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APRIL 23 - APRIL 29 / 1992

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DC in '93!

It's one year and counting to the next march on Washington

It's a mere 365 days to the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation scheduled for April 25, 1993. It will be the first trip back to the nation's capital since nearly three quarters of a million converged on the mall in 1987. Beginning this Saturday, the country's lesbians and gays have a year to get ready for the next march, which organizers hope will top the '87 demonstration.

"The '93 March on Washington is going to send a message not only to this country by virtue of our ability to put on what could be the largest demonstration in the history of the District of Columbia," said Billy Hileman, a member of the National Steering Committee's Executive Committee, "but we're also sending a message to our own community, that as a community we can come together for an enormous project, and we can address some of the in-house issues of racism and sexism that affect us inside our community. We are going to be a cohesive civil rights movement."

Hileman said that organizers learned a lot from experiences in '87, especially in regards to media relations.

"We're much more effective in terms of media coordination," he said. "We believe we're going to get a lot more attention than we did in '87."

Hileman said that the National Steering Committee should be very visible by this year's Pride celebrations, with everything from t-shirts and buttons to a one million circulation newspaper created especially for Pride.

"It'll have pictures from the '79 and '87 marches," he said, "and articles about what's coming up."

Locally, the Georgia Organizing Committee has announced plans for a local logo contest, the start of a fundraising campaign, and \$2,300 in seed money from Atlanta's 1987 March Committee.

"We are enthusiastically spreading the word about what the march is about, and the importance of it," said Carolyn White, co-chair of the GOCMOW. "And we're looking for volunteers to join us in spreading the word even further."

Deadline for the logo contest is May 15, 1992. For specifics call the GMOWC hotline number at 662-4199. The winner will be announced May 30, and the winning design will represent Georgia marchers in 1993.

Georgia organizers have also kicked off "A Bill For Your Rights" campaign.

"We want every gay and lesbian to donate a bill

for their bill of rights," said White, "the bill should be green with somebody's picture on it."

Not everything is rosy, though, as the year-to-the-march countdown begins. Organizers in several areas complain about a lack of volunteers, but most express hope that with increased media awareness, especially as the countdown begins, will come increased participation.

Some complaints have also been heard about the tedium of the organizing itself. At a January meeting in Los Angeles, members of the steering committee took nearly a day and a half to decide on the official name of the march. Many community members have expressed dismay about the name settled on, claiming it's more than a bit cumbersome.

And at a Mid-Atlantic regional planning meeting in Durham, North Carolina on April 11, members of the press were surprised when organizers quietly asked that no pictures be taken during the proceedings.

Despite these and a few other problems, enthusiasm among the coordinators is high.

"We're going to get hot and wild and get a lot of folks to Washington," White said of Georgia's organizing efforts. "We want to get more people involved, but we're going to be there and have a lot of fun doing it."

"We've got a very good push underway," said Hileman, "on a national level, a regional level, a local level. We'll have a national office open by June in Washington."

He agreed with White on the need for more community input. "A grassroots project depends on people doing their volunteer organizing," he said. "But we have a lot already in place."

"Everywhere I travel and talk about this people are way high about it," said Michelle Crone, another national executive committee member. "Remember, we're doing this for us, not the senators. Do they give a shit? No. What this is is one big community builder."

Crone said that money will be raised for the march at this year's RhythmFest, and she is approaching other festival organizers to ask them to do the same.

Further plans, including a list of demands to be presented at the '93 march, will be finalized at the next national planning meeting, scheduled for May 9 and 10 in Dallas.

KC WILDMOON
Photo of 1987 MOW by Jim Marks



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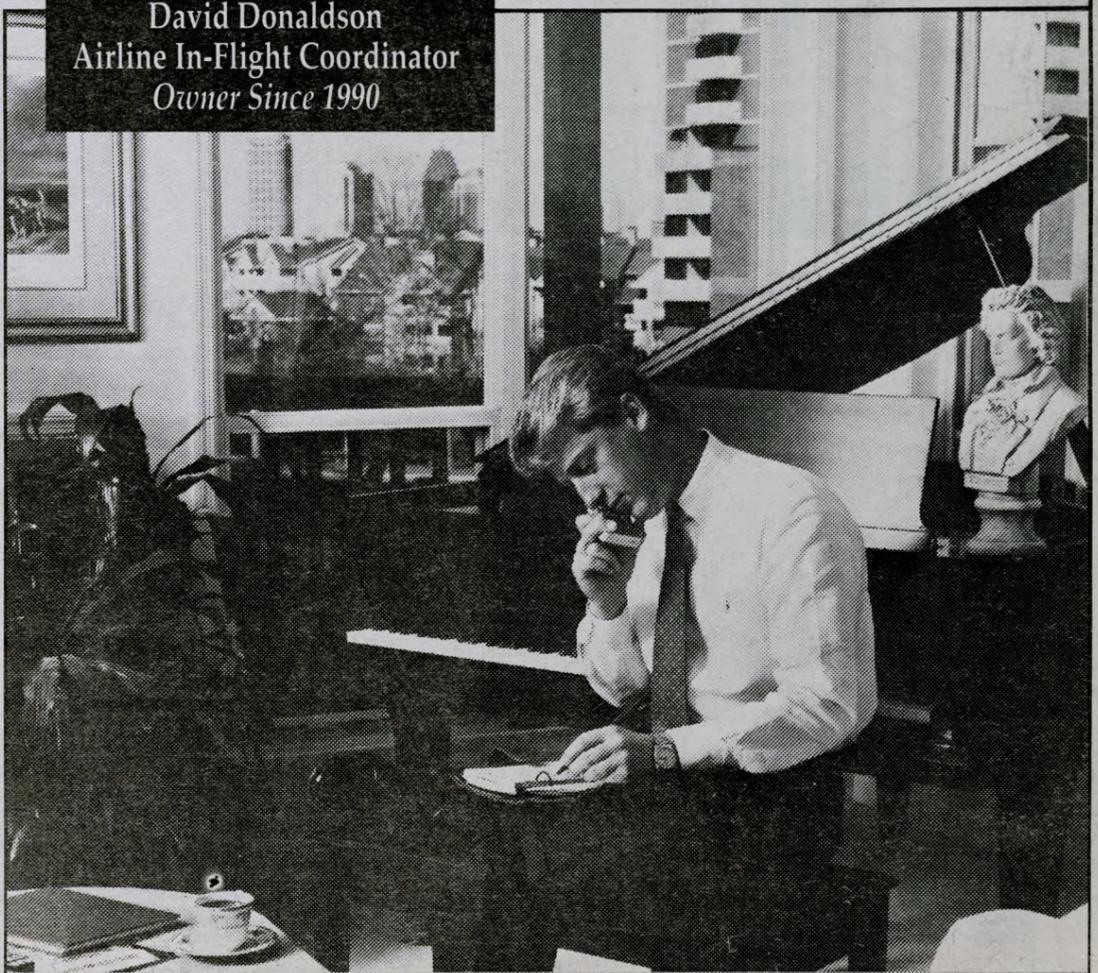
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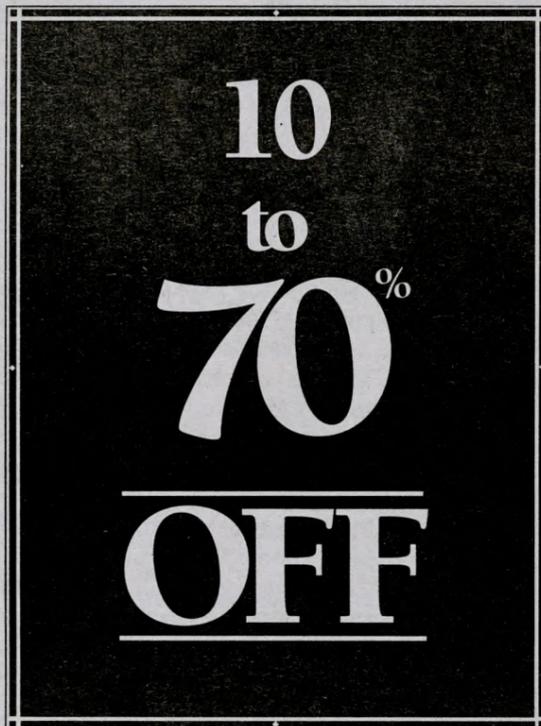


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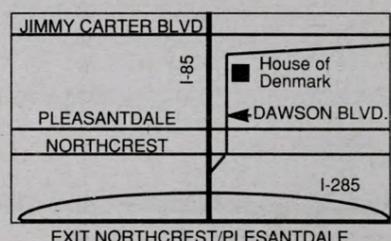


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LEGAL hopes to send gay delegates to Democratic Nat'l Convention

Atlanta—Gay and lesbian Democrats are once again vying for seats as delegates to the Democratic National Convention, to be held in New York City in July.

As they were four years ago, a coalition of hopefuls put together by Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians (LEGAL), a lesbian/gay Democratic organization, will be on the ballot for the April 25 delegate elections. This year, gays and lesbians will run for seats in three districts.

"If we elect gays and lesbians," said Terry Foster, chair of LEGAL's outreach committee, "it will send a message, not only to the Democratic Party here locally, but also to our elected leaders, that we are strong and we are politically organized. Voting is where the power lies."

In 1988, gay and lesbians Democrats surprised the mainstream party when they secured seats for two openly gay delegates to the convention. Dick Rhodes and Melinda Daniels were fourth district delegates for Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore at the convention held here in Atlanta, and another gay man, Paul Garrard, was an alternate.

Local politicians hope to see more lesbians

and gays at this year's convention. In addition to candidates in the fourth and fifth districts, gays and lesbians are on the ballot in the seventh district, both for Ark. Gov. Bill Clinton and former Mass. Sen. Paul Tsongas.

"It's very important for the gay and lesbian community to go to these caucuses," said Foster. "The bottom line is that we want gays and lesbians to go to New York City."

Foster said that 14 gays and lesbians are on the ballot for 17 total seats in the three districts, although the fourth district is the only one with more gay candidates than there are positions available.

The elections will be held on April 25 at 9:30 am. The fourth district vote will take place at the Henson Training Center, 3592 Flat Shoals Road in Decatur (between I-20 and I-285 near S. DeKalb Mall); the fifth district contest will be at Grady High School, 929 Charles Allen Dr. in Atlanta (off 10th near Monroe); and the seventh district election will be held at The Grand Theater, Hwy. 41 in Cartersville.

"At the '88 convention, we concentrated on gay and lesbian caucuses," said Foster, "but this year we're going to work closer with the Georgia delegation. In '88 we shocked them. We played by their rules and they were taken off guard. Now we have more respect."

"We'll be spending more time with our constituents, working on changing some of our state laws," he continued.

K C W I L D M O O N

Pictured: Dick Rhodes and Melinda Daniels, gay delegates at the 1988 Democratic National Convention. Photo by Pam Cole.



Congressional committee on children calls government's response to AIDS a "national disgrace"

Washington—While President Bush was cutting safer sex information from a healthcare manual to avoid offending parents, a Congressional committee condemned the federal government's response to increased spread of HIV and AIDS among adolescents as "a national disgrace."

The house of Representatives Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families charged on April 10 that moralistic restrictions prevent explicit, specific details of high-risk sexual activity and condoms' effective use.

"Denial of the problem at the federal level, where the leadership should be paramount, is a national disgrace," its early April report said.

The report called federal efforts

"underfunded, uncoordinated and largely unsuccessful" in dealing with HIV infection among the teenage population.

Several Republicans on the committee disagreed with the report's findings.

"Safe sex for teenagers today is clearly not using condoms but in using self-restraint—abstinence," they said. "The fact that some teens engage in unhealthy behavior should not discourage us as a society from promoting moral conduct."

"We don't deal with sex and teens at all," charged Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-CO), leader of the bi-partisan panel. "This is the administration that canceled the survey on adolescent sexual behavior just this year, much to the horror of the medical community and others."

The report also chided the CDC's new public service announcements for failing to mention condoms or sex. Additionally, the panel wrote that CDC education requirements, by avoiding discussion of homosexuality and other risky behavior, are overly restrictive.

Almost as if to underscore the panel's find-

CONTINUES TOP OF NEXT COLUMN

ings, the Bush administration cut a five-page section on birth control and STDs from Blue Cross-Blue Shield's "Taking Care of Your Child." Carl Smith of the Office of Personnel Management feared the chapter would upset some people.

"It seemed to me that silence in the issue was the only way to be sure I hadn't offended any sensibilities," he told the Washington Post's AIDS specialist Malcolm Gladwell, who noted "an immediate outcry" from lawmakers and public health officials.

Judaic commission joins boycott of Boy Scouts

Group sought help from Queer Nation on best response to BSA's anti-gay policies

Washington, D.C.—The boycott against the Boy Scouts of America, and key underwriter United Way, launched February 11 by Queer Nation outside the annual meeting of BSA's National Executive Board here, is gaining support. On March 30 The Commission on Social Action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations joined the national campaign to end Boy Scout's anti-gay policies and practices.

Rabbis and other religious leaders on the reformed Judaism commission asked its Union's president to write BSA officials and tell them BSA "violates our values" and should reconsider their homophobic policies, said Commission chair Evelyn Laser Shlensky. "That, we felt, is a first step."

It also asked local congregations to take similar steps with local BSA leaders. "We want to be in touch with (people) at synagogues to do the same sort of action at the local level, explaining to local Scouting officials of our wish to be inclusive, and how their policy of exclusion violates our values," said Shlensky, who does outreach to gay and lesbian Jews not affiliated with a congregation.

When her Santa Barbara, California, synagogue was approached by BSA to sponsor a troop, it declined because Scout's policies on sexual orientation and atheism are "untenable" challenges to the Temple's "wish to be inclusive."

The non-gay religious group initiated discussions with gay activists on how best to fight BSA's anti-gay bigotry. In response to Cracker Barrel's firing of gay and lesbian employees, it is considering convening an interreligious coalition to address issues of gay discrimination.

"I think it's terrific," said Shlensky. "A Greek saying is ringing in my head: 'There will be no justice in Athens until the uninjured parties are as indignant as the injured parties.'"

The Jewish Commission invited Queer Nation/Queer Scouts leader Bart Church to testify about why it should fight BSA's anti-gay exclusion of children and adults who are not heterosexual.

"They were highly supportive and very angry," Church said. "They were very reminiscent about treatment of gays and Jews in Nazi Germany. During the Holocaust, the Nazis accused queers and Jews of being immoral, unfit role models, and child molesters, and then exterminated everyone they could find."

Attorney and former Scout, Church is key organizer of the QN/QS national boycott of BSA and UW giving.

"Now that the Boy Scouts are saying the same things about queers, Jews are rightfully concerned about such dangerous vilifications." BSA is not only "the most dangerous homophobic organization in the country," Church charged, "they also practice religious

persecution."

Rep. Schroeder sent an angry letter to Bush on April 10, citing statistics showing that 3 million new STD cases among teens are reported yearly.

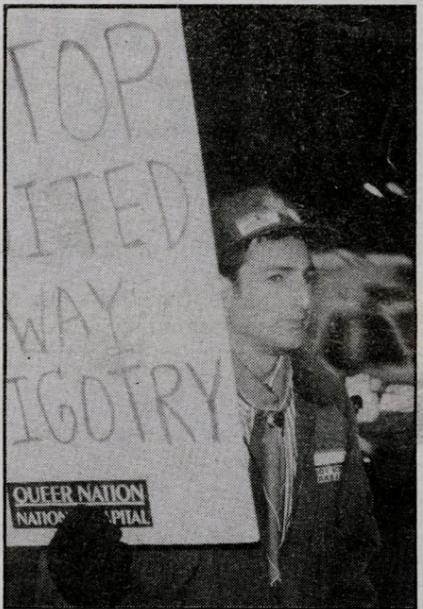
"This is a chapter written by a doctor...for parents, not teens," she told National Public Radio. "Now we have moved from not wanting to tell teens about condoms and AIDS to not even [telling] parents. That to me is really nuts."

JOHN ZEH

Some reformed Judaism institutions have already evicted Scouts from their facilities, Church said, expecting others to heed the umbrella group's "clarion call and take action."

"The Boy Scouts must be considered one of the most dangerous, bigoted organizations in the U.S.," said Church. "In terms of influence, it is far more pernicious than the Ku Klux Klan, and should be treated accordingly."

BSA has huge financial resources (\$350 million yearly), enjoys "unquestioned respectability," and plans to indoctrinate 4.3 million youths into what it calls "traditional, hetero-



sexual values," he charged.

United Way, BSA's largest single funder, provides \$90 million, Church said. "It is the easiest funding source to target and impact because many queer people give to it. We feel like we can be effective there."

San Francisco officials of the regional United Way approved a plan on February 20 urging area Boy Scout councils to let gay leaders and scouts participate in BSA.

Either ban discrimination now, the Bay Area UW Board of Directors and its broad-based task force demanded, or work over the next five years to win special exemption from BSA's national anti-gay policies.

BSA's anti-gay policies have been confronted by parents and activists around the nation. One battle that spotlighted the struggle last year was a suit brought by San Francisco's Tim Curran, an openly gay Eagle Scout who wants to serve as assistant scoutmaster in his Berkeley troop.

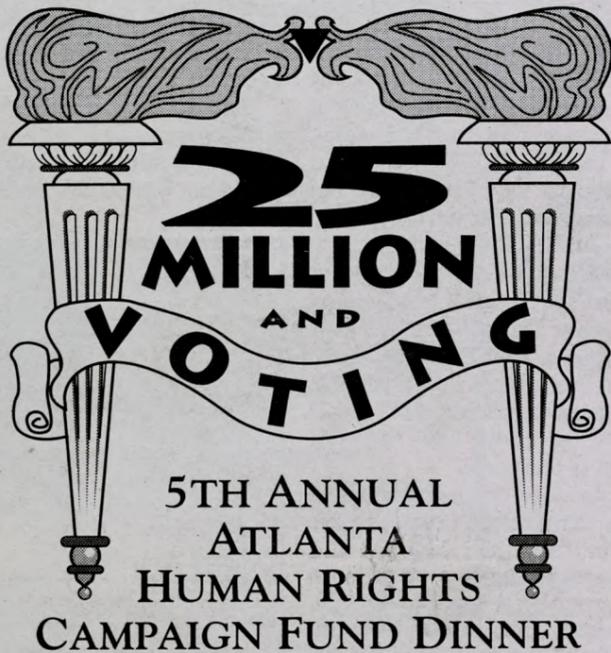
Last May, a Los Angeles judge defended BSA policy that homosexuality is immoral and incompatible with BSA rules and beliefs of Mormon and Catholic sponsors. A California lesbian was urged to withdraw her son's Cub Scout application after she disclosed her sexual orientation.

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D.C. Council reaffirms domestic partners' rights

Washington, D.C.—Despite volatile lobbying by religious leaders, D.C. City Council on April 7 overwhelmingly voted final approval for unique domestic partnership protections for gay men, lesbians and others in committed relationships here.

Calling the law an "important tool" to guarantee equal rights for all citizens, DC Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly signed the legislation on April 15, despite rumors that she might veto it.

"This represents a major recognition of our relationships and that we have a place in this community," said gay activist and law professor Mauro Montoya. "It also shows that the ministers are a paper tiger."

The measure allows people to register as partners, provides D.C. government employees who live together new medical leave benefits, and offers other perquisites for unmarried people in newly-redefined families.

At the last minute, bill sponsor and Council chair John Wilson was not sure he had enough support to win passage. He praised his 10 supportive peers, and acknowledged that gays will be helped greatly from the new law. "I find nothing wrong with benefiting gay couples," he said. "Gays are people, too, and they have a right to health care."

Following hearings last fall attended by homophobic religious leaders, Council unanimously okayed the bill March 3. But in the final vote, homophobia and intense lobbying by clerics prompted one councilmember to vote 'no,' and two others to abstain.

Denouncing the bill as a step toward approval of gay marriage, dozens of clerics flooded council members with pleas to kill the measure or delay a vote.

In response, gay and lesbian leaders mobilized a spirited campaign themselves, recruiting other ministers who favor the bill. They met with William Lightfoot, an at-large council member who was preparing to orchestrate opposition, winning him over to the pro side. Only renowned homophobe Wilhelmina Rolark opposed the measure. H. R. Crawford and John Ray abstained.

The clergy's anti-gay campaign served as a dress rehearsal for the bill's next battleground, Congress. To be enacted, the new law must survive a 30-day review period in Congress that gives hostile legislators time to override such gay-positive laws. A "resolution of disapproval" tacked onto a House of Representatives appropriations measure or a Senate bill could kill or delay the new D.C. law.

Reps. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) and Thomas Bliley (R-VA), ranking minority member of the House Committee on the District of Columbia, opposed the bill early, because it "undermines the traditional family as we know it," in Bliley's words.

But Congressional delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) has worked to secure approval. The non-voting Congress member from this non-state urged activists around the U.S. to help boost the fight against homophobic opposition in Congress.



Letters, calls, and visits work, she stressed. Her work appears to be paying off. Despite personal objections, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) is "inclined to let it go" an aide told a reporter.

"I would think," said Mindy Daniels, a lawyer who heads the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (GLAA) here, "that Capitol Hill has a lot more to worry about than the people in the District just trying to get more access to health care."

Gay and lesbian activists praised the far-reaching partnership law, calling it unique in the mid-Atlantic region and an extension of domestic partnership laws in place elsewhere. It is the first law in the U.S. to offer tax breaks to companies that insure domestic partners.

Balancing D.C.'s budgetary blight with needs of non-nuclear families detailed by council's Commission on Domestic Partnership Benefits for City Employees was a key concern. Supporters countered religious and other conservative opposition by arguing that the law's expanded definition of family—and emphasis on unmarried heterosexual couples—boosted chances of passage.

Any unmarried couple living in the same home, such as a mother and an adult son, are covered. "There are many, many people who will be affected by this," Wilson said. "It's a terrible misconception that this was just a gay issue. It addresses a family situation here that's just bigger than many of us would like to believe. This is morally right, period."

"I hope that we can ensure equitable rights and benefits for non-traditional families," Wilson continued. "It's time we start treating these situations differently than in the past. This is the future."

"D.C. government is finally catching up with the diversity of the city it represents," said Daniels. "We don't just simply have traditional nuclear families anymore. This has been a long time coming."

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Pictured: Patrick Gill and Craig Dean are appealing a ruling by a Washington, D.C.

Superior Court judge who dismissed a lawsuit they brought against the city for refusing to issue them a marriage license.

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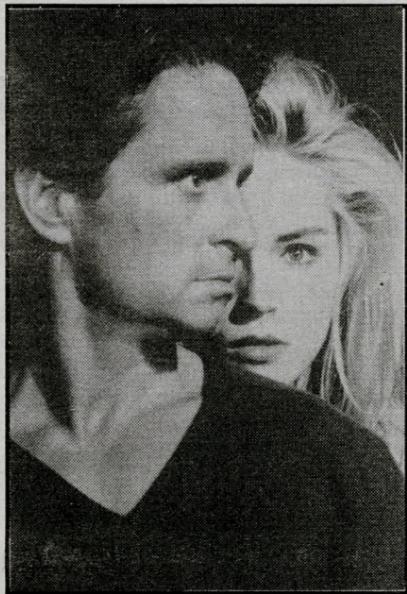
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Lesbian Denied Artificial Insemination: A clinic in Madison, Wisconsin, "probably discriminated" against a lesbian when it canceled her scheduled appointment about artificial insemination. Stacie Deldaughter filed a complaint with Madison's Equal Opportunities Commission when the Roley, Anderson and Torhorst Clinic canceled her Nov. 21 appointment. Officials at the clinic declined comment, and Deldaughter said that she hoped the clinic would not only change its policies but also implement an educational program for its employees. Wisconsin is one of five states with laws protecting the rights of lesbians and gays.

Hustlers Sue Savitz: Ed Savitz, the Philadelphia businessman arrested last month for having sex with teenagers, is being sued by two of the teenaged hustlers he paid for sexual favors. The lawsuit, filed on April 3, charges that Savitz was negligent for not disclosing his HIV status to the men. The pair, who are not named, are seeking \$3 million for HIV testing, medical treatment and counseling. According to Philadelphia Gay News, neither of the men has tested positive for HIV.

Latest News From Auburn: The latest round in the continuing struggle against homophobia at Auburn University is the publication of a full page ad in Auburn's student newspaper by the newly formed Auburn University Gay and Lesbian Alumni Alliance (AUGLAA). The ad was printed in support of the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Association, which is involved in an ongoing fight with university officials, student government leaders and Alabama politicians over a university charter for the organization. The alumni group hopes to gain more members nationwide. Said Carl Lange, co-president of AUGLAA, "There have always been gays and lesbians in Auburn and will continue to be so."



Four Arrested At SNL: Yes, those were the voices of protestors you heard over host Sharon Stone's monologue during the April 11 broadcast of Saturday Night Live. Stone, who starred as bisexual villainess Catherine (as in Catherine Did It) in Basic Instinct, had just begun her monologue, a take-off on a scene from the movie. The four protestors, who did not make it on camera, were charged with disorderly conduct and harassment. Stone, who has made the rounds of talk shows telling whoever listens that Basic Instinct is "just a movie," appeared briefly rattled, but gamely continued her monologue. Incidentally, she's really not that sexy, and the whole show was quite boring.

Court Hears Arguments In AIDS Insurance Case: The 11th U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta heard oral arguments in February in a case involving a local company that placed a cap on insurance claims for AIDS related treatment. Storehouse placed the limit on claims

after employee Richard Owens was diagnosed with AIDS. The company cancelled his insurance when he exceeded the \$25,000 cap. The U.S. District Court ruled earlier in favor of Storehouse, but the estate of Owens is pursuing the case, appealing to the higher court. A decision is expected shortly.

Fulton County Commission Election: A special election to fill the Fulton County Commission seat vacated by the resignation of Gordon Joyner will be held next Tuesday, April 28. Vying for the District 5 seat will be Portia Scott, Willie Bolden, Holman Edmond, Emma Darnell, Bunnie Jackson Ransom, Julian C. Brown Jr., M. Kasim Reed, and Ivory M. Denson. The winner of the special election will serve the remainder of Joyner's term, until December 1994.

Dallas Man Murdered, Police Call It "Hate Motivated": Police say the March 26 shooting death of a Dallas gay man was a hate-motivated crime, according to the Dallas Voice. Michael Miller was shot sometime during the night of March 25. Two sixteen year olds and a seventeen year old were arrested in the case, charged with capital murder.

PGN Wins Design Award: A newspaper in Philadelphia has become the first lesbian/gay paper to be honored by the Society of Newspaper Design. The SND honored Philadelphia Gay News with two Awards for Excellence in redesign as part of its 1992 International Best of Newspaper Design Competition. PGN won for its front page and "Focus" page redesign, beating out over 7,500 entries.

Wisconsin Man Sentenced To Life: Stuart Ellanson, who earlier pleaded guilty to killing Kevin Dutcher, was sentenced to life in prison by a Wisconsin Circuit Court Judge. Ellanson told police that he had killed Dutcher because "my whole life is devoted to killing faggots and child molesters." Ellanson will be eligible for parole in 17 and a half years.

Gays Join Third Party In California: A group of gay and lesbian activists have abandoned the Democratic Party in California to start a third-party attempt for some 50 statewide and local offices in that state's June 2 primary. According to an AP report, the activists have joined with the Peace and Freedom Party, a 25-year old party that supports national health care and income tax reform. "We are encouraging people to kick the Democratic habit," said candidate Roslyn Allen, "to just say no."

Studds Gets Victory Fund Support: Openly gay Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA) has received the recommendation of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, an organization dedicated to helping openly gay candidates running for office. Studds, who is facing a tough re-election battle this year, joins several others already recommended by the Victory Fund, including California Congressional candidate Tom Nolan, Texas Rep. Glen Maxey, Oregon Rep. candidate Gail Shibley, Wisconsin Assembly candidate Tammy Baldwin, and Jerry Keene, an openly gay, pro-choice Republican running for an Oregon legislative seat.

Texas Men Charged In Rape Of Three Men: Two men were charged last month with rape, after one of three male victims identified the suspects. David Vincent Callicutt and David Wayne Russell allegedly picked up their victims and drove them to the home of the suspects, according to a report in the Dallas Voice. The three attacks occurred in three separate incidents beginning on February 10. The other two attacks occurred on Feb. 23 and March 10.

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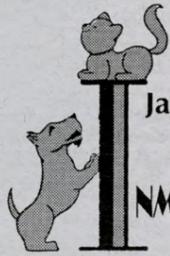
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ddC approval will test FDA procedures

The Food and Drug Administration is moving to implement long-debated proposals to speed government approval of new drugs, just as a third treatment aimed at the AIDS-triggering human immunodeficiency virus comes up for review. The new medication, ddC, will test the department's willingness to OK drugs based on incomplete data.

Before the announcement last week on measures to streamline FDA procedures, speculation was rife that ddC was in trouble. Its marketing application is to come before the FDA's Antiviral Advisory Committee (a group of independent experts) on April 21.

Hoffman-La Roche, ddC's developer, has a very bad reputation with AIDS activists because of constant friction over the company's program to distribute the experimental drug to those doing poorly on established AIDS treatments. That "expanded access" program, although it has thousands of enrollees, was deemed inadequate because of the daunting amount of paperwork involved.

There has been no concerted effort to help La Roche obtain a sympathetic ear at the FDA as a result. For the past year, the company has labored to put together an acceptable licensing application for ddC without being able to point to conclusive evidence of the drug's effectiveness.

Last year did see a strong push by treatment advocate groups to get ddC approved along with the related drug ddI, but when ddI passed its federal review and became available in pharmacies, the ddC approval bandwagon stalled. Ironically, general community interest in ddC remains very strong because the initial test results indicate that

combination therapy using ddC plus AZT is more effective than any other AIDS treatment to date. That interest, plus the difficulties with entering the La Roche program, has spawned a large underground market for bootlegged ddC.

Summing up the issues involved with approving ddC now, one member of the FDA's Antiviral Committee, Dr. Donald Abrams, said, "We need some data on survival impact. Last year, there were no available alternatives to AZT, so we approved ddI quickly. We've yet to know if that was the right thing to do. Who will benefit from ddC approval beside the drug company?"

At press time, the National Institute of Health released final data from one of its trials showing that use of ddI had indeed indicated a slowing down in the occurrence of AIDS-related illnesses.

However, no lengthening of survival time was observed for the people on ddI. One of the advisory committee's chores at its upcoming meeting will be to analyze this final data to see if it justifies the use of the early surrogate endpoint indications of effectiveness.

The FDA already is formalizing the ddI process to make it an established procedure for other "breakthrough" drugs, without waiting for the committee's opinion. This will reduce a new drug's review time by one to three years.

The FDA also is set to codify expanded access programs under the name "parallel track." Developers of future drugs like ddC will have a standardized structure to refer to, and activists will be better able to judge whether a company's expanded access program is a sincere undertaking.

DAVE GILDEN
AIDS NEWS SERVICE

AIDS leader demands Bush give more than lip service

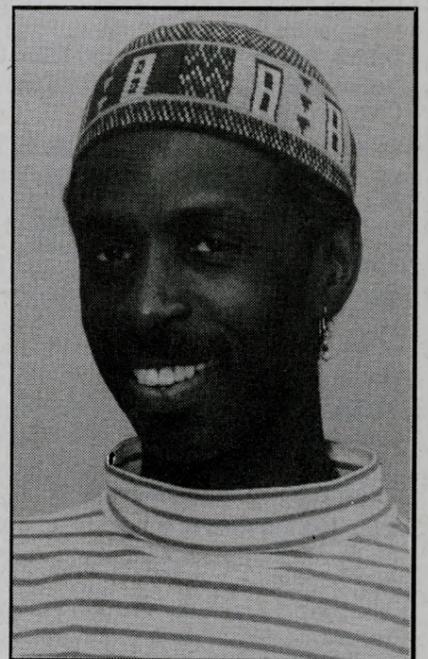
In response to the announcement by tennis star Arthur Ashe that he has AIDS, Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, called on President Bush to respond "with more than lip service."

"Every time another celebrity comes forward with a diagnosis there are mixed emotions," Williams said. "We know that Ashe's disclosure that he's been living with full-blown AIDS for almost four years has the potential to encourage and empower others with the disease, especially African Americans," said Williams. "The fact that he has been able to successfully take AZT is another positive message."

"His acknowledgment of the support of family and friends as the single most important factor in his response to AIDS may encourage others with HIV to disclose their health status to family and friends," Williams continued, "and those families and friends to be as supportive as possible."

Williams cited the sad truth that everyone with HIV or AIDS is "a celebrity of sorts to someone."

"Everybody is somebody's son or daughter, brother or sister, mother or father," he said. "How many celebrities have to come forward or be pushed, as Arthur Ashe was, before our government takes action to help the thousands upon thousands of people with HIV whose situations are not considered newsworthy? What about people who do not have the health care or emotional or



practical support of an Arthur Ashe?"

Williams called on the president to "finally show the level of leadership required to make a real difference." Saying that a phone call to Ashe to express concern was not enough, Williams said that "if in fact he was elected to serve all of the people, every life should be important, each American's suffering should be of equal concern."

"Bush has said he thinks we're spending enough on AIDS," he added. "That is simply not true, particularly among African Americans and other people of color. Maybe Arthur Ashe can help convince him of that."

HEALTH

Early use of AZT reduces risk of death

A report in the New England Journal of Medicine says that people infected with HIV prolong their lives by taking AZT before symptoms of AIDS appear. The findings were based on data from 2568 HIV-infected participants in a study funding primarily by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

"We now have evidence that AZT can extend life for certain HIV-infected persons if taken before the symptoms of AIDS develop," said NIAID director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci.

According to the report, early treatment with AZT reduced the risk of death at six months by 57 percent. Additionally, researchers found that risk of death was reduced by 33 percent after two years.

"In general," said Dr. Neil Graham, as-

stant professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins and lead author of the article, "men starting with 200 to 349 CD4-positive T cells appeared to benefit the most from treatment."

Graham said that more follow-up will be necessary to determine the effect on people with counts greater than 350.

The data for the report was collected between October 1986 and April 1991, with investigators studying the 360 deaths out of 2568 participants to compare the type and length of therapies and the severity of illness in the patients. The patients received physical examinations and blood tests at six-month intervals for 24 months.

The findings appear to differ from those recently reported by scientists at the Veterans' Administration, whose study did not demonstrate an advantage to early AZT therapy. However, investigators in that study analyzed only 43 deaths.

AID Gwinnett opens

AID Gwinnett has opened its offices in Lawrenceville. Offering support groups and referral services, the non-profit organization was founded by Gwinnett Countians

who saw a need and acted on it. AID Gwinnett is located at 240 Oak Street in Lawrenceville. For more information, call 962-8396.

OBITUARIES

**Philip (Aimen) Stanley
1/29/54 - 4/4/92**

Phil passed away at home after a long battle with AIDS. He was 38.

He was one of those rare souls who was actually born here in Atlanta. While the rest of his family roamed, he was happy to stay here.

Phil was many things, but made his living as Office Manager of Border's Book Shop in Buckhead. He will be remembered by his many friends for his intelligence, his humor, the color purple, and the Frog Wave he created.

He was preceded in death by his lover, Duck Fuller in 1986, and was survived by his mother, Kitty Conrad, and his brothers, John of Virginia and David of Atlanta.

Parke Bowman

Parke Bowman, co-founder of Daughters, Inc., died at her home in Key West, Florida, on February 5, 1992 of lung cancer.

Born February 7, 1934 in New Jersey, and raised in the vicinity of Short Hills, New Jersey, Parke (Patti) Bowman, together with her lover and partner June Arnold, founded Daughters, Inc., the lesbian-feminist publishing company most often singled out for the initial publication of Rita Mae Brown's "Rubyfruit Jungle."

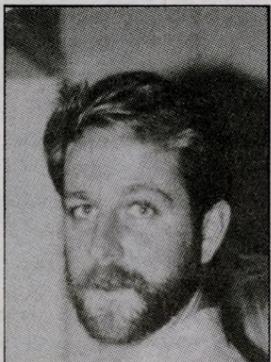
After June Arnold's death in March, 1982, Parke moved to Lonelyville, New

York, a virtually uninhabited town on Fire Island, and lived there until the fall of 1991, when she moved to Key West.

At the time of her death she was editing a book entitled "The Way My Father Died" scheduled for publication by Running Press. There are no known survivors.

Steven Jeffrey Myers

Steve Myers, age 35, died from complications due to AIDS at his sister's home, Friday, April 10, Formerly of Columbus, Georgia, he is survived by his parents, Florence and Richard Myers, his sister, Susan Myers, his niece and nephew, Paige



Charay Norwood and Todd Norwood, and his beloved cat, Francis.

Steve was a hairstylist at Parkside Studio. He was a kind, creative and humorous person who enjoyed life to the fullest. He warmed the hearts of all those he knew with laughter and a smile. The funeral service was held at All Saint's Episcopal Church, Monday, April 13. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be sent to the church.

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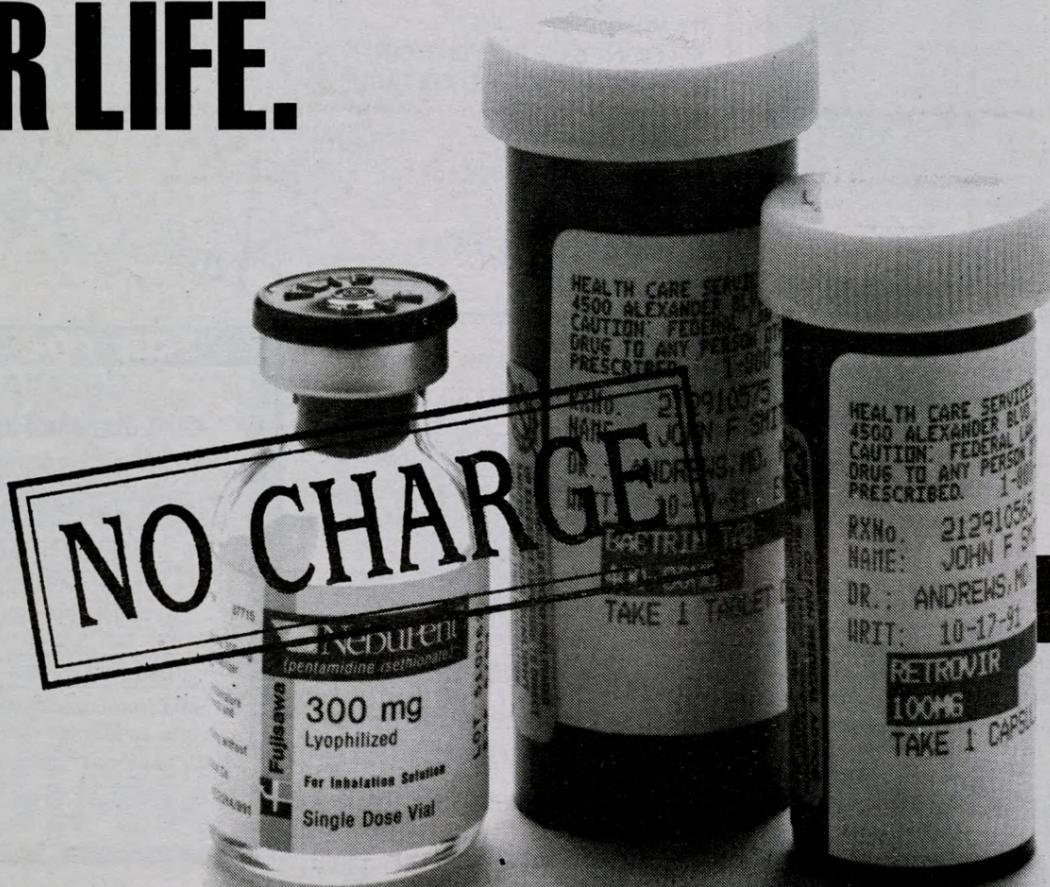
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To place an obituary

**Southern Voice publishes obituaries of members of the gay
and lesbian community as both news and a community service,
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Kate Clinton

comes to town May 3. An interview with *the* lesbian comic of the last decade.

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.

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Where are my people?

Through the streets of Atlanta to the entrance of Piedmont Park, we march. Arm in arm in solidarity, the Atlanta gay and lesbian community "comes out" in pride. The reasons for such a visible presence of individuals are as diverse and numerous as the men and women marching in the streets. Local bar establishments, college and university students, downtown, midtown and Buckhead residents come forth from communities of isolation to stand together in unity, thousands upon thousands strong.

Yet, as we look throughout the crowds of marchers, we see the visible presence of African Americans to be minimal at best. As you look out into a sea of white gay and lesbian faces you begin to wonder where are the African American gays and lesbians. And yet, once the marchers have traveled the distance to Piedmont Park you will see hundreds of African American gays and lesbians mingling within the crowd, sitting quietly on the grass seemingly content to appear in the

background of a celebration of our gay identity.

As an out African American lesbian, I have to ask; "Where are my people?" If I were out in the bars over the course of a weekend I would see thousands upon thousands of my brothers and sisters. Will someone tell me why we as African American gay and lesbian people don't show a visibly strong presence during pride week and during the Gay Pride march? Are we truly out as African American gays and lesbians, or do we only display our pink triangles in the safe environments of smoke filled bars and the homes of friends and lovers?

In the city of Atlanta, a city of over 300,000 gays and lesbians, one naturally assumes that the African American gay and lesbian community is unified, supportive and most of all visibly out. Yet, such is not the case.

What do we fear? Loss of our jobs, the ostracizing by our families, or is it our own internalized homophobia that keeps us in the closet? Are we content only to be out during late night hours or early morning hours?

The need for a visible and unified pres-

ence of my African American brothers and sisters has come. Men and women with the courage and conscious to take pride in themselves.

On June 28, 1992, the Atlanta gay and lesbian community will once again "come out" in full force to celebrate Gay Pride. A strong visible African American contingent is needed as we stand together with Caucasians and gays and lesbians of color. Together we can show a true representation of the gay and lesbian community in the city of Atlanta, over 300,000 strong.

If you or your friends or organization would like to march with members of the African American gay and lesbian community, contact the Coming Full Circle Network at (404) 624-1799.

We will take to the streets in June. We will, as an African American people, make our presence known!

As I close I must once again ask; "Where Are My People?"

S A N D R A E N O S



C A R B O N C O P Y

Dear Ann Landers,

You recently asked for gay people to write to you and let you know how they felt about being gay. I am very happy to do so, but I simply cannot do it by just reporting "I am happy being gay." There is so much more I want to say.

I am 45 years old, my life partner is 40. We are both professional women (she is a trial lawyer with 13 years undisputed successful practice, and I have 15 profitable years with a public utility). We share a very wonderful, loving, supportive, honest, respectful relationship.

We have each had relationships with men and with other women in our lives, and we simply prefer the intimacy and closeness we share with each other. We have a very loving and supporting circle of friends; male, female, straight and gay. They are all im-

portant to us and each brings into the circle their own unique qualities and personalities. That is what makes life so much fun.

I hope that many gay people will respond to you and tell you of their comfort and joy of being gay. The only thing which takes away from my fulfillment in being gay is the fact there are some people who think I am a sick person, that I am an abomination...and they don't even know me.

I am a very loving person. I am a wonderful daughter to my Mother, a loving sister to my brothers, and a fun and exciting aunt to my nieces. The love I share with my partner is truly God-given, just as the love straight people share. It saddens me to know that there are people who hate me simply because I share a love in my life. No one can tell me I am not blessed by God. If anyone believes that they and their God can-

not love me, then they are the ones who have a problem and I certainly do not need that person in my life.

There are going to be unhappy gay people, just as there are unhappy straight people. There are going to be twisted and sick gay people, just as there are twisted and sick straight people. The important thing for everyone in the world to do is to love themselves and to love their neighbors, accepting each person, without judging them, just as they are. That is, after all, what Christ taught us, isn't it?

Thank you for letting me share my happiness with you.

Carole

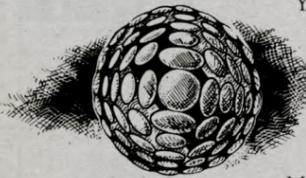
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To take control of HIV you need a second opinion.

Yours.

If you're HIV+, you deserve all the information you can get about HIV treatment options. That's why, no matter how much you rely on your doctor, it pays to ask questions and stay informed. After all, it's *your* body and *your* health at stake.

I'm positive but symptom-free. Should I be doing anything?

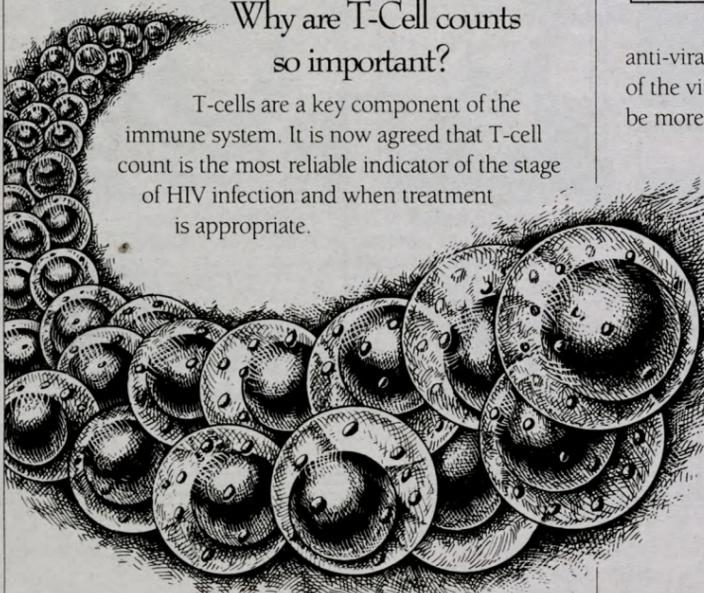


Yes! Long before the first symptoms appear, HIV is already damaging your body's immune system.

Many studies show the sooner you begin treatment, the better job your body can do at fighting back.

Why are T-Cell counts so important?

T-cells are a key component of the immune system. It is now agreed that T-cell count is the most reliable indicator of the stage of HIV infection and when treatment is appropriate.



A healthy immune system has a large supply of T-cells ready to fight infection

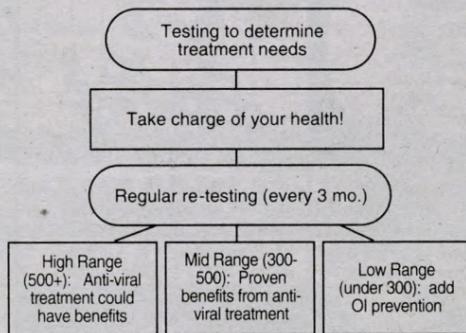
Standard treatment guidelines point to anti-viral therapy when the T-cell count approaches 500, although some researchers now believe that therapy at the 500+ level can produce meaningful results. When the count falls below 300, preventatives against opportunistic infection are indicated.

For the best picture of your own health, get your T-cell level tested quarterly. This establishes a trend which is far more reliable than the result of any individual test in guiding treatment.

Is combination therapy something I should consider?

HIV affects the body in many ways, and research increasingly suggests it makes sense to fight HIV with more than one drug. For example,

An Informed Treatment Strategy



anti-virals like AZT, ddI or ddC slow the progress of the virus. And used in combination, they may be more potent and longer-lasting.

When HIV is present, the virus interferes with both the number and function of cells

Is there a way to prevent opportunistic infections?

Increasingly, the answer is yes. In the early days, PCP (a form of pneumonia) was nearly inevitable and often fatal. Today, we've learned to prevent PCP in many cases... and we can slow the onset of other opportunistic infections with preventive treatment before the infection appears. By the way, this is one of the biggest advances since the early days of HIV treatment. Another good reason to stay informed.

How can I get the most from my doctor?

Stay informed and speak up! Remember, nobody else but you is 100% involved in your own health. Ask questions so you can better

understand what your doctor is telling you. Don't hesitate to bring other viewpoints to your doctor's attention as you learn about them.

By staying informed, you can form an active partnership that helps you make the most of your relationship with your doctor.

Where else can I turn for reliable information?

Call Project Inform. We're a free, independent source of the latest facts and research findings about HIV management and treatment options, for people who are HIV+. The men and women who run our hotline and volunteer for our information services have personal knowledge of HIV infection. They care about keeping you informed.

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For a confidential treatment information packet or for fast, informed answers to your questions about HIV treatment, our hotline is staffed Monday through Saturday 10 am to 4pm (PDT), but you may leave a message at any time.



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SHELLY ROBERTS

One foot at a time

Ooh. Ah. Ow. Sorry. Listen, could you all wait up just a bit? Yes, I am walking a little slower than usual.

There were a group of us out to dinner and to see a "Broadway" show they trucked down to South Florida on a flatbed truck for all the transplanted New Yorkers who wouldn't be caught dead at The Bellasco theater in NYC paying a gazillion dollars to catch a musical. (And that's just for parking. You can imagine what the tickets cost.)

A half a dozen of us in our "aren't we cool and sophisticated" go-to-town silks and cottons and linens, walking from the restaurant to the Performing Arts Center, then back to the car.

"How come you're limping?" one of our assembled asked me on our way to try to figure out where the Wallet Parking attendants at the restaurant had stashed our cars.

"I can't help it," I replied. "I'm wearing girl shoes."

And I was. Alligatored patent pumps adding a few inches short of needing to carry portable oxygen to my stature.

Girl shoes. Shiny. Pointy. High. Can't run in them. Built for dancing backwards. The kind of shoes self-respecting dykes—some self-respecting dykes (like me)—still occasionally wear on occasions that seem amazingly like family judgment parties. You know, those

"happy times" where grown-ups, aunts, uncles, grands, assorted cousins and community/church/temple types give the eye to what your mama's dressed you up in for all to see on the occasion of the wedding/funeral/anniversary/bar mitzvah/recital where everyone who's anyone in the family/village/state/galaxy has come together to pass judgment on each other in the name of calling it a "real good time."

And isn't it amazing how, having learned the "what's appropriate and what's not's" early, we carry them into places that sort of feel the same, even if they're not. Like going for a job interview. Or to a party with grown ups, even if we are one. Or going to a theater full of people-in-the-audience wearing their own costumes.

Me, too. This night I was guilty of hearing my mama's little boomy voice inside my head. "You aren't going to wear those to go out in public, are you?" as I longingly surveyed my line-up of comfy tennies. And so I dragged my girl shoes out of the closet. Dressed myself right up. Tailored wool pants. Cable knit white tennis sweater with pink and teal cables and cleavage down to there. Linen jacket in case of emergency air conditioning. Good jewelry. Even a hat. And, of course, my girl shoes.

Funny thing, though. My mama was nowhere in sight. Not an aunt, or a grand aunt or an uncle. Not my high school ethics teacher. Not an ex- or future employer. Not even a school principal. Well, that's not true, exactly. We did have a school vice principal, retired. But she was with us. One of us. And she wasn't wearing girl shoes, either. Well, not exactly. She had on sort of dyke-modified girl shoes. Very low heels. Notin' you'd have to amputate a toe for.

"Should have worn your dyke shoes. Like us." one of our group responded. And as the muscle in my right thigh clenched, I agreed. "Yup, should have."

They all had worn theirs. I took a survey.

One pair of black boots. Modified heels. Shined. Dyke shoes.

One pair of low cut suede black boots.

Low heels. Dyke shoes.

One pair of brown leather lace-ups. Low heels. Dyke shoes.

One pair of white slip-on Keds. New. Still white. Dyke shoes.

Etc. Dyke shoes. Etc. Dyke shoes.

Now none of them were wearing Timberland steel toes. None of that "yer mother wears hiking boots" foot fashion in sight. But, nonetheless, the lesbian fashion police would not have found grounds for a Politically Incorrect arrest for anyone in that group. Except, of course, me. And I was the only one limping.

It made me wonder why, at this age I'm still playing tapes my mother taught me over as silly a thing as shoes. Especially when my feet aren't all that great in Nikes to begin with.

Then I remembered. Aha! It wasn't my mother at all. (At last. Something about my dykedom she can let herself off the hook for!)

It was Watzername. My third lover. Or fourth. I forget. Anyway, of course! Whatzername! How could I forget?

Now Watzername was a big lady. Not qualifying for the Guinness Book of World Lesbians or anything, but seriously substantial. And rather than hiding herself in pastel striped awnings of a vertical nature, this lady learned how to dress. Really dress. She could pass muster at diplomatic receptions. And she taught me. About natural fibers. Jones of New York and Anne Klein pleated pants and blazer jackets. Silk. Gold button earrings. Pearls. Very chic. Very together. Very cool. Security guards never gave her a second glance.

"Dress tailored," she said. "It's a style that suits you. But if you're going to dress tailored and get away with it..." She paused, meaningfully. "...Always wear little femmy shoes. It confuses them." Well, say no more. I knew which "them's" she was talking about, and at that point in my life I certainly didn't mind keeping them guessing.

So she wore her little femmy, girl shoes with Jones of New York and Anne Klein pleats. And I watched her. Kate Hepburn al Grande in sling-backs. It was amazing. It even confused me. I never did figure out which of us was butch and which was fem in that relationship. Which also may tell you what happened to our relationship, and why I can't quite recall whether Watzername was number five or number eleven.

But what surprises me is that I'm still doing it. Wearing little femmy shoes. When I don't have to. I didn't know any of those people in the audience. I did know, and like, all those people I was with. None of whom would have judged me on my footwear, or needed to be confused by the fact that I was holding hands with the woman I was seated next to in the theater.

I don't spend time hiding my real life any more. Or worrying much about confusing "them" or keeping "them" guessing. In fact, just the opposite. I don't want them to guess. I want them to know.

Except, apparently, for this one little ankle bending, thigh flexing exception. This footwear fetish I still seem to be tottering on top of.

Well, that's an easy fix. You'll have to excuse me a moment. I'm going into the other room right now. I have a little more work to do on cleaning out my closet. I have to dust off my comfy, politically correct Bass Weejuns. And throw out all those girl shoes.

Sorry, Oprah

To the Editor:

I agree with Cindy Lutenbacher (Viewpoints 4/9) that we need to keep working on our racism.

My initial delight with the "Switched at Birth" cartoon (on the same page as Cindy's letter) turned to embarrassment and disappointment when I realized that the depiction of the talk show host is a repetition of an

enduring racist representation. Although I assume this representation was unconsciously drawn, I am sure that a prominent female African-American talk show host would not find it amusing.

As Cindy said in her letter, art does not exist in a freeze-dried vacuum-pac.

Sincerely,
John Speaks

C A R B O N C O P Y

Randy Travis
WAGA Eyewitness News
1551 Briarcliff Rd.
Atlanta, GA, 30306

Dear Mr. Travis,

I have been a loyal viewer of WAGA Eyewitness News for years now, and I am generally impressed by the quality of stories and the fairness with which they are presented. However, your April 8 report, following the lead story on Arthur Ashe's revelation that he has AIDS, was enough to make me switch stations permanently.

Mr. Walt Greer, the gentleman you interviewed, made comments that Mr. Ashe has no reason to be ashamed or embarrassed regarding his unfortunate plight, as he (Mr. Ashe) acquired the disease through a blood transfusion during heart surgery. Mr. Greer, who claims he acquired the disease through unsafe sex, has not absolved himself of such guilt and discomfort. I assume that he must feel as if this awful affliction is retribution for some carefree and casual years in the past.

One of the most unfortunate aspects of AIDS is that it is one of the very few illnesses in which a moral judgement is often passed. Because of this, AIDS patients have been denied untold amounts of monies in funding and care, not to mention the feeling and compassion offered to patients of other diseases. I thought the idea that AIDS was a divine punishment was furthered by those who sought to condemn AIDS patients as a lesser-valued, deserving group of sinners. After hearing Mr. Greer's comments, obviously I was wrong. I now realize that judge-

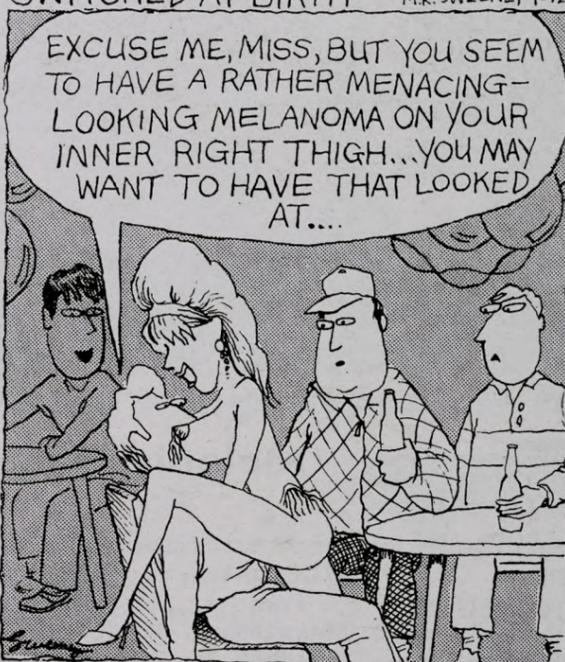
ment starts at home, in one's own heart and mind. This is perhaps the most tragic part of Mr. Greer's story, that he cannot forgive himself for something that has never been, nor ever will be, his fault.

Tragedy cannot replace your responsibility as a journalist, however. Your mission—your primary concern—is to tell the truth objectively. No moral judgements, no leaning toward one side or the other. Whereas your report was not, in itself, biased or prejudiced, don't you think you could have chosen someone more appropriate? Don't you think you could have chosen a subject more representative of the majority of AIDS patients, perhaps someone who sees the tragedy as well as the insanity that this disease has spread to such epidemic proportions? Mr. Greer's feelings of guilt and blame, while somewhat understandable, are far from the norm.

By choosing a subject as wracked by guilt as by disease, you have provided fodder for those who seek to damn and condemn patients of a horrible disease. You have also disappointed those who seek a balanced and informative news story. Most importantly, however, you have slapped the face of those who daily face the pain and hurt caused not by this disease but by the bigotry and misunderstanding so often accompanying it.

Sincerely,
Steven Crowe

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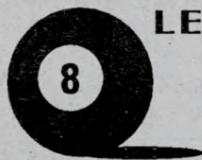
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OUT & ABOUT

INTERVIEW

A CONVERSATION WITH DOROTHY ALLISON, SELF-PROCLAIMED PERVERT AND ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE LESBIAN SEX MAFIA

BASTARD

Out of Carolina (Dutton, \$20) is Dorothy Allison's first novel, and on April 29th, she comes to town on the media train that has been rolling since its publication, to read at Charis Books and More and Oxford Bookstore.

The controversy surrounding Allison began in New York in 1981 when she was one of the organizers of the Lesbian Sex Mafia, a group for women into S/M. She has been involved in a lot of groups, "basically consciousness-raising groups for sluts," and says she is a pervert, fascinated by others who have the courage to think of themselves as being perverse. Her previous books are "The Women Who Hate Me" (1983), poems, and a collection of short stories, "Trash" (1989), that garnered critical praise and won her two Lambda Literary Awards.

"Bastard Out of Carolina" is Allison's first novel. Dutton paid \$37,000 for it when it was just half-written, and their publicists are working themselves into the ground to sell it. If you ever wondered whether or not lesbians can write about anything other than romantic sex, buy this book. If you are not afraid of reading about the truth, buy this book. If you want to learn how it really is to grow up with family violence and incest yet remain marvelously whole and human, buy this book.

It is the story of Bone, a young girl growing up in the 50s and 60s in South Carolina, in a family that belongs to the vast numbers of working poor in the South, the ones we like to pretend do not exist: where men carry seven-inch pigstickers and expect to end up in jail as a matter of course, and where the women do whatever is necessary to keep the children fed during hard times. Unlike most books dealing with violence and incest, where the only two characters are the abuser and the abused, *Bastard* is about the whole family: Uncles Earle, Beau and Nevil, who drink whiskey and teach Bone how to hold a knife right; Aunt Raylene, the lesbian who lives on the edge of town; and Anney, the woman faced with the terrible choice between Bone, her daughter, and Glen, her husband.

Allison teaches at the San Francisco Art Institute. She is currently touring the country with her book. I caught up with her in Chicago and we spoke on the phone.

How do you feel about the media train—all the signings and interviews?

Tired, like I'm swimming upstream. I want to talk about the book, but the interviews are all about me as a person. You read the Advocate interview? The interviewer was told by his editor, "Go interview Dorothy Allison, but don't write about that boring book shit." It's very frustrating, because books are a way to change the world. For example, I'm interested in having lots of discussion of incest, of family violence. It has to be possible for children not to be isolated in such a horrific setting as Bone's. Like the one I found myself in.

We need to get information out about what *really* happens. Bone cooperates with Daddy Glen in hiding from her mother what's going on, and to me that's the worst thing. Having numbers to call, all those phone lines, it won't happen: it's the last thing a child in Bone's situation would think of. She thinks she has a good reason to hide what Daddy Glen is doing to her. When Bone's mother is finally faced with the incontrovertible fact that her husband has raped her child, she has to choose. I want to make the world a place where Bone's mother doesn't have to make the decision she did.

What was your intent in writing *Bastard*?

Most literature on incest and sexual abuse focuses on the victim and the abuser, parent and child, man and girl. I didn't want to be locked into that dyad where mother and everyone else just disappears. I was scared that that's all that would define the character, and of course it isn't.

My second agenda was the working class family: the lives, loves, interrelationships. Bone lives in a highly violent culture; she watches and absorbs the fighting, the drinking, the shoot-



ing. Her masturbation fantasies eroticize all that butch stuff.

How did you feel, writing *Bone*'s sexual fantasies, knowing that many of the readers will believe her fantasies to be yours?

Some of Bone's fantasies are my fantasies, but that doesn't bother me at all. Fantasies aren't really tied to what we do in the rest of our lives. Her fantasies are about rage and anger—positive forces—better than just lying down and dying, which is the other alternative.

You have said, "I believe in the truth. I believe in its power." Is this why you teach?

Yes. Young writers, especially lesbians and gays, should be held accountable for what they write. They have the responsibility to tell the truth about what they know about the world. I teach them to write complicated fiction; the world is complicated. Young writers need to know that people will read hard stories. They're always encouraged to write easy stuff, romance or humor. The trade press especially expects queers to be clever and witty, or they want freak stories. The queer press wants the clean sex stories; stories that prove we're the same as heterosexuals, that deny there's anything complicated or nasty or even dangerous about sex—stories that say sex is always healthy. In fact, sex is where we act out destructive impulses. There are lots of lesbians in battering relationships, there are lots of obsessive relationships. This is what we should be writing about. The truth.

Did you start writing to tell this particular truth?

I started writing as a child, but I stopped showing my work to people as a teenager. There's nothing more humiliating than being a teenage lesbian and hearing a girl for whom you've written something read the stuff out to a bunch of laughing boys...

I started writing for the public again in 1975 when I went up to Vermont and was taught by Bertha Harris, a wonderful writer. She was very encouraging.

Your first two books were from Firebrand, a lesbian feminist press. What prompted you to move over to the trade press, and Dutton?

I was broke. I'd been sick for a year and had no money. I couldn't afford to sell my work for little or nothing. So I got an

agent. It came down to an auction between Grove and Dutton (and it's sold now to Flamingo, an imprint of Harper Collins, in the UK). I hate the business side. Writing is my passion, my reason for being. I didn't dream of making money.

You sold *Bastard* when it was only half written. Did your editor at Dutton try to influence the book in any way?

The book was bought by Carole DiSanti, who is also Sarah Schulman's editor, but she was fired two weeks after I signed the contract. It took me two and a half years to finish the book, and I went through four editors—three queers and a straight girl. The last one was very enthusiastic about my work, she loved it, and stayed right out of my way. I think she found me intimidating: I'm forty-three, I've been an editor for twenty years. They can't run all over me the way they could a twenty-year-old. Fortunately I live in a community of good writers and editors so I got what I needed in terms of input.

One thing that struck me about the publicity material that came with the book was the description of Aunt Raylene as a "bitter lesbian." I didn't see her character as being bitter.

I agree. It's the take of a straight editor that Raylene is bitter. She's not. She still grieves for what happened with her lover, and hasn't taken another, but I see her as being quite happy with her life. Apart from that I'm pleased and impressed with what Dutton has done with the book, though I don't know how the straight press stay in business. The cover they were going to use was a pickup truck and porch, but the cleanest porch and truck you've ever seen. Sort of Steven Spielberg does Tobacco Road. So I sent them a photograph by Dorothea Lange and said, "There, I want something like this girl's face," and that's what's on the cover now.

Why did you write this book when you did?

I've always wanted to write this story. It's my story. The book is my truth, but *Bone* is not my literal truth. It took me ten years to write this book, ten years to get good enough to write violence and incest in the way I wanted to: in a large and complicated setting. I was frightened I wouldn't get it right.

NICOLA GRIFFITH

QUEEN MUSIC

A FLOOD

of memories came back to me when Freddie Mercury died and I trotted out, dusted off and started listening to some of my old Queen records. They were mostly bittersweet memories, as they reminded me of a time in my life—my late teens and early twenties—when I was still closeted and willing to believe anything anyone told me about why it was wrong to be gay or, worse, assume that someone you admired might be gay. I remember looking at Freddie Mercury's pictures, seeing him live, and thinking how cute he was, but, no, he couldn't possibly be gay, he's a rock star! Just like I refused to believe Elton John might be gay (many was the time when, in a tequila-induced stupor, I was willing to fight to defend his honor!), I couldn't possibly let myself think that good ol' Freddie might be, as well. Glam rock, I used to say, that's all it is, glam rock, they all just like to dress up, it's just a show, but they're just not gay. I let myself believe that all the way into the early 1980's, even when Freddie started affecting the Castro/West Village look—you know, short hair, moustache, tight jeans, etc.

Times have changed. I'm out and I believe less and less each day about what the world tells me and more and more of what I learn for myself. Elton is out, too, talking freely about his new boyfriend in a recent issue of Rolling Stone. Freddie Mercury, unfortunately, is dead of AIDS, the first well-known rock star to succumb to this plague.

Was Mercury gay? Bisexual? Does it matter? At this point, not as much as it once did. What does matter is that he's gone, another one to bite the dust (no pun intended, the phrase just seemed to fit) because a cure is yet to be found. What matters, as well, is that Mercury and Queen have left us an

CONTINUED PAGE 21



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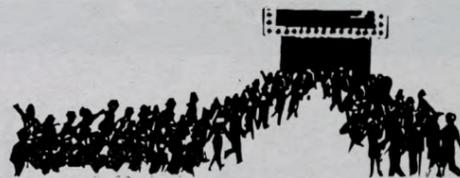
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Dan Gandy
Joan Garner
Dick Rhodes

Tsongas Ticket:
Bob Briggs
Rich Jones
Lynn Manning
Marcia Okula
Charles Rountree

Congressional District #5

Place:
Grady High School
929 Charles Allen Drive
(off 10th Street)
Atlanta, GA

Clinton Ticket*
Mike Koblentz
Denny Davis

Tsongas Ticket:
Carolyn White

Congressional District #7

Place:
The Grand Theater
HWY 41
(north on I-75 to Cartersville)
Cartersville, GA

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Eric Spivey

Tsongas Ticket:
John Greaves

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C A L E N D A R

23 THURSDAY

COPPELIA. A romantic ballet comedy about a life-like doll who creates mayhem for two young lovers. Through May 2. Atlanta Civic Center. 395 Piedmont Ave. 892-3303.

A SALUTE TO AMERICAN CRAFT 1992. An exhibition and sale of contemporary American crafts showcasing the work of 175 juried artists. Fine craft objects from home furnishings to clothing to jewelry. Friday and Saturday also. Atlanta Apparel Mart. 607-7775 for more info.



24 FRIDAY

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. ASO Music Director Yoel Levi leads the orchestra and its concertmaster, Cecylia Arzewski, in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Also featured is Mahler's Symphony No. 6. Tonight and tomorrow night. 8 pm. Symphony Hall. 892-2414.

IMPOTENT SEA SNAKES. There are no words, except maybe — Deandra Peek's brothers gone bad. Trust us. Go see them. Now. Masquerade. 9 pm. 695 North Ave. 577-8178.

25 SATURDAY

LEGAL DELEGATE SELECTION. Show up (that's all you need to do)

and vote for gay and lesbian delegates (you'll know who they are) to the Democratic convention. A lovely way to spend a Saturday morning. See the LEGAL ad on page for more detailed info. 605-7476.

WRFG's ANNUAL FLEA MARKET. Come support the only community-accessible radio station in Atlanta. Buy their stuff and help keep them on the air. 10 am — 8 pm. Little 5 Points Community Center Parking Lot. 523-3471 for more info.

GEORGIA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL. The 7th annual event returns for seven weekends. Take a step back in time to a 16th century England country faire. Shows, food, crafts and more. 10:30 am — 6 pm, rain or shine very weekend through June 7. \$10; \$5

for kids. 964-8575 for more info.

I'M TOO SEXY FOR THIS... A drug and alcohol-free dance and cabaret from Hotlanta Roundup '92. Proceeds will benefit Hotlanta Roundup which is an annual conference sponsored by members of Atlanta's gay and lesbian recovering community. Tula Galleries. 9 pm. Show at 11 pm. 75 Bennett St. 607-1217 for more info.]

CONCERT FOR LIFE. The April 20th London concert to promote AIDS awareness and in honor of Freddie Mercury. Headliners include Elton John, George Michael, Annie Lenox and David Bowie just to name a few. MTV.

O N G O I N G A N D U P C O M I N G

BREAKING THE CODE. Through April 25. Onstage Atlanta presents Hugh Whitmore's play about the life of Alan Turing, the English mathematician who invented the modern computer, broke the Nazi "Enigma" code during WWII, was decorated by Churchill and broken by societal prejudice and homophobia. Thurs.-Sat. 8 pm, Sun. matinee on April 12 at 2:30pm. 420 Courtland St. 897-1802.

THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER. Through April 26. Songs from Webber's mega hits "The Phantom of the Opera", "Evita", "Cats" and "Jesus Christ Superstar", backed by a full on-stage orchestra. Fox Theatre. 249-6400.

WAITING FOR GODOT. Through May 3. Samuel Beckett's classic play about the spiritual wasteland of modern lives. Seven Stages Theatre. 523-7647.

THE LISBON TRAVIATA. Through May 10. Terrence

McNally's off-Broadway hit comedy which centers around two men who adore opera, and listen to the voice of Maria Callas as the background for their lives and relationships with two men who do not share their passion. 14th St. Playhouse. 881-0817.

ROMEO AND JULIET. Through May 16. Atlanta Shakespeare Company present the immortal love story in the Tavern, a re-creation of an Elizabethan theatre and pub. Shakespeare Tavern. 499 Peachtree St.

26 SUNDAY

JOHN HOWELL PARK SPRING PLANTING.

The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project (LAMP) asks your help with the planting of flower beds in the Virginia-Highland park named for gay activist John Howell. Come get your fingernails dirty and earn more about LAMP and the park. Bring something to plant with. Noon. 892-4561 for more info.

SPRING COTILLION DANCE. And that evening celebrate spring again and dance to the sounds of Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington from the Atlanta Blue Notes Orchestra. 7 pm. The Otherside. 1924 Piedmont Rd. 875-5238.

JOAN BAEZ IN CONCERT WITH JACKSON BROWNE. Calling all old hippies who would rather stay home and brood than go out and dance, this is the show for you tonight — if you can stay up this late. 11:30 pm. WGTU. Channel 8.

27 MONDAY

PRINTS AND MULTIPLES BY JONATHAN BOROFKY. Over 50 lithographs and screenprints. Borofsky's well-known image of the archetypal everyman with a briefcase appears in various forms. Exhibit runs through June 19.

High Museum of Art at Ga. Pacific Center. 577-6940.

28 TUESDAY

THE DANCES OF ANGER & INTIMACY. April 28. Dr. Harriet Goldhor Lerner, author of "The Dance of Anger" and "The Dance of Intimacy", presents a one-day workshop on healing ourselves and our relationships. Ga. World Congress Center. (612) 333-2165 to register.

PIANORAMA 1992. An incredible evening with 13 pianists playing music from Bach to Broadway on 13 Steinway Grands. Pianists include Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Gold Medalists Alexei Sultanov (1989) and Jose Feghali (1985). ASO Associate Conductor George Hanson conducts. Van Cliburn will be in attendance. Fox Theatre. 7:30 pm.

FOURTH TUESDAY DINNER PROGRAM. This month's program focuses on "Empowering Women Economically". The panel features a stockbroker, financial planner, tax attorney and others. Castlegate Hotel. 662-4353 for reservations.

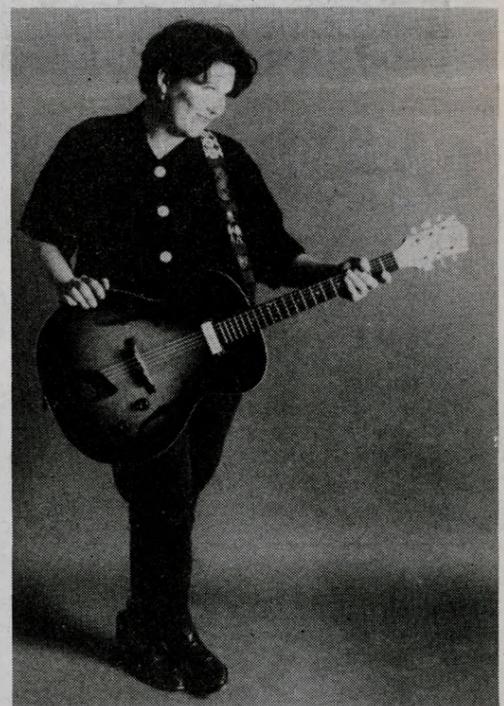
29 WEDNESDAY

DOROTHY ALLISON. The lesbian southern author will read from and sign her latest novel, "Bastard out of Carolina". See story on page 13. 7:30 pm. Charis Books & More. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

RODDY McDOWALL. Child actor, adult actor and photographer of the stars will read from (and sign) the novel which he read for the audiotapes, "Ole Doc Methuselah" by L. Ron Hubbard. 7:30 pm. Oxford Pharr Book Store.



Pictured:
BELOW: Kristen Hall
ABOVE RIGHT: Van Cliburn
ABOVE LEFT: Georgia Renaissance Festival musicians...precious.



GHOSTS. Through May 24. Directed by Chris Coleman, Henrik Ibsen's intense domestic drama about unburying the ghosts of the past. The Alliance Theatre. 892-2414 for tickets. 874-5299

EDWARD POTTHAST: AMERICAN IMPRESSIONIST. Through July 25. An exhibit of the artist who is regarded as one of the major advocates of American impressionism. Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art. 30 Atlanta St. 424-8142.

CAROLE AND BREN. May 1. Chimes and cello, singing bowls and singing voices. Tix available at Charis Books and Phoenix & Dragon. 1st E Church. 8 pm.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND DINNER. May 16. The 5th annual dinner expects over 1,000 attendees. \$100 of the \$150 tickets go directly to HRCF to further the lesbian and gay agenda on a national level. For tickets call (404) 662-4280 or write HRCF, PO Box 8594, Atlanta, GA 30306.

LES MISERABLES. May 13 - 17. The triumphant return of the award-winning musical. Fox Theatre. 249-6400.

HOLLYWOOD HOTS '92. June 6. 7-11 pm. Last year Hollywood Hots raised over \$14,000 for local AIDS organizations. This year's event hopes to raise \$25,000. Morningside Chase Apartments. For more info call 875-3592.

PRIDE PROM '92. June 6. 8 pm. This year's theme "The Cotillion of Fantasy"

is sure to draw a large and diverse crowd. Pride Prom is a fundraiser for Pride '92 so come out and join in. Cash bar. Howard Johnson's Midtown. 662-4533 for more information.

4th ANNUAL LESBIAN AND GAY BUSINESS EXPO. June 13. Over 100 lesbian and gay businesses show their wares. A great opportunity for businesses and consumers alike. 662-4599 for more information.

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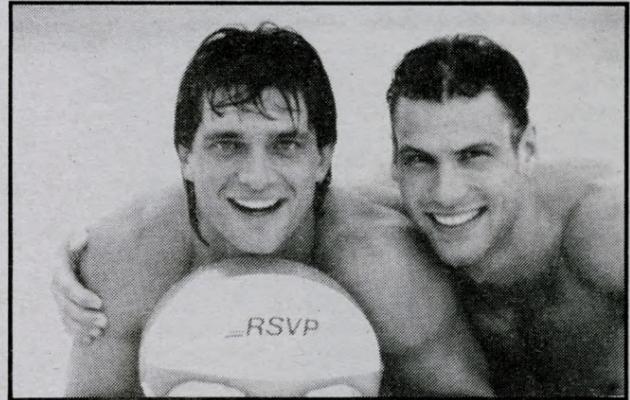
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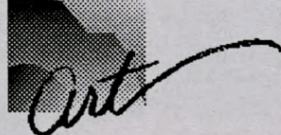
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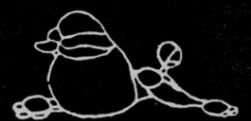
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FILM REVIEW

THE PLAYER

Robert Altman's acidic "The Player" focuses on Griffin Mill (Tim Robbins), a baby-faced cut-throat movie exec whose ears ring with pitches for new films everywhere he goes. Bars, hot tubs, parties, car phones—these are the places Griffin shines.

He's part of today's Hollywood, where movies are conceived in terms of their marketability, not artistic motivation or the desire to turn a profit while entertaining audiences. He also knows to look over his shoulder because the next wave of talent, hungry for his job, doesn't make a sound. He knows because sharks think alike.

In Hollywood, paranoia is the prevailing sanity. And when Griffin begins receiving threatening postcards—seven in two weeks—his insecurity level becomes earsplitting. Already convinced his job is on the line, he becomes obsessed with learning the identity of his tormentor.

He is certain it's some writer whose pitch he shot down in prime bastard fashion. Quickly settling on a suspect, he instantly puts the make on the man's beautiful companion (Greta Scacchi), leaving his own girlfriend to suffer cruelly in a public way.

Part satire of Hollywood and its ever molting presence of dealmakers and sycophants, "The Player" is also a suspense film wickedly sure of its targets. Based on Michael Tolkin's script from his own novel, "The Player" has caused Hollywood execs to work overtime at acting nonchalant in response to its depictions of them. Leave it to the great Robert Altman to serve them up flambé.

Though "The Player's" satire never takes flight into the realm of the truly blasphemous (it lacks the subversive, shock therapy edge of Bunuel or Almodovar), it leaves you satisfied. You sense that Altman and Tolkin have digested how screwed up American cinema has become, and that "The Player" is a fairly complete and accurate portrait of some of the sources responsible for its decline.

Even so, the picture is studded with flaws: it lacks the depth of a great movie, and Altman's use of improvisation,



known for its splendors and for its weaknesses, is again felt here.

What's great about "The Player" is Altman's directing. In tone, it's perhaps the closest in feeling to his loose and unpredictable "The Long Goodbye." But technically, it's a compendium of just about every film he's ever made, and the natural progeny of his own "Nashville."

Multi-track sound recording; perpetual motion camera work; a delicate, jangling score; and carefully rhythm-ed editing, all these combine to serve Altman's bold intention of implicating everything in sight.

There's so much more to be said about this movie: it's wonderfully adult sex scenes that hinge on the emotional and moral vulnerabilities of its characters (rather than our erotic response to the actors). There's also the cynical breadth of its

'90s moral view, perfectly expressed in Tim Robbins and Greta Scacchi's intuitive and graceful performances.

And then there's the intelligent and witty use of more than 60 cameo appearances by some of Hollywood's most powerful stars, ranging from Cher and Julie Roberts to Nick Nolte and Bruce Willis.

"The Player" tells us more about the art of the deal than any film in years. For me, Altman's "Nashville" remains the finest American film of the 1970's. And with "The Player," he reminds Scorsese, Stone and the other fast talkers what technique is all about.

TERRY FRANCIS

Pictured: Whoopi Goldberg as Detective Avery questions Griffin Mill (Tim Robbins).

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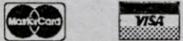
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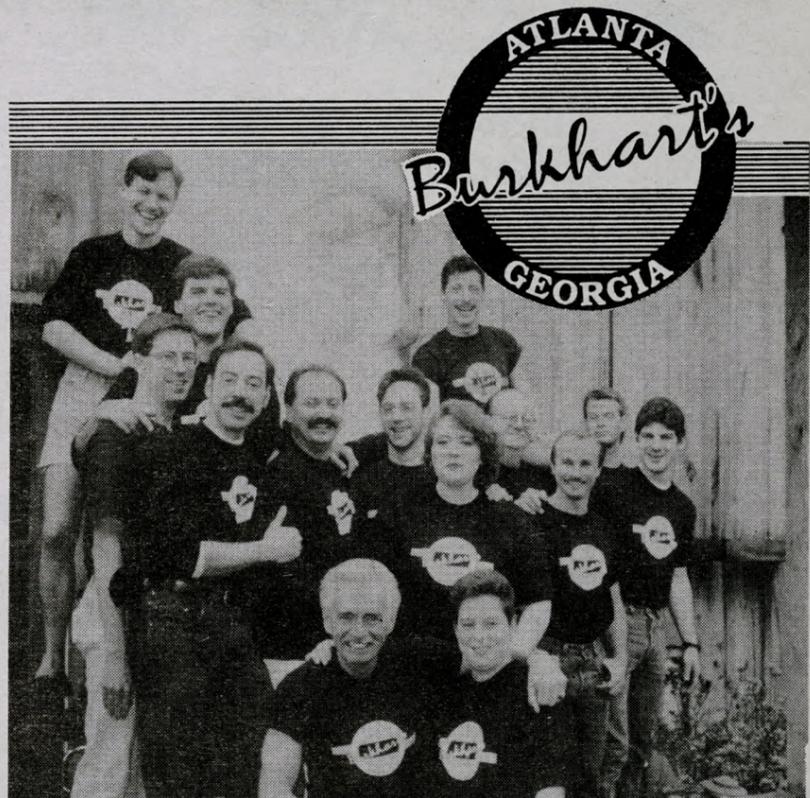
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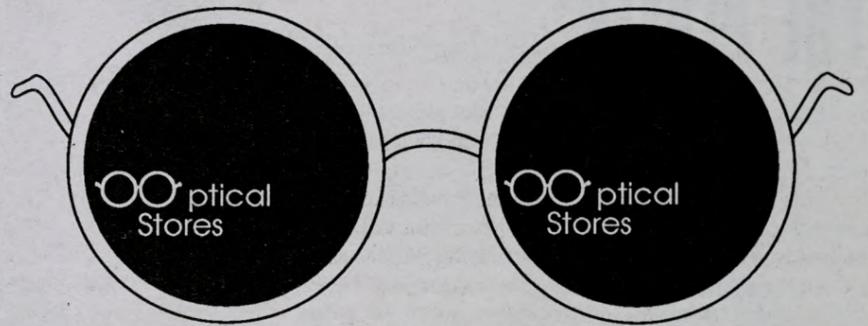
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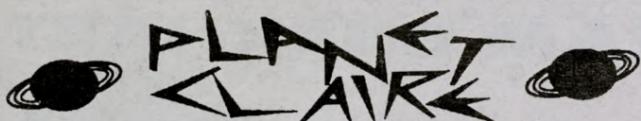
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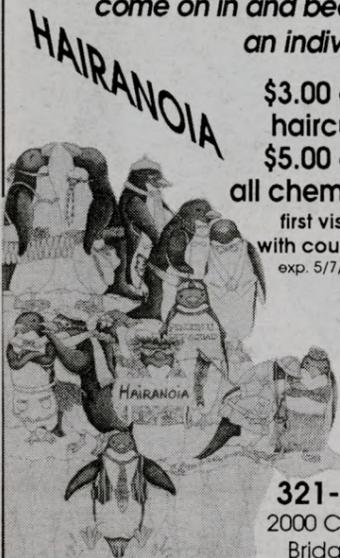
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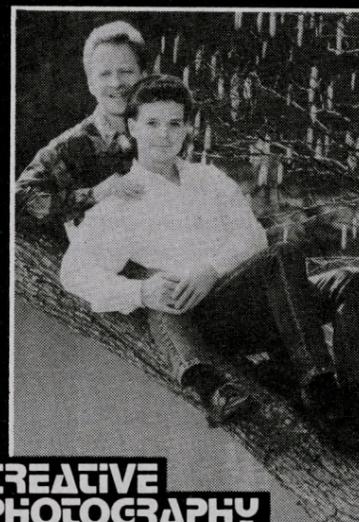


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EAT

Restaurants that find a unique concept and then manage to serve it up both well and reasonably are rare as hen's teeth. **Gobbler's** (157 North Avenue at Piedmont, 872-BIRD) is a good example. It would have been all too easy for the folks here to have stuck to their turkey and chicken-only menu and produced a real dud. A place that uses preprocessed turkey breast for its sandwiches and serves umpteen varieties of deep fried chicken tenders anointed with endless kinds of metallic-tasting sauces as its specialty.

But thanks to some skillful cooking and a sharp eye on a market niche that needed filling, Gobbler's is instead a tiny take-out jewel. Both product and service are fresh tasting and well presented, a real relief when it comes to fast food. True, prices are three to four times the 99 cent range so highly touted just down the street at McDonald's and the utterly abysmal Burger King, but this is good food, served fast, not fat-laden, high salt, stomach corroding junk.

That said, the best thing on the menu is probably the most calorically incorrect, and loaded with salt to boot. But, Gobbler's Reuben (substituting skillfully corned turkey for beef) is a winner in anybody's book. Moist and messy, but still edible without knife and fork, this is deli/comfort food of the highest order at \$2-3 less than you'd pay for an inferior version at most sit-down delis in town.

A number of other variations on this theme are offered—a pastrami melt; a ham and Swiss melt; turkey cordon bleu; turkey Italian sausage with peppers and onion; even a veggie melt—and I'd be willing to bet that each in its own way is as good as the Reuben.

Simpler choices include a really good turkey hoagie anointed with spicy mayo and available with cheddar that would be more worth the calories were it sharper. The meat is fresh-carved, moist and tender, the bread warm and soft, but with a chewy crust. Ditto a thick charcoal-grilled turkey burger on a Kaiser roll. Yum.

If you like your barbecue sweet and smoky, then the chopped turkey sandwich here will send you to turkey heaven.

I'd prefer some vinegar added to the mix and some dill pickles thrown on the same excellent Kaiser roll as the burger, but barbecue taste is very individual. The same is so with chili. Gobbler's variation on which is packed with surprisingly moist ground turkey and slightly chewy kidney beans. The spicing is mild, tomatoes almost nonexistent. It's better than all but the best in town and knock-out served over slightly mealy french fries and topped with melted cheddar.

For dessert try a half pint of Ben & Jerry's, or, if you're watching calories, a refreshing Frozfruit bar.

Good news: a second Gobbler's is said to be in the offing. We can only hope after that more will follow. The world will be a better place indeed when the owners get the concept down pat, and find a way to replace half the world's fast food franchises with this home-grown treasure.

Home Cookin'

You don't have to go to Gobbler's to enjoy the fact that turkey is a relatively inexpensive, low fat (well at least lower than beef, pork or lamb) source of protein.

Turkey producers (most notably Perdue) are marketing a whole line of gobbler-based products that make turkey smart and easy to use. Here are my three favorites and how I generally cook them.

•**Sweet Italian Turkey Sausage.** You can add this Perdue product (once it's been cooked) to almost anything that calls for sausage—like red sauce for pasta—but I prefer it sliced thin and mixed with a vinegar-based hot potato salad. For variety, use tarragon vinegar with some sugar added. And/or throw in some capers. To make a one-dish meal, saute a bunch of onions and green pepper until they are limp

and add to your potato-sausage mixture. A single two-ounce sausage per serving adds plenty of flavor and very few calories or fat.

These tasty little guys are not bad as a side-dish with eggs, but their low fat content tends to make them dry, so they're best used in dishes where moisture is added.

•**Turkey Breakfast Sausage.** Like its cousin above, this product, because of its low fat and moisture content, is best used as part of another dish. My fave is to saute pieces of the sausage with mushrooms, add chopped tomatoes (canned or fresh) and then scramble it with eggs; eggbeaters if you are watching your cholesterol. Serve on a couple of pieces of toast. It's the one way that I know to make egg substitutes palatable.

Ground turkey is also available spiced for sloppy-joes and as taco filling—neither one of which floats my boat. Plain ground turkey is a good substitute for ground beef—witness Gobbler's chili—as long as you don't cook it unto sawdust-like death.

•**Turkey Breast—with or without bone and/or skin.** Marinate one of these (preferably a half) in some orange juice with fresh tarragon and garlic added for a couple of hours, and then cook quickly on the grill. Or smoke it for an hour or two. Slice and serve it along with grilled veggies, potato salad, pasta salad, whatever you would eat with grilled chicken. (Add some white wine to the marinade and reduce over high heat for a simple sauce.) Stash left-over turkey in the fridge or freezer—it makes great sandwiches. Or serve it atop a bed of mixed greens, drizzled with dressing. My cat loves the left-over schnibbles better than sushi.

This costs about half as much per pound as the turkey breast that you buy at the deli, has only a fraction of the salt, and tastes worlds fresher. It's not easy to find half breasts with the skin still on, but they will be tastier and more moist. Recent studies indicate that cooking poultry with the skin intact adds little fat and few calories—as long as you don't eat the skin.

GARY KAUPMAN



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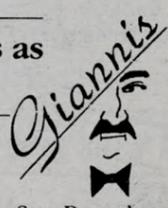
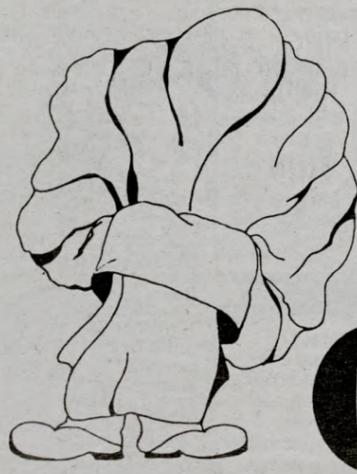
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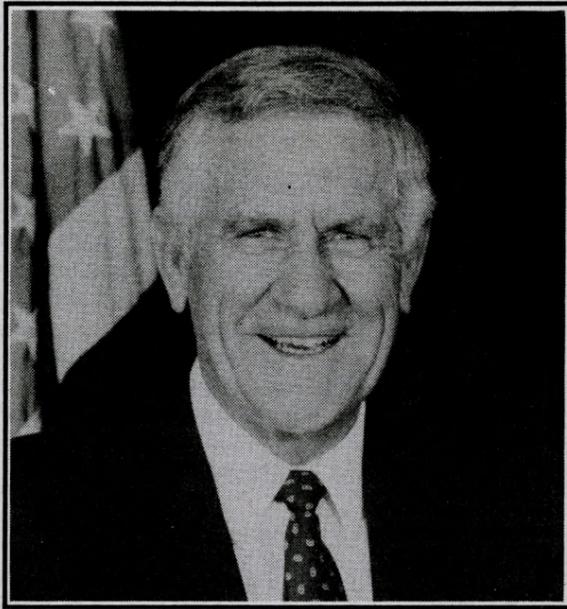
Quote of the Week: "There've been too few girls in my life to give an example with a girl!" (emphasis added). Those are the words of Sean Patrick Flannery (26 year-old star of the TV series "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles") in response to a question from Parade Magazine's Lynn Minton. The question? "Can you give an example of a time when that [showing your soul to another person] happened, maybe with a girl?" What Dish really hates about interviews in the mainstream media is that they never pick up on hints like this one from Mr. Flannery. Or maybe they do and just never print the answers.

Excuse Me?: A Gallup survey (commissioned by none other than the Halls Cough Drop folks) has determined that "at one time or another, more than half (55%) of the respondents had (Goddess forbid!) experienced an embarrassing cough attack in public." The press release that informs us of this devastating statistic goes on to tell us that, in order to quell such attacks of unpleasantness, the Halls folks have for some years now been giving out Halls Mentholyptus Cough Suppressant Tablets (more than 16 million of the tasty little suckers) to symphony-goers across the country—nearly a million right here in Atlanta. Assuming that these things cost, say, two cents each that's \$320,000 spent so folks who have enough bucks to buy a symphony ticket don't have to endure hacking with their Haydn. This is, no doubt, a public service, but Dish wonders just how many meals (or nights of shelter) that same \$320,000 could have purchased for homeless folks or PWAs.

In The Eye Of The Beholder: The House's version of Jesse Helms, William Dannemeyer (R-CA) is busy on the West Coast spewing forth the same type of homophobic ooz that the erstwhile NC senator oozes out on our end of the country. In this latest round, Bill has sent out an "Urgent National Poll on Homosexuals in the Republican Party," in which he chides California Republican Senator John Seymour for his outreach to gay Republicans, whom Dannemeyer equates with "militant homosexual activists." Dannemeyer, who is (surprise) running for Seymour's Senate seat this year, urges his readers to return his poll without delay and with money to oppose "Seymour's

Dish

THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN TELLING THE TRUTH AND TALKING TRASH



plan to recruit militant homosexual activists into the Republican Party." We should be so lucky.

Sodomy Submissions: Enterprising Chicagoite Shelley Schneider-Bello was one of the several hundred folks who braved opprobrium and chill winds to demonstrate against Georgia's unjust sodomy law in January 1990. As a result of her experiences during that demo Shelley is coordinating an art project entitled "SODOMY: The Law is the Perversion." The

work will include a "triptych of photograms" and "a book containing the historical background of sodomy laws in the USA." Writers and visual artists who have work dealing with the sodomy laws and reform are encouraged to submit their work to Ms. Schneider-Bello at 2138 W. Pierce, Chicago, IL 60622 prior to May 15, 1992. Call her at 312/235-3388 for particulars.

Never Say Die: A regular reader wrote recently to inform us of the k.d. lang info line (604/251-3097) wherein one can get all the latest scoop (but not much poop) on the music and meanderings of many a lesbian's fave vocalist.

KITH Me You Fool: While we're on star stuff, fans of HBO's The Kids in the Hall (9:30pm Wed. and 11:30pm on Sat.) may want to know about a new KITH fan club that has started up in Toronto. For a \$5 money order you get a genuine autographed 8x10 picture of this whacked-out bunch and a bimonthly newsletter packed with gossip, interviews, tour dates and all sorts of other stuff that makes groupies moist. Send your name, address and \$\$\$ to: The Kids in the Hall Fan Club, 2 Bloor Street West, Suite 100-277, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3E2, Canada. A note that accompanied this info claims, "I don't know of a PC queer household which hasn't hosted a KITH-viewing party..." Dish (who doesn't have cable) has never been invited to one; if you are planning on throwing such a bash, please send us an invite.

(NOT) Anything Goes: It's hard to imagine that Cole Porter wouldn't have gotten a chuckle or two from watching KITH, but its likely that the prolific gay playwright wouldn't have been too happy over a recent decision from the group that owns the rights to his "Anything Goes." Tams-Witmark Music Library has refused to grant rights for a production of the show to producer Donald Shea of NYC because he wants to cast a man in the role of Reno Sweeny, whose gender is not specified in the script. Actually Shea has already mounted one production in which the evangelist-cum-nightclub singer (who falls in love with a man) was played by a man; the idea worked so well that Shea planned a national tour. A district court judge sided with Tams-Witmark. Shea says he will appeal the court's ruling based on NYC's anti-discrimination laws. Ethel Merman had no comment.

April 23-April 29, 1992

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful and productive Earth Day. Uranus and Neptune in conscientious and corporate Capricorn are telling us that We Are the Solution. We can turn the world around with our genius, innovation and commitment to our highest vision. Let's cooperate for healthier and greener planet.

ARIES, if you are feeling lonely or isolated, this is an excellent time to develop new and meaningful relationships using the powerful harmonic energies of Venus now in your 1st house. Extend yourself gently and relax. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**, dear **TAURUS**, how is life going for you? Look around at all you have to be grateful for and let your friends know how much you love and appreciate them. Dear friend **GEMINI**, pack your bags and head for the airport! It's time to fly with Mercury going forward again, not straight, mind you, but onward to exciting times.

CANCER, you may want to buckle up with Uranus and Neptune going retrograde this week. Your close, personal and passionate

STARSIGNS

relationships may go through more changes for awhile, requiring extra patience and care on your part. **LEO** enthusiasm, courage and creativity is needed everywhere right now. The leaders of tomorrow are us today. Tag, we're it and we really do have what it takes with a small measure of Leo courage. Dear patient **VIRGO**, are you getting tired of irresponsible people who don't take very good care of themselves and leave you holding their responsibility? Let them know how you feel, gently and kindly, but definitely.

LIBRA, this is the perfect time to improve the quality of your close, personal relationships or begin to create new ones with depth and meaning. Remember to take in the beauty and energy of Spring. Dear **SCORPIO**, if you're feeling the least bit worn out

or run down, take a day off to do whatever pleases you the most. Your immune system may need some support, too! **SAGITTARIUS**, if you don't get out of town for a few days, your friends may buy a bus ticket for you. Seriously, if you've lost your sense of humor, it's time for a break.

All **CAPRICORNs** know it is essential to have our priorities well-defined. However, it is also very important to revise them periodically so they relate to our current life situation. Just ask the Democrats and Republicans. **AQUARIUS**, you now have the perfect opportunity to share your talents and make new friends at the same time. Get involved with a political candidate or social cause that is important to you. **PISCES**, with the Sun in the fixed Earth sign Taurus, you may feel more grounded than usual, so use this time to develop special projects and share more of your thoughts and feelings.

MARY BAILEY RULE is a professional astrologer who specializes in personal, relationship and career interpretation. She can be reached at 264-6219.

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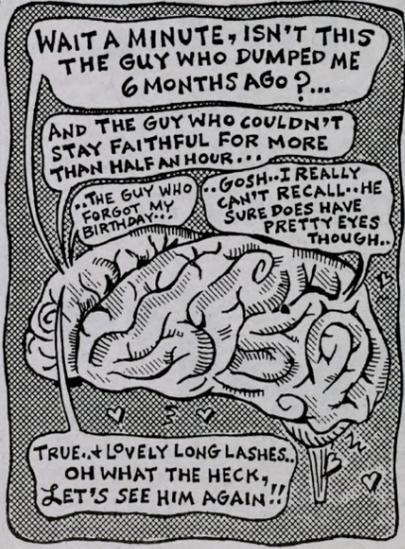


RULE #1B: AS PATHETIC AS YOU LOOK, THAT'S HOW TANNED & PUMPED & SNAPPILY DRESSED HE'LL LOOK...

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CONCERT PREVIEW

IF THE Goddess ever decides to do a concert tour, she will probably invite Carole and Bren as an opening act. Their music lifts the spirit and certainly puts one in the proper frame of mind for supernatural communication.

If you can't wait for The Goddess to go on the road, you can catch Carole and Bren at the First Existentialist Congregation on Friday, May 1st at 8:00. It is appropriate that they appear after Walpurgis Night, a witch's night second only to Halloween. It is a time when the world spirit is closest to the material. Traditionally, the first five days of May are a time for affirmation, and delight in the returning fecundity of the greening earth.



The music of this duo brings joy and a certain magic and peace. It is a homecoming concert for Carole Etzler who once lived in Atlanta and shared her musical visions on a more frequent basis. She now lives in Vermont and has teamed up with Bren Chambers, a classically trained cellist who also plays chimes, piano, and Celtic harp.

Their music ranges from ballads with a touch of folk music to "new age classic" along the lines of Kay Gardner's "Mooncircles." The unearthly drone of Tibetan singing bowls and the use of the Aztec drum gives some pieces a primitive, tribal quality that makes it seem to pass from song into ritual.

Carole and Bren are touring promoting their new album, "Rainbows in My Mind," but hopefully they will include selections from Carole's first two albums, "Sometimes I Wish" and "Womanriver Flowing On." They contain songs that have become classics in the feminist movement.

Tickets are available at Charis Books and More in Little Five Points and at the Phoenix and Dragon in Sandy Springs. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. First Existentialist Church, 410 Candler Park Drive.

GALE REEDER
Photo by Irene Young

QUEEN MUSIC (cont'd)

incredible body of work to enjoy and appreciate, among them Classic Queen. Released shortly after Mercury's death, this compilation deals primarily with the band's post-1975 single releases, including 1976's "Bohemian Rhapsody." What's nice about this collection is that it features some of the band's more mature, soul-searching pieces, some of which seem somewhat prophetic in retrospect, "Who Wants to Live Forever" and "The Show Must Go On" among them. If you're interested in knowing that Queen continued to make great music all throughout the 1980's, treat yourself to Classic Queen.

What matters, as well, is that the show must go on, and that some of Mercury's closest friends are using this time of mourning to celebrate Freddie's life and to try to increase the awareness about AIDS among rock fans worldwide. The Freddie Mercury Tribute: Concert for Life will be held on Monday, April 20 (Easter Monday in England) at London's Wembley Stadium. Amidst all the speculation of who will be appearing, the following artists have committed to appear: David Bowie, Roger Daltrey, Def Leppard, Extreme, Guns 'N Roses (who probably won't sing "One in a Million"), Ian Hunter, Elton John, Annie Lennox, London Community Gospel Choir, Metallica, George Michael, Robert Plant, Mick Ronson, Seal, Spinal Tap, U2 (who will appear via satellite), Paul Young, and Zucchero. Queen's John Deacon, Brian



May and Roger Taylor will perform, as well. The show, which sold out in three hours, will be broadcast throughout the world to an estimated half a billion people in over 70 countries. In the United States, the Fox network will be broadcasting two hours of the

show the same day, and MTV will broadcast the entire show the following weekend.

All profits from the show will go to help fund AIDS projects worldwide. The Fox Broadcasting Company will be donating all revenues generated by the broadcast to national AIDS charities and local AIDS care hospices designated by the local Fox and MTV affiliates in each market.

KENNETH J. ALTMAN
Pictured: Freddie Mercury in 1978

Options You Can Live With

There is no cure for HIV. But there are treatment options. The *AIDS/HIV Treatment Directory*, published by the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), is a guide to the full range of approved and experimental treatments. A one-year subscription to the *Directory* (4 issues) is only \$30.00. To subscribe, or to make a contribution, send your check to AmFAR. Your options may be greater than you think.

 American Foundation for AIDS Research
1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036

People with HIV disease who cannot afford a paid subscription may obtain a complimentary copy by calling the National AIDS Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-458-5231.

KENT WILSON

Age: 35

How Long in Atlanta: 7 1/2 years

Relationship Status: single

Last Book Read: "Dark Fall"

by Dean R. Koonzt

Pet Peeve: Bigotry in all forms

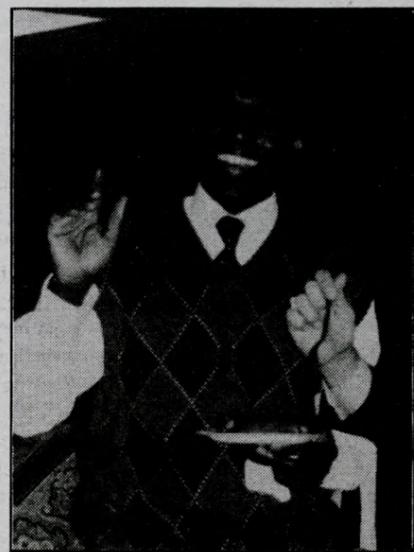
A little over a year ago, Kent Wilson was feeling depressed over the demise of his relationship with his significant other. "I was Donna Reed," he laughs "co-dependent and making sure everyone else was fine except me." In an effort to overcome his depression a friend suggested volunteer work. "And that's how I got in theatre—by volunteering for SAME." And the rest, as they say, is history. Kent went on to play several significant roles for SAME and the scene-stealing character Dee in the Actor's Express production of "The Harvey Milk Show."

"I'm kind of a computer nerd at work, so acting is my alter ego," he comments. "I become a different person after I leave work," he laughs. "I put in my earring, wear clothes that are an expression of me and go off to the theatre."

While Kent has had no formal acting training, his ability was apparent to a Director from Actor's Express who saw him in a SAME production. "I was asked to audition for the Harvey Milk Show and landed the part of Dee, a drag queen who kind of represented all the drag queens who supported Harvey." He adds, "it was an interesting role because the drag aspect wasn't emphasized, the character was." Ken currently is a stage technician and in charge of sound for SAME's current production of "The Lisbon Traviata."

Kent was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. He talks about being a gay child and a person of color with both humor and pathos. His mother, he recalls, sold ball gowns. "I would go to the shop with her, and she would point at the drag queens and the prostitutes purchasing gowns and explain to me what they were—but it was like they were in another universe that would never touch me."

Kent feels that the straight black community has several different avenues of denial. "There is a double standard that exists—it's okay for men to occasionally fool around with other men as long as they are married—but if



you're gay—it's considered sick and deviant." After being raised as an only child by his stepfather and mother and having an "uneventful" childhood, Kent decided to pursue an education at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Kent is recovering from his break-up and is adjusting to single life. "I was so used to interacting as a couple that I didn't know how to relate to people as a single entity." Kent relinquished a house in Jonesboro in order to move to a Woodland Hills Apartment with two roommates. While painful, he says the separation has forced him "to get to know myself better as a person."

He works as an administrative specialist for Wachovia bank. "I've been out at work from day one, and there have never been any problems in the seven years I have been at Wachovia." The bank is also aiding in his education at Clayton State College, where Kent is pursuing a degree in programming.

Kent is also out to his family, "but it is not a comfortable acknowledgment," he admits. "It's something we don't talk about." But his spirit remains undaunted. "One day they will realize that being gay is only one part of the whole of me, that I am a human being as well."

With his humor and insight, it is no surprise that Kent brings so much to his acting and that audiences love him.

I A N G I N S B U R G

IN THE LIFE

Black and White Men Together

Type of Organization: Social/Support

Year Founded: 1981

Number of Members: 120

Recent Accomplishments: Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Future Events: New Members Mixer, May 7, 8:00 p.m. (call for location and directions)

Contact Information: Post Office Box 1334, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1334, (404) 892-BWMT

If you think Black and White Men Together is a place for men to meet men of other races, you're right. More often than not, it's an even better place for both black men and white men to meet friends of other races. "Some of us joke that we've been members for years and never dated anyone we've met at BWMT," says longtime member Jim Hoff. In fact, it may be the only organization in town that actually attains racial parity at many functions.

Black and White Men Together has a very active calendar. They have weekly rap groups led by a different member each week on vari-

ous topics. They also hold monthly potlucks at members' homes and, in addition, get together for a variety of other events, including eating out, movies, workshops and seminars, out-of-town trips, and, this month even a pajama party. The newest activity sponsored by BWMT is their monthly spring mixers designed to introduce "the whole spectrum of Atlanta's black and white gay male interracial community" to BWMT.

But BWMT is more than a social organization. Hoff remembers Judd Herndon as a founding member of BWMT and instrumental, with other members, in helping to stop racial discrimination at Atlanta's gay bars. Herndon and other BWMT members were "in part, responsible for the establishment of a city ordinance prohibiting multiple carding," a practice that was often used to keep blacks out of the bars, according to Hoff. BWMT is part of a national organization, the National Association of Black and White Men Together, which was founded in 1980. "Within a few months," says Hoff, "there were chapters from coast to coast." The national BWMT also founded the National Task Force for AIDS Prevention, "the only AIDS organization dealing with AIDS in the people of color community," according to Hoff.

D E B B I E F R A K E R

MOST REMODELING

projects increase value. If a man's (or woman's) home is indeed his (or her) castle, then a lot of Americans enjoy remodeling their moats and towers.

That's definitely the news according to the Census Bureau, which reported that Americans spent a whopping \$37.5 billion on alterations and improvements for single-family homes in 1987 alone. Those same fix-up happy Americans purchased an additional \$7.3 billion worth of furnaces, kitchen cabinets, siding, bathroom sinks and tubs, and other goods and materials of remodeling.

Interestingly enough, these figures add up to more than a third of the \$114 billion spent on building new single-family homes in America during the same year, as one expert pointed out.

Of course, remodeling can mean many different kinds of changes in one's home environment; everything from the inexpensive—a phosphorescent lighting fixture in an entryway—to the expensive—a skylight flooding that same entryway with sunlight. Improvements—just another name for remodeling in many cases—can be as downright practical and straight-forward as insulation or as extravagant and luxurious as a marbled master bath.

Whatever the project, it's an indisputable fact that American homeowners are jumping on the remodeling bandwagon.

And why shouldn't they when industry analysts observe that remodeling costs are lower than they've been in a decade. Estimates are that a kitchen makeover billed at \$30,000 in 1989 will probably cost only \$21,000 in today's slumping markets in such cities as Buffalo, Boston, Atlanta and Philadelphia. In many of these areas, contractors are cutting their profit margin just to stay alive.

Even with lower prices for remodeling, many homeowners gasp upon seeing a contractor's estimate for carving a new half bath out of a closet or adding a third bedroom. Of course, they're soon soothed by the fact that the proposed improvement will increase the value of their home at resale.

But is it true that all home improvement/remodeling projects pay for themselves when a home finally arrives on the resale market? Leading experts in the real estate industry answer in a resounding no. They point out that many additions and extravagances such as swimming pools "may actually reduce the value of a property." They add that there are other factors which must be taken into account when a homeowner considers a remodeling project.

Among the first considerations for a homeowner embarking upon a remodeling project is the length of time that they plan to remain in the home. Where there is a real possibility that your home will be sold within a year or two, experts advise against any commitment to a large remodeling project. They point out that only a few major improvements pay back 100 cents on the dollar.

The issue of personal taste also comes into play when

H O M E



considering a major remodeling project. In fact, the axiom is "the more highly personal a project; the chancier the return on the investment." Energy-efficient projects such as adding a "sun room" are usually profitable while a black lacquer kitchen with yellow high-gloss walls may not be a positive selling-point even though the dollar investment was \$10,000.

As always with any real estate, the issue of location is tantamount to resale price. No matter what extent home improvements are made, there are always limits upon what a home within any given neighborhood will sell for. Real estate analysts point out that in an area where the houses range from \$100,000 to \$125,000, the resale price of not higher than \$150,000 can be obtained no matter how extensive and costly the home improvements.

In fact, homeowners should be aware, real estate writer Susan E. Goodman comments, that "a general rule is that you are not likely to recover costs that raise your home's value to more than 20% above similar neighborhood properties."

Avoiding highly personalized and extravagant remodel-

ing is probably wise, unless the homeowner is certain at the same location for a considerable length of time in order to enjoy the financial investment. Whereas half-court basketball setups may not be appreciated by a prospective buyer who hates sports, practically everyone admires a modernized kitchen. Experts predict that the estimated recovery of investment for kitchen remodeling averages from 75 to 100%.

But that high a return even on kitchen remodeling depends entirely upon a wisely budgeted investment. Since it's so easy to spend a small fortune to renovate the average kitchen—*Remodeling Contractor*, a specialty trade publication, reports the current average expenditures ranges for major kitchen remodeling at \$19,500 to minor kitchen remodeling at \$7,300—it's essential, experts say, that a kitchen should not represent more than 10% of a home's sale value.

Adding a second bathroom is, however, one of the most profitable remodeling investments, according to the experts. They estimate that on an average initial cost of \$8,000, the return is between 120 to 130%.

An old bathroom in bad condition is also a smart remodeling move. If you're planning to add spas and whirlpools, however, these luxuries may only be realized by your personal pleasure.

After the addition of a second bathroom, a fireplace can also bring up to 130% return on a remodeling investment, despite the fact that they waste more heat than they provide.

On the other hand, there may be a myth about improvements when it comes to additional rooms. Many experts say that this is a chancy decision and can bring only a 40 to 75% return on the investment depending on the particulars.

Despite what might seem at first a whimsical purchase, attached greenhouses frequently bring a 90% return so long as they're not too elaborately-designed. Well-placed decks and patios, almost anywhere in the United States, have surprisingly brought an average return of 50 to 75% on the sale value of a home.

Choosing home improvements and remodeling shouldn't be entirely based upon its impact upon the resale value. The enjoyment brought about from upgrading a home cannot be denied. Moreover, every home improvement project doesn't have to mean an unspeakable outlay of money.

Goodman recommends a few small ways to create major visual changes in a home's appearance without a major investment of capital. These include: (1) brightening a home by updating some lighting fixtures and adding others; (2) painting always makes a room look cleaner, bright, more inviting; (3) older kitchen cabinets can be modernized with a sense of style with new hardware, and; (4) stenciling a border around the edge of wood floors and sealing it with varnish can renew the life of any room.

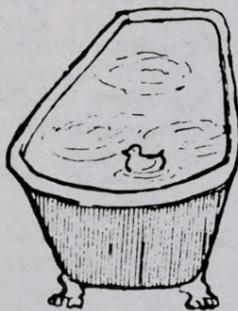
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HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUPS IN CARROLLTON You don't have to deal with HIV/AIDS alone. All groups are held weekly- confidential and free of charge. **PWA/HIV Support Group**, call 214-8054. **Friends & Family of PWA/HIV**, call Margo Barnard at 832-9866. **AIDS Bereavement Group**, call Pick Conner at 836-6505 (days) or 834-8195 (eve).

AIDS HOTLINE FOR WOMEN- 888-9991 - new project of the Feminist Women's Health Ctr. Learn how HIV is transmitted, testing locations, how to clean your "works," how to use condoms, dental dams or anything about HIV and AIDS. Trained phone counselors 5:30-9:30pm Mon-Fri, 10:30am-2pm Saturdays. Caller anonymity assured. To volunteer call Tonia at 874-7551.

SPIRITUAL HEALING CLINIC for HIV/PWA, caregivers, loved ones. First Tues. eve. each mo. Facilitators trained & certified. Based on Brazilian spiritual healing clinics. For res. & info call 634-9693 or 256-9144.

Two weekly HIV support groups based on 12-step (but NOT recovery programs) available at First Metropolitan Community Church, 800 N. Highland Ave., NE, Tues. and Thurs. at 8:00pm. 872-2246 Tues-Fri. 1-5pm.

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 OUTREACH, INC. 346-3922.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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

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)

AID Atlanta's housing program needs donations of good used furniture. If you have furniture to donate, please call Sherry. 872-0600 (5.12)

200 Announcement

YARD SALE

to help repay the debt left by last year's National Lesbian Conference, May 16th, 9am - 6pm at 1439 North Highland Ave., the site of last year's successful sale held by ALACC. So remember us as you do your spring cleaning. Call 586-0814 for more info or to make a donation. Nothing larger than armchairs please. (5.12)

"**HOLISTIC SCIENCE FAIR**" April 25 (every 3rd Saturday thereafter) Little Five Points Com. Ctr., 1083 Austin Ave. NE; 10-6pm; Info (404) 762-6196. (5.9)

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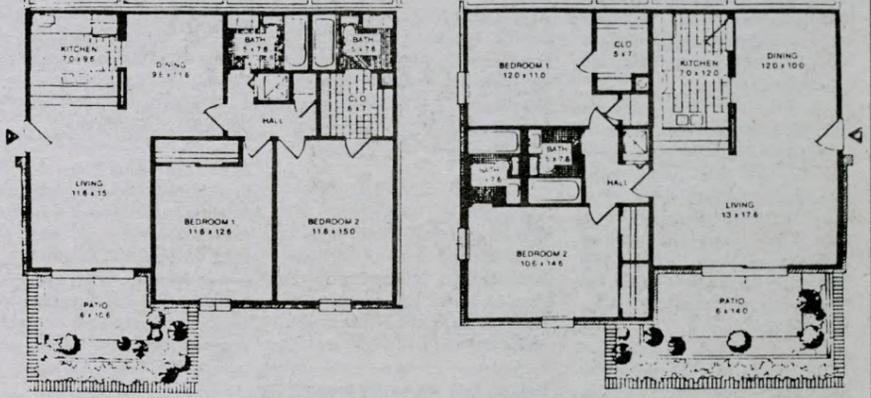
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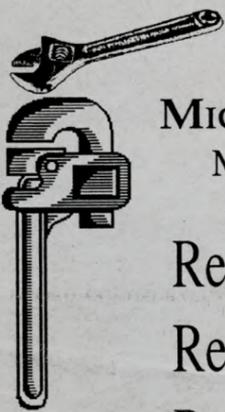
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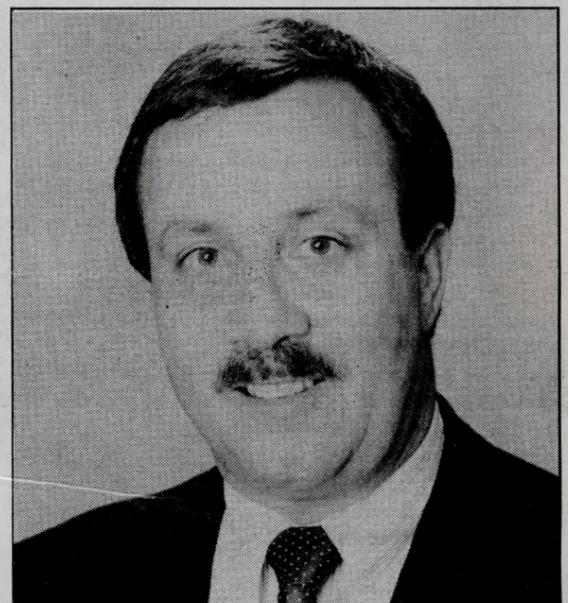
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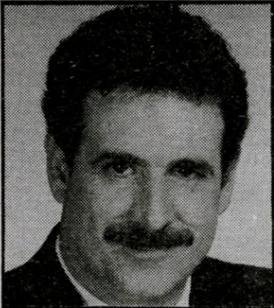
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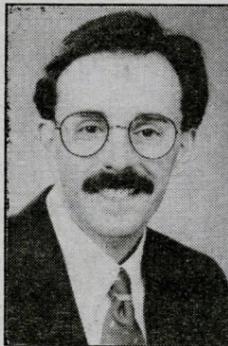




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GWF 31. Me- slim, very attractive, physically fit, books, music, movies, beaches, independent, sometimes professional but not mainstream. You- attractive, slim, non-smoker, active, feminine, independent, comfortable w/ sexuality. No drugs, Bi's. Let's talk! ☎ 50001.

Do you like walking in the rain on hot summer nights? Do you like romantic dinners? Not into drugs or bar scene? Call me. GWF, 26, looking to meet GWF between 21-? for friendship, possible romance. ☎ 50003.

Good-looking Passionate Gentle Woman DESIRES: Feminine Woman for Dating. If you're Funloving, Lighthearted & an Attractive Dresser Who Appreciates an Adventure, Write me. My response is Assured. I'm mid 30's; my Cabin is a few hours from Your City. Photo/details to SV Box 50014; 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (5.9)

WANTED: Passionate, intelligent woman, mid 30's, of a literary bent, somewhat butch, unafraid of commitment. Eccentricity a plus. I'm 34, beautiful enough, bright as hell, very dulled out by Jane Doe after Jane Doe. Call me if you're not neurotic. ☎ 50008.

Progressive, good-looking, sensible, kind, professional GWF, 35, seeks same; ages 30-42, for friendship and possibly romance. Seeking a woman who is confident, attractive, honest and has a kind heart. No drugs, boozers, or smokers. ☎ 50002.

GWF, 22, very professional seeks GWF for friendship, fun, and possible relationship. I am tired of all of the games. So you have to be serious! No bisexuals, no drugs! ☎ 50010.

Wanted: Virago. Not Virgo. Virago. If you know what this means without running to a dictionary first, then you're the one for me. ☎ 50007.

GWF, 32, independent, intelligent, attractive, sincere. Enjoy outdoors, music, theatre, art, travel, good wine, and quiet evenings at home. If you share my tastes and are ready to engage in a loving and trusting relationship, Call—tell me about yourself. ☎ 50006.

1703 TV/TS

TV/TS, she-male, Feminine guy or aggressive lady sought by masculine black male (40 years) for first experience. Am disease-free, professional and average looking (+). Serious replies only. Possible relationship. Let's at least talk. ☎ 50005.

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1700 Voice Connection

1701 Men

GWM seeks Male submissives. You will live with me and for me. ☎ 50004.

Arkansas Tag. Tennessee native, Midtown resident. Met on 3-24-92 at Avondale Mall in Macy's - got lost in traffic. Please write me today at SV 50015, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (5.9)

GWM couple seeks 3rd guy for hot fun and games. Us: 30, 5'9", 185 lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes - 36, 5'9", 185 lbs, brown hair, green eyes. We'd love to hear from you. ☎ 50012.

GWM, 32, attractive, tall & interesting with dark short hair & moustache seeking an attractive well-endowed GBM for fun & excitement. Age not an issue and all responses will be answered. ☎ 50011.

Sensitive GBM, bottom, 26, 5'10" seeks attractive GWM, 19-39, TOP, well endowed and romantic. For friendship, maybe more. No fems or bar flies. ☎ 50009.

1702 Women

GWF, 30, 5'8", attractive, intelligent, honest. Seeking same. Interests include art, movies, travel, conversation. No drugs, no children, no bisexuals. Seeking confident, self-assured woman. Friendship first, possible relationship. Call and tell me about yourself. ☎ 50013.

...into team sports, skydiving, motorcycles, classic movies, and Twin Peaks reruns. Seeking someone who is similarly inclined for good times. Call today and tell me about yourself. ☎ 12345

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A simple instruction sheet will be mailed which will enable you to record your spoken message AT NO COST.

TO RESPOND

Check each week's paper for ads which interest you. Choose ad(s) with the symbol ☎ and call 1-900-454-2466. The system will guide you to the recorded message of your choice. Listen to the spoken ad and then leave your response.

Cost to you will be \$1.29 per minute charged to your phone bill.

AD OF THE WEEK

GWM, 32, attractive, tall & interesting with dark short hair & moustache seeking an attractive well-endowed GBM for fun & excitement. Age not an issue and all responses will be answered. ☎ 50011.

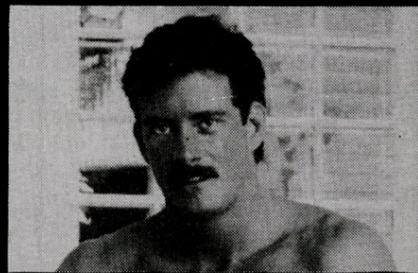
DRAWING, WEEK TWO: Here's the **second finalist** in Southern Voice's **VOICE CONNECTION** drawing. Each week for six weeks one **VOICE CONNECTION** ad will be chosen as a finalist. Drawing for the grand prize will be held on May 28.

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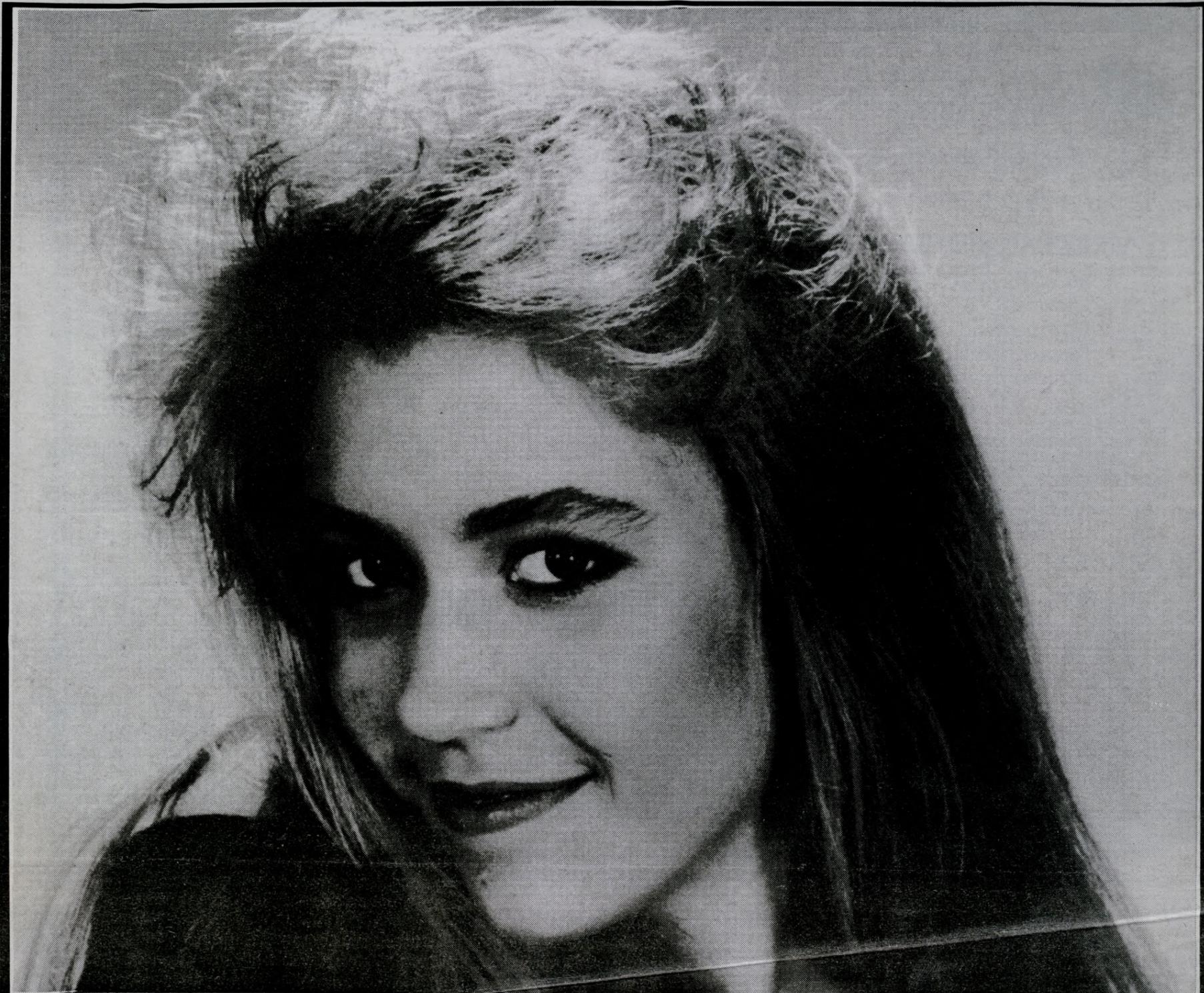
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