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Taking Pride in Our Culture

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Basic Instinct
is yet another in a long list
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Leadership of new task force called into question

by KC Wildmoon

Atlanta—In an attempt to give gays and lesbians a greater opportunity to reach city government officials, the Public Safety Committee of the Atlanta City Council last week appointed a Lesbian and Gay Public Safety Task Force, but that effort got off to a rocky start amid allegations that the task force was a smoke screen to keep gays and lesbians at a safe distance from city officials.

Carolyn Long Banks, chair of the Public Safety Committee, appointed 13 lesbians and gays to the task force at the committee meeting on February 10. At that meeting, she announced that all issues concerning lesbians and gays and the police or corrections department would be referred to the new task force, which would be charged with making recommendations to the committee. But activists fear the task force is another stumbling block in their attempts to gain access to City Council.

"It alarms me," said ACT UP's Jeff Graham. "This task force could be a strong asset to the lesbian and gay community. But it could also be turned around by City Council to be a way to deny us representation."

The task force's chair, Chris Hagin, said that would not be the case. "I don't think that's it at all," he said. "When Council has a lot of problems in one area, they set up a task force. I intend to be pretty aggressive in some areas."

Hagin's words did not appease community leaders. In fact, many charged that Hagin had orchestrated the appointment to further his own political agenda, with some calling him a "loose cannon" who "pops up in everything."

Following a confrontation at City Hall earlier last month between Mayor Maynard Jackson and community activists about the arrests of 7 Queer Nationals for jaywalking,

Police Chief Eldrin Bell called Hagin to set up a meeting with lesbian and gay leaders, despite Jackson's pledge that the meeting would be coordinated by special assistant Marcia Okula and the mayor's senior advisors from the lesbian and gay community. Activists say that being the contact point for Bell does not foster trust in Hagin's actions or motives.

"He's lingered in the shadows for a long time," said Cathy Woolard, former president of the Gay/Lesbian Rights Chapter of the ACLU of Georgia. "He's got a pretty good grasp of the issues, but he clearly blocks access to the administration."

"He has presented himself as representing Queer Nation on several occasions," said QN co-chair Lynn Cothren, "and that's just not acceptable. We've never asked him to do anything, but he takes it upon himself. And what he does is not always the best thing, or the way we want it done."

Lynn Manning, a Fourth Tuesday board member who also serves on the executive committee of the Atlanta Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee, said that Hagin was a poor choice to lead the task force.

"He has no involvement in the gay and lesbian community," she said, "because all he does is hang out at city hall. He doesn't know us. His only interest is in looking good to his peers at City Hall. Shouldn't the chair be someone who has been working in our community?"

Community leaders had no input during the formation of the task force, other than phone calls from Hagin telling them they were under consideration for membership, and at least two members were unaware of their appointment until after the announcement.

"It's a very weird process when none of us had any input except Chris," said

Continued on page 4

HRCF Questionnaire

The candidates respond

The four leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination in Georgia's March 3 primary have all agreed to sign federal legislation ensuring equal rights for lesbians and gay men. Currently, only five states and the District of Columbia protect lesbian and gay citizens from discrimination in housing and employment. The candidates' decisions came in response to a questionnaire issued by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. While all of the candidates say they are supportive of lesbian and gay rights, a closer look at their answers to the questionnaire reveals some interesting differences between the candidates.

The following are excerpts from the HRCF questionnaire. At press time former California governor Jerry Brown, President Bush, Pat Buchanan and David Duke had not yet returned their responses.

As President, will you sign an executive order ending the Department of Defense's policy of excluding/qualified men and women from the armed forces simply because they are gay or lesbian?

CLINTON: Yes. I believe patriotic Americans should have the right to serve the country as a member of the armed forces, without regard to sexual or affectational orientation.

HARKIN: Yes. As President, I would issue an executive order to overturn the ban on gay and lesbian personnel in the armed forces. ... to have the United States armed forces intentionally discriminating against people based upon their sexual orientation is wrong and must stop.

KERREY: Yes.

TSONGAS: Yes. The same basic principles should apply to the military as to other employers. Americans should not be denied equal access to jobs because of sexual orientation.

As President, will you advocate, sign and enforce the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act?

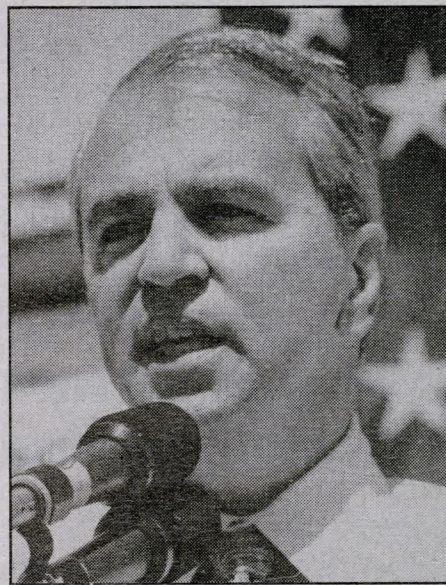
CLINTON: If elected I will work to insure that the civil and economic rights of all Americans are protected. However, I cannot support the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act in its current form. I believe that the portions of the bill dealing with the hiring of secular employees by religious organizations, and those concerned with the enforcement of non-numerical affirmative action, need further consideration and development. If Congress passed a bill resolving these issues, I would sign it.

HARKIN: Absolutely. I support this bill, and would sign it into law.

KERREY: Yes, I will sign and enforce legislation which ensures that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, are provided equal opportunity and equal treatment under the law.

TSONGAS: Yes. I first introduced the lesbian and gay rights bill, and have always been committed to it. This will continue as president.

Do you believe that same-sex couples should have the right to marry and enjoy the same legal and tax benefits as heterosexual couples?



Paul Tsongas



Bill Clinton

CLINTON: No.

HARKIN: Recognition of non-traditional families is of primary concern to older Americans, lesbians and gay men, people with disabilities and other persons involved in contemporary partnerships. As President, I would work with all these constituencies in the hope of reaching a consensus as the appropriate recognition of these relationships. I should note that benefits under my health plan would not be dependent on marital status.

KERREY: This is an area where states have appropriate jurisdiction.

TSONGAS: My initial reaction is that couples who make strong legal commitment to each other ought to be entitled to these rights and benefits, but I would like to consider this issue further.

Do you believe that U.S. government should

provide universal health care for all its citizens?

CLINTON: Yes. If elected, I will deliver affordable health care to every American through a national health care plan that reduces costs, retains quality, expands choices, and guarantees coverage.

HARKIN: I have proposed an eight point program for national health care. As for the question of how to finance these changes, I think the real question is how to get more for the money we're spending now. Over half of all we spend on health care goes to treat conditions that could have been prevented. We will also save money by eliminating waste, paperwork and inefficiency. Up to twenty cents on the dollar of health care is spent on paperwork and administration, which represents \$150 billion.

KERREY: I have proposed a comprehensive

Continued on page 4

"Handcuff Man" pleads guilty to attempted murder

Activists angry at Bennett's plea bargain which brings lighter sentence

by KC Wildmoon

Tampa, FL and Atlanta—The man widely believed to be Atlanta's notorious "Handcuff Man" pleaded guilty on February 13 to attempted murder in Tampa, Florida. Robert Lee Bennett Jr. was sentenced to 17 years in prison and 13 years on probation, and ordered to pay \$42,000 to Gary Clapp, the 35 year old carpenter he pleaded guilty to drugging and burning in Tampa. Clapp was burned so severely that his legs had to be amputated.

In Atlanta, Bennett is scheduled to appear in court on February 24 to receive sentencing for two attacks here. He is expected to plead guilty before Fulton Superior Court Judge Isaac Jenrette and accept the same sentence, to be served concurrently, for assaults against Max Schrader and Michael Jordan. Attorneys for both sides say that Bennett will most like serve between four and seven years before parole.

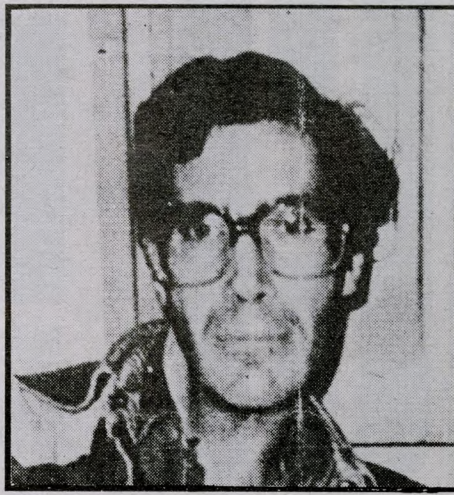
Had the Florida case gone to trial, Bennett could have been sentenced to life in prison.

Activists in Atlanta are furious at the plea bargain, saying it signifies open season on gay bashing.

"This is a perfect example of how the system thinks it's perfectly condonable to allow these people to humiliate, intimidate, and spread their hatred and violence without paying," said Lynn Cothren, co-chair of Queer Nation/Atlanta. "It sends a message to the lesbian and gay community, to the hustler community, that these things will happen. It says 'you don't count.'"

Bennett was arrested by Tampa police last summer when they noted similarities between the attack on Clapp in February, 1991, and the attack on Jordan in May. Jordan was found naked and badly burned behind the Ponce de Leon Hotel. A bartender at the next door Phoenix Bar told *Southern Voice* that he had seen Jordan with a man he knew as "the Handcuff Man," who had been preying on young men since the late 60s.

Jordan told police that a man answering Bennett's description paid him money to drink



Robert Lee Bennett, Jr.

vodka, which police believe to have been drugged. Jordan passed out, and was found behind the hotel by the desk clerk. Police did not actively pursue the case for almost two weeks, following intense pressure from lesbian and gay activists and a series of articles

in the daily newspaper.

Max Schrader, who says he was attacked by Bennett in 1985, is frustrated that Fulton County prosecutors waited on Tampa officials to act against Bennett.

"Why even have a D.A. here?" he said. "Why not just send everybody down to Florida and try them there? Why even prosecute? Why not just drop the charges?"

"Of course I don't want them to do that," he continued, "but I worked with the prosecutor here for two months. They flew me to Tampa. And now this is the sentence he gets."

Charles Truax, who was approached by Bennett and offered money to drink vodka minutes before he picked up Jordan, agrees.

"I know we did get a conviction, but I'm saddened that we're not getting a lot more years on this guy," he said. "That could have been me. It was Michael Jordan."

Larry Pellegrini, president of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU of Georgia, hopes the sentence changes before Monday morning.

"If consecutive sentences aren't handed down," he said, "then there are criminals on both sides of the court room."

Dahmer ruled sane; will serve 936 years

by Jamakaya

Milwaukee—Confessed serial killer Jeffrey L. Dahmer, who preyed on members of the gay and minority communities, was sentenced to 15 consecutive life terms in prison on February 17 after a Milwaukee jury determined that he was sane when he committed 15 grisly homicides. Dahmer will not be eligible for parole for 936 years.

In remarks to Judge Laurence C. Gram Jr. before sentencing, Dahmer said he now understood that he was "sick," asked forgiveness from the victims' families, and said, "Only the Lord Jesus Christ can save me from my sins."

Two days earlier, the atmosphere in the courtroom was emotionally charged as Judge Gram read each of the verdicts. The jury was asked whether Dahmer was suffering from a mental disease at the time of each crime. One by one, the answer was "No... No... No..."

Throughout the reading of the verdicts, Dahmer sat impassively with no trace of emotion.

In closing statements the previous day, Dahmer's attorney Gerald P. Boyle had depicted the killer as so mentally impaired he was out of control. "His willpower was gone," said Boyle. "He was a runaway train on a track of madness, picking up steam all the time, on and on and on..."

But in remarks after the verdict was announced, District Attorney Michael McCann said of Dahmer: "I don't believe he was a rolling train. I think he was the engineer of the rolling train ... and he could have stopped doing what he did."

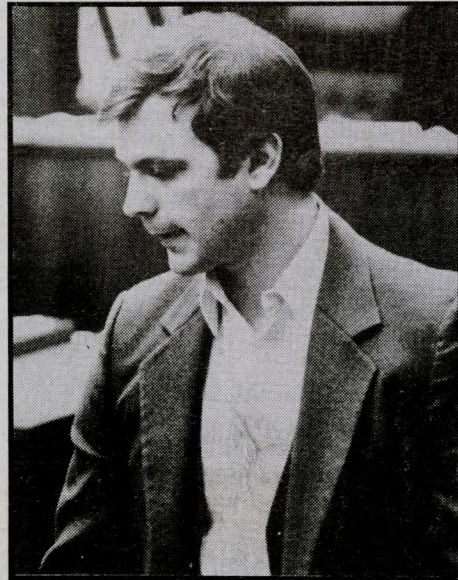
Theresa Smith, sister of victim Eddie Smith, thanked the jurors and the D.A. "I thank them so much because they brought back the faith that I lost in the justice system. I hope that something like this never, never happens again."

The verdict also helped to defuse some of the racial tensions which have surrounded the case.

Fritz Spence, a social worker who counseled many of the victims' families, said, "Had [the verdict] gone the other way there could have been chaos in this town... People were upset over only one minority on [the jury]. It didn't represent the rainbow coalition at all."

At most of Milwaukee's gay bars Saturday evening, the universal feeling was "relief" that the trial was over and approval that Dahmer had been found sane.

Miss Ricky, a female impersonator at Club 219, where Dahmer picked up some of his victims, said of Dahmer, "He has hurt this community so badly. Do you think we can ever get back to normal?"



MARNY A. MALIN

But Terry Boughner, editor of the gay newspaper *Wisconsin Light*, asked, "What is 'normal'? Is 'normal' July 21 (the day before Dahmer's crimes were uncovered)? If it is, then we're all sick."

Said Boughner, "'Normal' to me means creating a new sensitivity about racism and homophobia so something like this can never happen again."

Gay bashers will work at Project Open Hand

by KC Wildmoon

Atlanta—Two Cherokee County teenagers pleaded guilty to assault charges here on February 10 in connection with a Midtown gay bashing. Todd Alan Gazaway and John B. Moreland were each sentenced to three years probation and 100 hours of community service, and ordered to pay medical expenses for their victim by Fulton Superior Court Judge Thelma Wyatt-Cummings. Charges were dropped against two other teenagers in the vehicle at the time of the assault.

Gazaway and Moreland have been ordered to work at Project Open Hand for their community service work, at the behest of Tom Sands, the victim of the bashing. Prosecutor Al Dixon worked with Sands and Project Open Hand director Karen Broyles to get the sentence.

"This, I feel, is a pretty fair sentence," said Dixon. "They might get a better feel for other people's problems through the community service."

Broyles was at first reticent to let convict-

ed gay bashers work with her organization.

"So much of our clientele are gay," she said, "but as I thought about it I realized that in order to hopefully provide an educational experience, we needed to go out on a limb."

Broyles said that Moreland and Gazaway will not have contact with Project Open Hand's clients, and that they "probably will end up scrubbing the cafeteria floor."

Moreland and Gazaway have yet to contact Broyles to schedule the beginning of their service, as they are required to do.

Early in the morning of October 27, 1991, Moreland pulled his jeep along side Sands, and Gazaway hit him with a club, shouting "Take that, faggot" before driving off. Sands flagged down an Atlanta police officer, and the bashers were arrested about twenty minutes later.

"I took the initiative to [pursue a conviction] instead of going home and forgetting it," said Sands. "If more people took the extra steps then maybe we'd clean up a few of the problems we have on the streets in Atlanta."

SE gay student groups form coalition

by KC Wildmoon

Tuscaloosa, AL—Members of several Alabama lesbian and gay student groups met here on February 15 to form a new regional student organization. "deep sOUTH" hopes to unite lesbian and gay students in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, and eventually the rest of the southeast.

"I'm particularly hopeful that deep sOUTH will be active in promoting the formation of gay/lesbian student groups at Alabama's historically black colleges," said John Howard, who helped organize the new group.

deep sOUTH was formed by students from Auburn, the Univ. of Alabama/Tuscaloosa, and the Univ. of Alabama/Birmingham. Howard said that gays and lesbians from Mississippi State, the Univ. of Alabama/Huntsville, and the Univ. of South Alabama will also participate in the organization.

Howard said the new coalition was given impetus by recent homophobic incidents on two Alabama university campuses. Problems with the student government associations at two Alabama universities and a shooting incident at Auburn last month led to a rally on the Auburn University campus on February 8. That rally was attended by 500 people from across the southeast.

"These kind of things can't be turned back once they happen," said Howard.

Howard also reported that a direct action group called "Seen and Heard!" in Tuscaloosa staged a small rally after deep sOUTH's orga-

nizational meeting. Around 50 people gathered on the UA campus for a "public display of affection," with some people hugging, some kissing, and others applauding. There were no incidents reported in connection with the rally, but a front page photograph of two men kissing in the UA student newspaper has generated heated discussion.

Readers beware

by Candace Chellew

An advertisement from the International Union of Healthcare Providers which ran in *Southern Voice* and *ETC.*, claiming "Everyone deserves medical insurance at reasonable rates, including persons who are HIV+," has raised some questions. The advertised rates were as low as \$100 a month for women and \$120 a month for men. In small print, the ad stated there was a \$120 annual fee for Union dues.

Several people have contacted *Southern Voice* expressing interest and concern over the company. Some wanted to know how the company could offer such low rates, and wondered if it was too good to be true.

Leigh VanderEls, General Manager for *Southern Voice*, says she asked Union representative Glen Radford, when they bought the ad, why their rates were so low. "He said they were a union of healthcare providers lobbying for healthcare reform in the state," VanderEls recalls, "and they were trying to increase their rolls to do more effective lobbying."

A spokesman for the Secretary of State's office, where a complete listing of lobbying groups is maintained, says neither the Union or its representatives, Radford or Ginger Branch, are registered as lobbyists.

All attempts to contact the company in recent weeks, so far, have failed. No one answers the office number listed in the ad, and attempts to reach Radford at a Douglasville address by *Southern Voice* sales staff revealed Radford's number is unlisted.

A spokeswoman for the Georgia Insurance Commissioner says they have never heard of the International Union of Healthcare Providers. "All companies that underwrite insurance in the state of Georgia must file with the commission," she says.

Insurance Commission spokesman Wayne Whittaker says those who may have been taken in by the company should contact the Commission so an investigation can be launched. "If we know how many people were scammed by this company then it gives us more ammunition when we present it to the District Attorney," Whittaker notes.

Whittaker further warns that people, especially those who are HIV+, should heed the conventional wisdom that, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

NEWS

Delta served with 50 formal complaints of discrimination

The New York City Commission on Human Rights has served the first fifty of over one hundred formal employment discrimination complaints against Delta Airlines for alleged discriminatory activity during the hiring of former Pan Am employees. The investigation was initiated



after the Commission received numerous calls in November from former Pan Am employees from across the nation troubled by the tactics employed by Delta Airlines during the interview process and background checks. The initial group of 50 complaints were filed covering almost all the classes of people protected under the City's Human Rights Law: age, citizenship status, color, conviction record, creed, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race, and sexual orientation. Equifax, a company contracted by Delta to perform background checks and alleged to have participated in the discriminatory activity, is also named as a respondent in some of these complaints.

Gun-toting Student Fined: The student who was accused of firing a pellet gun at members of Auburn University's lesbian and gay organization was found guilty of discharging a firearm within city limits, fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$44 in court costs. He was acquitted of a reckless endangerment charge brought against him by one of the students. The shooting incident last month touched off a protest by students and gays and lesbians across the southeast, who rallied in support of the student group on February 8.

Elsewhere In Alabama: The president of the University of Alabama Student Government Association has withdrawn a request that Alabama's Attorney General determine the legality of funding a gay group on campus. Meanwhile, the Alabama state senate has introduced a bill calling for teachers who teach sex education to emphasize that "homosexuality is not a lifestyle acceptable to the general public and that homosexual conduct is a criminal offense in Alabama."

Newt Agrees With Us? Sixth District U.S. Congressman Newt Gingrich stated earlier this month that he doesn't "see any necessary reason to expel someone from the military" simply because they are gay. Gingrich, Minority Whip and an ultra-conservative Republican, made the comments during an editorial luncheon at *New Republic* magazine. He was responding to questions by openly gay *New Republic* editor Andrew Sullivan.

Georgia Students Ask For Sexual Orientation Protection: Student government leaders from Georgia's public colleges and universities presented a list of requests to the state Board of Regents earlier this month, among them the addition of sexual orientation to schools' anti-discrimination policies. The Board of Regents is not bound to act on the students' requests, but they will be considered during the next year.

Cracker Barrel Drops Tennessee Lawsuit: Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores Inc. has dropped a lawsuit filed in Lebanon, Tennessee, the restaurant's headquarters, against activists protesting the company's anti-gay employment practices. The lawsuit, against several individuals including some from Queer Nation/Atlanta, prevented the activists from demonstrating at a restaurant in Lebanon. "This is a clear victory in stopping a corporate bully from denying the rights of lesbian and gay activists to protest homophobic policies," said Paula Eitelbrick, Acting Executive Director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Baptist Church May Ordain Gay Man: A North Carolina church is considering ordaining the nation's first openly gay Baptist minister. Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill endorsed the candidacy of John Blevins, a divinity student at Duke University, in early February. Binkley Memorial belongs to the Southern Baptist Convention, the world's largest Baptist organization. The Convention's current leaders are fundamentalists who believe that homosexuality is a sin. Blevins told the Raleigh News & Observer, "This is a sensitive issue," and that he feared publicity could jeopardize his ordination.

Boy Scout Troop Defies Gay Ban: A San Jose, California, Boy Scout troop has passed a resolution that welcomes homosexuals, in direct violation of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) policy banning homosexuals. "We can't let some little troop go off on its own and make its own rules," said Blake Lewis, a BSA spokesman. Lewis said that if a troop does not adhere to national rules, "then we have no choice but to revoke their charter." Troop 260, which says it has no gay members, has no plans to change its policy.

Julia, Julia, Julia: A gay man is suing cooking maven Julia Child, claiming that the well-known chef refused to hire him because of his sexual orientation. Daniel Coulter applied for a position as executive director of Child's American Institute of Wine and Food, but was told by a board member that he was not hired because "Julia Child is rabidly homophobic and thinks that gay men don't project a good image." The lawsuit, asking for \$3 million in damages, was filed in early February in Superior Court of California. Child responded that she has never heard of Coulter.

Jewish Leaders Call for Equality of Life for Lesbians/Gays: The Federation of Reconstructist Congregations Havurot (FRCH) has issued a policy statement affirming equal rights of lesbians and gays, according to the *Philadelphia Gay News*. The statement, adopted unanimously by FRCH's board of directors on January 19, calls for full equality for gays and lesbians in civil areas as well as congregational affairs, including a welcome to congregations to lesbian and gay families and individuals, saying that they have "the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual individuals and families." In Atlanta, Congregation Bet Haverim is a member of FRCH.

Mass. Gov. Sets Up Lesbian/Gay Youth Panel: Massachusetts Governor William F. Weld created the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth on February 10. The commission will study issues of particular importance to gay teenagers, such as suicides and hate crimes. The purpose of the commission is to find ways of providing services to gay and lesbian youth.



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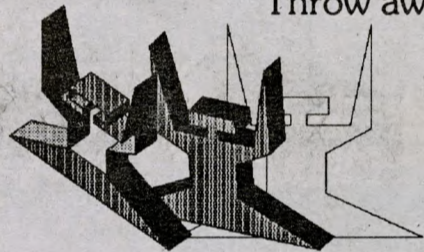
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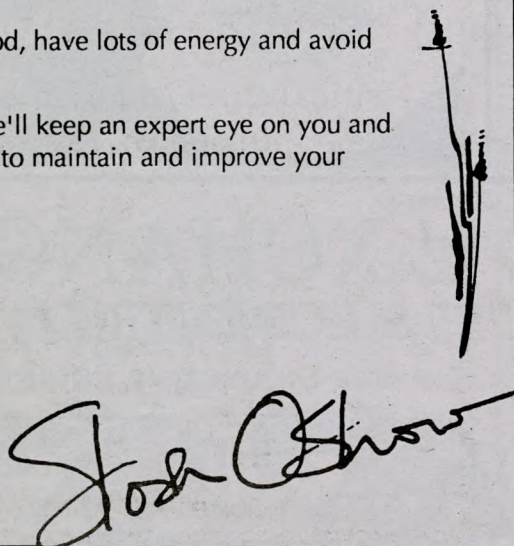
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Task Force

Cont'd from page 1

Woolard, who for years spearheaded attempts to get city officials to address community concerns with the police department. "You would have thought they might ask those of us who've been working on this for a long time."

Publicity material circulated from City Council about the formation of the task force called Hagin the "Gay and Lesbian Liaison to the Atlanta City Council," and Hagin said during his introduction at the Feb. 19 organizational meeting that he had been appointed to that position. Council President Marvin Arrington's office, however, told *Southern Voice* that no such position exists.

"We've never had that position," said Arrington's secretary, Harriet Thomas. "All he is is chairperson of the task force."

Additionally, Hagin set up at least one meeting in the name of the task force before the membership was even seated. On February 8, two days before Banks announced the formation of the task force, Hagin called to set up a meeting with the family of Kevin Fee, the gay man with AIDS who died on Christmas Day at the Atlanta Pre-Trial Detention Center. The meeting was held on February 10.

"I was asked to do that," said Hagin, "by Council."

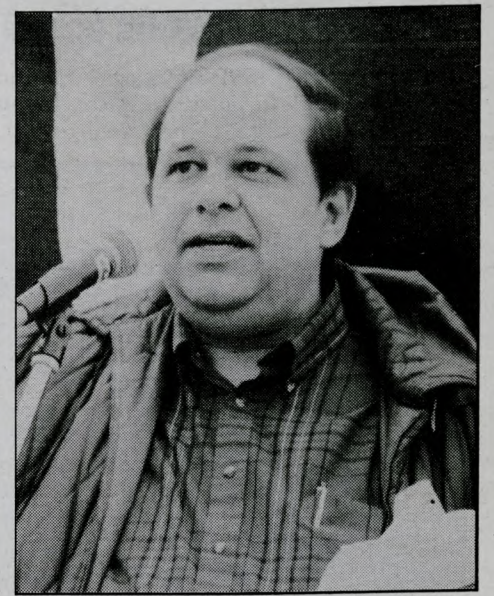
But Councilmember Banks denied asking Hagin to set up such a meeting. She said that since there is possible litigation in that case (the Fee family has indicated that they will sue the city for negligence in Kevin's death), the city attorney has advised that no representative of the city can speak either to the press or the family about the case.

"I hope that would include members speaking for the task force," she added.

Elena Cupler, Kevin Fee's sister, was angry about the meeting. "I drove fifteen hours to be asked what are my concerns," she said. "My concerns are that Kevin is dead and nothing is being done about it."

Members of the task force, apparently aware of Hagin's reputation, took steps at the Feb. 19 meeting to put some restraints on the chair's power. On the strength of a unanimous vote, the task force recommended that the Public Safety Committee allow them to elect co-chairs from their own ranks, instead of having the Committee appoint a chair. The task force also set up a committee to explore the goals and purpose of the group, requested that the membership be expanded to include "transpersons, the disabled and HIV communities," and other persons of color, and unanimously requested a meeting between Councilmember Banks and a small committee to explain their position.

About the problems the lesbian and gay community has with Hagin, Banks told



EVETT BENNETT

Chris Hagin, Chair of the newly formed Lesbian and Gay Public Safety Task Force

Southern Voice, "I will make sure I look into that...and try to find out what action needs to be taken to make this work."

Still, Hagin apparently has the ear of some at City Hall.

"That's the whole problem," said Woolard. "They're locked into paying attention to all the wrong people."

Ironically, and almost as if to punctuate the community's lack of confidence in his ability to chair the task force, Hagin was arrested on DUI charges about 1:30 am following the task force meeting. The on-site breathalyzer test indicated his blood alcohol level was .129, while a urine test administered at Grady Hospital a short while later read .089. Some activists immediately called for Hagin's resignation.

"I think it would be in the best interest of the task force that he step down under the circumstance," said Cothren, "not only for himself, but for the community."

At press time, there was no indication that he would do so.

Task force members would not comment on their beleaguered chair, but they pledged that the task force would be a strong voice for the community in City Hall.

"I really do feel we can be effective," said Laura Bevins. "The people on this task force are good people. And we truly showed a unified front at our first meeting."

"Watch our fire," said member Carolyn White.

Besides Bevins, White, and Hagin, the members of the task force are Patrick Bell, Pat Garland, Joan Garner, Don Hunnewell, Venus Landin, Larry Pellegrini, Sherry Sicclair, Ed Stansell, Duncan Teague, and Ricky Wilson. Meetings of the task force will be held every second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for March 11.

Candidates

Cont'd from page 1

national health insurance program. This program provides all Americans access to health and long term care services regardless of their age, sex, income, health or other status.

TSONGAS: Yes. My "Health For All Americans" plan ensures that every American receives a generous, standard package of health benefits. Under this plan neither the deficit nor national health care spending will rise.

Do you support new initiatives and increased federal funding for AIDS research, prevention, education and treatment?

CLINTON: Yes.

HARKIN: As Chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, I have led the fight to expand funding for AIDS research, and the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE)

Act. As a result of my efforts, funding for Ryan White will increase \$60 million in FY '92 to \$280 million.

KERREY: I have and continue to support educational and other initiatives to prevent HIV transmission. I was a cosponsor of the AIDS Resources Emergency Act and have rejected efforts to take funds from AIDS related programs for other programs.

TSONGAS: Yes. I favor expanding Federal research on AIDS vaccines, cures and treatments. My health-care plan covers treatment of AIDS patients, including home and hospice care. I would appoint a Special Assistant to the President on AIDS to spur federal action.

Do you oppose mandatory HIV testing in all circumstances?

CLINTON: Yes. A Clinton Administration would support the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control to develop a voluntary system of AIDS testing for health care workers.

Continued on page 6

AIDS UPDATES

AID Atlanta Develops Nursing Home Protocol

AID Atlanta, in cooperation with health care professionals, has developed a procedure intended to secure placement for AIDS patients who are refused space in nursing homes, making Georgia only the second state in the nation to provide such assistance. The protocol, which includes the assistance of the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance, does not guarantee nursing home space, but does provide avenues for recourse if a nursing home does not provide an acceptable reason for refusing a patient. Nursing home care is often more economically feasible for patients than extended hospital stays. "We think this is an important first step in accessing necessary services for AIDS patients," said Sherry Siclair, AID Atlanta's Housing Coordinator. "It is crucial that every health care and social service provider work together to provide the best care possible in the most economical way."

Would You Like A Condom With That Pizza? An Atlanta pizza delivery company announced last week that it had joined with AID Atlanta in providing an education program to students of Emory University and Georgia Tech. Milano Pizza & Subs, on Ponce de Leon Ave., accompanies each pizza delivery to one of those schools with a discreet envelope stating "We want you around to enjoy our pizza— please review the enclosed materials." Inside is a brochure developed by AID Atlanta's education department and a condom. Said co-owner Ken Bond, "It's just our way of trying to participate in the community."

Russian AIDS Doctors Train In U.S.: Two physicians from the Russian AIDS hospital in Moscow are in California working with the Center for Attitudinal Healing to learn how to provide emotional support to people with AIDS. The doctors, epidemiologist Irina Yeramova and pediatrician Tatyana Irova, say that psychological and emotional support services are virtually non-existent in Russia. Officially, there are 1000 cases of HIV/AIDS in Russia, although the actual number is thought to be up to ten times higher. In addition, say the doctors, many gay men have been imprisoned for homosexual acts and/or HIV transmission, causing many others to fear being tested. The International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission has formed a Russian HIV/AIDS Medical Project to ensure that all people with HIV/AIDS receive essential medical items from humanitarian airlifts now being conducted in Russia.



RINK FOTO

HUD To Spend Housing Money: The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced that it will free up \$50 million in AIDS housing money that has been frozen since last fall. The agency agreed on February 10 to write regulations for the AIDS Housing Opportunities Act by June 1. The "interim rule" written by that time will serve as a request for proposals for housing programs. HUD has promised to reply to applications within thirty days and to start disbursing funds by September 1992, according to the AIDS Action Council.

Government Cuts Funds To Experimental Clinic: The Federal government has cut funds to the only Long Island clinic providing free treatment for HIV and AIDS patients, according to *The New York Times*. The clinic currently serves patients from Nassau and Suffolk Counties, which have the highest number of AIDS cases of any suburban area in the U.S. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said that reasons for cutting the funding were confidential, but that it was one of several being phased out because of reorganization.

ACT UP strong-arms candidates to address AIDS: Over 1,000 AIDS activists closed down the central business district of Manchester, N.H., on February 15, the state's largest city and the focal point of the nation's first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

The demonstrators, chanting "Tens of thousands dead of AIDS, what do the candidates have to say," were members of ACT UP. They decried both Republican and Democratic presidential candidates, claiming the hopefuls have ignored the AIDS plague. "The Republicans have let 135,000 Americans die of AIDS during the Bush and Reagan reign. And what do the Democrats have to say? Nothing," said Bee Bell, of Portland, Maine.

Activists closed down Manchester's main business street, Elm Street, which was also the site of all the candidates' campaign headquarters. As the protesters marched, they stopped before each campaign storefront, and hurled criticisms at Democrats and Republican alike. "Shame, shame, shame," they shouted at Republican Pat Buchanan's offices. Karen Starr, of Concord, N.H., charged, "Buchanan has written in his syndicated column that AIDS is 'nature's retribution against homosexuals.' And he is vociferously opposed to condom distribution in high school, preferring instead that teens die of ignorance."

At the headquarters of Gov. Bill Clinton, Democrat of Arkansas, activists decried him for signing into law a bill that mandates government reporting of any person testing positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The demonstration culminated at the headquarters of the Bush/Quayle re-election bid, where activists staged a "die-in," laying down in the street under lightly falling snow, to symbolize, said Michael Petrelis of Manchester, "Bush's genocidal policies on AIDS. He has actively lobbied against effective AIDS prevention measures, and has permitted a bureaucratic quagmire to hamper AIDS research." Protesters chanted, "Push Bush out of the White House."

Activists also smashed the plate glass window at the Bush storefront. Police made no arrests.

To place an obituary

Southern Voice publishes obituaries of members of the gay and lesbian community as both news and a community service, free of charge. To report a death call 876-0789 or write:

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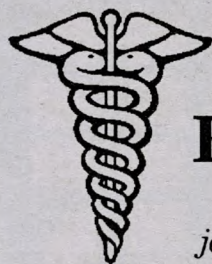
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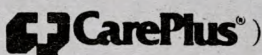
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Candidates

Cont'd from page 4

HARKIN: Yes. I support the application of universal precautions against the transmission of AIDS from health care workers to patients, and vice-versa, instead of mandatory testing.

KERREY: I have serious concerns about the ability of mandatory testing to protect the public from HIV transmission. I support the use of universal precautions to protect health care workers from possible HIV transmission.

TSONGAS: In the context of medical care, the best way to protect the public is not mandatory testing by enforcement of infection control practices and education by health care workers.

Do you support the Women's Health Equity Act and additional resources to fight breast, cervical and other gynecological cancers?

CLINTON: Yes. I am very concerned about the special health care needs of women in this country.

HARKIN: Yes. I am an original sponsor of this legislation.

KERREY: Yes. I support efforts to further our knowledge and understanding of health care issues specific to women. I also support increased emphasis on preventive services in

our health care system.

TSONGAS: Yes. The increasing incidence of these cancers is alarming.

Do you support reproductive freedom of choice for all women?

CLINTON: Yes. I am a strong supporter of the Constitutional right to choose.

HARKIN: I am pro-choice and support the decision in *Roe v. Wade*. I am an original co-sponsor of the Freedom of Choice Act, to statutorily guarantee the Constitutional right of *Roe*.

KERREY: Yes. Government should not interfere with a woman's most intimate and personal decision.

TSONGAS: Yes. I strongly support women's right to choose an abortion.

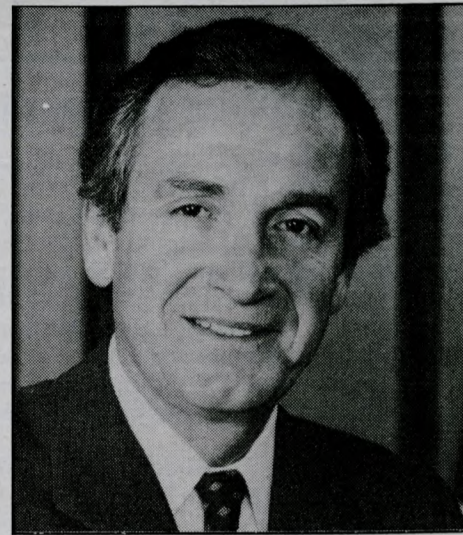
I vigorously oppose attempts to whittle down the guarantees of *Roe v. Wade* or undermine the availability of abortion and family planning for Americans regardless of income.

Will you discuss lesbian and gay issues in campaign speeches and the general media along with issues of concern to other minority groups?

CLINTON: Yes. As I travel around the country, I have addressed the issues of AIDS and civil rights for gays and lesbians, and have met with gay and lesbian advocacy groups and



Bob Kerrey



Tom Harkin

activists to seek their support.

HARKIN: Yes, and indeed, these issues are included in my issue papers.

KERREY: Yes. During my campaign, I have criticized the military's ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces, and I have frequently discussed the plight of AIDS. I will continue to address issues of concern to the

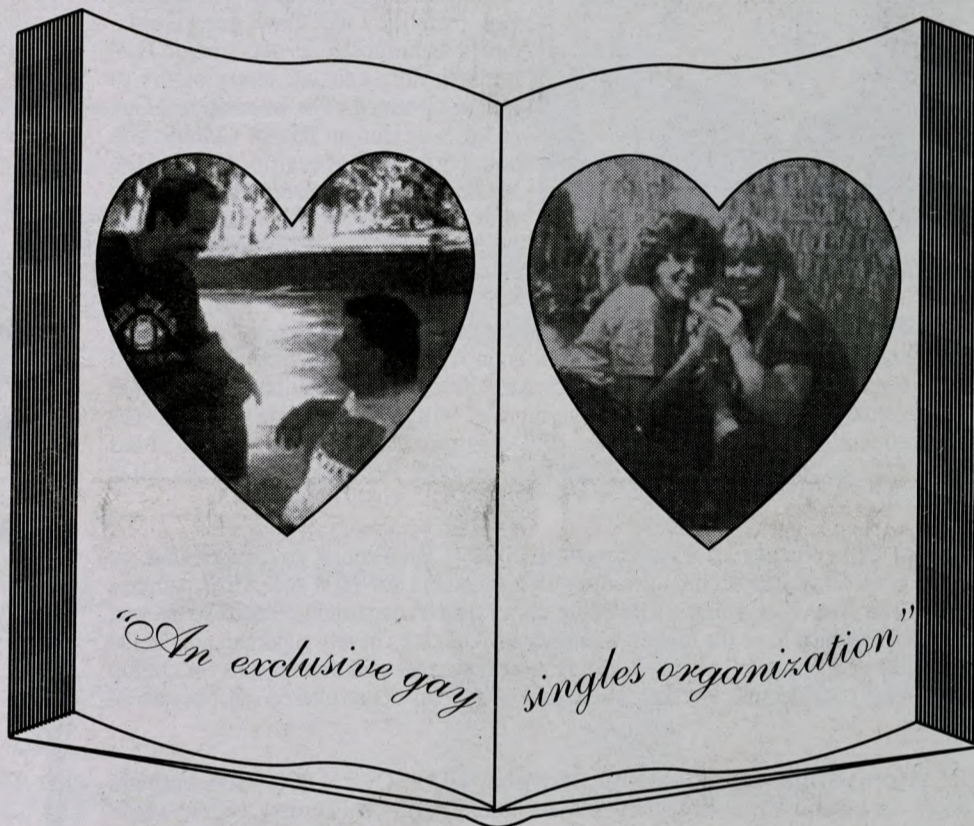
gay and lesbian community.

TSONGAS: Yes. I am eager to present my views on these issues to as large an audience as possible.

For a complete copy of the HRCF Presidential Questionnaire write: HRCF, 1012 14th St., NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20009 or call (202) 628-4160.

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Basic Instinct is latest in a long list of gay-negative films

by Brent Hartinger

Vandalized film sets, police in riot gear, even a Temporary Restraining Order to keep angry protesters at bay. The April 1991 production of the sexual thriller, "Basic Instinct," in San Francisco didn't exactly prove to be a picnic in the park.

Gay activists, having secured copies of the script, were furious about its portrayal of women and lesbians. It contained three lesbians or bisexual female characters. One who sleeps with women, then murders them with an ice-pick. Another, in a fit of jealous rage, attempts to kill the male hero, and a third is, at best a liar, at worst psychotic. It is exactly these sort of one-sided, negative depictions of lesbians and gay men that contribute to rampant prejudice and violence against gays, activists asserted.

The producers of the film were unswayed. Director Paul Verhoeven and star Michael Douglas rejected a set of proposed gay-sensitive revisions by screenwriter Joe Eszterhas, and filming went on as planned. And given the film's multi-million dollar budget, it would, of course, eventually be released.

Soon it will be. March 20 is the scheduled release date. And, says Rich Jennings, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Los Angeles, "People who've seen a rough cut of the film say it's just as bad as we thought."

But, some activists say, lesbians and gays have not yet begun to fight. Demonstrations against the film are planned nation-wide (packets on how to plan a local demonstration against the film are available for \$10.00 from GLAAD/San Francisco: 514 Castro St., Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114).

Negative Hollywood portrayals of lesbians and gays haven't always been an issue.

Cowboy," "The Children's Hour," "The Detective," and "The Sergeant"), and simpering, ridiculous queens (in countless other films).

"The Killing of Sister George" (1969) and "The Boys in the Band" (1970) did include some sympathetic gay characters, if not any positive ones. John Schlesinger's exceptional 1971 film "Sunday, Bloody Sunday," took homosexuality for granted, though a single same-sex kiss drew virulent audience reactions and caused some theaters to reject booking it. And "Dog Day Afternoon," Sidney Lumet's unlikely 1976 film based on the true story of a bisexual bank robber and his transsexual lover, even managed to pull in a decent box office.

"Looking for Mr. Goodbar" (1976) included a scene between two gay men arguing about which is the sexual "nellie" in the relationship, and one of them subsequently murdered the main character when his masculinity was again questioned. And detailed brutal homosexual rapes were shown in "Fortune and Men's Eyes" (1971) and "Deliverance" (1972).

In 1973 gay activists responded with a set of suggested general principles for portraying gays in movies and on television. "Until a broad spectrum of the gay community is expressed on film and the stereotypes are put into perspective," they wrote, "their use is damaging." But only the television industry—generally more susceptible to consumer and activist pressure due to its reliance on advertising—seemed to listen.

William Friedkin's 1979 film, "Cruising," is thought by many to be one of the most insensitive screen portrayals of gays ever. It is the story of a straight New York policeman



RINK FOTO

San Francisco ACT UP and Queer Nation members blocked traffic near the site of the filming of Basic Instinct. Star Michael Douglas and director Paul Verhoeven rejected gay-sensitive revisions to the script.

recently told *The Advocate* that "Hollywood makes movies that will make money." A negative portrayal of a gay person doesn't cause a film to lose money, it might even make a film more successful. Positive gay characters, on the other hand, are perceived as detrimental to a film's box office.

This attitude explains why the few times in the last decade that lesbians or gays have been portrayed as three-dimensional human beings as in "Parting Glances," "My Beautiful Laundrette," "Longtime Companion,"—have all been in small foreign or independently produced efforts.

Given that "Basic Instinct" is one of the only major films in years in which a main character is gay or bisexual, says GLAAD/LA's Rich Jennings, "It automati-

cally becomes a lesbian and bisexual film whether they like it or not. And it's been written with insensitivity and contributes to the fueling of anti-gay violence."

But the controversy isn't just about "Basic Instinct." "It has simply acted as a catalyst for anger about a lot of other movies," says Conley. "The target of the protect is Hollywood in general, and the fact that they repeatedly portray gays as psychopaths (and other negative characters) without any counterbalancing images."

At this point, the release of "Basic Instinct" is certain but, after thirty years of cinematic violence against homosexuals, another thing is just as certain: the patience of lesbians and gays with Hollywood is starting to run just a little thin.



RINK FOTO

Michael Douglas is a San Francisco detective who has an affair with murder suspect Sharon Stone, a bisexual psychopath.

Prior to 1961, Hollywood produced no portrayals of lesbians or gays, positive or negative. The Motion Picture Production Code, a self-censoring arm of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), explicitly forbade portrayals of homosexuals, i.e., "sexual pervers" or any reference to them on film at all.

The Code existed in some form or other until 1968 when it was replaced by the letter-rating system employed today. But in October of 1961, the MPAA announced to its members, "In keeping with the culture, the mores and values of our time, homosexuality and other sexual aberrations may now be handled with care and restraint." The following barrage of gay-related films did indeed keep with the mores and values of the time—almost uniformly portraying lesbians and gays as pathetic and unsympathetic objects of disgust.

Lesbian and gays were portrayed as wife-beating pedophiles or pitiful sex predators (in "Petulia" and "Goldfinger"), rapists (in "Riot"), dysfunctional misfits often prone to suicide (in "A Taste of Honey," "Midnight

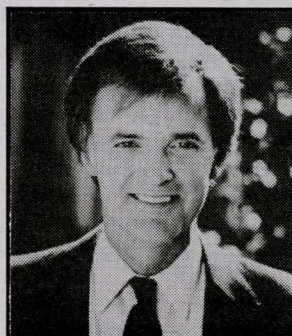
investigating a murderer who kills gay men following sex with them (sort of a male "Basic Instinct"). Immersing himself in a seamy underworld of loveless, sado-masochistic sex, the policeman (Al Pacino) experiences his own sexual identity crisis and ends up becoming a gay killer of gays himself. "Cruising" pretended to be about a big cross-section of gay life," says Michael Sragow, film reviewer for *The San Francisco Examiner*. It wasn't.

"Minority groups of any kind have to accept the possibility that among them is a sociopath," "Basic Instinct" screenwriter Joe Eszterhas told the *Los Angeles Times* during the initial controversy.

Of course, there are gay murderers and gay sociopaths and gay rapists, activists respond. "There are also gay bankers and lawyers and veterinarians," says Holly Conley of GLAAD/San Francisco. "Where's the balance?" Indeed, he says, even rarer than positive or sympathetic gay screen characters are "incidental" ones where a gay character's homosexuality isn't integral to the plot.

But Hollywood mogul David Geffen

We can't afford
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of indifference
to AIDS and
Civil Liberties
by George Bush



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Take my candidate, please

by Paul Varnell

This column will not recommend a candidate. Most people become irritated when columnists try to tell them for whom to vote. And this paper prefers to make no endorsements. But politics in America is a fascinating business and there are a number of interesting things to say about the campaign and the way some of the arguments about our issues seem to be developing.

One reason politics seems so complicated is that it represents the point where the pure fire of ideology gets sullied by the earthy dross of politicians. "Will he really be our friend, or is he just giving lip service?" "Is he being cagey to avoid offending conservative Democrats or is he trying to get our votes while promising nothing?" "If he has no track record, are his commitments any good?"

For instance, there is quite a bit of Harkin-bashing going on among gays right now, much of it deserved, no doubt. Harkin refuses to co-sponsor the gay civil rights bill, despite claiming passionately to be an arch-liberal. Harkin's staff even told ACT UP/New Hampshire that co-sponsorship would be a "merely symbolic" act. In a widely circulated article, long-time gay activist Steve Endean of the Human Rights Campaign Fund pointed out that Harkin had been asked at least five times to co-sponsor the bill, but each time he acted as if it were the first time the issue was ever brought to his attention.

Miami's gay newspaper *The Weekly News* reported that at the Florida Democratic caucus, Harkin refused to meet with gay and lesbian delegates. Asked by one delegate about support for the gay civil rights bill, Harkin said that if we had an expanding economy there would not be the problem of

gays getting fired. Further, according to Endean, Harkin has threatened to denounce "special interests" (e.g., gays) if gays continued to question him about gay issues. (It may be worth noting that this seems to be a surprisingly common ploy: one supposedly pro-gay Illinois legislator told me he would "become an enemy of the gay community" if I disagreed with him in print.)

All of which makes Harkin sound pretty bad. But what happens if Harkin wins the nomination and is the alternative to President George Bush? What will gay activists do then?

In 1988, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis was clearly a far more pro-gay candidate than Vice President Bush. But during the primaries, Massachusetts Democrats regularly savaged Dukakis as "homophobic" because of his opposition to gay couples' right to adopt children. When Dukakis became the nominee of the party, these same people had to do an about-face and say good things about Dukakis. Arch-progressive Boston City Council member David Scodras and others even did a dog-and-pony show urging gays to vote for the no-longer-homophobic Dukakis. But the about-face was embarrassing, gays viewed Scodras and the others skeptically, and they were never able to undo the damage they had previously done. Will gays similarly come to regret their rhetoric about Harkin?

An entirely different sort of problem resides with former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas and former California Gov. Jerry Brown. Both are excellent on gay and AIDS issues, but both were declared "unelectable," an odd claim in light of Tsongas' win in the New Hampshire primary. It is not entirely clear who made the determination of how

much support a candidate has to win to be declared "electable," but that may merely be a disguised judgment of his merits by the "press pack," the horde of news people who follow candidates around the country.

The quick and easy response to such claims (I think it was William Buckley's line) is: Why vote to help someone win that you don't like instead of supporting someone you do like who nonetheless loses? (I am sure Buckley said it better.)

A longer and more thoughtful response would begin with the following problem. If a candidate has an excellent and well-known record on gay issues (say, civil rights, child custody, access to the military, hate crime legislation, upgraded AIDS research) but does not do well in an election, what kind of signal does that send to future candidates running in the next election?

There are, after all, a vast number of future candidates who are watching this election very closely and who will be analyzing vote totals very carefully. These "candidates in training" will not know from looking at the numbers why people did not vote for the conspicuously pro-gay candidate. For all they will know, it was exactly his pro-gay positions that offended voters and caused them to vote for someone else. What this means, in short, is that sometimes we need to vote with an eye not to this election but to the next election: that a vote for a candidate is a signal to future political candidates about where they will have to place themselves in order to obtain our votes. Perhaps voters sometimes need to see their votes as an inducement rather than a reward. But this notion is hard for voters to learn. The whole purpose of political campaigns is to convince voters that the future hangs on this very election and

their very own vote. But there have been a lot of elections and the world has not ended yet.

Both of these candidates, and the others as well, raise yet another problem for gay voters, which is this: How important a role should gay issues play in a decision on whom to vote for?

If you walk around at a bar or a party and ask people how important gay issues are to them as gay voters, you get answers like this:

- "It's pretty important, maybe one of the top two or three issues."

- "I think we need to see ourselves as part of a larger whole and try to help other people, too."

- "Gay issues are all that matters: if I don't vote on the basis of my issues, how can I expect anyone else to support our efforts?"

- "Just voting on gay issues is simply selfish; that's what's wrong with this country, anyway—there is too much selfishness and greed."

- "I'm [HIV] positive. What do you think?"

- "If I don't help my friends in every way I can, I would be letting them down."

- "I don't like all those self-appointed gay leaders telling me how to vote. I'm not telling you anything."

The answers here seem to run from those who see themselves primarily as citizens to people who see politics strictly as a way of advancing gay equality and other interests. Scattered in between are people who give different weights to gay issues. I wonder if there is a way to talk reasonably about the weight people ought to give to gay issues, or if that is a strictly subjective matter dependent on the vagaries of personal psychology.

Auburn alumni group support gay students

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to correct an omission in your article "Auburn students..." which appeared in Volume 4, Number 26 of your paper. Specifically with the mention of "a group called the Auburn Lesbian & Gay Alumni Alliance (ALGAA)."

ALGAA has not finished forming yet. Several Auburn alums (myself included) are attempting to organize an alumni alliance—and we are not nearly operational.

The announcement mentioned in the article about Auburn was an internal communication inside the community responding to rumors that were circulating about Auburn. It is true, as the article mentions, that lesbian and gay alumni that I spoke with were against a march on Auburn, as well as many lesbian and gay Auburn students, faculty and staff members.

But what the article failed to mention was that we stated: 1) we were *not* attempting to stop people from going to Auburn nor tell anyone what they could do; 2) we support a diversity of approaches in helping Auburn's lesbian and gay community; and, 3) the rumors we were trying to counter were that: AGLA lost its charter, students by the hundreds were hiding in fear of their lives, and we had no support in Auburn — which were all being spread and were all false!

We have drawn up a full-page advertisement to run in the campus newspaper, *The Plainsman*, outlining support for Auburn's lesbian and gay students by lesbian and gay alumni. We are now attempting to raise the money to fund this project.

It is a different approach than a march, more mainstream, but I feel an equally valid methodology. Failing to mention this left the reader with the impression that we were just sitting back criticizing others, while doing nothing, which is patently false.

By omitting these facts from the article about Auburn, *Southern Voice* did its readers and lesbian and gay family of Auburn a disservice, and did not do its usual thorough job.

Sincerely,
Padraig McLoughlin
Auburn BS '82, MS '85

We don't give a hoot

To the Editor:

So Gary Kaupman has a problem with a bar/restaurant called Hooters negotiating to open in Underground? He describes them as "the folks who make their living selling spicy chicken wings and tasteless innuendo about women's breasts." This "openly belittles women" and such an operation has no place in Underground.

Well, I would describe Hooters as a fun place that caters to men *and* women (PC womyn—give me a break!) and makes light of the fact that some men are attracted to two of the most obvious visages of the female anatomy. Furthermore, if Hooters can attract the masses to the financially troubled Underground, I say go for it.

Does Mr. Kaupman suggest that Underground drop negotiations with Hooters? If so, what type of establishment would meet his politically correct agenda? I might suggest that he try to work on his sense of humor (is he equally offended by the "tasteless innuendo" about the male anatomy offered in some *Southern Voice* advertisements?). Life's too short.

Sincerely,
Scott Gove

Please, not in L5P

Dear Editor:

The questionnaire recently published in *Southern Voice* in regard to a possible Gay and Lesbian bookstore prompts me to ask the question: isn't someone overlooking a bookstore that already exists?

Charis Books and More has functioned successfully as one of the few feminist bookstores in the Southeast for over 17 years. Therefore it stocks not only books by and

about lesbians, but books by and about women in general—books on our spirituality, our bodies, our health, our sexuality and our children (as well as books *for* our children). It has consistently carried publications from the women's presses that have struggled long and hard for their very survival. At the height of the Women's Movement, when women embraced each other in Sisterhood, despite our differences [and that includes sexual preference(s)], Charis served the sorely felt need of providing programs and support. It still does. In addition, the owners



heterodoxy, n.
 the quality or fact of being
 an opinion contrary to that
 which is established or
 generally received.
 a monthly column by KC Wildmoon

It's Been Swell

I've been agonizing for three weeks over just how to say this. I can't think of any way other than direct, so here goes.
 This is the last of Heterodoxy in *Southern Voice*. I know it's sudden, but I've known about it, thought about it long enough now that I simply can't resist saying "You won't have Heterodoxy to kick you around any

more." And yes, I am not particularly happy about losing this little avenue for venting, but there's really a perfectly good reason for it. And since it's a subject near and dear to my heart, I thought I'd take this opportunity to share it with you.

When my editor, Fearless Leader, told me that Heterodoxy would be no more, it fairly near broke my heart. But I had to admit that Fearless Leader, as she often is, was right about this one.

See, I'm not just a rambling fool here on the Viewpoints pages. I'm also a supposedly non-biased, objective news reporter. As a reporter, I'm not supposed to have opinions, at least not as far as you can see. And yet here they are, once a month, for all the world to see.

That just ain't right.

The key words here are "integrity" and "ethics," two words that I know seem to create oxymorons when coupled with "journal-

ism." But there you have it. I can't continue to editorialize on whatever suits my whim and still maintain the integrity and ethical conduct that are vital to me as a reporter.

Ever since I took up the word processor to write news, I've been painstaking about not writing in this column about things that I cover. That has become increasingly difficult, and now that this paper is a weekly one, it will become very nearly impossible.

My first goal is to bring you a fair and accurate picture of the lesbian/gay community, as well as how it fits with the mainstream, or doesn't as the case may be. In the process, I hope to help make *Southern Voice* a respected news organization in this city. To do that, my job is to ask questions—good questions—the kind of questions you want the answers to, and then some you wouldn't think of. It's my job to ask them of lesbians, gays, city leaders, church leaders, people on the street, and even you.

It's my job to present the answers to those questions so you can make your own judgments about the events and issues that are shaping our lives every day. After all, that's what Heterodoxy has been about these last two years.

I'm a lesbian working for a gay/lesbian newspaper. My perspective is just little bit different than that of the average reporter for a major daily, the AP wire service, or a mainstream weekly. You can count on me to ask questions from that perspective. The information I uncover won't be on page 6 of the Local News section, at least not until after we print it.

But yeah, it hurts to give this up. I like spouting off. It often makes me feel better. But I also like to think I'm one to admit when I'm wrong, and in this case, Fearless Leader is right. Ultimately, what I think about something doesn't matter. But what we all think, well, that's a different story.

will always willingly order any desired reading matter that is not already in stock.

While such a store might not appeal overwhelmingly to males, it does maintain a rather impressive section of books by men, many of them from prominent gay publishers, such as Christopher Street. At this moment, there is a window display at Charis that focuses on Men's Fiction—most of it by gay writers.

Perhaps Atlanta's gay male population needs a bookstore, separate from women. Perhaps both women and men simply need a dessert shop, without the books. The inclusion of Little Five Points as a possible designation for a proposed bookstore, however, seems to me an outright exclusion of the important women's bookstore that continues to serve us well.

Sincerely,
 Blanche Farley

media: AIDS is rapidly becoming the number one killer of women in New York and New Jersey, but just like radioactive waste, this disease is not bound by state lines. It's only a matter of time before it ranks in Georgia.

No public demand for research means women are administered the same dosage and types of drugs as men, although the disease impacts them differently. AIDS kills women differently than the manner in which the CDC has outlined that it kills men. Because of this, insurance companies don't recognize the disease in women as AIDS, and don't financially cover them.

Ideally, the media represents the people—I hope it is not big businesses (insurance companies) that are keeping this story out of the news, because IT IS AN EPIDEMIC.

Women need to be told to question their partner's integrity—AIDS is not being contracted by heterosexual women by accident. Please put the "High Style" section aside for a moment and be the watchdog you could be: *get this story out.*

In all urgency,
 Julian Helms

Carbon Copies

Editor
 Atlanta Journal/Constitution
 72 Marietta St.
 Atlanta, Ga. 30302

Editor
 The Atlanta Constitution
 PO Box 4689
 Atlanta, Ga. 30302

To the editor:

A great disservice was done by the media when they held back for so long telling the public about AIDS transmission in the interest of "decency." I don't know why I'm not hearing about the latest development in the

Dear Editor:

Being very busy, I have a pile of your papers that I am going through when I have time. I was very happy to come upon your editorial of December 15th, 1991, "Strained

logic bars gays from service."

When is the public and our government going to wake up and accept the truth? Gay people are born that way. They may hide and lie, but the truth is the truth. If you think there are no gays in the military, you most likely believe in the Easter Bunny and there are no street people in Atlanta.

If you print this letter and I hope you do, I may very well lose my job because I care to sleep with a man rather than a woman. How stupid. But I am now free, I am out of the closet and want to open the door wide open for all to see the pain and suffering the closet causes.

I have attached a copy of my "letter of appreciation" of "22 years of faithful service to the government." The point I want to make is this, there are thousands of active gay persons working for the government and in the military today. The ban is a joke. It just makes American citizens lie and hide from the truth. It forces men and women to get married and again live a lie. This is wrong.

The United States of America was founded on freedom of religion. I love my God, and he loves me and made me gay. It is now the time to remove the laws against gay love, and for the public to understand gay people are just the same as them, except they love someone of the same sex. People should be happy to see two people together that love each other. Do we not see enough murder, hate and hurt?

I am in the middle of the AIDS crisis. I see it spreading because of drugs, alcoholism, ignorance, a disregard for life, and a lack of hope. But, I also see the young kids that were kicked out of their home because they are gay. I see the gay person that is in the

closet and only comes out for sex when he can not hold it back anymore. He really wants love, but a relationship is impossible, so he ends up drunk and disaster follows. If he could only openly look for a lifetime lover, how different his life could be.

Being a father of two daughters and a son, I would think I would prefer to hear one of my children say, "Dad, this is my lover so and so, I am gay," rather than, "Dad, I could not tell you before but I have AIDS. I am gay."

People at one time really thought the world was flat. We have come a long way since then. But when it comes to love and understanding other people, we still think the world is flat. Only by education and love can this be overcome. And thank you for doing your part.

Sincerely,
 Larry P. Kuscin

The Gay Center News

To the editor:

Your last issue (Vol. VIII, No. 1) contained a quote erroneously attributed to me on page 18. You must have confused me with someone else! I have never interviewed with The News, nor have I ever talked to any of your reporters.

Please issue a correction/retraction in your March issue.

Sincerely,
 Larry Pellegrini

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.

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

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

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 Atlanta, Georgia 30316

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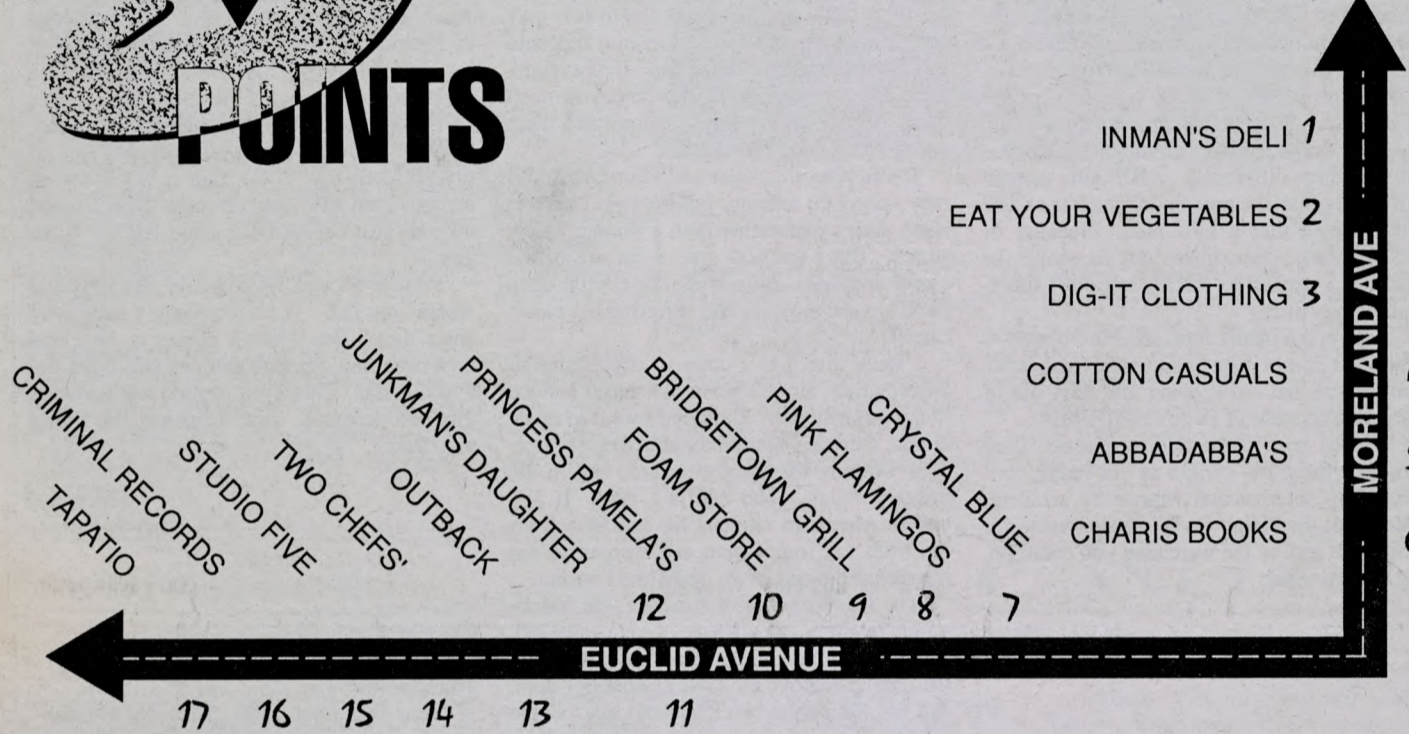
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Paperbacks from Alyson

The phrase that comes to mind is "Good things come in small packages." When I went to look up who had said it, John Bartlett failed me, but offered "All good things which exist are the fruits of originality." John Stuart Mill said it. I know of no reason to think that Mill was queer, but his words might well apply to a recently arrived package of new titles (well at least new in paper) from Boston's prolific Alyson Publications.

What I Love about Lesbian Politics Arguing with People I Agree With

by Kris Kovick (\$7.95) is definitely the fruit of one very original dyke mind. A mixture of essays and cartoons, Kovick's first book is divided into sections on lesbians, gay men, politics, pet tricks, products, religion, therapy, and beyond therapy. That ought to be enough to tickle the fancy of almost any reader.



PHYLLIS CHRISTOPHER

Kris Kovick

When Kovick is on, she slices neatly to the quick, with simple expositions of everyday truth: The Whistler-like scene of a woman sitting in a chair and captioned, "Dyke Old Age Home: Eternal Potluck. Or Endless Process?"

Or, beneath the image of a single woman glaring at her cat from beneath the covers of her big bed, "Ever cried out in the night for the sweet surcease of a woman's love only to be awakened by a tongue bath from your cat?" The feline in question indignantly replies "Stop calling me 'Holly'."

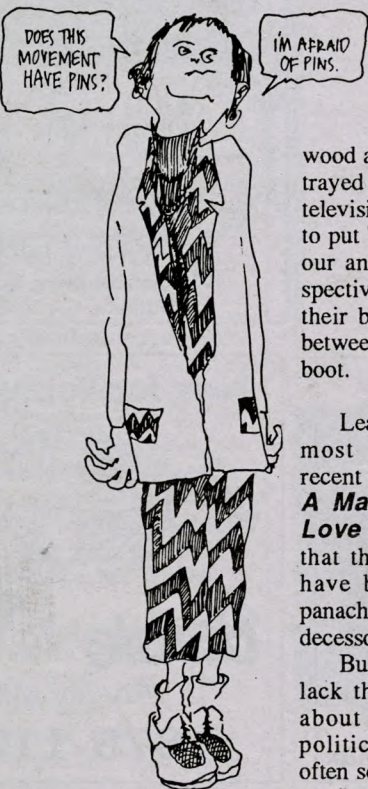
Or, two acolytes holding a banner that says "U.S. Catholic Bishops Say Homosexuality Not Sin" over the image of a bishop pronouncing, "It's not freely chosen, so it's not a sin." To which one acolyte offers "You could say the same about Catholicism." and the second replies "Hail Mary." Lest you should still have questions about the meaning of all this, check the bottom of the panel where sister Kris explains it all

for you with "It's only the genital expression that's still a sin." Genital expression? There's plenty of that here too. Not every cartoon or essay will strike the same chord in each and every reader. But its hard to imagine the lesbian or gay man who won't be well rewarded with giggles aplenty after they finish paging through *What I Love...*

Also now available for the first time in paperback is Michael Nava's *Goldenboy* (\$8.95). After reading Nava's latest, the excellent and compelling *Howtown*, I thought I would have a hard time going back and rereading the much simpler *Goldenboy*. I was wrong.

Despite almost lurid cover art that would seem to presage the very worst kind of pulp pap, this is a well written mystery

TURN SELF-PITY INTO POLITICAL ACTION!



that manages to address some tough subjects (internalized homophobia, AIDS, substance addiction and dysfunctional relationships) without becoming didactic.

Set in the Hollywood and L.A. that we see portrayed so glaringly on nightly television, *Goldenboy* manages to put Tinseltown's glitz, glamour and zippy fucks into perspective. It shows gay men at their best, their worst, and in between. Good stuff and fun to boot.

Least original (and perhaps most needed) in Alyson's recent package is *Gay Sex: A Manual for Men who Love Men* (\$14.95). Would that this informative manual have been written with the panache of its (pre-AIDS) predecessor *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

But criticizing style (or the lack thereof) in *Gay Sex...* is about as productive as the political infighting that too often seems the *raison d'être* of gay/lesbian lib. This is a sim-

ple, accurate, and well thought out manual that will decrease the confusion while increasing the pleasure (and lifespan) of most who read it.

In addition to all that you would expect of a gay sex manual, it's filled with little surprises—like a section on Kegels. You don't know about Kegels? Well you should. Ever tried to find empirical evidence on just what is safer sex and what isn't? An "HIV Transmission Chart" offers the best answers ever on managing sexual risk. It should be posted in the restrooms of every gay bar.

Gay Sex... should be owned and read by every gay man. If you are just coming out or know someone who is, buy a copy this week.



Harry Hay

One of the most original minds in gay culture today belongs to octogenarian activist Harry Hay. Stuart Timmons biography of this amazing man, *The Trouble With Harry Hay* (\$12.95), was issued in hardcover more than a year ago. Critical praise was almost unanimous—including a "hope that this book will find as many readers among lesbians as it will among gay men" from Feminist Bookstore News. Now it's available in softcover.

This is the first full length biography of someone involved in the modern lesbian/gay liberation movement. It's a monument to Hay's intelligence and tenacity as well as the author's skill and perseverance; Hay, opinionated, intelligent and very well read, is not an easy human being. That Timmons was able to get so much of, and about, his subject into print while Hay was still living is a true testament to his tenacity.

The Trouble With... is in many ways Gay History 101—not every moment is exciting, but it is always interesting. And necessary fuel for our journey to understanding ourselves and the culture(s) that we've created.

—Gary Kaupman

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On becoming a known homosexual

by David Salyer

I'm out at work. Way out. I work at CNN and my boss is Ted Turner. Let's face it; I'd have to be pretty darn flamboyant to upstage Captain Outrageous.

Over the last eight years, I've allowed my co-workers to know the real me. For some, my sexual orientation is a moot point. Others are just too busy to care. But coming out remains an ongoing process; there will always be someone who doesn't know. Once, a new, and thoroughly heterosexual, employee came to my shift. In front of this new guy, my supervisor asked me what I'd done over the weekend. I said I'd participated in the Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival and marched in the parade. Hearing this, the new guy's eyes bugged out and his mouth dropped open wide enough to accommodate a Honda Civic. I think there was even a bubble hanging by his head that said "Yikes!"

I guess I'm one of the lucky ones. I don't work in a homophobic environment where I have to edit myself. I can say "I had a date with Tony Saturday night" rather than "I went to the movies with a friend." It's not a BIG DEAL.

Until now.

A couple of weeks ago I was sitting there designing something (because it's my job, not because I'm talented) and the temp filling in for our Department Coordinator transferred a phone call to me from Don Farmer. Yes, that Don Farmer. The one who sits next to Monica Kaufman during Action News. I figured the temp was deranged or bored and this was a trick. Nope. The real Don Farmer was on the line and he wanted to know if I'd be willing to participate in Channel 2's upcoming series on lesbians and gays in Atlanta. Why me? He'd run across my name while researching the subject. I was interviewed for last summer's *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* article on being gay in Atlanta and he figured if

I was willing to do it in print, I'd do it on videotape.

I hesitated. After all, my last 15 minutes of fame had sent my father to the doctor and brought out my mother's melodramatic flair. But, of course, I realized I had to do it. Not because I think I'm a spokesperson for the community. I'm not. There are plenty more articulate gays and lesbians out there. I agreed to the interview because I feel an obligation and responsibility to promote understanding about us. As long as people keep having babies, some of them are going to grow up lesbian or gay. I'd like to think I can do something that might make life a little easier for our next generation.

Naturally, Don Farmer wanted to tape the interview at CNN. And that meant it had to be cleared through the Public Relations department. What I didn't realize was that the request would eventually wind up on the desk of CNN's president, Tom Johnson. It was approved. No questions asked. I'm the kind of person who thinks I

COOL MEDIUM

should send Mr. Johnson a thank you note.

All of my friends and many co-workers were incredibly supportive. I was encouraged to cut my hair and even buy new clothes. Why do people think you need a makeover if you're going to be on TV? I had an anxiety attack instead. Some people eat when they're depressed. I eat when I'm anxious. In anticipation of this interview I ate more Starburst Fruit Chews than the entire country of Argentina has ever seen. I also got a haircut.

I started to worry about odd little things. You know when you're watching TV and some guy is up there talking and then at the bottom of the screen his name appears with some kind of title underneath it. Like when Maynard Jackson is on TV it always says "Mayor of Atlanta." And for Zsa Zsa Gabor it says "Actress." Since gross exaggeration is apparently the norm, I expect to be labeled anything from "Known Homosexual" to "President, North American Man/Boy Love

Association."

On the day of my interview, my co-workers, bless their hearts, prevented me from eating sugar. I was allowed one cup of coffee and some fruit. I could have eaten Hershey, Pennsylvania at this point.

Don Farmer and his crewperson were prompt. I'd never met Don before and suspected he might want to dwell on the negative or turn abrasive in order to secure a few angry soundbites. If he turned ugly, I was prepared to remind him that Monica is his moral, professional, and fashion superior. Instead, I met a man who seemed genuinely interested in our community. And even surprised and appalled by the civil and human rights violations we face in the normal course of our lives. I only wish he'd asked me more challenging questions. Don: "Why do you think you're gay?" Me: "What difference does it make? You get the picture."

Ironically, after the camera and lights were turned off, Don wanted to know how I felt about Queer Nation. And Cracker Barrel. And leather. Don Farmer doesn't get the leather thing.

And finally came the day after. I drove to my parent's home and told them what had been going on. My father took the news remarkably well. I think he finally understands I'm gay, it's my life, and I'm not looking for his approval. He also appreciated knowing about all this before my face entered their living room via the miracle of cable.

On the other hand, my mother cried. Again. I'm used to this. She's afraid I'm becoming an activist and she desperately wants to know why I have to "go public." She says she's accepted my homosexuality, but reminds me that some of the neighbors and her hair stylist just can't understand. My father suggested it's none of their goddamn business. And I mentioned that if my sexual orientation irks her hair stylist that much, then maybe she should find someone else to perm her hair.

I didn't ask for fame. I never solicited any interviews. I rarely seek attention. Hell, I can barely start a conversation with another gay man at Backstreet. I find life, mine in particular, perversely amusing. I'd rather be a famous writer, but I think it's okay to be a known homosexual.

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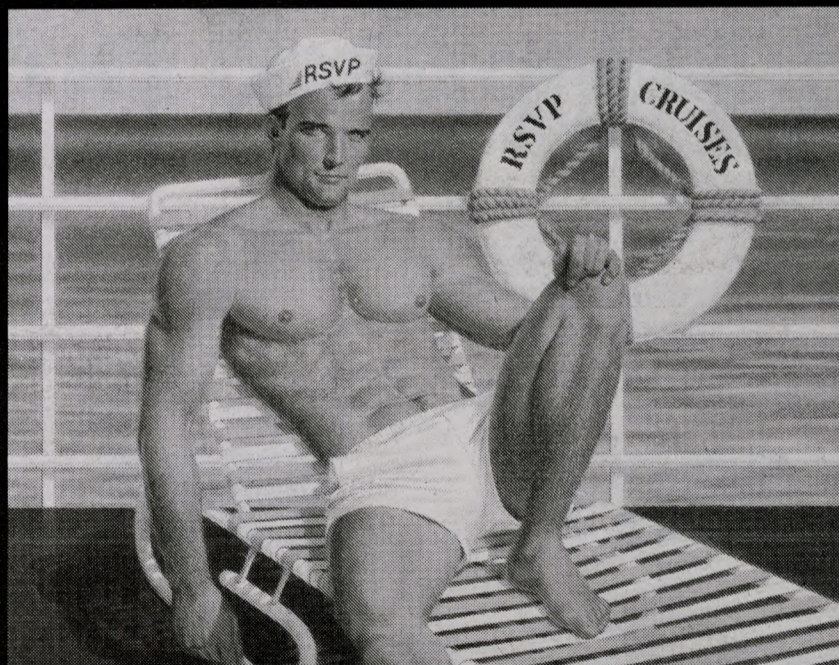
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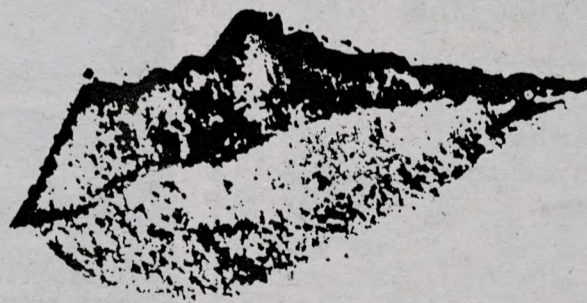


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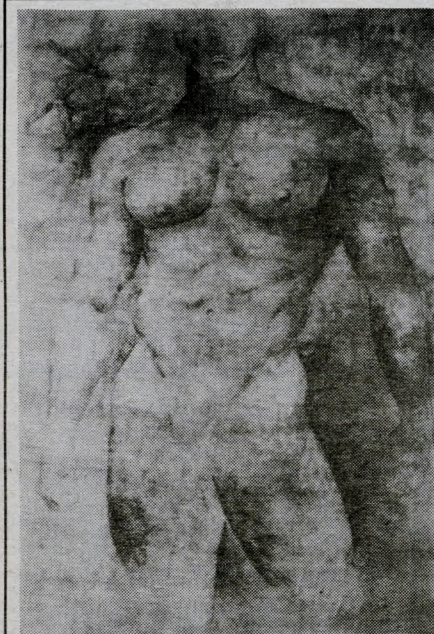
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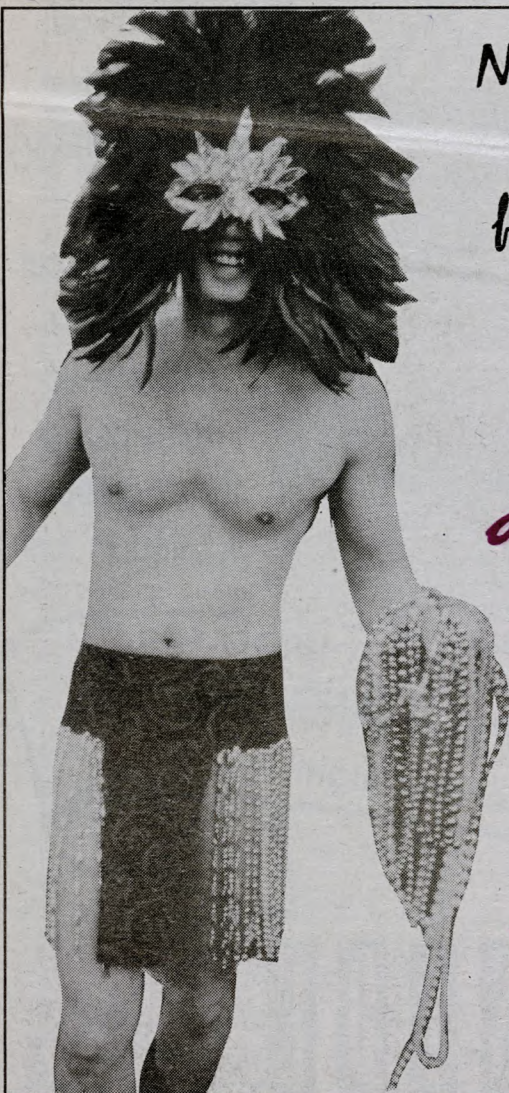
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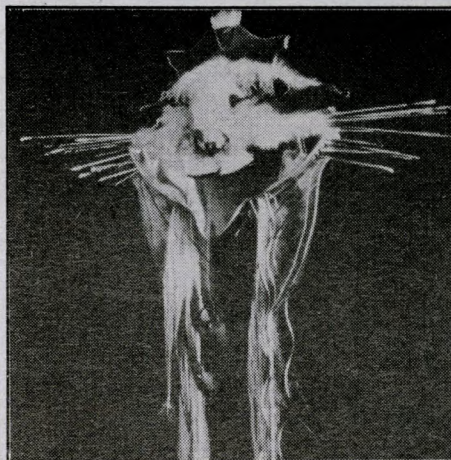
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As I See Myself Changing, an exhibition/performance series from SAME, features the work of lesbians 35 years and older. At TULA Gallery through March 22. Pictured: "Quest For Golden Fleece" by Caroline Montague.

Art

AS I SEE MYSELF CHANGING. Thru March 22. An exhibition/performance project presented by SAME which explores the life histories and experiences of lesbians 35 years and older. National and local artists are included. The performance part of the series runs Sundays in March through the 22nd. The exhibition which includes photography, sculpture and paintings are on exhibit also through the 22nd. TULA Gallery. 75 Bennet St. 351-3551.

THE LONG ROAD UP THE HILL: AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, 1870-1990. Thru Feb. 28. In honor of Black History Month, the High Museum at Georgia-Pacific Center includes 25 phot panels with explanatory text about early African-Americans in Congress.

THE SOUTH - A VISIT THROUGH THE PAST. Thru Feb. 29. William Christenberry exhibits recent sculpture, wall constructions and drawings in a range of Southern subjects. Heath Gallery. 416 E. Paces Ferry Rd. 262-6407.

COLOR CONTRASTS. Thru March 14. Heather Rogers and Jerry Dennard, resident artists at the Arts Exchange, present recent works. The Arts Exchange. Municipal Gallery. 750 Kalb St.

ARTISTS OF THE FRENCH BARBAZON. Thru March 28. Consisting of over 150 prints, watercolors and paintings from the Louis E. Boone collection which surveys the 19th century art movement of Barbazon, France. Features such masters as Corot, Millet and Daubigny. Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art. 30 Atlanta St. 424-8142.

ANTEDILUVIA. Thru March 31. An exhibition of new paintings by Atlanta artist Sandi Grow. The title "Antediluvia" (before the flood) describes the pre-conscious place from which the paintings came, before the flood of words and impositions upon art. Ariel Gallery at TULA. 75 Bennett St. 352-5753.

ROMANTICS, REALISTS AND REBELS. Thru Apr. 9. 19th Century landscapes from the High Museum's Collection. High Museum of Art at Ga.-Pacific Center. Free.

Benefits

VOLUNTEER PARTY FOR HEART-STRINGS. Sun., March 1. 3 pm. This is your chance to get involved with "Heartstrings," a huge fundraiser for AIDS organizations. Heartstrings, an Atlanta production, is now on a 38-city tour. The finale will be in Atlanta June 27 & 28. The goal is to raise \$5 million for AIDS. Lend your talents and skills to this worthy cause. Swissotel Buckhead. 3391 Peachtree Rd. 892-8671 for info.

Celebrations

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH EXTRAVAGANZA. The Arts Exchange presents a series of events in celebration of Black History Month which includes the premiere of *Legacy*, an evening with Sweet Honey in the Rock, a commemoration of the life of Malcolm X, and much more. All events take place at the Arts Exchange Paul Robeson Theatre at 750 Kalb St. except Sweet Honey who will perform at Spelman College. 624-4211 for more info.

Gardening

THE 1992 ATLANTA FLOWER SHOW. March 4-8. The Atlanta Botanical Gardens presents one of the city's most popular springtime events. This year's theme is "Presidential Pathways... Sweet Land of Liberty." Lady Bird Johnson serves as Honorary Chair for this "Major Flower Show" as designated by the Garden Club of America. The show serves as an important fundraiser for the Botanical Gardens. Atlanta Apparel Mart/INFORUM. Corner of Harris and Spring. 220-2223.

Health

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE. Feb. 28. A Conference on Women's Concerns about Health Care for Mid-life and Older Women. At the Civic Center. For info, contact Older Women's League, at 874-6430.

Music

MARKY MARK & THE FUNKY BUNCH. Fri., Feb. 28. He's a hunk but he sure did mess up the best rock 'n roll song of all time—Lou Reed's "Take A Walk On The Wild Side." Oh, well. Rap on Marky. The Roxy. 249-6400.

TY MARTIN. Thurs., March 5. 7:30 pm. Come hear the "Alternative Country" sounds of Ty Martin. Charis Books & More. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

MICHAEL NESMITH. Fri., Feb. 28. 8:30 pm. Hey, hey he was the "mature" Monkee. Now he's all country and on his first tour in 12 years. Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid Ave. 524-7354.

RORY BLOCK. Wed., March 4. 8:30 pm. Delta and urban blues from the gifted female singer and guitarist. Variety Playhouse. 1099 Euclid Ave.. 524-7354.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Thurs.-Sat, Feb. 27-29. 8 pm. Pianist Leon Fleisher, who the *NY Times* calls "the finest pianist of his (and probably any) time," plays Ravel's Piano Concerto in D Major and other selections. Louis Lane conducts. (No, that's not Superman's girlfriend). Symphony Hall. Woodruff Arts Center. 892-2414.



The 1992 Atlanta Flower Show ushers in spring at the Atlanta Apparel Mart. This year's theme is Presidential Pathways... Sweet Land of Liberty" and Lady Bird Johnson is Honorary Chair. Pictured: "Above the Fruited Plain."

If at first you don't succeed...

by Gary Kaupman

When someone whose tastebuds I respect tells me that they've had a bad meal at a particular restaurant, I tend to mark the place off my list. Well, at least until I get two, or even three, reports to the contrary. That's why, until a few weeks ago, I'd never had the pleasure of eating at Violette (3098 Briarcliff Road). Based on a recent quick lunch, and a more leisurely dinner, let me assure you that my friend who panned the place was out to lunch.

Violette's menu features simple French bistro fare—think of it as the Gallic version of soul food with butter and cream taking the place of lard and bacon grease. And the veggies aren't cooked unto death. Given the reasonable prices (\$8-10 for lunch, \$12-15 for dinner with a glass of wine) and our current proclivity for so-called comfort foods, it's a wonder there aren't Violette franchises springing up on every corner.

Start with a bowl of silken cream-of-this or bisque-of-that soup; it doesn't seem to matter what the ingredients are, the results are always soothing and pleasing to the palate. Then, two can share a huge pate and salad sampler combo (which includes what may be the best potato salad in town) or a big green salad garnished with slivers of sweet, pink ham. Whichever your choice, the ingredients are fresh, the flavors bracing, and the presentation pleasing. Smaller appetites will be perfectly happy to stop here...or perhaps go for broke and split a fat piece of homemade chocolate cake for dessert.

If your tummy demands more, there's a gutsy beef bourguignon, chicken breasts served in several tasty variations of cream sauce (I'd recommend the tarragon), or a simple and utterly correct quiche. A number of equally simple fish preparations are offered, but I've yet to sample them.

Healthy portions of rice and veggies accompany fish,

fowl and meat entrees—again simple stuff like butter-soaked carrots and a rich amalgam of tomato and zucchini. All told it's some of the best food for the bucks in town.

Service is generally attentive and friendly, though sometimes a bit scattered—again very Gallic.

Would that I could be so enthusiastic about the way Violette looks. Someone's attempt at casual dishabille—mismatched chairs and tables, empty wine bottles, silk flowers—comes across as little more than contrived mishmash. Go with someone you like and stare lovingly into each other's eyes, and the offense will be minimal.

One Year Later

Had you asked my advice about spending your hard-earned bucks at Nickimoto's (247 Buckhead Ave. at Pharr Rd.) in February 1991, I would have told you to forget it. The food at this trend-ridden Buckhead haunt

FOOD RIGHTS...AND WRONGS

was on par with Violette's interior decor—well intentioned, but executed with all the finesse of, say, Pizza Hut. The harshly lit interior (with overmuch metal and a chilly water wall) was reminiscent of a scene from *Bladerunner*. Add top-of-the-line prices and all you were likely to get after an evening here was a good case of dyspepsia.

All that supposedly changed when Guy LeRoy became the chef some months ago. You may remember him from the (also trend-ridden) Carsley's which wowed us all until its unfortunate demise back in '87 or '88.

M. Leroy has definitely moved the food quality up several notches. Better food means that the customers are happier, thus the staff is more relaxed and the place feels a lot more hospitable despite the still icy, off-putting feel and prices that are still very Buckhead—\$25-35 a head for two courses and a cup or two of sake.

All this sounds like damning with faint praise, and, except for one or two dishes, it is. The whole, deepfried

catfish swimming in a huge white platter of ponzu sauce is knock-out in every way. If Rio Vista or Azalea are your only previous experiences with fried catfish, you are in for one whale of a surprise when you try LeRoy's haute version of this generally mundane trash fish.

For starters, try a spider roll—deep fried soft-shell crab wrapped up in rice and seaweed. And if catfish doesn't float your boat, get the crispy skin duck, so good that it easily transcends the commercial-tasting plum sauce upon which it is presented.

There are lots of tables occupied by two or more folks of the same sex here. A surprising number of which are *not* your usual wannabe hip heteros on the prowl.

Just Desserts

Distraught that I had found their desserts less than orgasmic, one of the waiters at Thumb's Up insisted that I try a new key lime pie last week. Definitely an improvement over earlier efforts, it had a nice crust and excellent texture, but sadly lacked the citric bite that makes really fine versions (like Indigo's) so special.

But all things are relative. Compared to an insipid slice of "cool lemon pie" that I found in the deli case at Rainbow Grocery a week earlier, Thumb's Up's latest is hot stuff.

Which leads me to my friend John, the cayenne queen, whose affinity for hot peppers I mentioned last issue. Responding to my request for hot pepper ice cream, he presented me with a slab of "Nacho Mama's Pepper Pie" last weekend. The filling was a frightening shade of post mod pink, but contrasted nicely with a thin layer of whipped cream on top. How did it taste? Pretty good—not unlike a pepper jelly parfait. And, no, he will not share the recipe.

Run Don't Walk

Broadway Danny's (2391 Peachtree Rd, in the Peachtree Battle Shopping Center and owned by the same folks as the ultra-posh Abruzzi) serves some of the city's best pizza. Now comes word that they have begun offering a limited menu of pasta and seafood. First reports are that the food is fabulous and the prices embarrassingly low. More next time.

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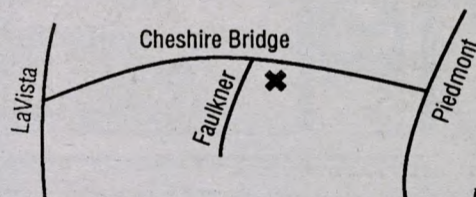
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Atlanta tennis clubs offer more than exercise

by Candace Chellew

How would you like to build your self esteem, learn more about yourself, and meet new people? You don't need a seminar or a support group. You need to find your tennis racket and hit the courts with Atlanta Women's Social Tennis or the Atlanta Team Tennis Association.

"These days people are looking for healthy ways to meet other people with similar interests," says David Black, President of ATTA. "The tennis clubs help to broaden those possibilities in Atlanta, and give people a chance to compete and build their confidence."

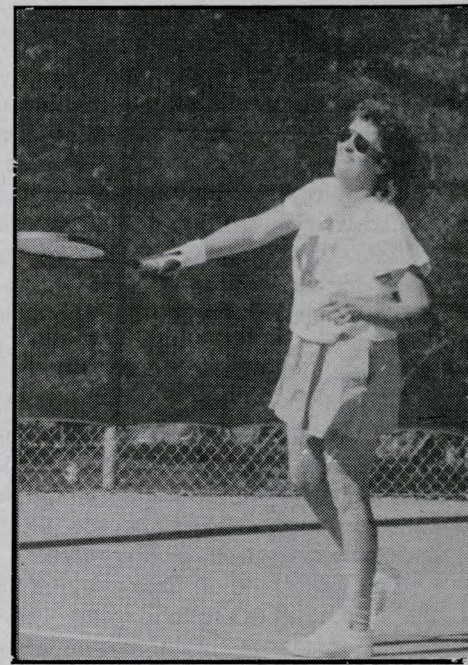
Jo Giraudo of AWST agrees, saying, "A lot of professional women who work 9 to 5 during the week, and only socialize during the weekend, have joined us and are amazed at how many people there are just like them out there. AWST is another outlet for them."

Ah, yes, but don't you have to play tennis to be a part of this? Giraudo says that's part of the confidence building aspect. "Some who came to us couldn't tell the back of the racket from the front, so to speak," she explains, "who are now playing in competitive tournaments and are very confident."

So, you at least need an interest in tennis and a feel for some of the events sponsored by AWST and ATTA. Each hold many activities, from socials to round robin events to participating in local and national tournaments.

AWST began in August of 1990 at the Glenlake Tennis Center in Decatur. Their first event attracted almost 50 women and their membership is now pushing 100. AWST is the only all women's tennis club in the country and is about three-quarters lesbian, according to Giraudo. They hold round robin events at Glenlake and Chastain Park, usually followed by some sort of social time. They also compete in national competition through the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and locally through the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association. Last fall, AWST fielded one divisional champ and two runner-up champs in the ALTA Tournament. Each January and February, AWST and ATTA compete together in an indoor league using the Team Tennis format founded by Billie Jean King.

ATTA does a lot of the same things for the men. They sponsor open play two times a week, where play is not as competitive. It is held Saturday afternoons at 1:00, and Friday nights at 7:00, at Glenlake Tennis Center in Decatur. ATTA boasts 220 members on its mailing list, but Black says about 120 of those are active in three different areas, where the rest may only have time to do one of the club's activities. ATTA also



Debbie Dykes of Atlanta Women's Social Tennis. AWST is the only all women's tennis club in the country and competes both locally and nationally.

competes on national and local levels, and have won several city championships. They also offer beginning lessons to those who would like to eventually play at those levels.

Both leagues are currently gearing up for the next national tournament hosted by Atlanta. The Peach will be held at the Bill Moore Tennis Center on the Georgia Tech Campus on April 17-19. The tournament is open to players of all abilities and applications from men and women around the country have already started to come in, according to Black. All proceeds from the event go to benefit Project Open Hand. Black says they hope to raise about \$2,000 for the organization, and have sponsored several outside fundraisers to pay for underwriting the tournament so more can go to Project Open Hand. Admission to the tournament is free.

For more information about AWST call their GAMELINE at 662-GAME. For information about ATTA call their Service Line at 621-2699. For information about The Peach, contact Tournament Director Mark Mays at 766-5824.

Membership for both clubs is \$20 per year, a small price to pay for building your self-esteem and meeting new friends. Or, as Black says, "Quoting from *Thelma and Louise*, 'We get out of life what we settle for.' With (Atlanta Tennis Clubs), you settle for being a winner."

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Two weekly HIV support groups based on 12-step (but NOT recovery programs) will be available at First Metropolitan Community Church, 800 N. Highland Ave., NE, Tues. and Thurs. at 8:00pm, beginning March 2. The Tues. mtgs are open only to those infected with HIV disease. Thurs. mtgs open to anyone affected by the disease. 872-2246 Tues-Fri. 1-5pm.

Jerusalem House houses up to 23 homeless PWAs. Our facility has expanded & we need your help to furnish the new rooms. Individual as well as corporate donations needed / accepted. Please send checks / pledges to Jerusalem House, Furnishings Prog., 100 Edgewood Ave., NE, Ste. 1002, Atl., GA 30303 or call 527-7627 for info.

HIV+ Narcotics Anonymous (NA) for African Am. Wed. eve., transportation avail; Family support group for loved ones of HIV+ African Am.; "Latex Lovers" sex-pos. HIV prevention prog. for GBM (need volunteers also); FREE ANONYMOUS HIV TESTS, counselling, referral (minority cultural sensitivity) begins mid Feb. For confidential info call OUT-REACH, INC. 346-3922.

AIDS HOTLINE FOR WOMEN - a new project of the Feminist Women's Health Center with goals to provide education/referrals for women who are HIV+, AIDS diagnosed, or at risk. Hotline begins mid Feb. Volunteer needed! Please call Tonia Poteat or Alicia Culver at the FWHC, 874-7551.

HIV related Pastoral Counseling is available through First MCC of Atlanta. No fee. Hospital visitation requests encouraged. Call 872-2246, 1-5pm. Tues-Fri for appointment or information.

HIV HEALING & SUPPORT GROUP. Facilitated group for HIV+ persons wishing to explore emotional and spiritual therapies in warm, safe environment. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. Unity-Midtown Church Activity Center, 1065 Spring. 874-1937.

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

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AIDSCHAIM: Congregation Bet Haverim sponsors a support group for those affected by the AIDS crisis. Meets the 1st & 3rd Thurs. at 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, 701 W. Howard St., Decatur. Info/Directions? Edie, 642-3467.

AIDS Support Group forming in Carrollton, serving AIDS positive and HIV positive persons. Safe and confidential environment provided. For more info, call 214-8054.

P.A.L.S. Pets Are Loving Support - Providing P.W.A.s with information on obtaining canine and feline companions, free pet food and reduced vet care. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Donations for pet supplies and food. Transportation of food and pets. Foster homes. Donate. Volunteer. 255-7461. Leave message.

P.O.O.H. - Positive Outlook On Health 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 872-9954.

THE ATLANTA BUYERS CLUB (ABC) has expanded its hours to better serve the Community. We are now open from 12-5PM Tues-Fri, and 10AM to 1PM on Sat. (closed Mon.). ABC provides access to alternate treatment for the HIV community in the Southeast, and we are located at 44 Twelfth St, NW, two blocks west of Peachtree. For further information call (404) 874-4845, or PO Box 77003, Atlanta, GA 30357.

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.

Having Lunch Alone? Too much TV? Want to meet new friends and have community? Enjoy new activities? Join the day program at Common Ground for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program operates Monday-Friday, 10:30-3:30. Call 874-6425 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. Helpline, 892-0661, for info, counseling and referral. 6:00-11:00pm 365 days a year.

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)

Announcements

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Submissions: Collecting material for an anthology on Paganism and the lesbian and gay experience. Original and/or previously published articles, recollections, poetry, invocations, insights. Deadline for submissions is May 1992. Send SASE for guidelines to: The Sword & the Staff, the Cup & the Cauldron, c/o Ian Horst, PO Box 1618, New York, NY 10018, USA. (5.2)

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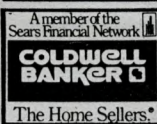
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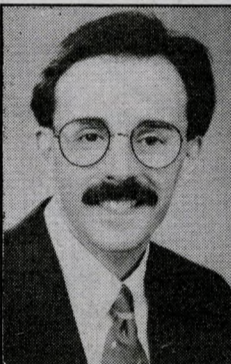
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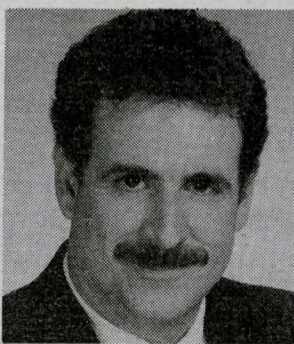
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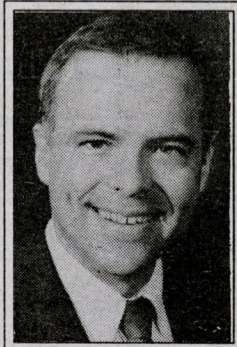
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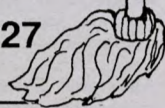
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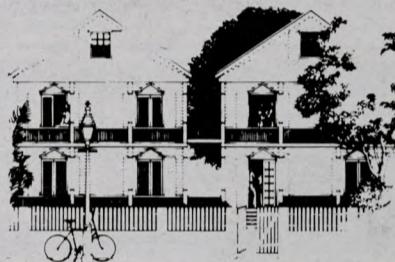
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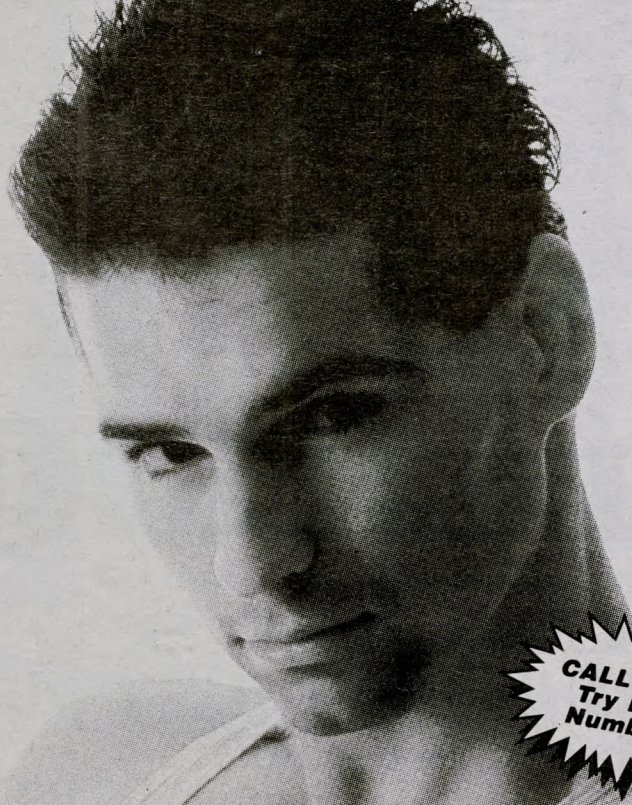
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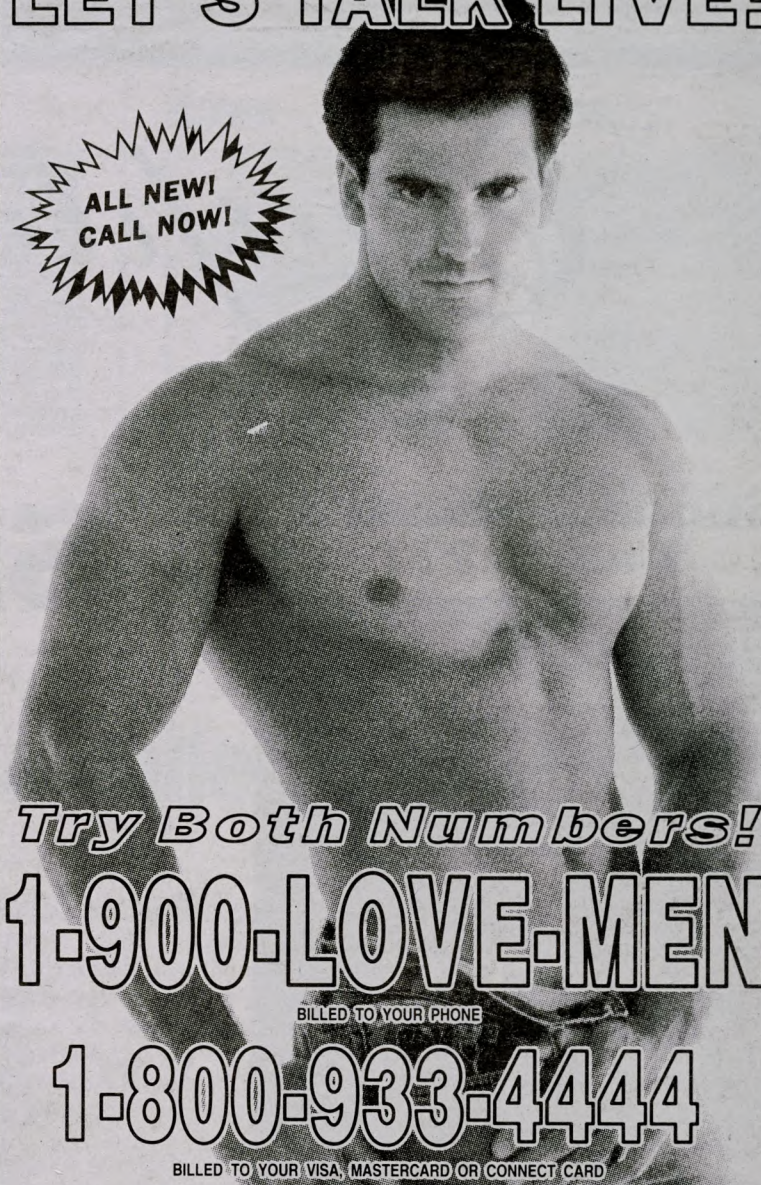
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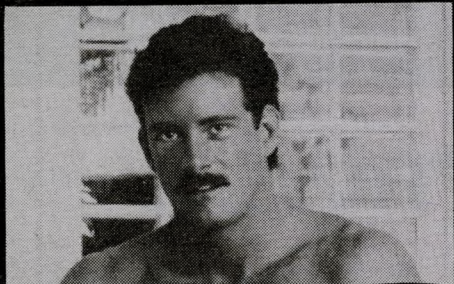
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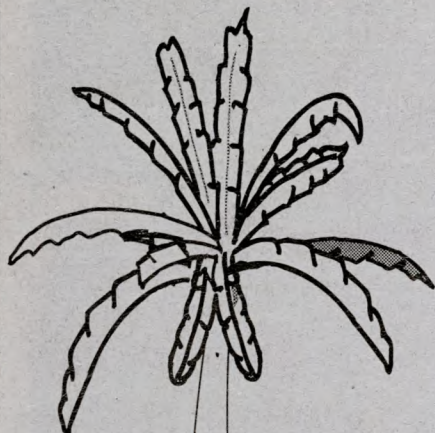
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