tuna" where one of the characters—staring down at an ancient nemesis, finally cold in his coffin—says, "Judge, I told you I'd dance on your grave...and I feel a song comin' on."

**The Fashion Police?** Dish recently received a press release from the City's police department, complete with promises that the APD would be more forthcoming with information about its activities. The press release? Along with glossy color photo, it told of Atlanta's finest being named "Best Dressed." We were reminded of recent events in Houston, where plainclothesmen wandering in gay neigh-



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borhoods at night to catch bashers have been getting bashed themselves. Perhaps Chief Bell's officers should take the cue from the brave and concerned officers in Texas and cut down a bit on the posing, primping and preening. Stop polishing those brass buttons, boys, and get out there and do your jobs.

**Adding Insult to Injury:** Homo (and woman) hating talk show host Morton Downey Jr. has descended to new depths of derision and fashion retardation (see photo). He plays the lead role, a drag queen, in "High Heels" a new comedy (?) that also features Jessica Hahn. Dish trusts that true queens from around the world will unite and file a class action suit (for defamation of character) against the repugnant Mr. Downey.

**Business as Usual:** Don't let AT&T's recent grants to local AIDS organizations and very progressive policies regarding the rights of gay and lesbian employees lull you into complacency about the status of minorities in corporate America. Bennett Brown (CEO of C&S/Sovran) and Hugh McColl (ditto of

NCNB) recently co-hosted a breakfast "with about 40 top CEOs at the Commerce Club" according to an article by business columnist Maria Saporta of the A-J/C. Saporta goes on to say that she asked for an invite but that, "Mr. Brown said that it was a 'stag affair.'" Dish thinks that the words "sorry" and "sexist" are far more accurate than "stag" here. And we wonder why in the name of Helena, Saporta didn't come out and say so.

**Shit for Brains:** Dillard Munford's piece on why Wyche Fowler is in a bind on the Clarence Thomas nomination (last week's "Neighbor" newspapers) supports an idea we've had for a long time: the former owner of all those Majik Markets needs to change his name to Dullard Dumford. Long after it has become obvious to the rest of the world (including even Bill Buckley and Pat Buchanan) that Communism is kaput, this idiot continues to use red-baiting reductive reasoning to trash anyone who is not male, white, hetero, and whose politics do not closely resemble those of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy. His latest: "Mrs. Fowler, who has six years of Russian background study, is highly qualified to fight capitalism, private enterprise and Christianity..." Wake up and smell the coffee Dullard, that war is over.

**And Political Poop:** The Buckhead Life Restaurant Group (Owner of 103 West, Chops, the Buckhead Diner, etc) publishes a monthly newsletter which includes the names of various celebrities who have recently taken nourishment in its upscale eateries. The gliterati are divided in categories: Actors, Recording Artists, Television Personalities. And "Political Figures." We assume the latter is to honor Hizzoner Maynard Jackson's substantial figure.... Maynard, by the way, has told a group of Korean grocery owners that he will reestablish the Atlanta Human Relations Commission within 30 days. Sound familiar?... After Rep. James Beverly Langford criticized a congressional redistricting map that Rep. Jeanette Jamieson had presented to a House committee, she offered this riposte: "I appreciate your feelings, but I have absolutely no respect for your opinion." With the Democrats in desperate need of a presidential candidate, may we humbly suggest Ms. Jamieson?

September 11 - September 25

RULING PLANETS

by Mary Bailey-Rule

Everyone take a deep breath and relax, Mercury is now direct, with Venus on the 13th, Uranus on the 19th and dear ol' Neptune the 26th. Remember to celebrate the Fall Equinox, Sept. 23rd.

**ARIES** - With the Sun, Mercury and Jupiter gathered in your 6th house of health and well-being, it is the perfect time to include more natural foods in your diet and schedule some regular and fun exercise for yourself. And, relax a little.



**TAURUS** - The expansive giant planet Jupiter has entered your 5th house of creativity and passion, residing there until Oct. of 1991, so consider ways you can develop, express any latent creative urges. Risk-taking can be healthy.



**GEMINI** - With the Sun, Mercury and Jupiter in your 4th house of parents, family and home, your attention may need to be focused in those areas for the rest of the month. At this point avoiding major issue is not wise. Keep your humor.



**CANCER** - As the world and personal relationships continue to shift, remember to nurture your own heart and spirit first, then you will have plenty of strength and compassion to share with others who trust your quiet courage.



**LEO** - It's time to get organized! The Sun, Mercury and giant Jupiter are in your 2nd house of material resources, personal comfort and income, so consider how you'd like things to be by next spring. Make conscious choices.



**VIRGO** - HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you! With Jupiter, the planet of expansion now in your 1st house of identity and personal appearance, you may experience growth in your bank account, your energy level and possibly your waist line. Exercise!



**LIBRA** - The Sun, Mercury and Jupiter are in the 12th house, activating your unconscious processes, dreamtime and awakening your need for oneness and unity with Life. Let yourself flow with your intuition. Trust and innocence.



**SCORPIO** - Mars in your 12th house of the unconscious and Pluto in your 1st house of personal awareness, your dreamtime and interior life may be very active, so be sure you have quiet time, in nature if possible, to rest and reflect.



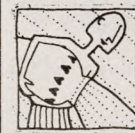
**SAGITTARIUS** - Now that your ruling planet Jupiter is in your 10th house of career and vocation for the next year, it is an excellent time to develop a 12 year plan for expressing your talents and making your contribution to the world.



**CAPRICORN** - With the Sun, Mercury and expansive Jupiter moving through your 8th house of spiritual experiences, personal transformation and inheritances, you may need to focus some attention in these very important areas.



**AQUARIUS** - As Mars moves through your 9th house of global awareness and metaphysical perspective, you may have opportunities to visit distant places for business or learning about other cultures. Be ready on short notice.



**PISCES** - With the Sun, Mercury and Jupiter all cruising through your 7th house of close personal relationships, you may have numerous people circulating in your life. Opportunities abound for sharing and creating community.



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



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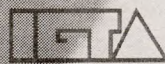
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## Legal

The Virginia-Highland Civic Fund, Inc., The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project and Volleyball Atlanta are soliciting proposals from qualified landscape architects to supply construction drawings for the City of Atlanta's John Howell Park. For detailed information, please contact Jerry Bright at 873-5533 by September 16, 1991. (V4,#15)

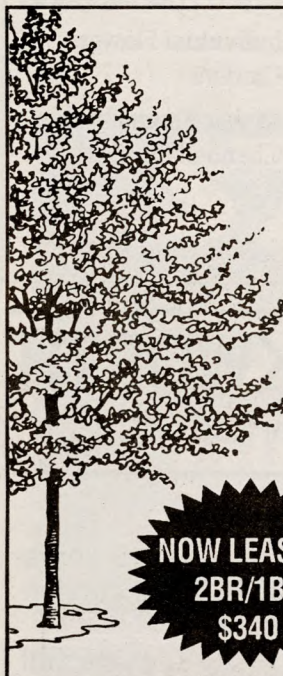
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Do Nothing

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OUT OF THE DARKNESS: A powerful book of affirming illustrations as seen in *Southern Voice*. Send only \$4.95 to Linda Welch, PO Box 120793, Nashville, TN 37212. (V4,#15)

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Lesbian couple seeks woman to share fully furnished Decatur home. House includes W/D, private room and fresh water service. Dog okay. \$325 a month includes everything. Call 373-2667. (V4,#15)

HOUSE SHARE - Private Bed/Bath, Candler Park area (\$300/mo.). Call Pam at 377-2442 or 688-1954. Available Oct. 1st. (V4,#16)

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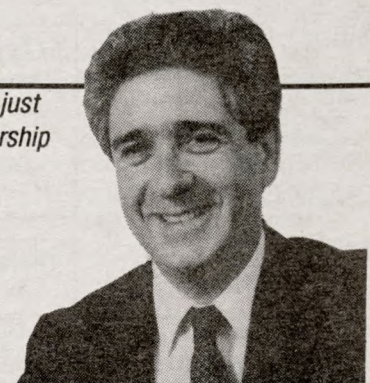
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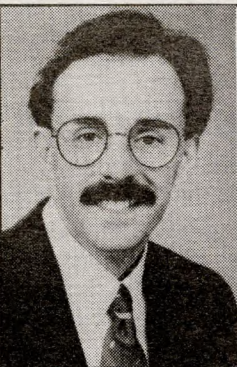
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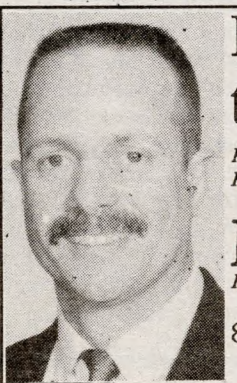
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## Personals

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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.

Foreign Correspondent - BF seeks pen pals while stationed in Italy. Not sexually oriented material, just news from home type stuff. If you like a cool dry wit, write "G" (just "G"). Only 29¢ stamp req'd to mail. SV 2423.

GWM, 51, 5'11", 150 lbs, professional, enjoys theatre, symphony, movies, out-of-doors, seeks GWM (21-55) for friendship/relationship. Must be stable, sincere, gentle, compassionate and non-smoker. Write with phone # to SV 2422.

White male, 32, nice guy and good looking, seeks young guys for fun, movies, dancing, dining, mountains, and more. Likes vanilla flavored lollipops. Respond to "Nice & Clean" at SV 2414.

Lesbian, 40's, sweet and sexy. Loves watching dance, making art, gardening, left-leaning politically, looking for a woman 40s-60s with similar interests, funny, a passion for her work, who requires mutual respect and kindness for friendship and possible relationship. SV 2420.

GWM, 45, masculine, well-educated, outdoor interests. Seeking solid friendship with wholesome, curious WM college student, 18-24. Discretion assured. Fantasy fulfilled. Write with photo/phone. Respond to SV 2415.

Mature Ebony Feminine Female with class interested in meeting tall, clean, drug-free friend who is outspoken, intelligent and sincere. No young children please. PO Box 922191, Norcross, GA 30092.

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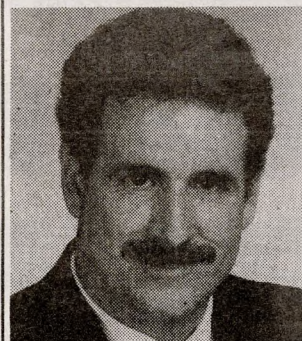
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GWM, 28, 5'9", 160, muscular, sandy blonde/blue, clean shaven, very good looking, masculine in appearance, gestures, and attitude. Seek similar 18-30, clean-shaven, non-smoker. No drugs or tattoos. Many interests including working out, boating, mountains, beach, spanking and more. Relocation or school assistance possible. Reply to PO Box 210664, Columbia, SC 29221.

Attractive, Big (260 lbs), healthy W/M with nice personality desires to meet healthy, masculine Black or Latin men for friendship/dating. PO Box 5227, Atlanta, GA 30307.

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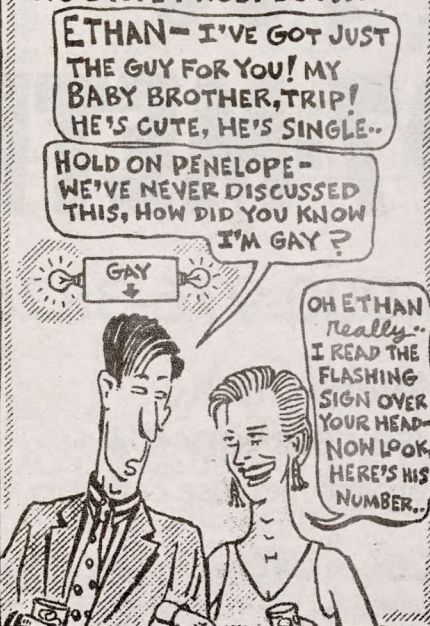
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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GWM, graduate student, 37, 5'5", 170 lbs, HIV-, likes cooking, sailing, reading, travel, bicycling, music, seeks GWM, 27-42, non-smoker, HIV-, for friendship, relationship. ☐ 45085

GWM, 39, 5'11", 155 lbs, sincere, caring, loving, mature, Christian, seeks one special individual, 34 to 42 to grow and work together toward a wholesome relationship and eventual commitment. Serious inquiries only. ☐ 45083.

GWF, 40, attractive, stable, non-smoker, non-drinker, not into bar scene, wants to meet other GWFs, age 35-45 of similar disposition. I enjoy fitness activities, movies, cooking, being cooked for, cycling, mountains, beaches, lakes and generally exploring this city. ☐ 45081.

Attractive, trim, easy-going, HIV+ GWM - good at massage - seeks HIV+ guy. ☐ 45079.

GWM, 30, 6'1", football player's build, flat top, blue eyes, seeks dominant, aggressive GWM to age 40 for hot times and possibly more. Also interested in three ways with dominant leather tops. Serious and masculine types only. ☐ 45073.

GWF, 26, professional, currently involved in relationship, seeks other women of character 25-35 to share friendship. If you are stable, secure, and enjoy shopping, the arts, dancing, reading or just talking and having fun, please call. Friends are just as important as lovers. ☐ 45075.

Young GWM, 20, just moved to Atlanta after 2 1/2 years in London. Into fashion, music and movies. Seeks GWM for one-to-one relationship. If you want a sincere, charming, and above all intelligent boyfriend, give me a call. ☐ 45077.

Young lesbian couple, just moved here from Boston. We're looking for other lesbians/lesbian couples to enjoy the gay scene in Atlanta. We enjoy clubs, movies, dinners, sports, (and cats). Race not an issue, but no drugs please. ☐ 45069.

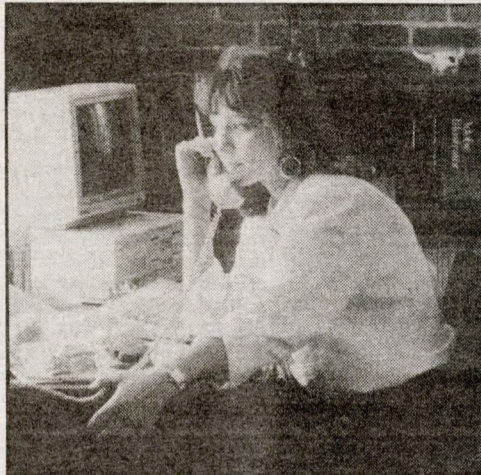
Black lesbian couple desires to meet nice lesbian couple for casual friendships. Enjoy movies, partying, travel, arts and cookouts. No bisexuals, drugs or heavy smoking. We'd like to meet you. ☐ 45053.

"If I found the place would I recognize the face..." GWM; 37; non-smoker; HIV-; caring; honest; stable; romantic - nice guy. Desires personal growth, positive changes, physical and spiritual development. Seeks similar for friendship first, then marriage. ☐ 45067.

GWF, 26, 115lb, 5'3", dk eyes/hair, feminine/androgynous - seeks GWF 25-30 stable, secure, sexy, gay-proud, passionate. Tired of endless games and senseless nights. If you are too, please call. Looking for a friend and a lover. ☐ 45065

GBM, 25, 6'1", 195lb. Seeking someone special to love, honor, and obey. If you are GWM, 25-50, masculine, top, well endowed and enjoys life. Let's get together and talk about US. ☐ 45063

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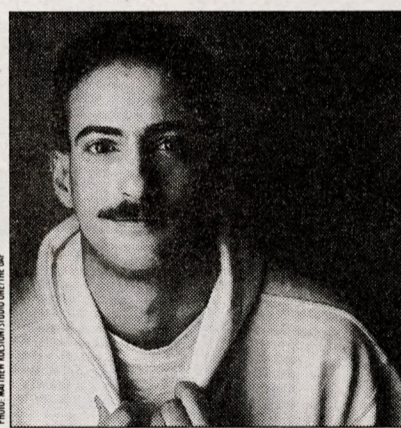
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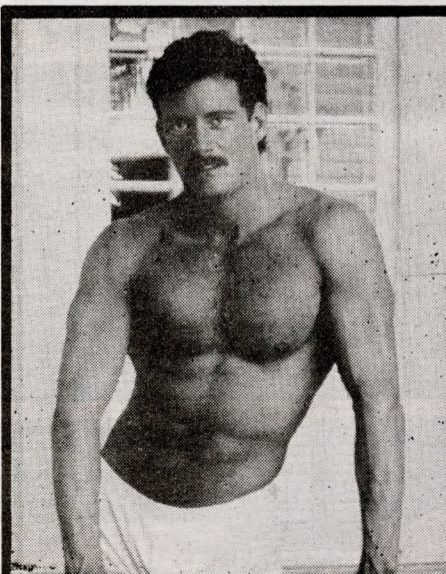
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# Harvey's a hit, Samuel a miss

by Charlene Ball

Americans look for the powerful, charismatic, messiah-like political figure who will lead us to the Promised Land. For the gay community, such a figure may appear as the ideal lover. *The Harvey Milk Show* presents Harvey Milk, openly gay San Francisco politician who was shot by Dan White, another City Council member, as American Politician-Hero-Messiah-Lover. It is an American political passion play, with a hero's progress and triumphs, martyrdom, and resurrection. The play focuses on Harvey as politician and showman, with a secondary story line of a young man, Jamie, who finds pride and self-acceptance through his relationship with Harvey.

Chris Coleman as Harvey Milk dominates the stage. When he makes his entrance in bell-bottom jeans, sandals, embroidered white dashiki, and long graying ponytail, we see the '70's again, full of possibility and hope. Coleman's characterization falls right on the mark: New York accent, careful delicate gestures, watchful eyes, secretive smile. He's eminently watchable; a Harvey larger than life, yet human, loveable yet irritating, warm yet domineering, restless and driven; a P.T. Barnum with a social conscience and a sense of destiny.

The show contains memorable songs. The opening song by Jamie, "Dance with a Cowboy," is very interesting, musically; it slides drunkenly about, falling just off the expected note. Harvey's "There's a Fire" number in the K-Mart has a soulful, mid-'70's sound. There's the humor of "Pooper Scooper"—Harvey calls a press conference to announce his proposed legislation requiring dog owners to use a scoop to dispose of "canine digestional by-products."

"Young Man," Harvey's solo to his lover and all younger gay men, admonishing them to believe in themselves instead of making a hero of him, is moving, especially the way Stephen Petty has staged it, with Coleman alone onstage, sitting in a corner, looking like the last flower child.

Scott Higgs deserves special mention as the play's symbolic antagonist, "Mr. Smith"—a sort of Spirit of Homophobia. Higgs makes malevolence seem real and human and chillingly recognizable.

Expectations are high for a show such as this one. We all want it to be more than just a show; we want it to be an

## THEATRE REVIEWS

**The Harvey Milk Show**  
Actor's Express  
through October 27

**Second Samuel**  
Mercer Univ. Fine Arts Bldg.  
through September 28



DAVID ZEGLER

Brian Barnett (Jamie) and Chris Coleman (Harvey) of *The Harvey Milk Show*.

affirmation of community, a source of inspiration. And *The Harvey Milk Show* is the ritual affirming of community that we all hoped it would be.

But I also hoped it would show more of a human being, more of the private Harvey behind the mask, the personal struggle and contradictions. Showing more complexity would not have detracted from Harvey's heroism or his historic significance. For example, Jamie represents four actual people with whom Harvey Milk was involved over a few years. Was there something about Harvey's drive for politics that undermined his relationships?

And two feminist questions: why was a woman one of the gay-bashers in the song "Party"? Do women do that kind of thing in real life? Or is it that gay men, after all we have witnessed, are still loath to acknowledge that their

primary enemies are not women, but straight men?

And why is Heather, Harvey's main female supporter, not a lesbian but just a woman who "dresses funny"? Is this a way of saying you can't judge a book by its (leather) cover?

All questions aside, *The Harvey Milk Show* is an exciting piece of theater as well as a true community ritual. Actors' Express has given the community yet another memorable production, presented with conviction and passion. Bravo to Actors' Express, to the Pruitt and Hutchison duo, and to the whole case and production team of *The Harvey Milk Show*.

## Second Samuel

Miss Gertrude, spinster, has just died in the little Georgia town of Second Samuel in the year 1950. Nobody has a bad word to say about Miss Gert, and by the time we are one-third through the play, I wished that the saintly old pussycat had unsheathed her claws at least once. Or gone catting around a little.

I won't tell Miss Gert's secret in print, but I'm sure you've all guessed it. What's so hard to believe is that the dear departed was so unnervingly perfect, with nary a peccadillo. Also hard to swallow is the smug self-congratulatory attitude the townspeople take towards themselves. I thought I would gag about the third time I heard someone say, "That's what friends do for one another." The play glorifies a small-town way of life that never existed.

The cast seemed to be having fun, and their enjoyment was appealing. And the ending, with a plaintive Appalachian tune sung by soprano Karen Whitaker Banks, was actually a bit moving. (Music can do wonders.)

But the play's situation and conflict are contrived and too easily resolved, and the cuteness and quaintness of names and character foibles are laid on far too thick. Names like B Flat, Omaha Nebraska and Jimmy Deanne are just too heavy-handed. And a contrived lesson in tolerance is still contrived—and not too tolerable.

*The Harvey Milk Show* runs at Actors' Express thru Oct. 27. Pamela Parker's *Second Samuel*, a Southern Fried production, runs at Mercer Univ. thru Sept. 28.

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