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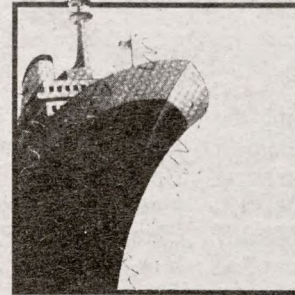
Taking Pride in Our Culture

VIOLENCE



Domestic violence can occur in any relationship. Some warning signs & tips. And why the movement has turned its back on feminism. 4 & 5

CRUISE



Holiday plans? Cruising is one answer to that age-old question of how to not be home for the holidays. Vacation cruising, that is. 10 & 11

SAINT



Poet/playwright Assoto Saint offers up an astounding book of gay black poets. His book and more new gay lit reviewed. 13

Domestic partnership on its way to City Council

by KC Wildmoon

City Council member Mary Davis is poised to introduce a domestic partnership ordinance for city employees within the next several weeks. Davis made the announcement at last week's meeting of a committee authorized by Mayor Maynard Jackson to study domestic partnership legislation for Atlanta. Eighteen individuals and representatives of lesbian/gay organizations attended the first meeting on October 15, convened by the mayor's special assistant, Marcia Okula.

"I'm excited," Davis said. "I've been working on this for a long time to make sure I'm doing it right. It's exciting to be ready to introduce."

Davis said that she has been "gathering materials" for some time. She collected ordinances from other cities across the country and worked with members of Atlanta's gay community to compile legislation for this city.

The domestic partnership ordinance will ensure that gay and lesbian city employees receive the same benefits as their heterosexual counterparts.

"I want to make sure that the city does not discriminate," said Davis. "Partners of gays and lesbians should be eligible for insurance benefits, sick leave, everything that everybody else has."

When asked if her legislation would include unmarried

heterosexuals as well as gays and lesbians, Davis said that she was undecided. "But my gut feeling is that it should be everybody," she said. "Gays and lesbians can't be legally married, but there are sometimes compelling reasons that heterosexuals can't either."

The ordinance will probably define a "domestic partnership" by having a couple state that they have lived together and shared expenses for a certain amount of time. Couples will be required to "declare" their domestic partnership, and benefits will start after a short waiting period. This is the same procedure now followed by heterosexual couples when they marry, according to Davis.

Davis expects to introduce the ordinance to City Council within the next few weeks. In the meantime, she said she would be seeking co-sponsors for the legislation, and going over it with members of the mayor's study committee. She said that she expects to get the support she needs, but council members will have questions and concerns.

"I feel good about getting it started," she said. "It's important. I think a lot of people will want to support it, but the sticking point may be cost." The city is under budget constraints, and Davis said that she fears some council members may be concerned that domestic partnership legislation will add to the city's financial woes.

"That's why I've taken the time to get all this information together," she said. "I have studies from other cities with this type of legislation showing that the increase in budget is just not that significant."

Other members of the mayor's study committee were pleased with Davis' plans. Marcia Okula, the mayor's Special Assistant, said that the group will be doing what they can to rally support for the legislation.

"We'll be writing and calling council members in all districts," she said, "and working to galvanize the community on this."

Joan Garner, one of the mayor's Senior Advisors from the lesbian/gay community, was cautious but encouraged.

"If anything is going to happen, we will have to be proactive in getting what we want done," she said. "The mayor says he's supportive, but as we know nothing has happened yet. It will take a concerted effort between us, the council, everybody."

Council Member Davis' legislation will apply only to city employees. Okula said that in addition to supporting the ordinance, the committee will research the possibility of an ordinance requiring all companies in the city to include partners of gays and lesbians in their benefit packages.

See Davis, page 2

Contrary to mainstream polls, our poll indicates

Thomas should not have been seated on Supreme Court

by Candace Chellew

Polls conducted by the mainstream media during the sexual harassment hearings against Judge Clarence Thomas showed a large number of people still supported Thomas' confirmation. Those polls made *Southern Voice* curious as to what was on the minds of gay men and lesbians before, during and after Thomas' nomination, the scandal that played itself out on TVs across the nation, and his final confirmation.

A random poll of fifty lesbians and gay men showed a vast majority of respondents agree that Clarence Thomas should not have been seated on the Supreme Court. Most of those polled at the Romanovsky and Phillips concert at

Variety Playhouse October 20 expressed surprise that anyone would have to ask homosexuals about their opinion on Thomas.

It would have been a funny question, if it wasn't such a serious subject.

Overall, the results were not surprising with 88% coming out against Thomas' confirmation. But, interestingly, 6% were in favor, and the same percentage was undecided.

94% of women asked were firmly against the confirmation, 6% had not decided and no lesbian respondents favored the appointment. Of men questioned, 85% thought Thomas should not have been confirmed, 9% agreed with the



confirmation, and 6% were undecided.

Most of those against the confirmation cited Thomas' lack of judicial experience, his apparent youth, and the sexual harassment charges brought by Professor Anita Hill.

"I find his civil rights record abysmal," said Jeff Clark. "I'm concerned that the personal liberties of every individual in this nation will be threatened by the conservative stance of the court. I'm concerned about the lack of experience he has in the Federal Judicial Circuit, and I'm concerned about myself personally."

Thomas' experience was on Bea Conner's mind, but she also found the Senate lacking. "None of these white boys has the balls to say he's unqualified," she said, "because they were afraid of being dubbed racist."

The sexual harassment proceedings played a role in people's decisions. Betty Irwin says, "I feel like women have been betrayed. The men I work with didn't believe her. Every woman I know has been sexually harassed in her life."

Larry Pelligrini had a different opinion on the impact of the harassment proceedings. "I believe that since he's now secure he has an axe to grind with people who opposed him," he explained, "and I think we'll see that in the rulings."

But, not everyone opposed Thomas. Steve Raines said he supported the nomination despite the sexual harassment charges. "I don't think there's anyone in

this world who doesn't have skeletons, and that was his," he said. "You cannot please all of the people all of the time. Thomas is probably as qualified as anyone."

Tom Jones agrees. "He appears to be a good man. He may have done that [sexually harassed Hill] in the past, but that doesn't make a person wrong for life," Jones said. "They couldn't find anyone he's done that to recently, so he's all right."

Another side of Thomas showed through during the hearings that swayed Walter Mazzanti's opinion of the judge. "I read that Thomas fired one of the women who testified for Anita Hill because she called a member of her staff a 'faggot', and Thomas felt that was biased and would not allow that in any way, shape or form," he told pollsters. "That made me feel better about him."

But, no matter what side the respondents were on, Cindy Henning summed it all up. "It was a very sad time for everyone. Whether Thomas was guilty [of harassing Hill] or not, it never should have been played out over the air." She added, "I think we'll see Ronald Reagan and George Bush long after they are dead and gone. I think we need to stand up and fight back."

Maybe the most complete summation came from Paul Alberto who said simply, "It's just another mediocre man on the Supreme Court."

Midtown foot patrol makes bias-crime arrest

by KC Wildmoon

Atlanta Police officers working the newly created foot patrol in the Midtown bar area made their first bias crime arrest early in the morning on October 13. Officers Dan Rasmussen and L.E. Murphy apprehended the suspect, who identified himself only as "Linsay," shortly after he accosted Patrick Rosselli. Rosselli was walking to his car from a nearby Chinese restaurant.

Rosselli said that the man asked him for a cigarette as he walked across a 6th Street parking lot.

"I knew that was typically a line some-

body who might mug you would use," said Rosselli, "so I told him to leave me alone. He followed me to my car and pulled a knife. I hit him with the car door and cleared out." Rosselli said that Linsay kicked the car, breaking the driver side window.

"He [Rosselli] knew about the foot patrol," said Atlanta Police Zone 5 Captain Wesley Derrick, "and he went looking for them. That's what we started this patrol for. That's how it's supposed to work."

Officers Rasmussen and Murphy arrested Linsay, charging him with aggravated

assault and criminal trespass for his attack on Rosselli. While under arrest, Linsay told Rosselli "You'll see me again and I won't have these cuffs on" and "I'll f----- kill you," prompting the officers to charge him with making terroristic threats. Additionally, Linsay told the officers that Rosselli was just a "f----- homo."

"That is specifically what those officers are looking for," said Capt. Derrick. "How many times has this guy done this to other people on the street over there? Now, he's off the street."

Derrick said that the suspect was being

held on \$10,000 bond, and that fingerprint checks should reveal his identity soon.

The foot patrol was the result of discussions between bar owners and Captain Derrick concerning the incidence of gay bashings in the Midtown area. The two officers carry beepers and work from 11 pm to 7 am on Friday and Saturday nights. Derrick said that since the patrol's inception on September 20, the officers have answered an average of thirteen calls per night, making arrests in an average of three of those calls.

Davis

cont'd from page 1



EVETT BENNETT

"I want to make sure the City does not discriminate. Partners of gays and lesbians should be eligible for insurance benefits, sick leave, everything that everybody else has." — Mary Davis

"We're concerned that state law may prohibit that kind of ordinance," Okula said, "but we're going to take the approach of enhancing state law and taking a wider interpretation."

Georgia law prohibiting sodomy and fornication between unmarried adults could create problems for any legal recognition of partnerships between gay and lesbian couples.

"We'd like to hear the Georgia Supreme Court's decision in *Crooke v. Gilden*," said

Okula, "but that may not happen before next spring. We are not going to wait that long."

Crooke v. Gilden is the case argued before the state's highest court last month involving a joint ownership agreement between two former lesbian lovers. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Luther Alverson ruled last February that the agreement was invalid because it was written to "facilitate a relationship which in Georgia is illegal and immoral."

Okula said that now that it has been formed, the committee will meet regularly to "put together a package" on city-wide domestic partnership.

"We don't know exactly what we can do," she said, "but we are going to go forward with it."

GPTV may lose state funding

by KC Wildmoon

Members of the Georgia General Assembly blasted Georgia Public Television last week over airing of Marlon Riggs' *Tongues Untied*. The film, broadcast on July 21 as part of the Public Broadcasting System's *Point of View* series, is a poetic and often searing look at being a gay black male in the United States.

Dick Ottinger, director of the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission which operates the statewide Georgia Public Television network, was called on the carpet by the House Appropriations Committee on October 17. During the session, committee member Jack Connell (D-Augusta) asked Ottinger what effect losing state funding would have on the commission.

"It would be extremely devastating," Ottinger replied. The commission receives 42% of its funding from state coffers.

Legislators were clearly not pleased with the network's airing of a film like *Tongues Untied*. "What about cannibalism?" Larry Walker (D-Perry) asked Ottinger. "Do you think that needs to be shown?"

After the meeting, Connell told reporters, "The consensus of the committee was if they continue that, they may find their funding in jeopardy."

"I hope that doesn't happen," Ottinger told *Southern Voice*. "They make the decisions about money, but we run the network. I'll make the best decisions I can about what we air based on the direction set by our board of directors."

The commission's board issued a statement following their September board meeting supporting the network's decision to broadcast *Tongues Untied*.

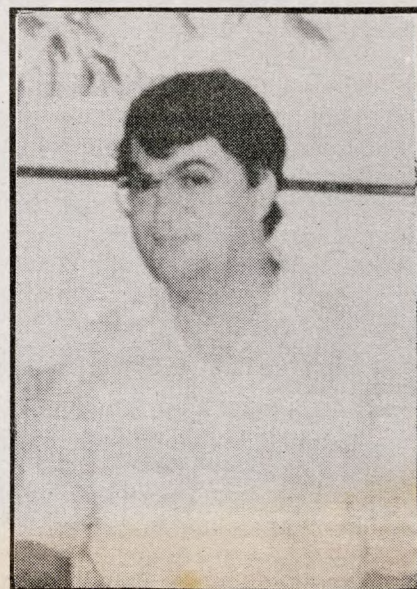
Legislators were apparently angered by calls and letters from their constituents. Ottinger called the letter writing campaign a "concerted effort" against the program. "It was very organized," he said, "and directed to our board members and the legislature. There was very little from the other side."

Since the July airing of *Tongues Untied*, the commission has received 470 phone calls and 29 letters supporting the program, and 456 calls and 320 letters opposing it.

"This is censorship," said Pat Hussain, of the Atlanta chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), an organization that monitors the media's treatment of gays and lesbians. "To threaten a public television station like this is reprehensible. And to treat it like a taxpayers' popularity contest appalls me."

"Being a black gay man in America is a part of the American fabric," she continued. "These kind of threats by our elected officials are plain and simply terrorism against us."

Have you seen this man?



The Atlanta Police Department is asking for help to find a white male missing since September 17, 1991. Roger F. Newton is 43 years old, 6' tall, 175 lbs. with brown hair and brown eyes. He was last seen by his relatives on September 13, but conducted business at the C&S Bank/Ansley on September 17.

Newton should be dressed in casual type clothing. He drives a white 1989 Geo Spectrum, Georgia license plate MJM 281.

If you have seen someone fitting Newton's description, or have any knowledge of his whereabouts, please call Investigator Richardson at 658-6818.

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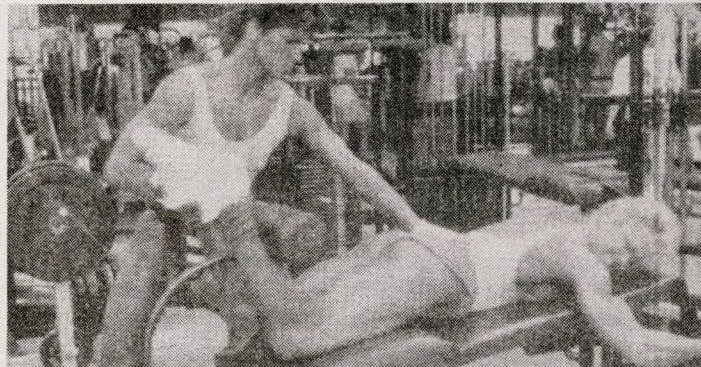
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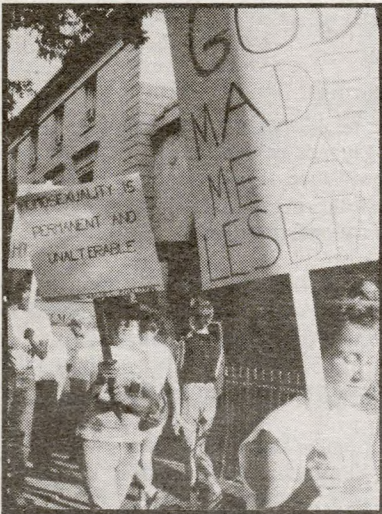
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NEWS

AIDS Walk Monies Distributed

"From All Walks Of Life" issued checks totalling \$110,932 to eight recipient agencies on September 11. The awards were part of the \$558,000 raised at last month's AIDS Walk/Atlanta. The eight agencies received \$11,924 each. Project Open Hand/Atlanta, the Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network, and the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of People With AIDS also received incentive awards for the largest numbers of registered walkers. An additional \$143,089 will be distributed to the agencies in grants. Organizers announced that 25% of the remaining \$238,477 will be earmarked for next year's Walk organization. The rest of that money will go to AID Atlanta, which organized the Walk.

Gays OK In Canadian Military: The Canadian Defense Ministry has officially ended a ban on gays and lesbians in the Canadian Armed Forces. In a press release last week, Chief of Defense Staff General A.J.G.D. de Chastelain said, "The Canadian Forces of today believe an individual's sexual orientation is irrelevant to whether or not that individual can perform his or her job."



JOHN ZEH

Conference about ex-gays draws protestors: Over 100 gay, lesbian and bisexual activists in Washington, D.C. peacefully picketed the Northeast Conference on Healing for the Homosexual Oct. 5 to protest "reparative therapy" for gay people. Transformation Christian Ministries, who sponsored the \$35 conference, claims 90 U.S. chapters and a 90% success rate. The conference, attended by about 75 people, was open to ministers, lay people and professionals planning ex-gay ministries. "Healing comes from acknowledging you are a broken person and accepting Christ," said executive director Anthony Falzarano. "These people are in pain. Information about early, root causes of homosexuality is freedom for them. Anyone who sticks with us changes." Barrett Brick, head of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations said he believes, "Attempting to cure someone who is not sick, is to kill a soul. No sane psychologist suggests that it's possible to change a person's sexual orientation."

P-FLAG On Buses: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Metropolitan Washington have started a public awareness ad campaign on the DC public transportation system: According to the *Washington Blade*, posters are on Metro buses and in train stations during October and part of November. The posters feature a photograph of a local family and their lesbian or gay male child with the message "We love our gay and lesbian children."

Second AIDS Drug Approved By FDA: The Food and Drug Administration has granted marketing approval for ddI, an anti-retroviral manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb. ddI joins AZT, giving people with AIDS a choice in antiviral treatments for the first time since AZT's approval in 1986. Bristol-Myers Squibb announced that it would locate reimbursement sources for physicians who prescribe the drug to patients who are ineligible for Medicaid and have no private insurance.

More Arrests In Cracker Barrel Protests: Five demonstrators were arrested in St. Louis last month protesting Cracker Barrel's exclusionary employment practices. Two of the five were charged with lewd and lascivious display because of their T-shirts. Two more were charged with criminal trespass for refusing to leave the restaurant when asked, and the fifth activist was charged with disorderly conduct when he chanted slogans as he left the restaurant. The five will be in court November 18 on the charges.

Lesbian v. City Of Denver: A lesbian employed by the city of Denver, CO, won the right to time off to care for her injured lover last week. The *Washington Blade* reported that Mary Ross was originally denied the sick leave by her supervisor, but a personnel hearing officer reversed that decision. The city is expected to appeal. Denver has a non-discrimination ordinance that includes sexual orientation, but Assistant City Attorney J. Wallace Wortham said that the statute would not apply since Denver's employee sick leave policy "does not include live-in lovers."

AmFAR Receives \$100,000 From Phillip Morris: Philip Morris Companies donated \$100,000 to the American Foundation for AIDS Research last month. The donation is in the form of two \$50,000 research grants; one to support a national survey on AIDS care in hospitals and the second for an AIDS prevention education program for Milwaukee hemophiliacs. Philip Morris has donated a total of \$267,000 to AmFAR.

Concerned? Concerned Ladies of America confronted Concerned Women of America and the result was "deafening," said the *Washington Blade*. Concerned Women is a "pro-family" group that held its annual convention in Arlington, Virginia, last month. Concerned Ladies is an activist group affiliated with DC's OUT!, a gay protest group. No arrests were made at the demonstration, which lasted over an hour at the main entrance to the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, where the CWA convention took place.

Let The Games Begin: Planning for Gay Games IV got underway on October 5 in New York City. The first International Planning Conference for the 1994 Games brought together organizers from Europe and North America. On October 10, NY Mayor David Dinkins held a press conference to officially welcome the games to New York City. Gay Games IV will coincide with Stonewall 25, the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

Singer Sues New York: Donna Summer filed a \$30 million dollar lawsuit against *New York* magazine last month, claiming that the magazine libeled her when it printed allegations that she had made derogatory remarks against homosexuals. The Aug. 5 issue of *New York* quoted an unnamed "music-industry insider" who claimed that Summer had said that homosexuals were "sinners" and that AIDS was "a divine ruling."



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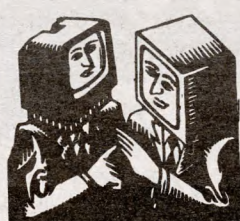
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Lessons in domestic violence

by Joy Savage

Domestic violence among gay male and lesbian couples occurs frequently and severely, and it usually goes unreported and unaddressed.

These are just two of the lessons our community would have to learn if we took an introductory course on domestic violence within lesbian and gay relationships.

Domestic violence is not strictly a gender-based or gender-role crime. It is a crime against humanity and an extreme manifestation of power and control that plays itself out in intimate relationships among all peoples regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

Lenore Walker, a leading expert on domestic violence and author of *The Battered Woman*, has identified three phases in the domestic violence cycle.

Tension building: This phase is marked by a period of mounting tension between partners and displays itself through verbal harassment, name-calling, constant criticism, and psychological humiliation. It can culminate in a period of "explosion/violence."

Explosion/Violence: This is the shortest of the three stages in the violence cycle. At this time, an all-out destructive act of physical violence occurs, coupled with severe verbal abuse.

At all three phases, one partner consistently acts as the primary aggressor. The primary aggressor is the partner who exerts control over the course the relationship takes. The partner who defends herself or himself should



not be viewed as the primary aggressor or as one involved in a "mutual abuse" situation. Mutual abuse is a phrase often used to diminish the reality that domestic violence does exist among gay men and lesbians.

Honeymoon: The opportunity for further violence is created during the honeymoon phase. The abused partner is showered with gifts, promises, and commitments for change in the relationship. The abuser is now behaving just the way the other partner always hoped and wanted her or him to behave, as a loving, concerned and understanding partner.

The power of charm and manipulation are ever present during the Honeymoon phase and work well on the abused partner who is vulnerable and needs to be comforted due to having just experienced a trauma. Also, the power of denial is at its strongest, highest levels for both partners during the Honeymoon. The abuser wants to believe they will never exhibit such behavior again; and the abused partner wants to believe this will never happen again.

It is rare for the abuser to modify their behavior as they have promised. If the abuser makes it through the Honeymoon phase with the abused partner still in the relation-

ship, the cycle of violence will occur again and again until the chain is broken.

It is important to note that the abused partner is in no way responsible for the violent, abusive manifestation of their partner's behavior. The abused partner is only liable for their own behavior and for taking responsibility for securing their own safety from someone who is abusive.

Types of abuse

There are many types of abuse that may be present in a domestic violence situation, but they are not necessarily present in all abusive relationships at all times.

Physical violence includes slapping, kicking, pushing, biting, and hitting. It may include throwing the partner, chasing the partner with a car, or depriving the partner of essential needs.

Rape, coercing sex or orgasm on demand, or withholding sex to manipulate the partner, accusations of infidelity, excessive jealousy, and physical assault during sex are examples of abusive behavior, as are sexually degrading language and behavior and the threat or use of weapons during sex.

Degrading, humiliating, or belittling the partner in public or private constitutes psychological and emotional abuse. Lying, angry outbursts, pouting and withdrawal are also abusive and harmful.

Economic abuse also occurs in domestic violence relationships. Fraud, controlling the partner's assets, income, spending habits, and requiring the partner to support the batterer are abusive types of behavior. Interfering with or disrupting the partner's employment or education is also abusive.

Chronic usage of any one or a combination of these elements to manipulate the relationship and control the partner constitutes abusive behavior. But readers should note that slapping or rape, for instance, are abusive the first time they occur.

A partner who issues threats is also behaving abusively. In addition, the destruction of property or harming a partner's pets are abusive behavior.

As lesbians and gay men, we must begin to educate ourselves on this issue and not allow our concerns or fears about what the straight community might think to prevent us from communication and working to end domestic violence in our community.

The author is the acting director of My Sister's Place, a shelter in DC for battered women and their children and the cochair of the Lesbian Task Force of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The views expressed are her own and do not necessarily represent the views of these organizations.

This article first appeared in the Washington Blade and is reprinted here with permission.

RESOURCES

There are no Atlanta metro programs specifically for gay men or lesbians experiencing domestic violence. However, help is available. The following is a partial list of both local and national programs.

- Council on Battered Women: 873-1766
- Dekalb Women's Resource Center: 688-9436
- Ga. Advocates for Battered Women and Children: 524-3847
- Support group for battered lesbians: 370-1317
- Gay and Lesbian Domestic Violence Network Newsletter: PO Box 14546, San Francisco, CA 94114
- Whitman-Walker Clinic Gay Men's Peer Counseling Program, Washington, DC: (202) 797-3518
- My Sister's Place, Washington, DC: (202) 529-5991

In addition, there are several excellent books about domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships: *Naming the Violence: Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering*. Kerry Lobel, editor. Seal Press, 1986; and *Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them: Battered Gay Men and Domestic Violence* by David Island and Patrick Letellier. Haworth Press, 1991.

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Shelter from the storm

Why the battered women's movement has turned away from feminism

by Debbie Fraker

The battered women's movement was started in the 60s by formerly battered women and their friends, and was very much a part of the feminist movement. But lately the real issue — violence against women — has degenerated into what is simply and inoffensively called "domestic violence." Domestic violence is treated one woman at a time in shelters which serve a stop-gap measure, but do not take any steps toward prevention of the oppression of women and its violent manifestations in the home, which is what feminists envisioned for battered women.

Susan May, one of the founders of Atlanta's Council on Battered Women, speaks strongly about the Council's roots in feminism. "It was absolutely clear from day one. Everybody who was a founder was a feminist," she says. "We felt at the time that [the battered women's movement] was the absolute core of feminism."

But shelters like the Council on Battered Women have abandoned many of the feminist ideals upon which they were founded. In fact, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Director of the Council on Battered Women since August, 1990, questions whether the protection of battered women is a feminist issue.

How shelters became apolitical warehouses, and took a big step away from their feminist roots is not too difficult to figure out. Money. Shelters began to seek and get funding from mainstream and government sources — city councils, state governments, and churches do not fund or otherwise support "radical feminist" agendas. So most

shelters for battered women stepped into mainstream conservative politics, thereby making them more acceptable to the conservative men who are in charge of doling out funds.

Suzanne Pharr, a nationally recognized expert on battering and a veteran of the movement since 1976 says, "Battered women's organizations began to be in the position of the chickens trying to win the approval of the fox. Power began to move from the women's hands into the hands of parenting organizations—churches, YWCA's, county governments, Salvation Armies, etc."

Since shelters now answer to funders instead of to battered women, other significant changes have taken place. Many have men on their Boards of Directors. In Atlanta, a push by funders began in the 1980's for battered women's organizations to include men on their boards. Boards of many battered women's organizations are now primarily made up of middle class and upper class white women and men who have never, and probably never will, need the organizations' services. Atlanta's Council on Battered Women is no exception.

Pharr says that "by the early 1980's battered women's activists had slammed right up against entrenched institutions that supported male dominance, centuries of social conditioning for women to be 'nice girls,' the Reagan years, and a job market flooded with social workers. Hundreds of social workers entered this work for a job, not for a place to work to change the world."

Sue Ann Malone, a formerly battered

woman and a representative of the Minnesota Coalition on Battered Women, fears that conservative groups are "taking over" and the battered women's movement is being watered down. A battered women's movement once based on social change is turning into shelters offering "victim services" according to Malone, which translates to the early days of blaming the victim — women being asked to look inside themselves for the causes of male violence. "It's not as blatant as it was in the early 80's," says Malone. "It's much sneakier."

Shelters are also becoming deeply infused with right-wing values such as homophobia. In Georgia, this was evidenced recently by the almost total demise of the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence, the only organization in the state set up with an agenda exclusively in support of battered women. In 1989, the Network, a coalition of Georgia shelters, lost its state funding because of its refusal to remove the words "sexual preference" from its discrimination policy. This action came as a result of complaints made to then State Representative Thomas Crosby (Waycross), among them an anonymous letter making the accusation that "nearly all the shelters are staffed, managed and directed by lesbians."

As in the rest of the feminist movement, lesbians have been ever-present in the struggle to bring the issue of battering to light. But now many lesbians are leaving the very movement they were key in starting. "From the beginning there were lesbians on our Task Force and on our Board of Directors," says Susan May.

The Council has also recently been accused of homophobia in its treatment practices. In 1990, staff members of the Council on Battered Women presented an in-depth proposal for changes in services provided. Among those changes, the staff recommended outreach programs to lesbians. The proposal pointed out that battering is a bigger problem in the lesbian community than was previously suspected. The Board of Directors of the Council rejected this proposal. Linda Arnold, current President of the

Board of the Council, says "We don't think it's a large enough population" to do specific outreach. But she added, "We do not discriminate based on sexual preference," emphasizing that all Council services are open to lesbians.

Though both Arnold and Gafford-Alexander insist that the Council does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, it makes no organized effort to train its staff or volunteers on the unique issues of battered lesbians. The Council previously provided regular, uniform training to its staff and volunteers on issues like homophobia, racism, ablism, classism, agism, sexism and the relationship of these types of oppression to battering. This training was discontinued in 1990 shortly before the Council's Trainer, B.J. Bryson, was fired. Bryson, who has since been elected Chair of the National Coalition on Domestic Violence and is a veteran of the battered women's movement since 1978, was fired for inadequate job performance, though she was not offered documented evidence of her inadequacy in the form of write-ups or complaints. "I think it was because I was doing too much social change work, and the director wanted me to shut up," says Bryson. "When you start taking money from the power, they expect certain things in return." Particularly, she points out, "they expect you not to call them bad boys."

Diane Winters and Cathy Beam of Georgia Advocates for Battered Women and Children (a new, sparsely funded incarnation of the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence) encourage feminists concerned about stopping violence against women and children to support politically active organizations in addition to shelters. "Communities think that having a shelter in the community means you are ending violence against women," says Beam. "But shelters are only band-aid work, not the final solution." Beam insists that organizations like Georgia Advocates "are going to be accountable to battered women, and not to shelters or the government or funders."

Winters adds, "We have nothing to lose."

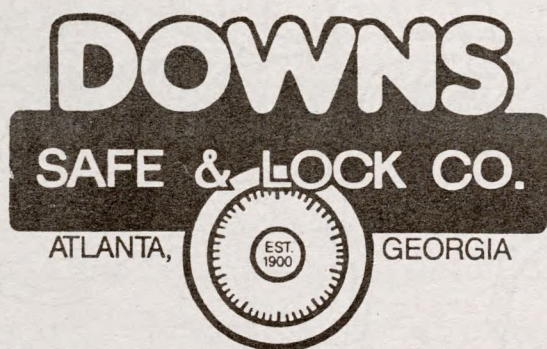
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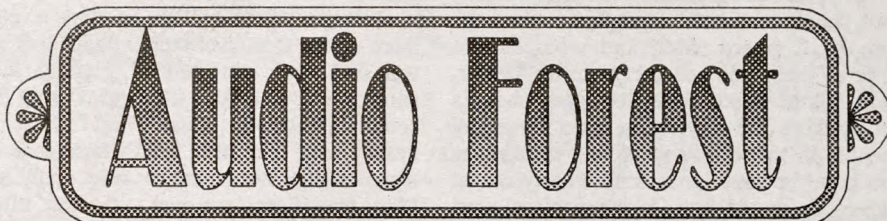
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FROM THE EDITOR

It's time to name names

Bill Gripp of the Atlanta Gay Center has hurt us all

Maybe you've wondered why you have never read much about the Atlanta Gay Center in the pages of this newspaper. It would seem that the Gay Center (or Lesbian and Gay Center), an organization that is a focal point in most gay and lesbian communities, would warrant some coverage, probably positive coverage in the local gay and lesbian press. But that's not the case here. Unfortunately for the Gay Center, its name has become synonymous with the name Bill Gripp, and Gripp has never warranted good coverage.

"If you can't say something good about someone then don't say anything at all" explains our silence up until now. It also explains the silence of a number of activists in this city. But as the years pass, and Atlanta's community grows up and grows stronger, it is no longer in the best interest of anyone to ignore the destructive and vicious nature of the leadership at the Atlanta Gay Center. It's time to name names, time to clear the air, and to plainly state what many people have known for many years—Bill Gripp, board member, five-time chair of the AGC Board and one of Atlanta's "most public" gay people, has done severe damage to the spirit, heart and image of this community. And it's time for him to stop.

What kind of man is Bill Gripp?

For close to ten years Gripp, and his small inner circle, have attacked, both publicly and in the pages of *The News*, some of Atlanta's hardest-working community activists and organizations. The list is endless but let me name a few: George Brenning, Cathy Woolard, Jeffrey Laymon, Jack Carrel, Sandra Thurman, Gary Kaupman, Connie Tuttle, Ray Kluka, Ken South, the Police Advisory Board, MACGLO, AID Atlanta, *ETC.* Magazine. Space constraints prevent a full list, but I think you get the picture. In short, Gripp has viciously maligned almost every gay person and organization in this city which he believed would either hurt the Center or take the spotlight away from it.

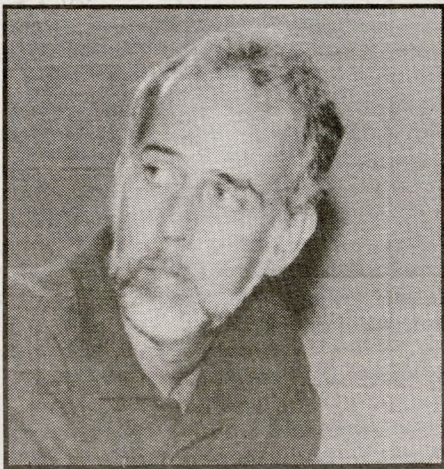
What kind of man is Bill Gripp?

Gripp has also attacked and run off numerous people who have attempted to serve on the AGC board. Men and women who offered their time and energy to the Center, who felt the responsibility to suggest changes in structure and services to better serve gay people in this city, soon found themselves back on the street or making a hasty retreat when confronted with Gripp's maniacal need for control. Confrontations with board members usually find Gripp accompanied by his lover Michael Wilson and Wilson's ever handy tape recorder, used partly as intimidation and partly as preservation of the moment for the two to get off with later.

As his friend Foster Corbin said in a recent issue of *The News*, "He (Gripp) shoots from the saddle and he is a very good shot." And Gripp's shots are not just reserved for the living—dead people are fair game, too. Like Ray Kluka. Kluka died in 1989. Up until his death he was a tireless activist involved in different organizations. He was full of heart and hope—respected and loved by many people. This sort of respect and admiration of others bothers Gripp a great deal it seems. In an interview conducted by *The News* (August, 1991) Gripp states, "...I read with some amusement that he was dismissed from the Center for his progressive ideas about women and blacks. The only progressive idea I ever remember Ray having was that he didn't need to show up for work." No matter how low I think Gripp can go, he always exceeds my expectations.

What kind of man is Bill Gripp?

Gripp and his lover, Michael Wilson, have been hot on the heels of AID Atlanta for a while now, accusing them of mismanagement of funds and numerous other violations. Every bureaucracy has its inefficiencies and AID Atlanta is no exception. It's true that the agency could be more effective, but then so could the American Red Cross, United Way



and the Atlanta Gay Center. But we think Gripp doth protest too much. It seems pretty clear that Gripp is looking for a piece of the AIDS funding pie for the Center. And while that goal is not necessarily a bad one, once again Gripp feels he has to destroy something or someone to get what he wants. Referring again to the interview in the August, 1991 edition of *The News*, Gripp says, "It's time for them (AID Atlanta) to straighten up, fly right or close up. Let's spend that money with someone who knows how to manage it. For example, they're collecting millions of dollars every year in federal and state money. Discretionary money can surely be more appropriately applied to other organizations, and it doesn't just have to be this one, although I think people ought to think about that."

What kind of man is Bill Gripp?

His lover Wilson tells a particularly chilling story that lets us know about the shaping of Gripp's life, a bit of insight into the psyche of a man who lashes out anytime he feels there is a "wrong" to right. A man who believes that the ends justify the means. Keep in mind that Wilson believes this story is touching and shows what a great fighter of injustice his lover is. We do not. But Wilson also believes it clearly reveals who Gripp is. So do we.

"When I think of Bill, no story reveals more of him than one from his childhood. He was five years old, outside, playing with another five year old, a little girl. During the course of their play, a bird's nest fell from a nearby tree. The little girl, whose face or name he does not remember now—only her Mary Jane shoes—ran over to the nest, lifted those Mary Janes, and stomped one of the fledgling birds to death. Bill was outraged. He did, by reflex, what any worthwhile person, upon reflection, might have done. He socked her in the nose! Bill's father, Lowell, stood by his son. When the little girl's angry father arrived on their doorstep, complaining of his daughter's bloodied nose, Lowell explained that Bill had acted correctly, that if the father was confused about that fact, he would be happy to step outside and bloody his nose as well!"

Bill Gripp is a good thing gone all wrong. He is brilliant, tenacious and passionate. He is also twisted, bitter, vindictive and cruel. He has hurt many many people in his effort to make the Atlanta Gay Center and himself look like the good guys. It seems Gripp believes he is the *only* good guy. That's why he spends so much time trying to tear people down—he wants to prove to you that they are bad. In the process, he has stunted the Gay Center's growth and our growth as a community. His raving creates distrust and suspicion, and sets forth the image of a fractured and bickering group to the city at large. He sets up one person against another, one organization against another. This is not leadership, this is sabotage.

Gripp thinks he is *the* one who knows what's best for Atlanta's gay and lesbian community—what's best for you. Don't believe him. Don't ever believe him.

Christina Cash

Carbon Copies

Honorable Michael Bowers
Office of the Attorney General
Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Bowers:

I have read the stories about your reneging on a job offer to Ms. Robin Shahar, a law school graduate from Emory Law School. I have found your actions disturbing.

I understand you defending the state in the Hardwick case, that was your job. You were carrying out your constitutional duties; therefore, I understand.

What you have done to Ms. Shahar is overt discrimination. It is also bigotry. I find your actions abominable and contemptible in this case.

On July 1, 1986, the day after the Supreme Court entered its ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, you appeared on Tom Houck's show on WGST. During that appearance you were asked, "Have you ever violated Georgia's sodomy law?"

General, your reply to that question was, "If people have what we today call normal sex they violate that law." That was a politically well phrased answer.

You also stated to the press at the time that you did not think the state would win the case. You further stated that the sodomy statute applies to all persons in the state—homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual, married or single.

I would like to know how you square your comment in 1986, concerning normal sex, with the assertion you made last week that hiring Ms. Shahar gives "tacit approval" to homosexual marriage. Your statements seem to indicate that you are using the sodomy statute to justify your discrimination. If that is the case, General, I would think we would need your resignation considering your statements in 1986. One thing for sure at least 99.9 percent of your staff should be fired if the sodomy statute is your justification. I personally know some of them have violated that law.

Without doubt this case is going to cause you a great deal of trouble, besides a lawsuit. Certain parts of the religious community will be upset with you besides the gay community and civil libertarians. Several legislators have already commented they plan to review your continuing funds budget. This is one decision you will live to regret.

Sincerely,
S. Christopher Hagin

Dear Mr. Bowers:

It had been my belief, until recently, that the basic functions of your Office were to monitor the enforcement of Georgia's laws, as written, and to protect the legal rights of each and every citizen of this state. This belief has been shaken by the injection of your personal prejudices and bigotry into the conduct of your Office, specifically in the case of Robin Shahar.

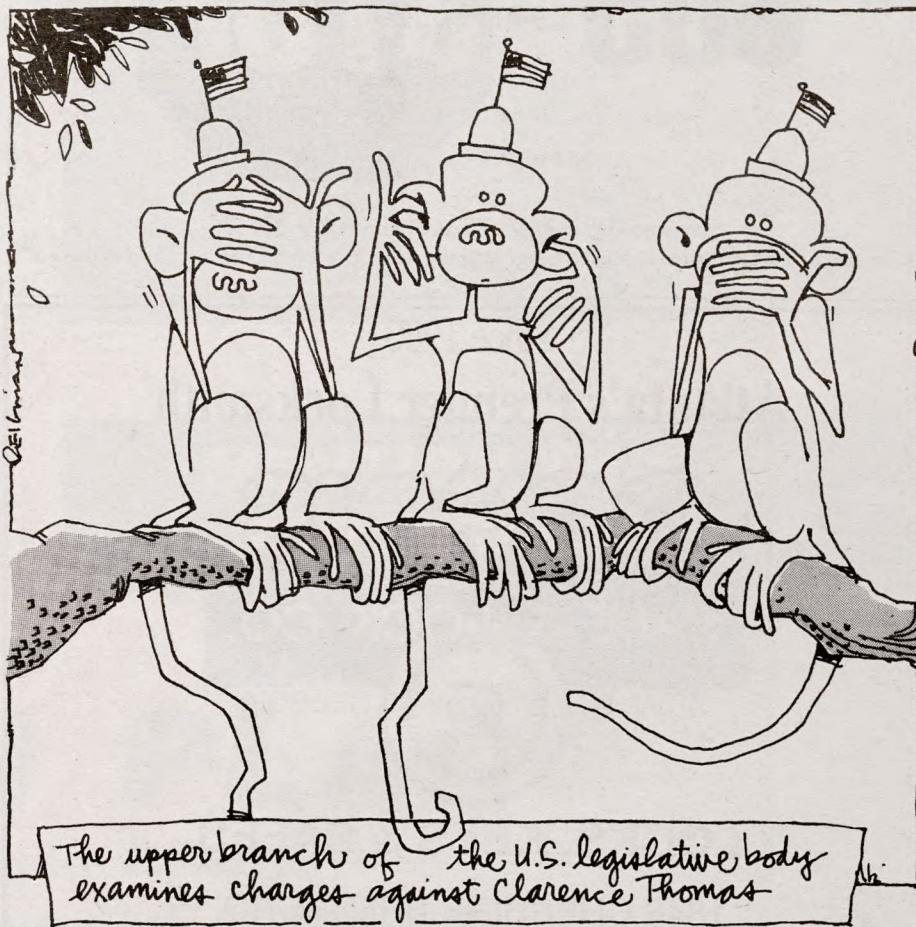
Ms. Shahar is obviously well qualified for her job, as evidenced by your offer and her acceptance of the position. She is not accused of, indicted for or guilty of any violation of Georgia law, yet you claim that it is your "duty" to deny her rights because your own bigotry calls you to enforce "laws" that exist only in your own imagination. You have said that you fear giving "tacit approval" to Ms. Shahar's personal life should you fail to discriminate against her. It is my understanding that she simply sought, and was granted, employment with the Office of the Attorney General and that she neither sought, nor required, your personal approval in any nonjob-related area, tacit or otherwise.

As one of the citizens of this state whom you were elected to serve, I need some clarification from you. Does the "Imaginary Bowers Legal Code of Georgia" (hereinafter referred to as IBLCG) render Ms. Shahar's very existence illegal? Does the IBLCG also void my existence, along with that of hundreds of thousands of other gay and lesbian citizens of this state? Does the IBLCG absolve us of our civic responsibilities along with our civil rights? Should I therefore discontinue any future payment of my state and local taxes? Should I decline to appear for jury duty when called?

The IBLCG also gives rise to corporate and political concerns. When may we expect to see you take action against MARTA, AT&T and the Atlanta City Council for their complicity in nondiscrimination against IBLCG approved target groups?

In short, you should be reminded that your duty is actually to respect and protect the rights of all Georgians, not just those with whom you are socially or philosophically comfortable. You should retire the IBLCG unless and until it actually becomes written into law. You should reinstate Ms. Shahar to her rightful position. Failing these steps, you should resign the Office in favor of someone who will abide by the actual laws of this state.

Sincerely,
C. Paul Cuthbertson



Homoville, GA

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

by Al Cotton

Capitalizing the "G"

I wasn't Out then, but from what I've heard, about 12 years ago, the Bathhouse was the most spiritual place you ever found most Gay Men. It was a place where we did all those things Society prevented us from doing — part playground, part psychotherapist's couch, part social center, part gym, part sleaze pit, and for some, part mystical experience. For them, un-churched, it was the only place to go to celebrate their Spirit.

Also about 12 years ago, at places like Running Water (a Gay Male collective farm in North Carolina), Gay Men began gathering together to be silly, dress up, hug, heal, and, of course, have sex. These Festive Events were called Faerie Gatherings. You can see a

trend developing — celebrating Sexuality seems to appear whenever Gay Men assemble to celebrate.

Over the Autumnal Equinox, I was privileged to be among 110 men who found their way to a North Carolina mountain retreat to celebrate at the second annual Gay Spirit Visions Conference. What happened there for me was something of a convergence of these two seemingly parallel lines from the past.

Here, amidst the drums and heart circles and breathing workshops, we found our Fey Poet Laureate James Broughton (who wrote the wonderful line "Hail, Mary, Quite Contrary") lecturing on "The Holy Trinity of Penis, Perineum and Anus," — and yes, it was a hands-on workshop. Also present was The Body Electric, a California-based group that is evangelizing Gay Men to the transcendent joys of Taoist erotic massage, including the Full Body, Non-Ejaculatory Orgasm. It works — believe me.

These goings-on have echoes both to the Baths and the Faeries, with one especially clear similarity — lots of unclothed Gay Men celebrating their Sexuality. But this is not the frenzied copulation of the '80's, inspired by alcohol, hominess and desperation. At these workshops, even though clothes were off, no one came to "come"; they came to learn, to

process, to find a wholeness that even Society cannot claim for itself.

I felt the heart of the Conference clearest in a story told by Andrew Ramer, a man whose channeling work seeks to connect Gay Men to ancient tribal positions as Society's healers. Ramer told us of hearing one of the Stories of his People from his grandmother. She took him at three and told him of the Easter pogroms of Jews by Christians in the Russian Crimea. How her father had held her over a partition so she could see the bodies of the 30 or so people killed on Christ's behalf in that especially bloody year. How her father said to her as she looked at the bodies, "These are your People."

Gay Men and Lesbians, Ramer points out, are among the few people in the world who are not born to their own People. Our parents can't tell us our Stories as they rock us to sleep. His vision is of a future time when parents take their Gay children aside and say, "I can't tell you what you need to know, but I know you need to know it. Here's a map. Go to this place, and there they will tell you the Stories of Your People."

And by then we will have created those places, where our "descendants" will hear about Faerie Gatherings and Bathhouses, Walt Whitman's Camarados and Socrates' corruption of the youth of Athens,

Stonewall's drag queens and the purging fire of AIDS. These are some of the Stories of Our People.

Our Story for the '90's is our effort to weave the Bathhouse and the Faerie Gathering back together — a rewiring of Sexuality to Spirit for all of Society, beginning with us. The task is vital: their prolonged and continued separation can only lead to catastrophe. Sexuality unguided by Spirit resorts to domination such as sexual harassment and ballistic missiles, while Spirituality uninspired by the ecstasies of Sex makes a profession of saying "Thou Shalt Not." Having survived both the soul-killing '80's and Society's concerted effort to castrate us, Gay Men can tell how we mended this breach in ourselves, and help Society begin to re-envision itself.

In his introduction of Broughton's keynote speech, Conference organizer Raven Wolf dancer mentioned that he now capitalizes the "G" and "L" in Gay and Lesbian every time he writes them — a small thing, but significant in honoring our Gay and Lesbian Selves. I see these conferences, where we work to reconnect the dots between Eros and Psyche, as another way of acknowledging this spectacular gift of our irrepressible Gay Spirit — another, very special way of Capitalizing the "G."

Carbon Copies

The Advocate
6922 Hollywood Boulevard, 10th floor
Los Angeles, California 90028

Dear Editor:

Thanks very much for your recent profile of me as an Avant-Guardian. There was, however, a rather striking error in the article. Through some stroke of the pen, I apparently became an attorney on the trip from Atlanta to Los Angeles. Perhaps it is because you determined that I am gifted with a fine amateur legal mind, or maybe you have received reports along the way that I am just another despicable, manipulative asshole and you drew your own conclusions.

Then again, those of us who are partners in the firm Sappho, Bilitis and Daughters are frequently the victims of mistaken identity. Just to set the record straight (sic), I am not now nor have I ever been an attorney. I will, however, impersonate one on occasion if it serves the desired purpose.

Your article may one day be utilized in perpetrating that fraud in lieu of an actual diploma. Thanks for the help!

Sincerely,
Cathy Woolard

Mr. Steve Nygren
The Peasant Corporation
489 Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Mr. Nygren:

I was a former Stouffer's waiter "way back when," where you also were employed, prior to your setting a new history and trend in Atlanta dining. I was very impressed by your success and have always admired your business acumen. I was also one of your first patrons at the original Peasant restaurant.

I believe that your present insurance policy is unconscionable and I for one will not patronize any of your establishments until an expedient and amicable resolution is found.

I refrain from being more critical as I am sure that there are extenuating circumstances which I know nothing about, and there are always two sides to every story. I hope that your corporation is taking an active part in lobbying for drastic changes in access to our inefficient health care system. I also hope that you will personally answer this issue as an "open letter to our community" which to no one's doubt has greatly contributed to your success. I am not a part of any pressure group nor do I speak for anyone but myself, but I am truly ashamed of your actions.

Sincerely,
David E. Harris

Gertrude was a hero, too

To the Editor:

I write in response to the theater reviews of *The Harvey Milk Show* and *Second Samuel*. Is Miss Ball suffering from multiple reviewer's personality disorder or what?

On one hand, she applauds "the ritual affirming of community" in Harvey, and when the town folk of *Second Samuel* ritually affirms its community by accepting Miss Gertrude's post mortem secret, it is deemed "contrived." I don't know about you, but for a small southern town in 1950 to accept the fact that one of the sweetest and most respectable little old ladies in town is in fact a man represents a pretty quality piece of acceptance. "A way of life that never existed" you say? No more fantastic than many stories I have heard of small town families finding acceptance of their drag queen sons or hairy legged lesbians. It does in fact happen because people do want to love one another. Ask Harvey Milk.

Some of the most touching footage I have seen about Harvey Milk were interviews with long shoremen, heavy duty hetero men that did not eat quiche, but did respect Harvey

Milk as a good man, a good person. Miss Gertrude led an honorable life as music teacher, informal foster mother to a slightly retarded boy, and a loving friend and neighbor. Gee, is that so "hard to believe"?

In the little Southern town I grew up in, there were at least three little old ladies with noticeable mustaches that could have lived Miss Gertrude's life. Ultimately, the town panicked over the news, but then remembered why they loved her when the town doc quoted Miss Gertrude as having told him, "If my life doesn't rise above my death, it must have not been much of a life."

About the "heavy-handed names," well, the author's cousin is named one of them and the story behind the character acquiring the name "B Flat" is incredibly touching. I find it so hard to believe that Charlene was not moved.

I wanted this letter to perhaps encourage others in our community to see this play because the overall theme is acceptance of the people in our world, and in my opinion, all sexual preference aside, this is the most important act of love a person can offer. *Second Samuel* represents a fine example of this.

Sincerely,
s. jane black

BY ANDREA NATALIE

STONEWALL RIOTS



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.

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Cruises: dream vacations for many gay

by Thom Cardwell

For many vacationers, cruises are truly what the stuff of dreams are made. They're about the luxurious, the exotic, the far-away, the fantastic.

Coming back down to earth for a minute, they're also (perhaps surprisingly to those who have never taken one) practical, economical and social. In fact, cruises are considered by seasoned travelers and industry analysts alike to be one of the few remaining bargains in the face of current skyrocketing prices for airline tickets, hotel accommodations, restaurants and many other "hidden" travel expenses, ranging from tips to admission for entertainment.

Smart gay and lesbian travel consumers wanting to be indulged in luxury with numerous amenities while still getting the greatest value for their vacation dollars have turned to cruises in record numbers. Responding to the demand, there has been a rapidly growing number of cruise-operators catering exclusively to the gay and lesbian vacationer over the past several years.

For example, RSVP Travel Productions Inc., which is generally recognized to be the undisputed leader in the gay cruise market, went from one cruise with 700 passengers in 1986 to six cruises with an estimated capacity of 4,676 passengers for 1991 and 1992, according to Andy Schmiedel, Director of Advertising and Sales. The Minneapolis-based company mainly attracts gay men (although women are welcome), and boasts a total number of 15,096 passengers on their famed RSVP cruises through 1991.

All-women luxury cruises were introduced by Olivia Cruises, an outgrowth of Olivia Records Inc., in 1989. Their success has allowed them to expand from one

sell-out cruise to three major cruise itineraries for women in 1992. Offering a first-ever Alaskan cruise for women last year, Olivia president Judy Dlugacz has included a second sailing up Alaska's Inside Passage in June of 1992. "The response was so overwhelming the first time," she said, "we decided to add another sailing."

Perhaps you're tired of spending Thanksgiving with all your relatives. Who says that you have to stay home? Olivia, RSVP and others offer plenty of exotic options.

Long-time producer of both the Southern and West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festivals, Robin Tyler has once again chartered the SS Enchanted Isle to sail the Mexican Riviera for a Thanksgiving Week Cruise for women-only. Embarking from the friendly city of San Diego in Southern California, the ship stops at ports of call at Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta before returning to San Diego. Special events on board ship include Thanksgiving Day Feast, Eleanor Roosevelt Reception and the Alice B. Toklas/Gertrude Stein Formal Dinner-Dance. Information, schedules and prices can be acquired from most reputable travel agents catering to a lesbian clientele.

If that doesn't suit your fancy, then perhaps the fantasy of cruising to Tahiti will satiate your wanderlust. Either way Now, Voyager Travel is offering 1991 Thanksgiving Cruises for gay groups sailing aboard Windstar Sail vessels.

Departing on November 24 from Barbados, the Caribbean Thanksgiving cruise is aboard the Wind Spirit. It will include visits to several beautiful islands



including St. Barts, St. Lucia and Martinique. With an ambiance that is refined yet informal, the "yacht-like" ship offers a feeling of intimacy. In a relaxed and quieter setting than many of the other cruises, there is considerably less emphasis on late-night partying. Instead the evening's entertainment is low-key and subtle.

Now, Voyager Travel anticipates about 30% of the total number of passengers on board to be gay. On their "not all gay" cruises, that's the usual distribution of gay to straight passengers.

The Tahiti Thanksgiving cruise aboard the Wind Song departs from Papesta on November 23. It's the fourth annual of such voyages there offered by Now, Voyager. For complete information, schedules, prices and other travel assistance contact Now, Voyager Travel at 800-255-06951 or Fax 415-626-8626.

"Our 1992 itineraries have a common

element," says cruise director Jillien Cruse of Olivia Cruises. "Each place we visit was home to ancient civilizations, ancient people who left visible and remarkable signs on the landscape." Their new season includes three all-women 7-night cruises to the Mexican Caribbean from March 20 to 27, the Alaskan Inside Passage from June 12 to 19 and a historic first-time ever Greek Isles/Lesbos voyage from September 21 to 28.

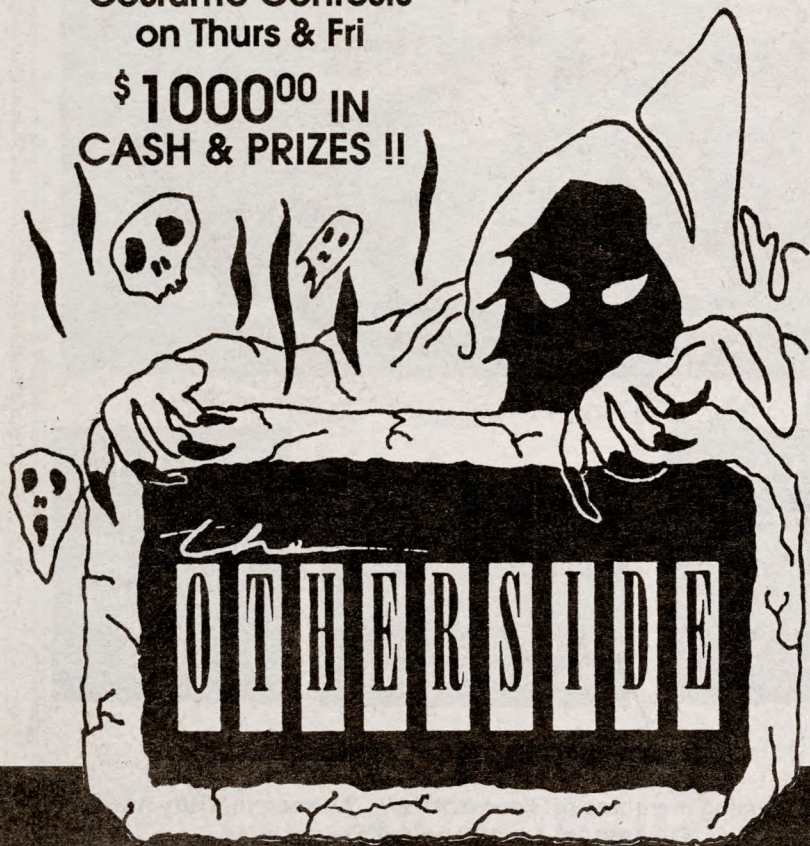
What will all the women be doing on these cruises? "Sightseeing is just one of the activities available to Olivia cruisers," answered Cruse. "We'll be snorkeling in some of the most beautiful water in the world in the Mexican Caribbean and the Mediterranean as well as sunning ourselves along crystalline beaches. Then there's Alaska which will be an entirely different type of cruise experience. There we'll see glaciers and totem poles, do lots of shopping and sample local cuisine."

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The cruise of the Mexican Caribbean will embark from Miami and sail to Cozumel, Playa del Carmen and Grand Cayman. The Greek Isles cruise embarks from the port of Athens with a pre-cruise sightseeing tour and then sails to Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes, Lesbos, Crete and Turkey.

For complete information, schedules, brochures and prices, contact Jillien Cruse at Olivia Cruises at 415-655-0364 or Fax 415-655-4334 or write 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608.

In their relatively short life, RSVP has made the annals of gay travel history. Since 1986 when founder/owner Kevin Mossier chartered one cruise ship for a week in the winter, RSVP has been phenomenally successful at creating just the right "gay atmosphere" to attract thousands of happy voyagers.

What does Mossier attribute to their tremendous success when the travel industry as a whole is suffering in the face of economic uncertainty and lack of consumer confidence?

Certainly, he admits, it's the all-gay atmosphere. "It's one of the only times you really, truly get to be totally relaxed. It may be the first time people really let their hair all the way down," Mossier said. That attitude, many admirers of RSVP cruises claim, spreads throughout the ship so that typically there's a spirit of camaraderie that develops among the cross-section of people from the ages of 20 to over 60.

Though their advertising might suggest that it's all beautiful bodies in bathing

trunks fresh from the gym or a sandy beach in sunny Florida or California, the preoccupations about a gay cruise turning into a stand-and-model bar or a floating bath house are just myths and misconceptions that Mossier has spent a lot of time dispelling.

For their 1992 season, RSVP is offering a 7 day cruise to Tropical Caribbean from February 16 to 23 departing from Miami and traveling to Philipsburg St. Maarten, Fort-de-France, Martinique, St. Johns Antigua and San Juan. Departing from San Juan, there is Deep Caribbean cruise for 7 days from February 23 to March 1 visiting Bridgetown Barbados, Castries St. Lucia, Road Town Tortola and returning to Miami. From March 1 to 8, there's the RSVP Exotic Caribbean cruise departing from Miami and stopping in San Juan, Road Town Tortola, St. Johns and Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas and then returning to Miami. All three of the Caribbean cruises for RSVP will be aboard the luxurious SS SeaBreeze.

For more information on RSVP schedules, prices, brochures, videotapes and reservations contact your travel agent or take a look at the RSVP insert in this issue.

Finally, what's the lure of an all-gay cruise?

"It's not a great sex jaunt," explains Hans Ebensten, a tour and cruise promoter for many years, "It's just that they're seeing the wonderful places they want to see in congenial company."

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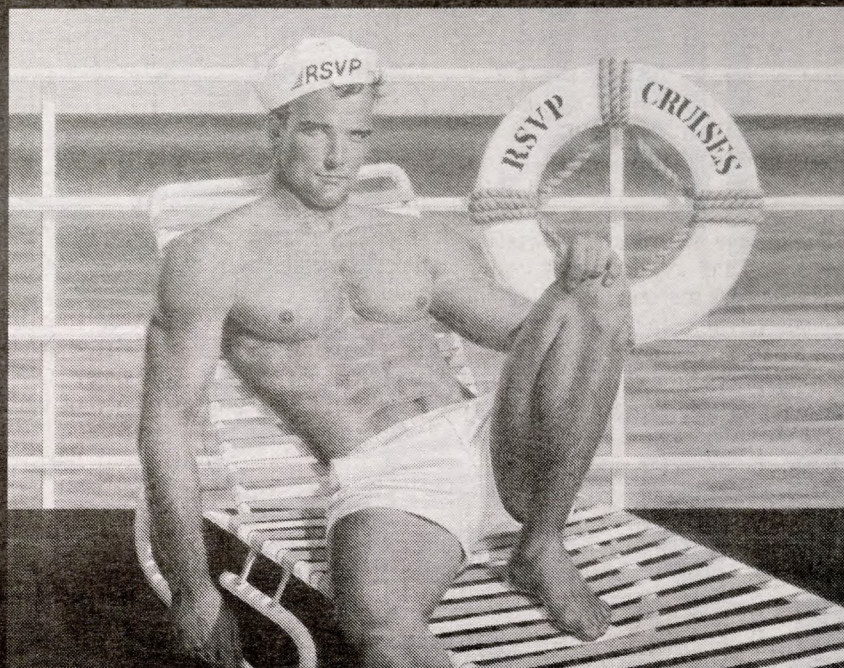
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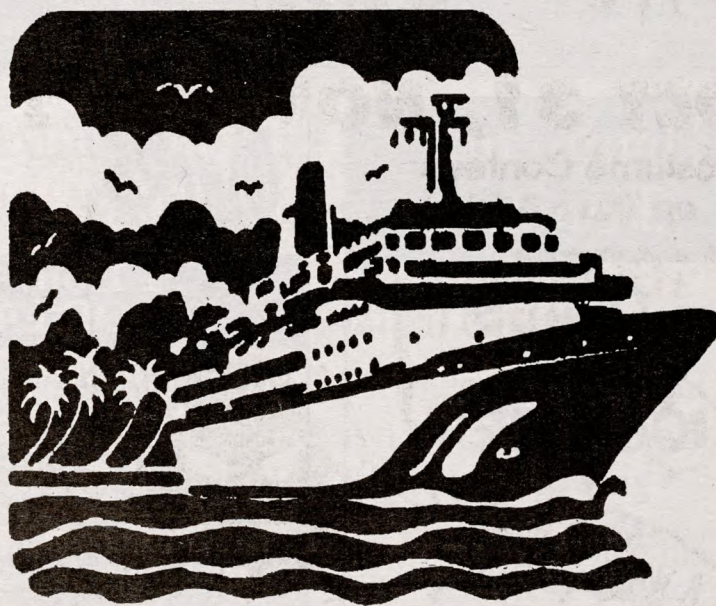
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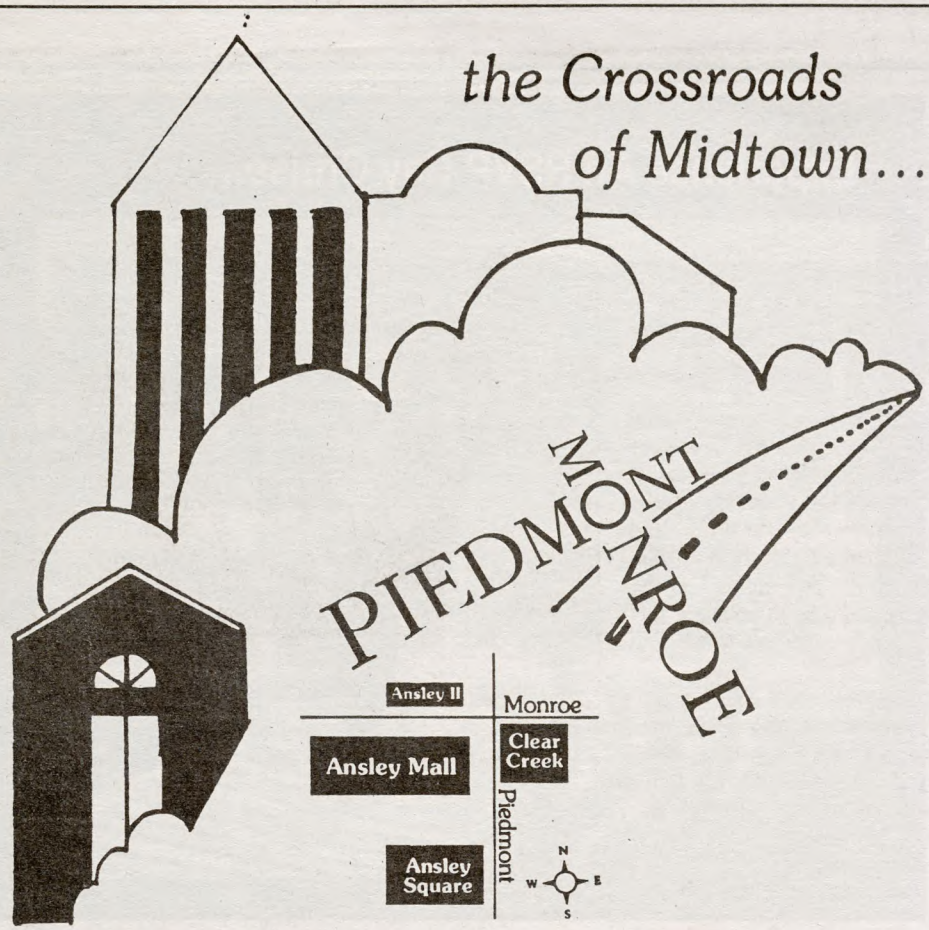
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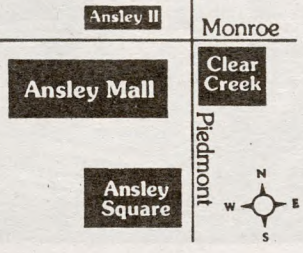
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The discomfort of strangeness

by Michael Bronski

A varied mix of fiction, narrative prose, and poetry being published this fall indicates that there may be a sea of change occurring in gay lit. New works by Neil Bartlett, Eric Latzky, Assoto Saint, and many others stretch what we have come to think of as the limits and parameters of traditional gay writing. These authors have rejected the assumed poetics and politics that have governed how we

That Bartlett is able to sustain this tension throughout his psychohistorical fairy tale is an artistic feat of considerable accomplishment. The idea of anxiety and loss is resolved—as it is in so much new lesbian and gay writing—when the past and the present merge in a blur of sexual need and exploration.

All contemporary queer literature by men is, in a profound sense, a response to the anxiety of AIDS and its undermining of our sexuality. You can viscerally sense this in Latzky's slim but impressive memory novel, *Three Views From Vertical Cliffs*. By relying on the little-used second-person narrative form, Latzky is able to both distance himself from the novel's events and let us feel the experiences of the main character (who is, of course—this being the second person—the reader, or "you") with an unprecedented immediacy and revelation.

Because of its unusual narrative style, the novel is consistently engaging. But Latzky makes his writing resonate far beyond what might have become a stylistic trick. Most of *Three Views* is reminiscent of Edgar Allan Poe's ruminative gothic tales with their unnamed but palpable psychological horrors. Sex here—like in Poe's "Lenore" or "Bernice"—has an insistent, methodical, presence. Sex in Latzky's novel is never easy. Fears and emotions are also dangerous—as open to corruption as the flesh—and thus must be watched closely and with caution.

The exploration of literary form carouses through Saint's *The Road Before Us* as well, not so much in the shape or tone of each poem but rather in the overall impact of the book itself. Saint has chosen one poem each from 100 different poets and has fashioned a volume that moves seamlessly across a range of issues and ideas. The anxiety here takes many forms—social, emotional, political—as in Sabah As-Sabah's angry "Invocation":

*I want to fuck a skinhead
so deep
that his soul aches
that his mama's soul aches
that his grandmother's soul moans
so deep that his ancestors vomit my scum*

BOOK REVIEWS

**Ready to Catch Him
Should He Fall**
by Neil Bartlett
NAL/Dutton

**Three Views From
Vertical Cliffs**
by Eric Latzky
Amethyst Press

The Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets
edited by Assoto Saint
Galiens Press

think about gay literature. And while they succeed with varying success, the writers discussed here are all indicative of a new mood and tone—a new maturity, if you will. Is there a clear-cut trend that can be discerned in all this new writing? There may be, but not in the more traditional sense that we have always used to discuss literature. Much of the lesbian and gay writing we are currently seeing is hard to categorize, if not impossible to define.

If there is a central theme or, rather, a constant emotional nuance that runs through all of this writing, it is that of anxiety.

Bartlett has balanced his tremendously powerful, psychologically ground breaking *Ready to Catch Him Should He Fall* on an axis of anxiety and loss. Written in a calm tone, the book tells the story of a relationship between a young man, Boy, his older male lover, O, and their protectress, Mother (a gay man, also known as Madam). What at first seems to be a routine if rather oddly told story quickly becomes an exploration of the gay male psyche. Bartlett has populated his tale with archetypal figures—drag queens with hearts of gold, devouring fathers, faithful lovers, educational tricks—but the underlying tension of the piece is the endless, emotionally draining need to give up the beloved past to reinvent the future.



ROTIMI FANI-KAYODE

Assoto Saint, editor of *The Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets*

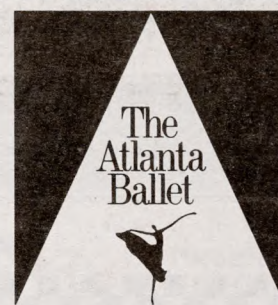
The beauty of Saint's collection is its ability to mediate all of this rage and anxiety—to balance it, one poem after another, until it begins to make some sort of wearying sense to us. But more important, *The Road Before Us* raises difficult questions for white gay readers who have seldom had to confront racial otherness. Much of the comfort that gay literature has afforded until now was an affirmation of sameness and unity. This is not a luxury we can afford.

Lesbian and gay writing, because it is a reflection of the ongoing tremendous shifts in our lives and communities, is always in flux. These innovative books have surfaced now because our thinking about AIDS, gender, sex, and race is changing more quickly than ever. The new work of queer writers is not meant to comfort but to challenge us to see worlds beyond our own insular lives. Better even than the comfort of strangers, this writing offers us the discomfort of strangeness.

The Atlanta Ballet, Ansley Wine Merchants and *Southern Voice* want you to enjoy the collaborative efforts of Atlanta's own Tom Grose & the Varsity and Broadway choreographer Louis Johnson in the upcoming *Rockin' to the Pointe*. In addition, you'll see the southeastern premiere of *Woodland Sketches*, and *Souvenirs*.



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Walt Whitman: America's good gay poet

by Charlene Ball

"To celebrate the dear love of comrades." So wrote Walt Whitman, self-proclaimed poet of the New World, laureate of the common man, a poet who attempted to craft a persona that was no less than the

THEATRE PREVIEW
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voice of the nation itself. And despite his claims to the contrary, Whitman has been known unofficially as America's "Good Gay Poet."

Whitman wrote openly of his intimate relationships with men, yet denied that he was homosexual. On the other hand, John Addington Symonds, a contemporary British writer who corresponded with Whitman, openly wrote and spoke of his own homosexuality and urged Whitman to do the same. Whitman refused.

Jonathan Ned Katz, gay historian, author of *The Gay Almanac* and *Gay American History*, has written a play, "Comrades and Lovers," based on the letters and poems of Walt Whitman, focusing on his correspondence with Symonds. OutProud Theatre (the newly named theatrical production arm of SAME) will present the premiere of Katz's play from October 24 to November 10 at the Fourteenth Street Playhouse.

"Comrades and Lovers" is timely, this year being the 100th anniversary of Whitman's death. The documentary-style play traces the poet's relationships with men and his thoughts and feelings on the emotion he



claimed would be characteristic of the emerging American nation for which he aspired to be the voice: the brotherly love of men for men.

From Civil War battlefields and hospitals where Whitman served as a nurse to dying soldiers, to his bearded and patriarchal old age, Whitman traveled and wrote erotically and tenderly of his affections for his comrades. From fleeting sensual encounters with young men in taverns ("Are You the New Person Drawn Towards Me?") to the enduring romantic idealization he expressed for the slain President Lincoln ("When Lilacs Last in the Door-yard Bloomed"), Whitman wrote with an emotional and sensual directness that transcends the hundred years between his time and ours.

Yet Whitman also insisted, not too convincingly, on his heterosexual identity. Though willing to write openly of love between men, even to kisses and sharing of

beds, he repudiated the label of "sodomite" and refused to affiliate himself with Symonds and the homosexual rights movements that were beginning in England and Germany in the late 19th century.

Rebecca Ranson, director of OutProud Theatre's production of "Comrades and Lovers," says that the play "celebrates a gay artist's life, and also brings up the coming out issue - an issue that is very contemporary."

Jonathan Katz writes that "Whitman's...deep desire to be remembered as the prophet-poet of all Americans...led him to finally reject...Symonds' attempt to entice him into publicly coming out." Thus, Whitman's "capitulation to respectability" was "comparable to Galileo's surrender to the Inquisition."

The play is presentational in style, with characters speaking directly to the audience as well as each other. The words of the play are condensed and adapted from letters, diaries, essays, and poems, in the style of a collage.

Whitman and Symonds lived at a time when attitudes towards sexuality were undergoing a shift. Previously, intense emotional friendships between persons of the same sex were tolerated and even encouraged as ennobling. But when the sexologists of the late 19th century began their studies of "inversion," relationships that had been acceptable became suspect.

"Comrades and Lovers" opens October 24 and runs through November 10. Jonathan Katz will be in residence at OutProud Theatre on October 25, 26, and 27.

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Rockin' to the Pointe, the Atlanta Ballet's rock ballet, includes everything from street rappers to leather-jacketed ballerinas. November 7-9 at the Civic Center.

Art

WOMEN WHO LIVED AND SANG THE BLUES. Oct. 25 - Nov. 30. Artist Amalia Amaki's new works in quilts and fabric pay homage to four women blues masters — Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Alberta Hunter. Hughley Gallery and Objects. 142 Stovall St. 523-3201.

NEXUS FALL SOLO SERIES. Nov. 1 - Dec. 14. Four artists are featured including former Atlantan Margaret Curtis who exhibits her latest work, "Artifice and Sexuality". Other artists are Trena Banks, Alan Sondheim and Shelagh Keeley. Nexus Gallery. 535 Means St. 688-2500.

WOMEN'S RITES OF PASSAGE: THE MAZE SHOW. Thru Oct. 27. Peg Morar and E.J. Joiner incorporate their work into poems and other writings of women since WWII into a visual and auditory sensation. TULA Gallery. 75 Bennett St. 351-3551.

NEW DIRECTIONS: BEGIN AT HOME. Thru Nov. 2. An exclusive showing of work of two endangered species of humans — local artists and the women of Nagaland, in India. The artists are jewelry designers and the women of Nagaland are a weaving collective who offer their beautiful shawls for sale to support their community. Illumina Gallery. Clear Creek Center. 875-7617.

AN AUTUMN GARDEN PARTY. Thru Nov. 9. Features the dynamic watercolors of local artist Betty Barclay. BurnNoff Gallery. Clear Creek Center. 875-3475.

THE WORKS OF KATHERINE MITCHELL. Thru Nov 9. A retrospective of Ms. Mitchell's 20 year career as an Atlanta artist. An exploration of the concept and depth of reality through meditative painting and drawings. Chastain Gallery (135 W. Wieuca Rd.) and Heath Gallery (416 E. Paces Ferry Rd.). 257-1804 and 262-6407.

DAVID FRALEY. Thru Nov. 19. Recent paintings from the artist whose work sold for the highest amount at Artcare. Fraley was recently listed in Who's Who in American Art. Trinity Gallery. 249 Trinity Ave. 525-7546.

GUATEMALA: LIFE & ART UNDER THE VOLCANOES. Thru Dec. 22. The vibrant traditional craftsmanship of the Highland Indians of Guatemala. A mingling of native and European designs in sacred works and everyday objects. Atlanta International Museum of Art and Design. 285 Peachtree Center Avenue. 688-2467.

Benefits

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. Wed., Oct. 30. 11:30 pm. A cabaret performance with cast member from Phantom (yes, Kevin Gray will be there) benefits AID Atlanta. Also, an auction of Phantom memorabilia including ballet slippers and autographed posters. Rupert's. 3330 Piedmont Rd. \$20. Tickets at Ticketmaster locations or by calling 249-6400.

Comedy

MEET RALPH BAILEY NIGHT. Oct. 27. Meet the co-host of "Access America", a new comedy on public-access TV hosted by Fred Willard of "Real People" fame. Ralph will emcee a live cabaret show which will feature DeAundra Peek and Little 5 Points poet laureate Deacon Lunchbox. Discovered when he was the announcer for DeAundra Peek's first TV show, "Turn Your Life Around," the diminutive dude is delighted to be back in his native Atlanta. Velvet. 89 Park Place. 377-2134.

FUNNY THAT WAY. Nov. 3. Atlanta's only gay/lesbian improv comedy group returns to tickle your fancy. Deana's One Mo' Time. 874-0980.

Dance

THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS. Nov. 1-3. Judith DeWitt, local dancer/choreographer/writer

presents her new work "Daddy's Girl" about growing up female in the south in the 50s and 60s on Nov. 1, and a new work for two dancers and a musician on Nov. 3. Heitzo takes the floor on Nov. 2 with a work in progress, "Frameworks" and a performance of "Shedding Skin." 7 Stages Theatre. 1105 Euclid Ave. 523-7647.

PILOBOLUS DANCE THEATRE. Nov. 7 & 8. 8:15 pm. This performance marks the 20th anniversary of this dance company's unusual and captivating choreography. Agnes Scott College. Gaines Auditorium of Presser Hall. 371-6430.

ROCKIN' TO THE POINTE. Nov. 7-9. The Atlanta Ballet gets down and dirty with this rock ballet in 10 sections by choreographer Louis Johnson. Tom Grose & The Varsity provide the music which incorporates jazz, blues and street music. Atlanta Civic Center. Tickets at Ticketmaster or by calling 249-6400.

Film

THIRD WORLD FILM FESTIVAL. Oct. 26. 2 pm. "AIDS and the Native American Family" is one of four films featured about Native Americans in this final installment of this film festival targeted to people of color. Atlanta-Fulton Public Library. 1 Margaret Mitchell Square. 653-7146.

Health

AIDS AWARENESS AND ACTION SEMINAR. Nov. 2. Sponsored by AID Atlanta, this Saturday seminar focuses on HIV treatments, testing, safer sex, women and AIDS, people of color and AIDS and other topics of interest of the general community. Required attendance for those who wish to volunteer for AID Atlanta. Call 872-0600 for place, time and more info.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS WHILE CLIMBING THE WALLS. Oct. 28. 6:30 pm. A two-hour seminar for caregivers, families and friends of those infected with HIV. Emotional, psychological and social issues will be discussed including building functional support networks. Academy of Medicine. 872-0600.

Literature

AMANDA GABLE. Oct. 24. 7:30 pm. Gable will read from her collection of stories, *Go Get a Girlfriend*, and ask the profound question, "Why can't my girlfriend dance?" Charis Books & More. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

TERRY KAY. Oct. 26. 4 pm. Best-selling author of *To Dance With The White Dog*, reads from and autographs his latest, *To Whom The Angel Spoke*. Shakespeare & Co. 122 N. Avondale. 292-7840.

ASSOTO SAINT. Nov. 1 & 2. Poet/playwright Saint, will sign *The Road Before Us: 100 Black Gay Poets*, which he edited. See review on page 13. Charis Books & More on Nov. 1 at 5 pm, and Oxford Pharr Bookstore on Nov. 2 at 8 pm.

Music

FRIENDS FOR MICHELLE MARTIN. Oct. 25. 8:30 pm. Local musicians DeDe Vogt, Angela Motter, Joyce & Jacque and others perform in a benefit for their friend — also a local musician — Michelle Martin. First Existentialist Church. Candler Park Dr. 873-1834.

NANCI GRIFFITH AND THE BLUE MOON ORCHESTRA. Oct. 25. 8:30 pm. "The Queen of Folkability" is in town with her own wonderful brand of country/folk music. Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid Ave. Tickets at Ticketmaster, Variety or by calling 249-6400.

MALICE IN WONDERLAND. Oct. 31. Where else to spend Halloween but at the Masquerade?



Funny That Way, Atlanta's lesbian and gay comedy/improv troupe, will be at Deana's on November 3.



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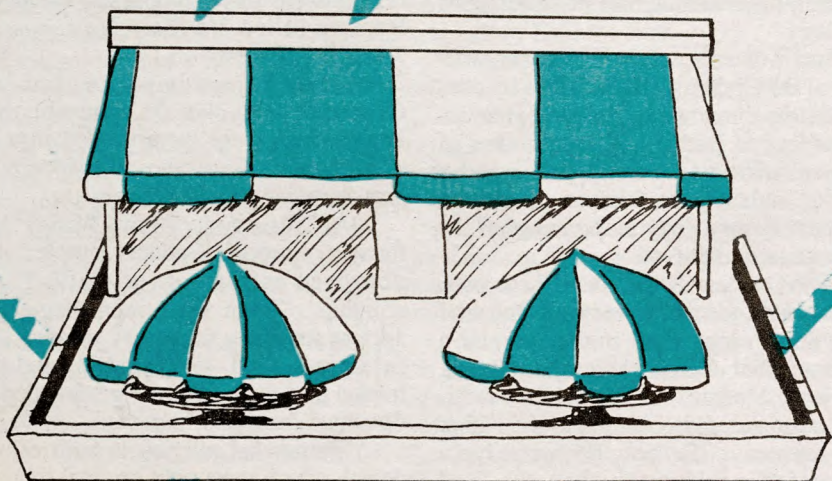
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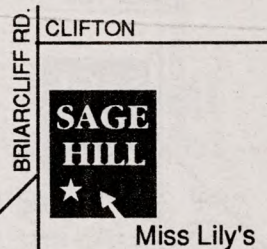
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WOMEN'S RITUALS

a look at feminist spirituality

by Jonathan Mitchell & Candice Montgomery

The three women sit around a carefully decorated coffee table in the middle of a suburban living room. The table has been draped with a red shawl, and many candles are lit throughout the room.

Together, the women chant verses praising Mother Earth, the changing of the seasons, and with it, the Autumnal Equinox around Sept. 21. The mood is relaxed yet sacred. The women sometimes laugh, but it is clear that what they are doing is taken very seriously.

As the ceremony ends, the women thank the Goddess for bestowing her peaceful love upon the world. The candles are blown out and the make-shift altar is pushed back by the sofa.

Such ceremonies are being held by an increasing number of women, especially within the lesbian community. Sometimes called women's rituals, the practices of these small, growing groups varies greatly. Yet they are all tied together as

part of a growing rejection within the women's community of the patriarchal nature of most religions, and a celebration of what some say is a rediscovery of the original, maternalistic root of all religious theology.

Most women's rituals involve the worship of the Goddess, which followers consider to be the original Queen of Heaven. According to Barbara Walker, author of *Women's Rituals: A Sourcebook* and a leading authority on this movement, the Goddess is not a deity in the image of the mainstream father-God.

"The Goddess is not a devil," she says. "She is now, for many women, a focus of their long-suppressed intuitions and a major symbol of their self-empowerment. She is the Mother who accepts their feminine personhood, in contrast to the Father who rejected it. To them, her image has a better feeling about it than the God image."

Women-centered religious thought is not a new concept, Walker says, but is instead an idea that has been suppressed by the male-engineered, Western society we live in.

"Two or three thousand years ago, women's rituals were conducted in splendid temples dedicated to their Goddess," Walker says. "Women's holy dances were performed on marble floors among beautiful carved pillars...Priestesses governed her worship, settled legal and moral problems by her authority, taught and counseled and administered her religion throughout the ancient world."

As the Celtic people conquered Europe, beginning in about 1500 BC, they mixed their paternal ideas with this matriarchy. "The oldest deity worshiped by the Celts, Germans and Anglo-Saxons of Western Europe was a Great Mother Goddess," says Arthur Evans, author of *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture*.

Celtic women played a prominent role in their society, especially in religious areas. Celtic men, Evans notes, were known throughout Europe for their homosexuality. "The most ancient Celtic deities were three goddesses whom the Romans called *Matres* or *Matronae*—the Mothers," he says.

When Roman influence, and later Christianity, fell over the continent, these Pagan ideas were incorporated into the new culture. Sometimes, this incorporation was done very selectively.

As Christianity grew, Walker says many of Europe's Goddess temples were destroyed as symbols of sinful Pagan worship. "Even when men plagiarized ancient scriptures written by women, they substituted 'God' for 'Goddess,' and pretended that their rituals were founded on directives from him," she says.

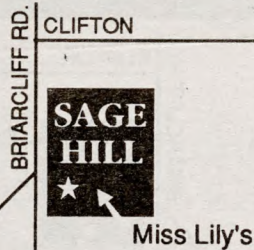
"Patriarchal religion is built on this denial, which is its only original thought, the rest of the edifice having been ripped

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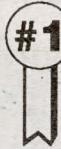
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FEATURE

off stone by stone from the Old Faith of Paganism," says Zsuzsanna Budapest, author of *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries*.

The plagiarism of ancient matriarchal ideas is rampant in today's theology, Budapest says. "The Christian Trinity is a word-by-word reversal of the Fates, the Three-Fold Mother, the Three Graces. The Dove is the sacred bird of the Great Mother. The Great Mother was eventually incorporated into the new Christian religion in the form of the Virgin Mary, who is worshiped in an 'idolatrous' fashion in the Catholic Church."

Pagan rituals became viewed as sinful for many reasons. Evans points out that Celtic druids led the opposition to Roman invasions. Because of this, Roman propagandists targeted every aspect of Celtic life for ridicule, including their sexuality. Early Christians continued this line of thinking.

Indeed, as Evans shows, Pope Innocent VIII issued his *Summis desiderantes* in 1484 that forever linked homosexuality with "black magic." From that point on, both sins were judged to be heresy, and thus subject to the trials of the Inquisition.

The main ceremonies for women's rituals revolve around the solstices, equinoxes and cross-quarter days. Walker is quick to point out that most of these days are also celebrated by mainstream society, only under different names. The Catholic Church adopted all of these nights of the year, or their corresponding days, and assigned them to various saints.

For example, the day after Halloween, an important night in the Pagan year, became known as All Saint's Day or All Hallowed Day on the Christian calendar after the Vatican appropriated this holiday.

While ancient Pagans celebrated the

various changes of the year because of fear — they felt the rituals were needed to keep the world in order — modern women's rituals are much more joyous in nature. "Modern women's circles usually create a special ceremony for each of the eight hinges of the year," Walker says.

Certain traditional colors have been created to represent each hinge of the year. These colors often correspond with the colors of nature at that time. Spring is often represented with greens, while the Winter Solstice is welcomed with white. The equinoxes call for a combination of light and dark colors—light above dark in the spring, dark above light in the fall.

Women's groups meet in a variety of places, whatever is available. "There is no official environment," Walker says. Some like to meet outdoors, if the weather allows.

Women's rituals are often small group activities, with all participants involved in some way. A sample of what goes on:

- The Talking Stick ritual is based on a Native American custom. A specially-decorated stick is passed to each member, who can speak without interruption as long as they hold the stick.

- The Weaving Sisterhood ritual involves the literal binding together of group members via a ball of yarn or string. As the ceremony concludes, the women are tied together in an intricate, spiderweb-like circle.

- Rituals to celebrate heroines are often used to champion women who have pioneered some cause. Heroines range from historical figures to Amelia Earhart.

Many women's ceremonies involve the use of stones and crystals, which are meant to symbolize the "bones of their Mother" earth. In the Greek versions of the flood myth (the Christian version being Noah's Ark), the Goddess Themis taught flood survivors to repopulate the

world by tossing stones as they walked.

If the stones were handled by a man, the stone would become a man. If handled by a woman, then the stone became a woman. Walker says the use of crystals and stones in women's rituals is one way women can show their deep connection to the Mother Earth.

Most women's rituals also involve chants, choruses, and verses.

The women's ritual movement is gaining ground because women cannot find the spiritual fulfillment they need in mainstream, male dominated denominations. "Many have inwardly rejected the theologians' father-God as irrelevant to themselves, even though they might regularly attend a church or synagogue for the sake of relatives and friends, because it is their social custom," says Walker.

A growing number of gay men are also joining such circles, drawn, Budapest says, by Paganism's fundamental acceptance of homosexuality. Such priests are sometimes referred to as "warlocks," a term that Budapest bristles at. "This word literally means 'traitor,'" she says. "As such, it is unacceptable. Our sons, our Sacred Children, were not raised as traitors, but as lovers of life."

She suggests the word "Kouretes," stemming from the Greek God Cronos, be used to imply the "members of the Goddess-serving priesthood."

Still, the main focus of women's circles remains women, and some elements of its power are not shared with males.

"Many women have discovered in themselves the capacity to devise beautiful, satisfying ceremonies for personal or group use," Walker says. "In this respect, historical patriarchy has failed us. To the women who are now rethinking spiritual values, it seems we have no choice but to try something else."



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ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Nov. 1 & 2. Fresh from their whirlwind 15-city European tour, the ASO returns with "Around the World," classics and popular favorites from around the world. Works by Bernstein, Berlioz, Tchaikovsky & more. Symphony Hall. 892-2414.

WENDY BUCKLEW. Nov. 7. 7:30 pm. Singer/songwriter Bucklew's "Rage in the Ring" is a hot-selling item. See the husky-voiced wonder in person. Charis Books. 419 Moreland. 524-0304.

Personal Growth

LAVENDER LIGHT: SPIRITUALITY FOR GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL PEOPLE. Oct. 26. 12 - 4 pm. A workshop based on anthropological research and the writings of gay and lesbian mystics such as Walt Whitman, Judy Grahn, James Broughton and Audre Lorde. Led by Franklin Abbott, editor of *Men and Intimacy* and *New Men, New Minds*. Phoenix and the Dragon Bookstore. 300 Hammond Dr. 255-5207.

Political

AIDS & GEORGIA POLITICS: A LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP. Thurs., Oct. 24. 9am-noon. How will the Ga. legislature respond to the AIDS hysteria now running rampant in this country? Learn the issues and the strategies needed to educate the Ga. General Assembly about testing and the need for health care access. The Academy of Medicine. 875 W. P'tree St. 881-9800, ext. 327.

Sports

FRONT RUNNERS. Every Saturday 9am at the Chattahoochee River off Powers Ferry Rd. Every Wednesday at 6:30pm at Piedmont Park. Call Shelton Haynie (622-0739) or Lynne Patterson (438-1421) for info.

AVSBOWLING. Every Monday, 8:30pm. Come down and see why Judy Tenuta says bowling fingers are so much fun. A sport with excitement to spare. Express Lanes, Monroe Drive.

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.

Television

QUEER NATION AND CRACKER BARREL. Fri., Oct. 25. 10 pm. It was supposed to air on October 11, National Coming Out day, but got booted by the disgusting Thomas hearings. Don't miss this feature on 20/20. WSB-TV in Atlanta. Channel 2.

OUT IN ATLANTA. Mon. at 10:30pm, Wed. at 3:30pm. A new 13-week program for and about Atlanta's lesbian and gay community. Interviews, news and more. People TV-Channel 12 on GCTV.

DeAUNDRA PEEK'S ULTRA STYLE BIN. Fri. at 11:30pm; Sat. at 10:30pm. SoVo columnist David Salyer says DeAundra reminds him "of the time my mother tried to dress herself after major surgery while under the influence of medication." People TV-Channel 12 on GCTV.

Theatre

COMRADES AND LOVERS. Oct. 24-Nov. 10. OutProud Theatre's second offering of the season celebrates the life of Walt Whitman. Written by gay author and historian Jonathan Katz, this tale traces the same-sex relationships of Whitman during the poet's long and fascinating life. 14th St. Playhouse. 881-0817.

TRACERS AND TRAINED FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT. Oct. 23-26. A realistic and frightening look at the Vietnam War. Tracers, developed by Vietnam veterans, shows the conflict of soldiers before, during and after the war. Trained pays tribute to the forgotten women whose lives were permanently altered by Vietnam. The Alley Theatre at Theatre in the Square. 422-8369.

THE ELECTRONIC NIGGER AND OTHERS. Oct. 25 - Nov. 3. An outrageous evening of one-act plays which look at cultural assimilation and loss of identity. The performance introduces the Arts Exchange's new theatre company - the Robeson Ensemble Players. The Arts Exchange. 750 Kalb St. 624-4211.

MADNESS. Thru Oct. 26. A one-woman show starring Kathi Welch who plays six characters caught up in a particularly crazy week in Atlanta. Presented by the Stage Door Players. N. Dekalb Cultural Center. 5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd. 396-1726.

THE ADDING MACHINE. Thru Oct. 26. This classic 1923 play traces the life and death of Mr. Zero, a nobody who's caught up in the awesome machinery of progress. The 25-character play is done entirely with puppets. Seems appropriate. Center for Puppetry Arts. 1404 Spring St. 873-3391

THE HARVEY MILK SHOW. 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. Playing to sold-out houses. Go now or you'll miss it. Actor's Express. 280 Elizabeth St. 221-0831.

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES. Thru 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. Horizon Theatre in L5P. 584-7450.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS. Thru Nov. 16. The martyrdom of Sir Thomas More, who died rather than lend support to Henry VIII's divorce, clarifies the passions and dilemmas of life. Alliance Theatre. Woodruff Arts Center. 892-2414.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. Thru Nov. 16. The classic story of obsession from Andrew Lloyd Webber unfolds under the stars in the fall season. Winner of 7 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Fox Theatre. 873-4300.



Meet Ralph Bailey, co-host of Access America. Ralph is pictured here with The Singing Peek Sisters who are a part of the cabaret show Ralph will emcee at Velvet on October 27. Photo by Bud Lowery

Upcoming

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS. Nov. 7. 7 pm. A forum sponsored by Amnesty International to focus on the worldwide phenomenon of violence against women. Ga. State University. Urban Life Bldg., Rm. 320. 876-5661.

REBUILDING AMERICA: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE. Nov. 9-9-5. A panel of political leaders will hear testimony from Georgians on the economy and other vital issues. Sponsored by Coalition for Democratic Values. Ga. World Congress Center. 872-0275.

TOWN MEETING. Nov. 13. 7 pm. A discussion of Ga. legislative issues of importance to the lesbian and gay community. Sodomy repeal, hate crimes, etc. Sponsored by GAPAC and the L/G chapter of the Ga. ACLU. Friends Meeting House. 701 Howard Ave.

UNTIL THERE IS A CURE, III. Nov. 15 & 16. An intensive 2-day conference offering PWAs and HIV+ people strategies for survival. Speakers include June Osborne and Martin Delaney. Manatee Civic Center. Bradenton, Fla. (813)954-6011.

3rd ANNUAL IMAGE/SAME LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL. Nov. 15-17 & Nov. 22-24. Two week-ends of lesbian and gay films including "Red, Hot & Blue," "Stop the Church" and "The Making of Monsters." IMAGE Film & Video Center. 75 Bennett St. 352-4254. Watch for preview in next issue of *Southern Voice*.

BLACK EARTH, EMBROIDERED ROSES. Nov. 15-17. The premiere performance of Louise Runyon Barth's Dance Company along with five other pieces which are chillingly beautiful. 7 Stages Theatre. 523-7647.

RUGGERFEST. Nov. 23 & 24. 12 of the top women's rugby teams compete in this event celebrating its 15th year sponsored by SE Women's Rugby Football. Emory. 659-6916 or 827-1510.

ARTS FOR PRIDE AND FINE ART AUCTION. Dec. 1. Over 50 lesbian and gay artists will offer their wares in this third annual event sponsored by SAME, Atlanta's lesbian and gay arts organization. The Trolley Barn. 963 Edgewood Ave. 881-0817.

CONSIGNMENT HOUSE

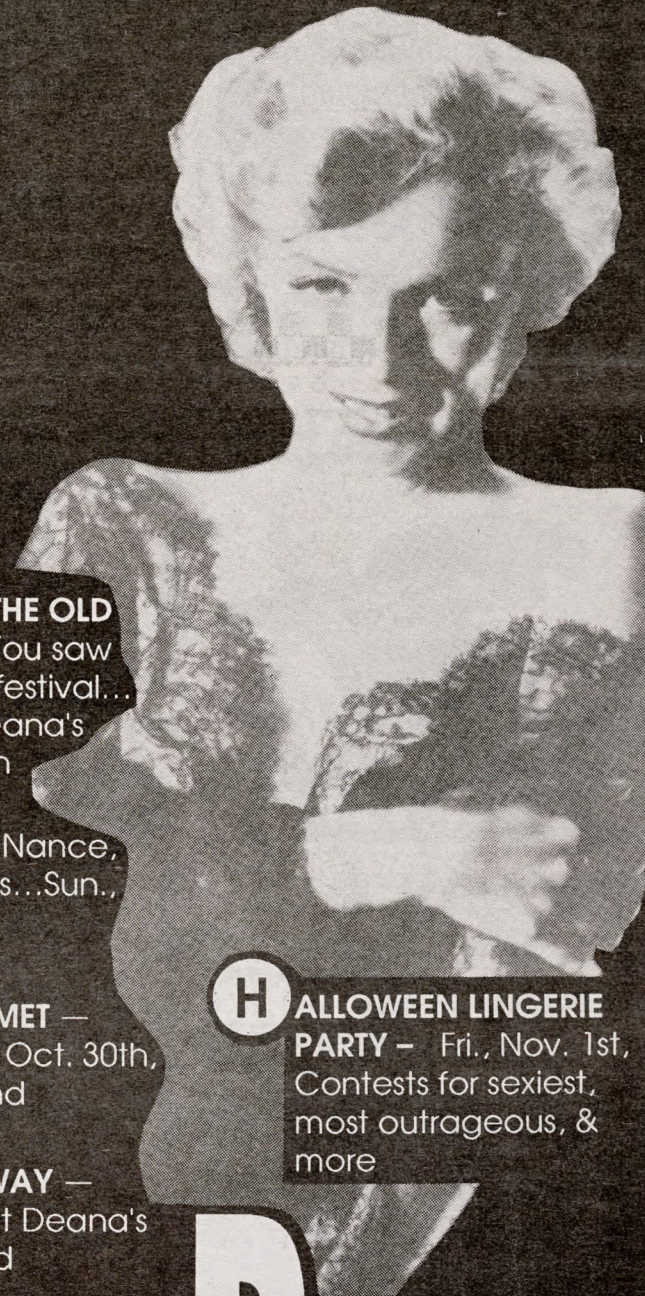
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REAL GIRLZ — Nance, Leigh, & Chris...Sun., Oct. 27th

MELANIE HAMMET — Performs live Oct. 30th, Nov. 1st & 2nd

FUNNY THAT WAY — Improv live at Deana's Sun., Nov. 3rd

LIVIA CRUISE PARTY — Tues., Nov. 5th...With special guests... Riverbend Band

ALL FOR MORE INFO... 874-0980
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HALLOWEEN LINGERIE PARTY — Fri., Nov. 1st, Contests for sexiest, most outrageous, & more

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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—access to alternative treatment for the HIV community in the SE. (404) 874-4845, or PO Box 77003, Atl, 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 & emotional support for PWA's, 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 Assn of People with AIDS/Atlanta—A political, social, and educational org. confronting the AIDS crisis. Open to all individuals with AIDS, ARC or who are HIV+. 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 group for HIV+ individuals. Call 872-9954 for info. Or write PO Box 8569, Atlanta, 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 chorale 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, 44 12th St. 286-6247 and 605-7458.

Atlanta Committee for the 1993 March on Washington—GA Org. Committee for the March on Washington (GOCMOW). Second Thurs of mo. 7:30 at 118 E. Trinity Ave., Decatur. (404) 662-4199 or GOCMOW, PO Box 5282, Atlanta, GA 30307.

Gay/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 Demo Nat'l Conv. Mtgs. on 3rd Mon. 7pm at P'tree Library. 605-7476.

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 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. 605-7396.

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.

Bar Owner's Assn—1874 Piedmont Rd., NW, Suite 211-B/102, Atlanta, GA 30324

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. 873-2137.
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 Assn.—Atlanta's tennis and social group for gay men. 621-2699.

Atlanta Venture Sports—An association in which the membership enjoys recreational, social, educational, and sports activities. 242-4899.

Atlanta Women's Social Tennis—Social activities as well as competitive outlets for tennis players of all levels. 662-GAME

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—Info at 621-5062. Fridays 7-10pm at Mercer Univ.

S.E. Gay Rodeo Association—For cowboys and cowgirls across the south. PO Box 8262, Atlanta, GA 30306. 874-6556.

S.E. Harlequins—Women's rugby—practices every Wed. night and Sun. afternoon. No experience is nec. New players are always welcome. 659-6916 or 761-8939 for info.

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

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

Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm.—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 gay men and educational outreach to society as a whole. 63 12th St., 876-5372.

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

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

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.

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.

Emotions Anonymous—A 12-step support group for gays & lesbians recovering from emotional problems. Sundays at 4pm at MCC, 800 N. Highland Ave. 872-0979.

First Women—support group for women of color in the fashion & entertainment industry. All are welcome. Write G.G. Richardson, PO Box 724711, Atl. 30339, phone 612-9473.

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

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

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

Georgia Lesbian Ecofeminists—a local chapter of Feminists for Animal Rights. Stimulating conversation, vegan potlucks. 525-9085.

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

Gwinnett Lambda—Newly formed social and recreational group for Lesbians and Gays living in and around Gwinnett. PO Box 464848, Lawrenceville, GA 30246 or call Michael at 266-4566 or Randy at 923-5874.

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.

Women of Wisdom—Aims to facilitate women meeting with women in a comfortable atmosphere. Meets at Chrysalis Women's Center monthly, date varies. 723-1112. or write P.O. Box 451065, Atlanta, GA 30345-1065.

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.

ZAMI—Women who work together as friends and lovers, a support group for women of color. Meets 3d Sun. of each month at Charis Books. 315-7684.

STUDENTS

Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—Meetings every Wed., 6:30pm, Room 355, Dobbs Univ. Center. Emory Univ. 727-6692.

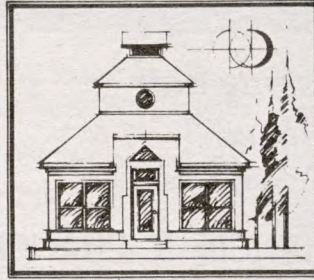
Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw Community College's group is in the process of formation. 426-8160.

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, political and social org. for the lesbian, gay and bisexual GSU community. Meeting/activity times vary, call 264-2079.

S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—Networking group for lesbian and gay student groups. 634-2524.

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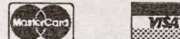
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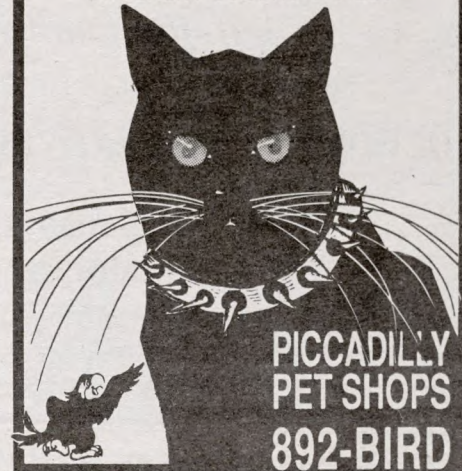
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SAVE THE DATE • NOVEMBER 19, 1991



CHANGING PERSPECTIVES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HIV DISEASE

DATE: Tuesday, November 19, 1991
TIME: 6:30 PM-9:30 PM
PLACE: Sheraton Colony Square
188 14th Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia



FACULTY: **Stosh Ostrow, MD, Moderator**
Scott Caples, RN
Dennis Melton, MD
Plus: a patient panelist



TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- HIV Update Overview
- Antiviral Therapy
- Treatment and Prevention of Common Opportunistic Infections
- Women and HIV
- Nutritional Guidelines

REGISTRATION: It is not necessary to register; however, if you would like to indicate your attendance at this workshop, please call 1-800-433-4584 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern Time and ask for the Management of HIV Workshop Coordinator.



This program is supported under an educational grant from Burroughs Wellcome Co.

Rights and relationships

by Al Cotton

Franklin Abbott—poet, psychotherapist, editor, anthologist and all-around local treasure—has made a career of helping gay men learn to deal with painful personal issues in appropriate settings like the therapist's couch, the reading room, or the poet's corner, rather than inappropriate ones, like inside our relationships, organizations or bars.

In his latest effort, Abbott turns his expertise to the lesbian and gay community as a whole and adds "conference co-organizer" to his list. "Our Right to Love: A Networking Conference on Rights and Relationships for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People" will be held the weekend of November 15-17 at Colony Square Hotel.

"There are not enough opportunities for us to just hang out with each other," Abbott said. "We need to do meaningful sharing across the boundaries of age, sex and race. This conference is designed to maximize talking time and be highly participatory for the people involved."

The goals of the conference are to help gay men and lesbians understand how internalized homophobia and heterosexism affect our lives personally, in our relationships and in our interactions within our community. One way it manifests itself is through our community's infamous political infighting. Abbott says "Living in the shadow of a heterosexist society, there is so much fear and turf protection that goes on. It becomes easier to attack each other instead of the enemy."

Abbott also sees the conference as making valuable connections between activists and non-activists. "Non-activists often are people who haven't yet made the connections between the personal and the political. Activists have made that connection,



but may still need to see that there is not a single, right point of view about our community's activism."

After Atlanta, the conference goes to Washington, DC in December, and to ten other cities in 1992. Keynote speakers in Atlanta are Dr. J. Kennedy Shultz, Pastor and Founder of the Atlanta Church of Religious Science, and Sabrina Sojourner Diversity Program Director of NOW. The conference will be handicapped accessible, and signing will be available if requested with advanced registration. Ten percent of the conference proceeds will be donated to support gay and lesbian organizations in developing countries.

The cost is \$195 if you pre-register before Nov. 5, \$250 after that date. The conference will be held at Colony Square Hotel on Nov. 15-17; there are sessions scheduled for Friday night, Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Call Experiential Conferences at 248-9342 for more information.

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 - Developing healthy ways to manage these issues
 - Identifying HIV-related emotional and psychological needs and resources
 - Addressing reasons that often prevent individuals from asking for help
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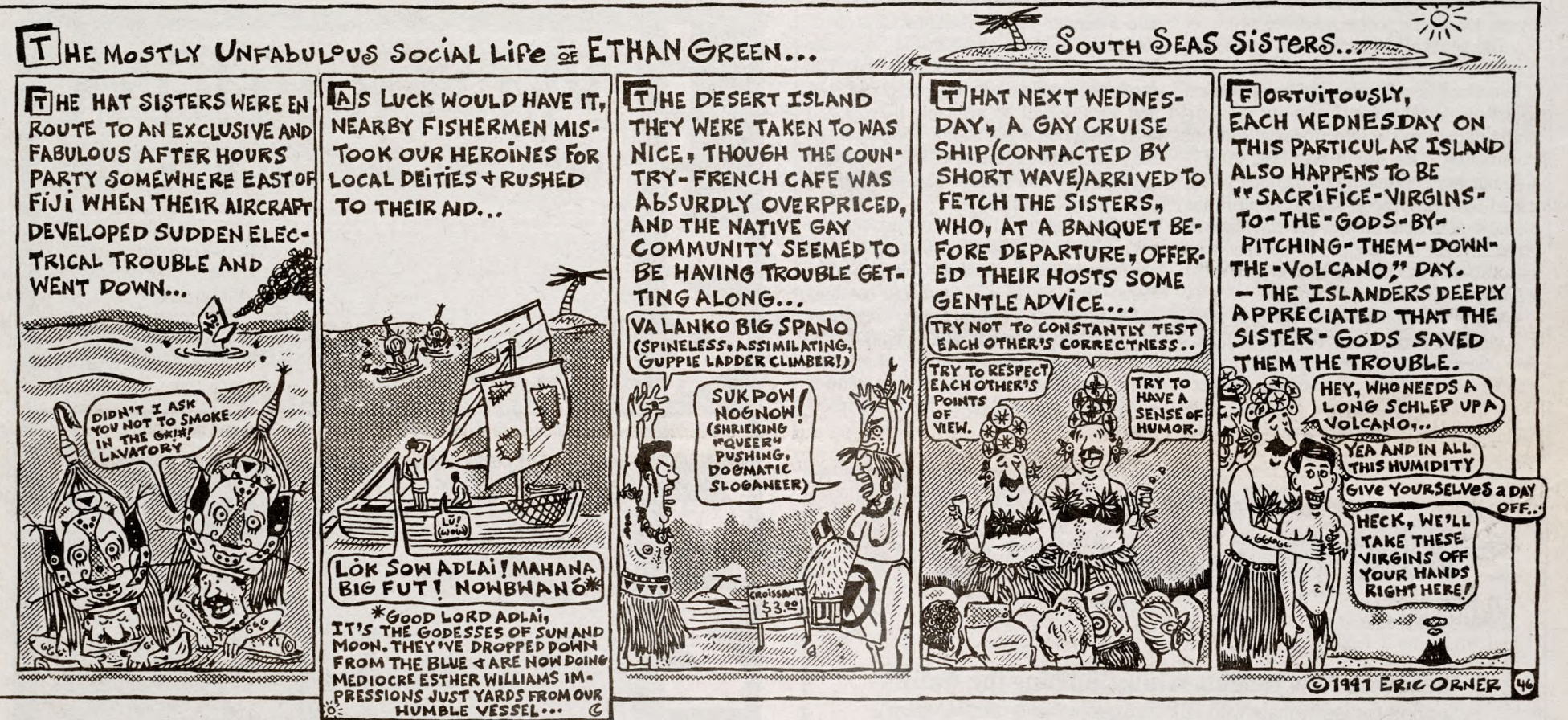


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DISH

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

Queer Dynasty: It hadn't aired before Dish turned in this column, so we reserve final judgment, but it seems the miniseries "Dynasty: The Reunion" to air Oct. 20 & 22 finally got the queer thing right. During Dynasty's run, which ended in 1989, Alexis and Blake's son Stephen said he was gay, then bisexual, then straight, then bi. Why all the confusion queer fans wondered? Duh. Because ABC didn't want a queer character and at one point demanded Stephen be straightened up or else. But thanks to co-producer Esther Shapiro, who owns the show with her hubby, Stephen was allowed to stay as a bi character. And in the miniseries we should see a Stephen who is decidedly gay and decidedly happy. This time around there are no protests from ABC. If you see the show, please let ABC know how you feel about their courage. You can bet right-wing homophobes will be calling.

(Fabulous) Sign of the Week: Actually it was a couple of weeks ago that, whilst strolling through West Hollywood (California), Dish saw a poster emblazoned with the following words: "Hetero's Read This. Queers hereby declare war on California's government. We will defend our lives and culture by any means necessary. If you are not our ally, you're our enemy. We're even angrier than we are fabulous."

But Can He Catch?: The metaphor may be a little mixed, but Dish surely does admire the sentiment in the message (and the creativity in presenting it) that appeared on a sign dragged behind a small plane over the stadium during the Atlanta-Pittsburgh game, two Saturdays ago: "Judge Thomas: To the Showers Not the Bench!" Girl Vigilantes, "an anonymous political action group in Atlanta," arranged for the guerrilla display—which almost caused us to pull off the road and cheer as we drove past on the Interstate.

Sheer Stock Tip: Been wondering where to invest the bucks that flowed into your brokerage account when you sold your Cracker Barrel (or Phillip Morris or Shell Oil) stock. Well, how about a some shares in Frederick's of Hollywood? It's trading at about \$10 on the NYSE and with Christmas just around the corner (and sex on the country's brain) sales for the next few months are bound to be strong.



Malepak (of Atlanta), the (boy) version of Frederick's, is also privately owned. Otherwise, Dish would suggest your investment in this homegrown venture, too.

Maybe Next Year: After two solid efforts (in three years) at promoting National Coming Out Day, Atlanta's organized queer community seems to have ignored October 11 this year. Out in L.A., however, Sheila James Kuehl (who played Zelda on "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") and Dick Sargent (Darrin number two on "Bewitched") defied TV/movieland taboos and tradition when they exited their closets in honor of the 4th anniversary of the '87 March on Washington. Dish has a request: If you know a closeted public (or even semi-public) figure in Atlanta, ask him/her to consider coming out (publicly) next year on October 11.

Maybe Long Ago: When Dish told his friends that he'd seen an advance screening of Gus Van Sant's "My Own Private Idaho," most immediately demanded descriptions of Keanu Reeves' naked body. (See the film to understand why details on parts other than his chest were not possible.) Dish is not (and has never been) amused by the way Mr. Reeves looks or acts. River Phoenix, on the other hand, does prick up our ears—even if he has made continued and resolute claims regarding his heterosexuality. But Phoenix (whose performance in "Idaho" deserves several awards) recently told *Details* magazine that he began having sex at age 4. *USA Today* picked up the story and asked an expert if such early exploits were common. "No," said she. Maybe not, but Dish knows a number of men (and a few women) whose consensual sexual exploits also began at 4 or 5. And all of them were with other kids of the same sex. Hmmm.

Mork as Harvey? If you weren't lucky enough to get a ticket to *The Harvey Milk Show* here (it closes Oct. 27), it looks like you'll get an opportunity to see the film version of Milk's life sometime next year. Oliver Stone is producing, and may direct, a movie based on *The Mayor of Castro Street*, written by Randy Shilts in 1983. Robin Williams is considering the role of Harvey. Hmmm. It's a stretch, but Dish believes Williams can do anything. We do suggest however that Williams take a look at Chris Coleman's Harvey for pointers.

Ivins for Editor!: Dish (and a lot of other concerned folks) wonders (and worries) about who will replace Constitution Editorial page editor Tom Teepen when he exits his present position and becomes the national editorial writer for all Cox papers. Our nomination is Dallas Times-Herald columnist Molly Ivins. She's got all the credentials: liberal, smart, a Southerner, great style, and a wicked sense of humor. And she'd give Lewis Grizzard, Dick Williams and Durwood McAllister a collective case of heartburn that no amount of Pepto Bismol could cure. Since this is naught but wishful thinking, may we recommend Ms. Ivins newest book "Molly Ivins Can't Say That Can She?" It's a passle of wit and wisdom for a mere \$23 at your friendly bookseller.

October 24 - November 6

RULING PLANETS

by Mary Bailey-Rule

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIZA GOLLORETH

Happy Birthday Scorpio! Is everyone ready for Halloween? It's a wonderful evening for expressing our hidden selves, so loosen up with the Full Moon on the 23rd and have fun!

ARIES—As Saturn moves rather slowly through your 11th house of future development and causes, you may need to take a look at involvement with community causes. You could have something very special to contribute.



TAURUS—Time for another look at Neptune and Uranus as they seem to crawl through your 9th house, indicating gradual change in the way you think, learn and develop personal concepts. A challenging time for a fixed Earth sign.



GEMINI—What goes up, but never comes down? Taxes, inflation, a hyper Gemini? Too much serious thought, worry over money or frustrated plans can put you into a spin-out pattern, so keep your sense of humor handy and relax.



CANCER—With the Sun, Mercury and Mars trining (empowering) your natal planets, you should have plenty of energy for creative thinking and positive solutions as long as you can handle your increased emotional/psychic sensitivity.



LEO—With Saturn in your 7th house of close, personal friends and Neptune/Uranus in your 6th of responsibilities, life may feel a little weighty as well as uncertain. Take the time to feel your own feelings and to hear others.



VIRGO—Two more weeks of Venus and Jupiter in your 1st house should give you a real boost in the self-esteem and personal worth department. This is the perfect time to appreciate yourself and express appreciation to others.



LIBRA—As Venus, your ruling planet, moves through your 12th house of the unknown, your dreamtime may be more active and intuition sharper. Dig into your unconscious and come up with something really unique for Halloween!



SCORPIO—With the Sun, Mercury and Mars moving through your 1st house and passing Pluto, you may have an active and possibly intense month. Communicating your feelings and thoughts, without judgment, is extremely important.



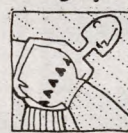
SAGITTARIUS—Your 12th house of the unseen and the unconscious is going to be very active, so be prepared for that sense of being "slightly out of control." Remember to breathe, go with the flow and keep your humor handy.



CAPRICORN—What did the mouse say to the snake, just before the snake swallowed him?—"Can we process this?" If you feel nothing is getting done, except endless talk, you may want to head out with your own personal project.



AQUARIUS—As Saturn moves ponderously through your 1st house of personal awareness, you may need to re-evaluate many things, but please avoid self-criticism and judgment. This can be a creative and productive time for you.



PISCES—Now that the Sun, Mercury and Mars are cruising through your 9th house of higher learning and long-distance travel, this may be the perfect time to take yourself on a cruise or expand your experience in other ways.



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



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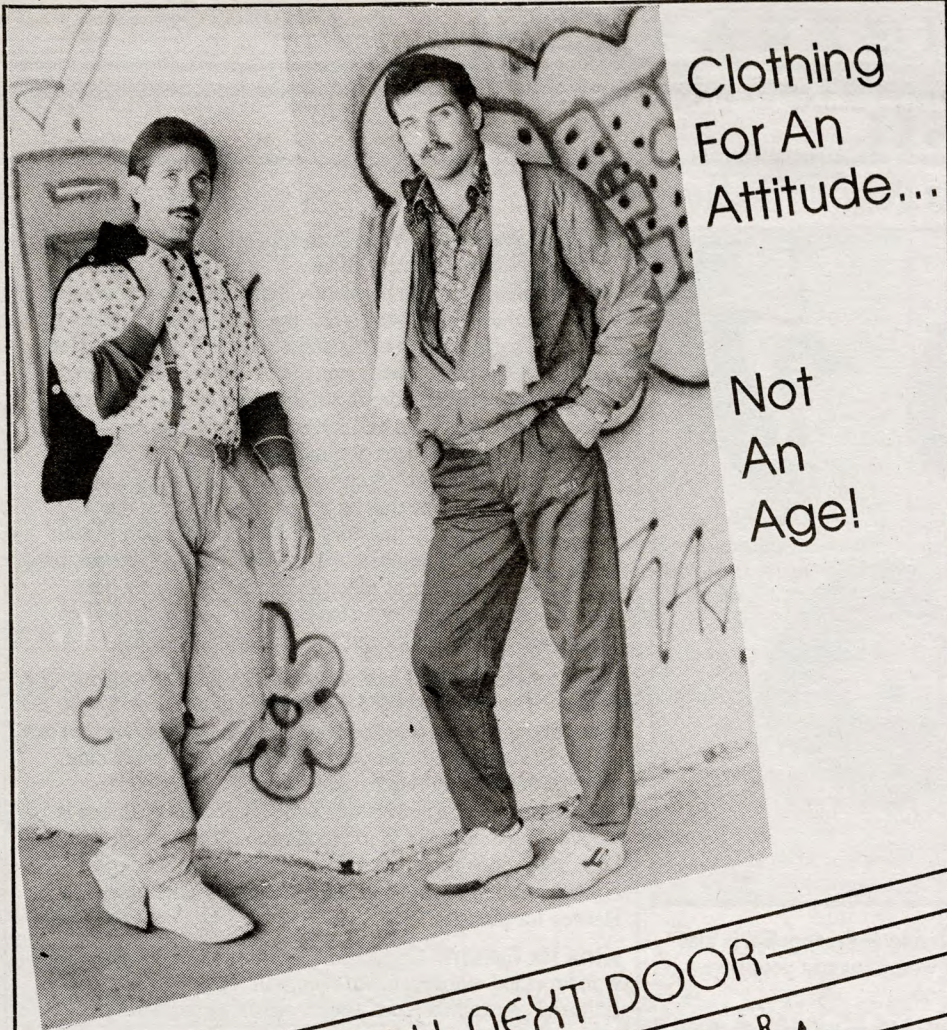
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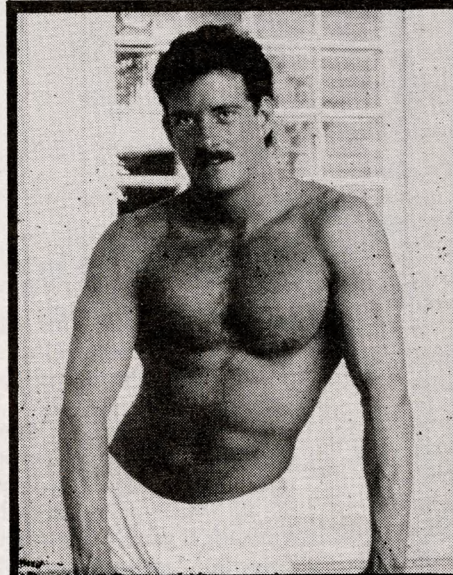
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AIDS Services & Education

AID Atlanta is offering a seminar on Nov. 2, on AIDS Awareness and Education. Topics will include medical and research overviews, AIDS and its effects on various demographic groups, safer sex, HIV/AIDS testing, and more. Cost is \$15 and lunch is included. For details or to register, call 872-0600.

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church sponsors two support groups, one for PWA's, one for caregivers to PWA's. Meet each 2nd and 4th Sun., 5-6:30pm at the Church, 805 Mt. Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs. Call 255-4023 for further information.

Atlanta Area Attorney experienced in AIDS-related issues available to assist in legal matters. Complete confidentiality assured. Please call Eric at 371-5065 for more details.

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

Want to meet new friends and have community? Enjoy new activities? Join the day program at Common Ground for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program operates M-F, 10:30-3:30. Call 874-6425 for information. Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network.

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

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

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

ACT UP/Atlanta: (404) 605-7458 (info), 874-6782 (office)

AID ATLANTA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS*

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

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

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

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

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

P.O.O.H. - Positive Outlook On HIV+ is a supportive network of HIV+ persons who share positive health attitudes and want to meet similarly oriented people for social and emotional interaction. For more information call 874-6102.

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

Deadline: Tuesday noon prior to publication.

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

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

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

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40 words or less @ \$15 _____

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X _____ number of issues _____

TOTAL AMOUNT _____

FREE

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Volunteer Ads

AIDS Services

Limit to 40 words.

Check appropriate box.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent cont'd

Looking for lesbian women to rent cottage house. Located 7 miles south of downtown, behind owners house, on 1 acre fenced-in lot. Woodsy and private, quiet street, off-street parking. Nice landlord! Only \$325, plus utilities. 624-9837.

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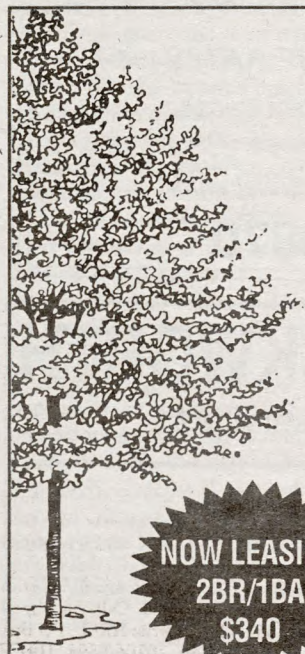
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Old Colony Inn, Alexandria, Virginia

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FOR DISCOUNTS

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Manage stress with a full body massage by a mature, masculine masseur. Feel renewed! Call Paul 873-6649. (5.12)

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Being a lesbian is hard enough and being a mother is too. A Lesbian Mother's Therapy Group is now forming on Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Telephone interview required. \$20.00 a session. Call Claudia Scarbrough, M.S. at 881-6300 for more information.

Gay Men's Group
Individuals, couples, group psychotherapy.
Franklin Abbott, LCSW
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874-8294

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Woodland Hills/Emory area - non-smoker, to share my 3 BR home. AC, W/D, deck, on bus route, safe, prefer no kids or pets, \$400/mo. incl. utilities: days 252-4843, nights/wkends 325-2630. (4.20)

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Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner Committee needs your help to make our the country's largest dinner. Public relations, advertising, ticket sales, entertainment, logistics volunteers needed. Call voice mail # 662-4280 or write HRCF, PO Box 8594, Atlanta 30306-0594. HRCF is building a more secure future for us all.

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- ✓ ORMEWOOD PK, 1041 DELAWARE AVE: Brick 2BR/1BA PLUS 1BR/1BA bsmnt in-law suite, custom kit. \$74,900
- ✓ GRANT PK, 383 MILLEDGE AVE: One block from park, new systems, appliances 1 yr old, garage, 2BR/1BA, cent H&A. Don't miss this one. \$74,900
- ✓ ORMEWOOD PK TRIPLEX ONLY \$75,000!! Priced well below market value, need to liquidate immediately. Renovated 5 yrs ago. Call now!
- ✓ ORMEWOOD PK, 1040 EDEN AVE: Cute home with Cape Cod look. 4BR/1BA, full bsmnt, hdwd flrs, cent H&A. Good price \$72,900

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Stone Mountain Bargain Hunters - 2-story trad, all the trimmings, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, deck, 2-car garage. \$79,900

Buy Low in Stratford Green - Lowest price in subdiv for this 3-level fee simple twnhse, 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA plus finished bsmnt. \$63,900

Decatur's Best Kept Secret - Forrest Hills Subdiv. 3 BR, 1 BA bungalow w/fplc, hdwd flrs, fantastic yard for Fido. \$65,500



Paula Needle

office: 321-3123
residence: 299-1954



RESIDENTIAL MARKETING MISTY HICKS

DECATUR University Heights, 3BR/1BA, brick house, estab. neighborhood, close to everything, \$92,400. 3BR/2.5BA twnhse, lg master BR, near Agnes Scott. \$59,900.

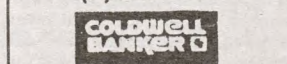
GRANT PARK 3BR/1.5BA, hdwd flrs, 25 windows, renovated, 1 block fm park, 2 fplcs & lg backyd. \$83,900.

Home 634-0292



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Volunteers cont'd

Volunteers are needed to help in various areas of AIDS service and education. Programs include Buddies, Practical Support, Info-line, Speakers Bureau. Other opportunities are available, training provided. Call AID Atlanta, volunteer services coordinator 872-0600.

PROJECT OPEN HAND needs volunteers to prepare and/or deliver meals to PWAs Monday through Saturday. A few hours a month can make a lot of difference. Contact Ralph McKay at 525-4620.

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

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BGF, aggressive - would like to meet women between 35 & 55 for friendship and maybe relationship. Call me. ☐ 45089.

BLUE DODGE SWINGER

We exchanged many glances at Tatie Danielle, Labor Day, 5:20 show. You left in Blue Dodge. Please call. ☐ 45087. (4.19)

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.

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



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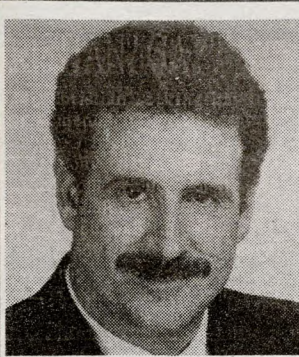
ME: Cute, 49, 5'7", 158 lbs; enjoys sports, train travel, animals; dislikes bars, drugs. YOU: 38-50, masculine, professional, with similar interests. SV 2426.

CHRISTIAN? GAY?

GWF, 34, Christian seeking gay Christian women/men of character for fellowship / friendship. (shopping, dining, conversation, the arts, church) Traditional values, intelligence, integrity, emotional maturity, desire to grow spiritually important. Age, race unimportant. Recently out of relationship - not ready for another yet. PO Box 48824, Atlanta, GA 30362.

2 GWM - 25, 5'6", 140, handsome, muscular, endowed; 51, 6', 170, lean, good-looking, silver hair, deep throat. Both - versatile, patient, gentle / rough, affectionate, kinky, hot. Seek GWM 18-29 for experimental sensuality and long sessions. Small endowment and inexperience O.K. Full face and body photo and detailed letter: Betjeman, P.O. Box 6562, Marietta, GA 30065-0562.

Gay white male would like to meet same in the Calhoun/Gordon County area. Reply with details, information, photo, etc. to SV 2425.



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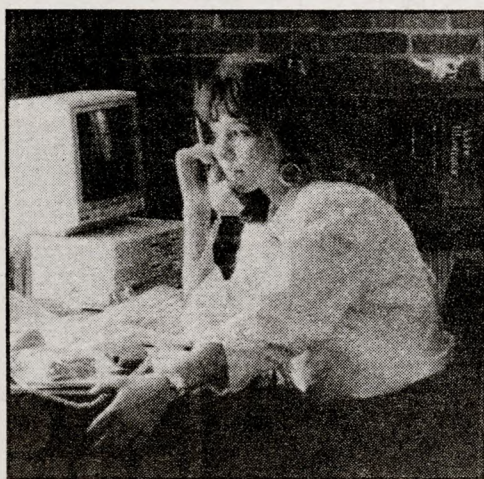
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THE ATLANTA PREMIERE

THE CHANGER: A RECORD OF THE TIMES

A heartfelt documentary of the early history of women's music. JUDY DLUGACZ filmmaker/OLIVIA President and CRIS WILLIAMSON, whose voice sings the anthem of a movement, will be present at this special showing.

This evening is a celebration of Olivia's contribution to women's music. Olivia was born out of necessity of getting music to the people.

The toast of film festivals from San Francisco to Boston. Meet the personalities who gave life to this music.

Tickets: \$12.50 general seating.

\$25.00, front row seating, admission to reception with Cris and Judy.

Variety Playhouse Box Office, 1099 Euclid Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA, 404-524-7354.

Charis Books, 419 Moreland Ave., Atlanta, GA, 404-524-0304.

Mail Order: OLIVIA Records, 1476 N. Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA, 30306. Make checks payable to OLIVIA RECORDS.

For further information call 404-892-5152

This very special event is Wednesday, November 6, 1991, Variety Playhouse, 7:30pm. Film followed by discussion and a reception.

Olivia
RECORDS



HALLOWEEN

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KARAOKE

Sunday - Bruce & Sunbeam
Monday - The Late Night Cafe with your hostess Mary
Tuesday - Sunbeam & Torry
Wednesday - Torry & Bruce
Thursday - Rocky Horror with Chuck
2 Showings

FRIDAY - TGIF BUFFET

SUNDAY - Why Cook Dinner? Join us for the best HOT BUFFET in town!