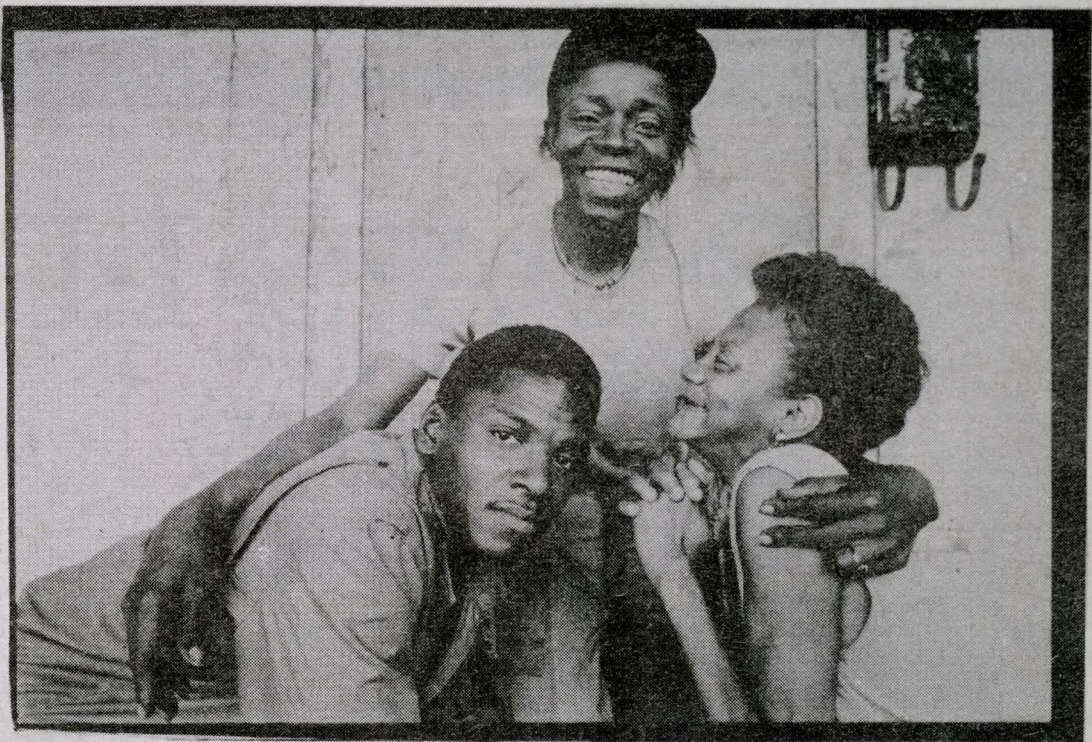


S O U T H E R N

VOICE

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MAY 14 - MAY 20 / 1992

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It's 10 am on a weekday morning. Curtis builds a fire in a garbage barrel for the morning coffee. People come out of their homes, squinting at the morning light. They close doors behind them, doors that latch perfectly. They spill into wide streets filled with dirt and gravel. Chelsea, the dog, roots around for scraps. Somewhere a pair of cats searches out breakfast.

This is morning in Hutsville, a "homeless" community under the Techwood viaduct, in the shadow of the Georgia Dome. And this is the gay neighborhood of Hutsville, up on a slight hill centered between two "straight" neighborhoods.

Today is a little different from most mornings—a city of Atlanta sanitation crew is bulldozing Hutsville's woodpile about 20 yards away. Curtis is animated.

"They come to take all the wood," he says. "All the wood. You tell me. How we supposed to cook with no wood? How we gonna cook?"

"They say it looks like trash to them," he continues. "But it's our wood. How we gonna cook?"

Other residents are nodding and talking in agreement, but no one has any ideas of what to do. With the bulldozers droning in the background, life in Hutsville goes on.

Hutsville isn't supposed to be here. The city has served warning that they will be moved to make way for a parking garage entrance. But so far, they are still waiting; these people who will tell you they are not homeless.

"We're a community just like anybody else's community," says Dale Mines, a four year resident. "It's just that when you moved into yours the homes were already built and you had to go into your pocket and pay to stay there."

"Us," he continued, "when we got here, there was nothing and we had to go into our muscles and build."

And build they did. Out of scraps from the dumps of the Dome construction and whatever else is available, they have built about 20 huts that house over 70 people.

"There's always 72 people," says Mines. "All the time you have some go to jail and at the same time some get out, but basically it's 72 people."

Like the individuals who live there, each hut has its own personality. Residents take pride in their huts, keeping them neat and organized.

On the door of B.J. Byers's hut is an "Andrew Young for Mayor" sticker. Inside is a table, a camp stove, a full size bed with a patchwork quilt. And burglar bars on the windows.

"I've lived here going on 3 years," he says. "This is my home, but I spend weekends with friends. I live here with a friend of mine, and when we have to go, we'll move together."

According to those who live here, the gay community is strong.

"It's the gay individuals in this community who hold all the strength," says Mines. "They're not afraid to stand up. The heterosexuals just kind of hang their heads."

Mines, who is known as the Mayor of Hutsville, shares his home with a partner.

"I didn't run for Mayor," he laughs. "I was just elected."

Life in Hutsville is not easy. Residents collect cans to sell for money. They rummage garbage cans for food. Winter time is cold, meaning more fires for warmth, and often burned huts.

Mines' hut, with a stone fireplace and a fence made of pallets surrounding a patio, burned last December.

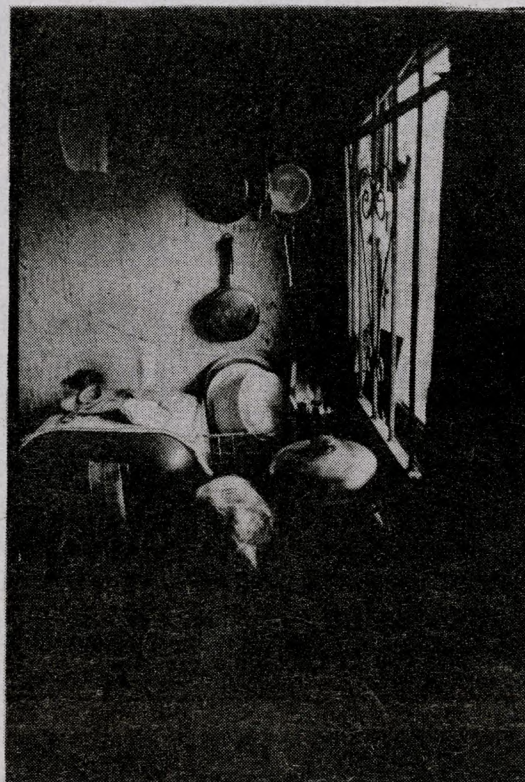
He tells the story like this: "Right here, as we sit, this is my patio porch now. This used to be another hut and my house was where you see it. His hut caught on fire. And by the wind being that strong that night, it ignited mine. It was quite innocent, actually. He went to sleep, he was a little tipsy. The wood fell out of his barrel which was inside his hut. It burnt his and mine went with it. So it's really nobody's fault."

While Mines regards his misfortune as "nobody's fault," fires like the one that took his hut are common.

"They get drunk and pull garbage barrels with fires in them into their huts and fall asleep," said Mark Usserie, a friend of Hutsville's residents. Usserie visits the community several times a week, bringing them food and clothing.

"These people are driven by crack," he said. "But they're not seedy. They are young intelligent men with high school educations. They don't see beyond today and satisfying their crack addiction."

"Church groups bring food and clothing to them and they turn around and sell them for crack. A few have jobs but most just live, collecting enough cans for crack or beer."



CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

ABOVE: B.J. Byers (top), Curtis and a friend, residents of Hutsville. LEFT: Inside Byers' hut. Photos by Skye Mason

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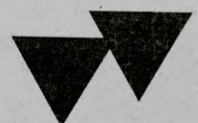
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Perot speaks out on gay issues, AIDS

Atlanta—Would-be presidential candidate H. Ross Perot ended his silence on lesbian and gay issues, saying in a PBS interview that sexual orientation is a matter of individual rights. Perot also told interviewer David Frost that a Perot administration would put more emphasis on AIDS research than George Bush's administration.

"I basically look on this as we are a country of individual rights and it's that simple to me," Perot said in response to Frost's question about whether he viewed homosexuality as "a sin, or a vice, or a valid alternative lifestyle."

Perot went on to say that "when we come to that subject, my total focus goes to AIDS. We have supported AIDS research, we've raised money for AIDS research, and if I am in this job, we will go night and day to get that done, not only for this country, but for the world."

Perot said that the United States has in the past been known as the country that "gets things done first and best, ahead of everybody else," and that he would like to see that principle applied to AIDS research.

"We want to be the country who discovers these things, creates these things," he said.

Gay and lesbian supporters and potential supporters of Perot were pleased with the Texas billionaire's remarks. The remarks made on the April 24 broadcast offer the first indication of Perot's support for lesbian and gay civil rights.

"He's a fair man," said Michael Mathews, a 27-year old gay man who supports Perot. "I really wouldn't imagine him just saying he was for gay rights, or any specific kind of rights, but what he said in the Frost interview is more like it—that he is for all individual rights."

Gay and lesbian activists in Dallas, Texas, where Perot's petition drive committee is based, are still doubtful of his commitment to the community's issues. In a recent article, the Washington Blade reported questions about treatment of gay and lesbian employees at Electronic Data Systems, a Dallas-based company founded by Perot.

In that article, Dallas gay leaders say that while Perot headed the company, employees were not allowed to have same sex roommates, employees with AIDS were treated unfairly, and gays were discriminated against in hiring practices. Since 1984, when General Motors took over the company from Perot, the com-



pany has been "fairly progressive" with lesbian and gay employees, according to Dennis Vercher, editor of the Dallas Voice, a gay weekly.

While Perot has not officially announced his candidacy for president—he has said he will join the fray if volunteers succeed in getting his name on the November ballot of all fifty states—volunteer workers say the campaign to place his name on the fifty ballots, including Georgia's, is proceeding well. All efforts so far have been made on a volunteer basis, with no budget, say organizers.

Support for Perot comes from voters who have never been involved politically, as well as those who are disillusioned with the current crop of presidential candidates.

"I've never worn a political button in my life, but I think this is our last chance to make a change," said Mathews. "If things don't start to turn around, we're going to see a lot more troubles."

Mathews, who has known about Perot for years and even met him thirteen years ago, believes that he represents the opportunity to make those changes, especially concerning the country's economic woes. "He doesn't believe he can fix these problems, but he believes he can get the right people together to fix them," he said.

"When we get the economic problems solved, then things like lesbian and gay rights will get the attention they need," Mathews continued. "I think as president he will adopt this country, we'll be his people. And he always takes care of his people."

KC WILDMOON

Pictured: H. Ross Perot

L/G ACLU supports changing Georgia flag

Atlanta—The Lesbian/Gay Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia has joined other members of the Georgia Civil Rights Network in calling for a change in the state's flag. Georgia's flag, which features the Confederate battle flag prominently, has been under fire for some time from civil rights groups, who charge that use of the "Stars and Bars" is offensive to blacks.

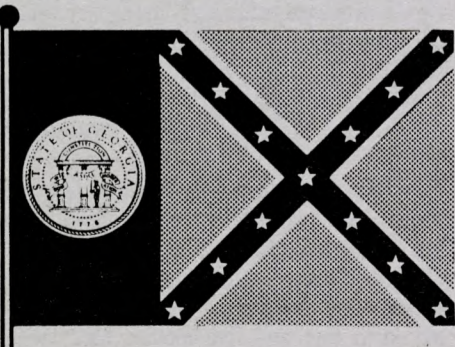
"In light of the meaning of the adoption of the current flag back in the '50s," said Larry Pellegrini, president of the chapter, "many people are now fighting the proposed changes because of 'Southern tradition' or 'historical tradition.' But historical icons should be viewed in a museum rather than saluted by a state's citizenry."

Georgia's flag was changed in the 1950s to include the battle flag in order to identify the

state as being opposed to integration. Recently, civil rights groups have joined to propose that the flag be changed to its original 1799 design, a blue field with the state seal centered.

Pellegrini said that the Lesbian/Gay Chapter of the ACLU joined the chorus of groups advocating the change because his organization believes in the civil rights and liberties of all people.

CONTINUES TOP, NEXT COLUMN



"For those gays and lesbians who haven't made up their minds, or haven't thought about this issue," he said, "I would say to rely on somebody who knows to tell me this symbol hurts. If we tell straights not to call us faggots because it hurts, we want them to respect that. When blacks tell us this flag hurts, we need to respect that."

Pellegrini continued to say that in his view, the use of the battle flag represents a way of life that was and is detrimental to all people.

"I would say it's offensive to a majority of Georgia citizens," he said.

The ACLU chapter is one of over 90 groups involved with the Georgia Civil Rights Network. Several other gay and lesbian groups, including Queer Nation, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, and Legislate Equality for

Gays and Lesbians (LEGAL), also belong to the Network, which was formed over a year ago to promote the civil rights of all people in Georgia. The organization first worked to renew the federal Voting Rights Act, and has since been involved in numerous civil rights issues, both on a state and national level.

The Network has lobbied the Georgia legislature on various bills, including the rape shield bill and the family leave bill, and also endorsed Queer Nation's campaign to change Cracker Barrel's anti-gay employment policy.

Pellegrini said that the campaign to change Georgia's flag has brought more diversity to the Network, as individuals and organizations who had not previously been involved have begun participating.

KC WILDMOON

Condom distribution begins in SF high school

San Francisco—Officials began handing out condoms at San Francisco's Balboa High School on May 4 as the result of a precedent-setting citywide condom distribution plan passed by the school board last fall.

Students at Balboa High can now make an appointment at the teen clinic to talk with a counselor and receive condoms and other forms of birth control, including pills, sponges, foam and diaphragms. They can also pick up a handy condom key chain for holding their condoms.

Despite raging controversy surrounding the plan as it went through the board last fall, Jacob Moody, the director of the teen clinic at Balboa High, says that the implementation phase has been relatively calm.

Moody says that before distributing the condoms he sent out 1,200 letters to parents informing them of the plan, inviting them to two parent information meetings, and allowing them to send in a "negative consent form," which would exclude their child from the plan. Moody says that he has only received twelve negative consent forms from parents.

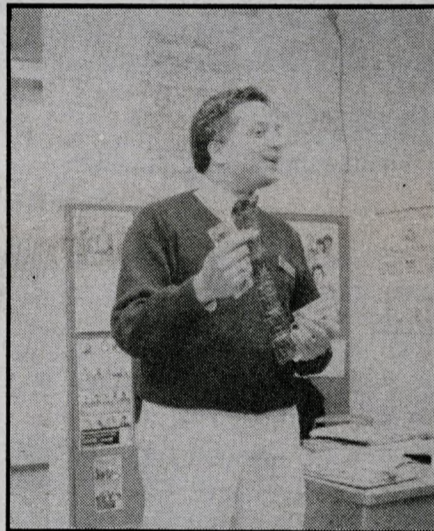
"I know that teenagers have sex, and it's important to give them every option available

to protect themselves from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases," he said. "This plan is important because adults want children to learn to be responsible, and using a condom is a responsible thing to do."

AIDS activists and openly gay school board member Tom Ammiano were instrumental in pushing the policy through the board last fall. Condom distribution is expected to exist in all San Francisco schools by the end of the next school year.

RACHEL TIMONER

Pictured: Jacob Moody, teen clinic director at Balboa High School. Photo by Rick Gerhartner



Film featuring anti-gay activist will air in NY

New York—"Damned in the USA," a provocative film containing an interview with Rev. Donald Wildmon, will be shown at a film festival sponsored by the Human Rights Watch, over Wildmon's objections. A federal judge in New York refused to grant an injunction to prevent the May 13 and 17 screenings of the film.

Wildmon, head of the Mississippi-based American Family Association, filed a \$2-to-5 million civil lawsuit in October, claiming British filmmaker Paul Yule violated his contract by screening the film without his permission outside of Great Britain. Yule responded with a \$4 million counter-suit against Wildmon for attempting to place a stranglehold on U.S. distribution of his film.

Wildmon wants to "block the film past the presidential election, to stop a political debate" said Yule's attorney, Martin Garbus at the film's third U.S. screening. Countered AFA general counsel Ben Bull, "He's dead wrong. Wildmon doesn't object to debate over censorship. In fact, he participates in that debate. He just doesn't want his name on a product that portrays obscene and blasphemous imagery," he told NY Newsday.

"Damned in the USA" explores recent disputes over National Endowment for the Arts

funding, pop music's sexually-explicit lyrics, as well as the late Robert Mapplethorpe's homoerotic and/or sado-masochistic photographs and Andres Serrano's use of a crucifix submerged in urine. In the documentary, Wildmon candidly explains his call from God to fight smut and details his strategy at great length.

The minister's juxtaposition with a full-screened penis-head Jesse Helms and other erotic images did not play well with Wildmon, so he filed suit for alleged violation of his contract with the journalist. Wildmon claims he was tricked into an interview by Yule, whose film went on to win an international Emmy Award for Best Arts Documentary of 1991.

Yule's film follows key symbols of what has become an enduring national controversy over federally-funded art that is sexually or otherwise explicit around the U.S. and onto the U.S. Senate. Sens. Alfonso D'Amato (R-NY) and Jesse Helms (R-NC) are depicted fighting NEA funding for the controversial artwork.

Wildmon had filed for an injunction in New York to prevent a screening which would have occurred before the resolution of the original civil suit, which will be heard in the Mississippi court where it was originally filed.

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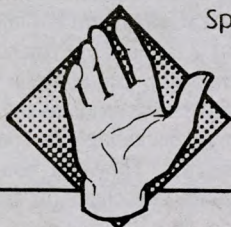
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Activists in SF, DC protest military discrimination

A broad coalition of lesbian, gay, and bisexual civil rights organizations held simultaneous bi-coastal demonstrations on May 3 at Treasure Island in San Francisco and at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., protesting Department of Defense Policy 1332.1, which prohibits gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals from serving in the armed forces. Speakers also addressed the recent Navy "witch hunt" against gay men stationed at the U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka, Japan.

"1993 marks the 50th anniversary of this brutal and repressive discriminatory policy. The military says that homosexuality is incompatible with military service, yet every single study they have performed to prove their point has proven the opposite. A 1990 report shows that gays serve just as well or better than their heterosexual counterparts," Kate Dyer, former aide to Congressman Gerry Studds, told the San Francisco gathering.

According to Allan Berube, a military historian and author of "Coming Out Under Fire," Treasure Island has historically been a focal point for the military's anti-gay policy, and has often served as the place at which those convicted of homosexuality were held, beaten, threatened with execution and psychologically harassed in a "long history by the military of putting homosexuals on public display for public ridicule."

"This is not merely discrimination, but active persecution of a despised minority to destroy their self-respect and their lives, and to teach heterosexuals to systematically hate and shun queers," he said. "It's paid for with tax dollars and upheld by the courts."

Donna Jackson, who was discharged after serving in the Gulf War for being an open lesbian, and was later featured in the magazine "On Our Backs," also spoke to the crowd. "We have to take a stand and speak for people who haven't yet found a voice. I was lucky enough to find mine and stand up against the injustice, and now I can help others."

Berube added that the demonstrations in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. mark the opening of an important fourth front in the battle against the military's anti-gay policy, in addition to the college campus campaigns against ROTC, the mobilization of active duty personnel against the ban and growing Congressional opposition to the policy.

Karen Stupski, a representative of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, said that current Congressional action is based on two nonbinding resolutions by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Sen. Brock Adams (R-WA) that urge the President to change the policy. She added the Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) and the Women's Caucus in the House have become strong opponents of the ban because it has a disparate impact on women, who are discharged at three times the rate of men.

In addition, Sen. Chuck Robb (D-VA), a Vietnam veteran, and Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) have spoken out against the ban. Studds, an openly gay man, has been a key advocate for the accused in Japan these past two months, demanding a full inquiry into the actions of the Naval Investigative Services, the agency which allegedly refused the men access to legal counsel during the investigation.

Organizers of Sunday's protest say that in the past two months as many as forty sailors and officers at the U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka have been drawn into a "witch hunt," which began when two sailors were caught having sex on board the U.S.S. Blue Ridge. The pair pleaded guilty to "committing sodomy and indecent acts," were court martialed and sentenced to four and five months hard labor, respectively. Through a plea agreement under

which their sentences were reduced, they both named three others who they said were gay, one of whom named fifteen more. The sailors labeled gay have been threatened with dishonorable discharge if they don't give the names of others who are gay.

So far, eleven other sailors aboard the Blue Ridge and the U.S.S. Independence, also stationed at Yokosuka, have been discharged for homosexuality, and thirty more are under investigation. According to the Chief of Naval Information, about 500 officers and sailors are discharged annually for being gay.

Dyer, a former aide to Studds, said that media attention is an especially effective tool against the discriminatory policy and its implementation. Since Studds and others have spoken up, no new servicepeople have been drawn into the hunt in Japan.

"All you have to do is shine a light on it and the Navy scatters like cockroaches," she said.

Jim Woodward, who is the Vice President of the San Diego Veterans Association, a support group for veteran and active duty lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals that has served as a clearinghouse for information about the "witch hunt," says that although the hunt seems to be over, there is still a great deal of advocacy to be done.

"There are individuals still enmeshed in the witch hunt and we need to do what we can to prevent further injury to them. There are still lists of names. The implicated officers could be going to prison for a number of years. One of our goals is to get in touch with those people and offer them assistance," he said.

That assistance is necessary, say other gay and lesbian veterans.



"Having lived through six months of hell in the U.S. Navy as they attempted to entrap me for homosexuality, I can say that the experience of these sailors in Japan is truly a tragedy," said Greg Scott, a gay activist who spoke at the Pentagon rally.

Miriam Ben-Shalom, who serves as the National Chair of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Veterans Association, also spoke at the Washington demonstration. She said that she has heard from internal sources that the Department of Defense is uncomfortable with how quickly and effectively the activists have mobilized.

"I will do my best to make sure they are uncomfortable until they end their shameful policy. I'm going to be the monster in the dark waiting for them and I will haunt them in the light of day," she said. "Till the day I die I will not shut up, or until they end the policy, which ever comes first."

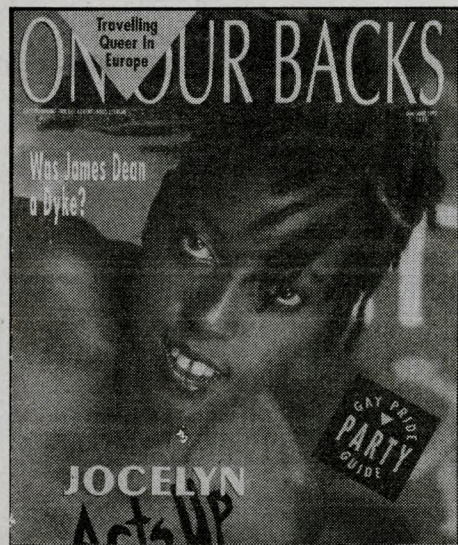
RACHEL TIMONER

Pictured: Lesbian vet Donna Jackson.
Photo by Rick Gerharter

BLK Publisher Injured In Auto Accident:

Alan Bell, publisher and editor of BLK, a national black gay/lesbian magazine, was injured last month in a car accident near Oceanside, California. Bell's automobile was struck head-on by another vehicle, which swerved into his lane. Bell suffered a concussion, contusions, heavy blood loss and broken bones. Doctors expect him to recover, after a lengthy rehabilitation. Publication of BLK has been suspended until a new editor can be found to replace Bell.

Filmmaker And Singer Arrested In London: Filmmaker Derek Jarman and singer Jimmy Somerville were arrested last February at a protest march on the Houses of Parliament in London. Jarman and Somerville were among 45 people arrested during a demonstration demanding repeal of all anti-gay laws. According to Outlines, the direct-action group OutRage organized the protest. The demonstrators were arrested when they marched within a mile of Parliament. British law prohibits such demonstrations when Parliament is in session.



Women's Studies Say No To Lesbian Sex: On Our Backs, a magazine devoted to lesbian sexuality, has been denied a booth at the National Women's Studies Conference. The Association told the magazine that its guidelines prohibit "display of materials which exploit the sexuality of women."

DC AIDS Agency Head Under Fire: Former Atlantan Caitlan Ryan, who now heads the Washington DC Office of AIDS Activities (OAA), has been under fire from several fronts. AIDS activists charge Ryan with lack of progress in filling staff positions at OAA, and other OAA employees have charged Ryan with pushing a "gay agenda," and ignoring the needs of the city's black community. According to

the Washington Blade, OAA staffer Gwen Clark, who has been especially critical of Ryan, was transferred from OAA. Clark herself had come under fire from gay AIDS activists before Ryan was hired, when she did not include gay men in an OAA grant application.

Florida Pizza Hut Labels Gays: A Pizza Hut in Winter Park, Florida, labels delivery orders to a local gay bar with the word "FAGS," according to The Centerfold, a monthly gay paper in central Florida. Negotiations between the Orlando gay and lesbian community and Pizza Hut have been inconclusive, with Pizza Hut management apologizing but refusing methods of restitution suggested by lesbian and gay leaders.

Arkansas ACT UP Disbands Over Clinton Protest: ACT UP/Arkansas disbanded and reformed as the Arkansas AIDS Brigade over disagreements with other chapters of ACT UP about a demonstration against Ark. Gov. Bill Clinton, scheduled for May 25. According to AP, spokespersons for the new Arkansas group said the planned actions, including a march on the presidential candidate's home, were not practical. "We have to live on here, and the people we are going to have to work with in the battle against AIDS are people we don't want to alienate," said AAB member Trey Merritt. "We do have some problems with Gov. Clinton and the Legislature, but we think there's a better way to approach it."

Correction And Addition On Anti-Lesbian Song: Last week's issue of Southern Voice contained an article about a song played by a Washington DC dj that advocated assassinating lesbians. The song was incorrectly named. The actual name of the song is "Crucifixion," recorded by reggae artist Cobra on Ross Records. The chorus of the song contains the lyrics "Crucifixion/execute all lesbians." According to a report in the Washington Blade, Ross Records president Gary Himelfarb said the company would not have released the record if he had known the lyrics were "definitely offensive."

Methodists Are Next To Address Homosexuality: Delegates to the United Methodist General Conference last weekend were set to face questions about homosexuality, following the lead of the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Among the questions expected to be raised was whether or not to reverse its position that homosexuality and Christianity are incompatible.

Norway Grants Residency To English Lesbian: According to a report in Chicago's Outlines, Norway's Department of Justice has granted a residency permit to an English lesbian, allowing her to join her Norwegian lover. The department originally denied Anna Reeder's request for the permit, but reversed itself this year, giving "reunion of family" as its reason. Reeder and Wensche Larsen wrote a partnership contract two years ago, and are pleased with Norway's ruling that lesbians and gays are no different than heterosexual couples.

Gay Republican On Presidential Ballot In Washington: Steve Michael, an AIDS activist from Seattle, will be on Washington's Republican Presidential ballot in that state's May 19 primary. Michael is a member of ACT UP's Presidential Project.

Gay And Lesbian Oregonians Schedule Walk Against Hate: To counter the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a right wing group that focuses on anti-gay measures, the Lesbian Community Project in Portland is sponsoring what they term the "longest Pride Parade ever" on June 7. The walk will take two weeks to cover the 150 miles between Eugene and Portland.

David Obscene? A commercial news service that broadcasts in schools was cut out of a school in Eugene, Oregon, when it played a tape of a man who vandalized Michaelangelo's statue David in Florence, Italy. According to On Our Backs, Channel One's broadcast was considered potentially offensive because of the statue's "frontal nudity."

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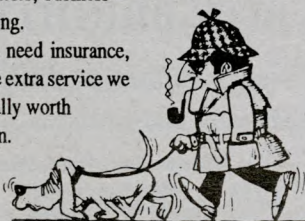
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**New combination therapy may
help PWAs**

A combination extract of a pork spleen polypeptide and Siberian ginseng is having positive effects on the immune systems of immuno-compromised patients. Dr. Nikolas Weger, a medical doctor and former professor at the University of Munich, created the combination, called PCM-4, after noticing the results of studies on the two substances on immune systems.

The first study, in 1987, showed that Siberian ginseng (CM-4) had the ability to increase levels of CD4 cells, according to an article by Donald J. Brown, N.D. ("PCM-4: New Standard of Excellence in Immunomodulation," October/November 1991 issue of "Health Store News"). Dr. Weger then looked into another study examining the effect of the polypeptide extract (P) on the immune system of immuno-deficient cancer patients.

According to Dr. Brown, Dr. Weger combined the two substances and tested the product on five HIV+ patients. With no side effects registered, Dr. Weger's patients logged an average 95% increase in CD4 cell counts. The five also experienced weight gain, and problems with diarrhea and respiratory congestion were resolved.

"One patient actually showed a 20-pound weight gain in the eight-week study period," wrote Dr. Brown, "this following significant weight loss over the months preceding the study."

The independent studies of CM-4 and P were conducted largely on cancer patients. Dr. Gerhard Klose studied 133 patients with stomach cancer in 1965, observing that patients experienced weight gain, red blood cell sedimentation rate decrease, and general improvement in health.

Other studies of P showed that patients with bronchial carcinoma had a substantially higher survival rate when treated with P than patients treated with conventional chemotherapy. Over a year, 79% of P-treated patients survived, while only 8% of the conventionally treated patients survived.

Dr. Brown wrote in a later article that P has also shown the ability to increase production of gamma interferon.

"Recent studies have focused on the use

of gamma interferon as an immunomodulatory substance in the management of HIV infection and have shown benefit in improving CD-4 counts," he wrote.

Studies using Siberian ginseng (eleutherococcus senticosus) have been conducted in Russia for nearly 30 years. The people of the Siberian Taiga region have long used the herb for disease prevention and to improve general health. The herb has been shown in Russian studies to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy, and patients taking it have shown weight gain, improved appetite, quicker healing and "increased lymphocyte activity among cancer patients," wrote Dr. Brown.

The 1987 West German study was conducted with 36 volunteers in a double-blind study. The volunteers taking the ginseng showed increased activity of CD4 cells.

Dr. Brown said that "ongoing studies in Tanzania and Uganda have shown immense promise for treating various stages of HIV infections with the daily use of PCM-4." Additionally, said Dr. Brown, studies have begun in the United States. The tests will take place in Burlington, Vermont, Chicago, Houston and Birmingham, Alabama. Researchers expect to enroll at least 90 patients in the study. Patients enrolled will be between 15 and 55 years old, HIV+ and have a CD4 count between 100 and 700.

Researchers also report that PCM-4 has shown promising results against other illnesses, including Sjogren's Syndrome and Chronic Fatigue Symptoms.

**Alpha interferon not helpful in
AIDS fight**

Low-dose oral interferon alpha in its various forms, including Kemron, is not recommended at this time for treatment of persons with HIV infection, according to a statement released by the AIDS Research Advisory Committee to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The committee acknowledged "that much of the data currently available is preliminary," but still decreed that Kemron is not effective against HIV.

The largest display of The NAMES Project's AIDS Memorial Quilt ever brought to Georgia will be at the Georgia World Congress Center June 25-28 as part of "An Event in 3 Acts: HEART STRINGS, The AIDS Memorial Quilt and You." There will be 2,400 three by six foot panels, each a memorial to a person who has died of AIDS. Admission is free. Hours are Thursday, June 25 from 7 to 10 PM; Friday and Saturday, June 26-27, 9AM to 10PM, and Sunday, June 28 from 9AM to 6PM.

Photo by Joan Adlen



HEALTH

Olde English Fest donates to AIDS organization

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church's Olde English Festival announced its donations of proceeds from the 1991 event, and Jerusalem House is among the four agencies receiving a total of \$35,000. Jerusalem House, which has been a recipient of monies from the festival since its founding, received \$10,000, as did Nicholas House, a house for the homeless, and the South Africa Education Fund. The remaining \$5,000 was placed in a trust for Charis Community Housing, an Atlanta organization which builds affordable homes for working people who repay with a no-interest loan. The next festival will be held in September.

Hawks star gives AIDS talks

Atlanta Hawks star Dominique Wilkins announced plans last week for an AIDS education program in Atlanta and Fulton County schools. Wilkins said that he and other Hawks players will visit the schools this spring and summer, ending with an August 21 concert and program in The Omni. That program will be attended by 16,000 school children. "Young people in our community are dying at a very fast rate," Wilkins said. "It is up to us to stop this problem." The program is sponsored by the Atlanta Hawks Foundation, Fulton County, and Atlanta and Fulton County public schools.

AIDS institute slated for Dallas

The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention is creating an institute for gay men of color to be held in Dallas, Texas, on June

22, at the beginning of a week of activities for the 12th Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together. The institute, entitled "By Any Means Necessary: Innovative Programs for Gay Men of Color," will focus on the issues affecting all people of color, according to Task Force director Reggie Williams. For more information, contact the Task Force at 415-749-6700.

Colorado sheriff found guilty of HIV discrimination

On April 17, a federal jury in Denver concluded that the sheriff of Weld County, Colorado intentionally discriminated against a reserve deputy sheriff solely because the deputy was HIV+. The jury found that Bret Tanberg, represented by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, was fired by the sheriff in a letter declaring that Tanberg's fellow officers no longer wanted to work with him because he was rumored to be HIV+. Tanberg sued under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits disability-based discrimination by any program receiving federal financial assistance.

Quayle-ism

The New York Post reported last week that Vice President Dan Quayle, while touring a New York hospital, asked AIDS patients if they were taking DDT. Quayle press secretary David Beckwith (the same man who responded to the Kerrey-lesbian joke by saying that the bad news was that the lesbians would be coming to Bush's side) denied the story, saying that Quayle does know the difference between pesticides and ddC.

OBITUARIES

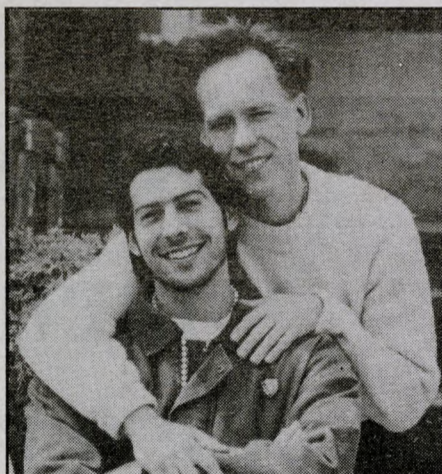
Warren Piece

(born Warren Krause)
1954-1992

On April 18 in San Francisco, Warren Piece died gently at home of AIDS related brain lesions, holding his lover's hand.

Because of his family's and community's homophobia, Warren left home early, eventually settling in Atlanta, where he lived for 13 years and worked as a bartender and massage therapist. Warren was a fighter, teacher and visionary. As AIDS killed his friends and threatened to kill him, he chose activism instead of denial, becoming an integral early member of ACT UP/Atlanta. In San Francisco, he continued to challenge people around him to fight for an end to AIDS. In April, 1990, just before he moved to San Francisco, his appendix ruptured. He fought heroically over the next two years, but was unable to recover his health.

Those who knew him can best memorialize him by devoting time each week to AIDS activism, or by making donations in his memory either to ACT UP/Atlanta (44

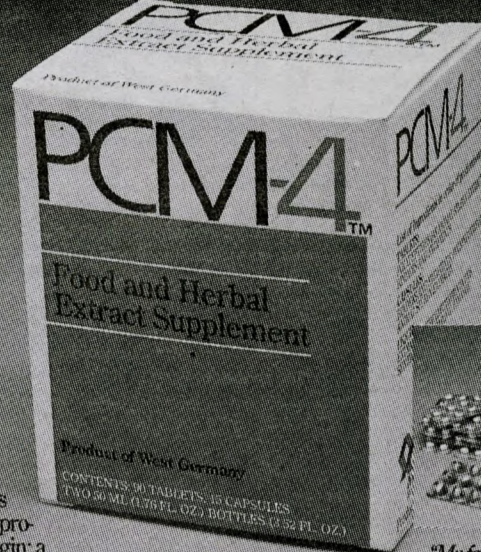


12th St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309) or ACT UP/Golden Gate (519 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114). In addition to his lover, David Robinson, Warren is survived by his spirit daughters, Danielle and Raphaelle, his cats, and by many people who will love and miss him. A memorial service will be held on Monday May 18th at 7pm by the tree on the top of the hill across from the main stage at Piedmont Park. Bring candles. For more information, call Jessi McVay at 523-5309.

To place an obituary

Southern Voice publishes obituaries of members of the gay and lesbian community as both news and a community service, free of charge. To report a death call 876-0789 or write: Southern Voice, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 Please include a name and phone number for verification.

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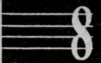
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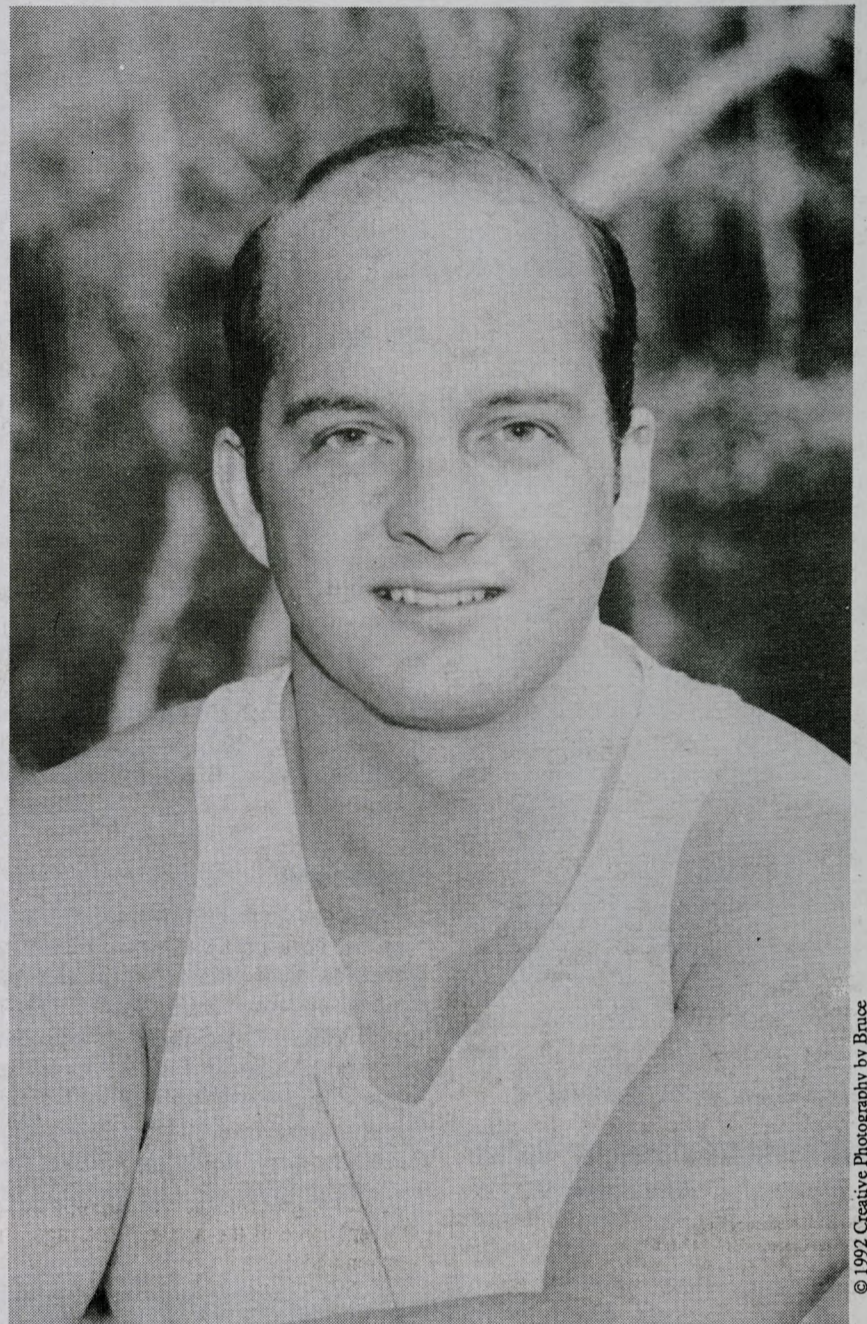
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NEXT WEEK

Tuberculosis

Truth and fiction about the return of TB

John Waters

The King of Trash, director of "Pink Flamigos" and "Hairspray," talks about new projects, old projects, and being an openly gay director

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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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SOUTHERN VOICE

In the crush of rage

Where did we get the word "riot?"

Thursday, I wondered about the etymology of the thing I was caught up in. As hundreds swirled and seethed around Me, the expression "it was a riot," meaning quite amusing, came to mind. In fact, it wasn't at all amusing.

What a weirdly misused word. People talk about "reading The Riot Act," meaning an upbraiding or reproach (ignoring the use of this 1715 English Law against unruly colonists).

The media brings reports of "food riots" in foreign countries, or "civil disturbances" where oddly constituted armies shoot at each other.

This all seems removed from our general experience here. I have to say that a riot is a sudden, frightening inversion of reality, sparked by some event, but fueled by a litany of grievances and frustrations.

Like many Atlantans, I was outraged at the King verdict. Like many, I expected violence in Los Angeles. Maybe Detroit, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York City.

But Atlanta? Sure, we have terrible urban problems. We can all tick them off: poverty, crime, drugs, AIDS, racism, etc. But we also have a black administration, a large black middle class, a thriving black artistic community, and in general some real opportunities in political, cultural, and economic arenas.

When I heard people were protesting the King decision at the Capitol late Wednesday night, I thought perhaps that would be it. Protesting a gross miscarriage of justice at the seat of government is an appropriate way to vent some of the accumulated rage, frustration and despair.

Civil disobedience? I'm absolutely in favor of it. I've done it, and plan to do it again—if the clarity of the message and the venue seem reasonable. Pissed off? Hell yes. What member of a minority group in this country isn't? (And if you're a multiple minority, there's that much more anger to go around.)

But this stuff Thursday wasn't that. I went outside my office at Five Points to survey the situation around 2:45 p.m.

Some windows had been smashed. The large flower pots on the steps to Underground had been overturned. The minimum wage earning black men who do cleanup were in the process of putting the begonias back into the pots.

Not much of a riot, I thought. But wait. Around 4 p.m. I ventured into the upstairs plaza area of the MARTA station, thinking I would get a drink and just check things out. As a precaution, I'd left my running shoes on, instead of changing back into my work boots.

All of a sudden, despite the two dozen MARTA police, a group of GBI officers, and a gang of riot-shielded and helmeted State Patrol, a large crowd suddenly appeared right before me. It was almost as if they'd been "beamed in," it was so fast.

GUEST EDITORIAL

As a Latina, never before had I felt afraid in a black crowd. Hell, I grew up on an island where almost everyone has African blood. But as the screaming escalated, and the store windows began to break, and the mood grew uglier, this was clearly not a safe place to be.

To make it worse, I literally could not move, penned in by this writhing mass of humanity. I am accustomed to feeling that I can take care of myself, that I'm someone who notices events in realtime, and reacts quickly.

But things started happening in slow motion. When a MARTA cop got a demonstrator down on the ground, videocams sprouted in the crowd—recordings for posterity?

AU letter sweaters and fraternity and sorority Greek letters adorned an awful lot of heaving chests. Helicopters overhead droned ineffectually. The words spoken minutes before by one of my technicians rang in my inner ear: "You should just go home. They don't care who your parents are or what your politics are. You're too light skinned. You just go on home."

Torn between duty, a congenital unwillingness to be scared off by others, and an instinct for self-preservation, here I was, leaning against a balustrade at the station while people were exhorting each other to "take" it. "Take it where?" I wondered in that strange, slo-mo fashion.

Suddenly, realtime snapped in. People were running, screaming, trying to escape the phalanx of Atlanta police charging up from Marietta Street.

There just isn't much you can do when hundreds rush past you pell-mell except hold on or run with them. I held on, bracing for tear gas, blows, whatever.

None came. They were gone, almost as suddenly as they'd appeared. In my uniform, perhaps I blended in. The police ignored me, pursuing the crowd.

Shaken, adrenaline pumping continuously, I returned to my steel-doored office. Weird, that. Even with the immediate danger over, the body continues to react.

The reflexes our species developed to clear-cut dangers on the selvas and in jungles don't necessarily serve us so well now in these more ambiguous urban areas.

Who is the enemy? Who is the friend? Who is innocent? Who is guilty? Who is justified? Who checks the credentials?

As the afternoon wore on, downtown more and more resembled a battleground taken over by an occupying army. I expected tanks at any moment, to go along with the rest of the hardware.

Did I feel safe amidst all this? No. Was there a greater danger from the "rioters," or from edgy law enforcement personnel, I asked myself. I wasn't sure.

And for the first time ever, I was uncomfortable with the idea of riding the train, something I do every day. (Indeed, there was a radio report of someone getting roughed up at North Avenue.)

On Friday, I felt compelled to survey the damage downtown. How interesting that they left the Doubleday Bookstore windows alone at Underground, smashing instead "Stadium Stuff," for those team jackets, and Victoria's Secret, for that sexy lingerie—urban essentials, I suppose.

When I spoke with a lawyer friend who works downtown, she said some of her col-

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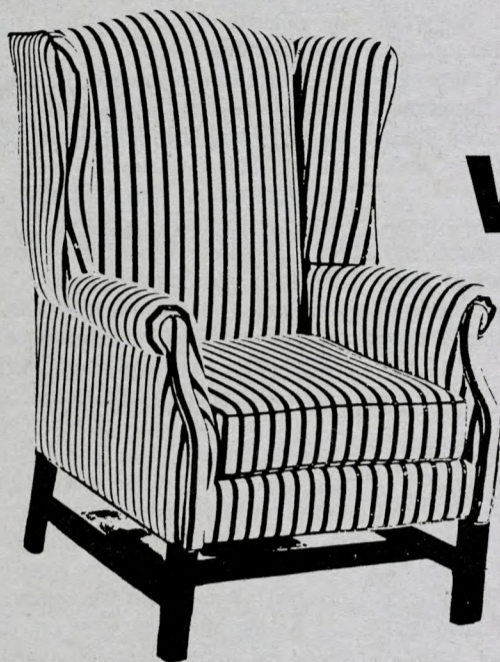


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KENNETH J. ALTMAN

A world gone mad

Like so many other milestone events of my life, both public and personal, now frozen in my memory—the assassinations of JFK, Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, the Kent State killings, the day The Who released "Tommy," the first time I heard Laura Nyro sing live, the death of John Lennon, the death of my father—I know I'll never forget where I was and what I was doing when I first heard the Rodney King verdict.

It was significant for so many reasons, of course, but where I had been previous to hearing the verdict produced an even stronger impact on me. I had just finished speaking on a panel at Marin Academy in San Rafael, to a class of high school juniors and seniors about gay and lesbian culture, and I felt energized and truly "jazzed." I jump at any chance I get to speak to a group of people and dispel myths and stereotypes about who we are and who we aren't, and the fact that this was a group of young adults made it all the exciting. The students we spoke to that afternoon were great—they were bright, they were sharp and they asked good, hard questions, making it more of a discussion than a lecture. It was one of the more enjoyable and profitable times I've spent.

It was 3:30 when the class was over, and I was driving back to work a few minutes later when I heard the news... four verdicts... not guilty, not guilty, not guilty, mistrial. I pulled over to the side of the road to listen to the courtroom proceedings, and as I listened I put my head down on the steering wheel and thought to myself, "here we go again—one step forward, ten steps back!"

My emotions have been many over the past few days, alternately overlapping with and replacing each other, but they initially came in the order—numb disbelief, outrage, horror, shame. The disbelief came first as I sat in my car, not really able or possibly wanting to comprehend what I was hearing. The disbelief quickly turned to outrage: outrage at many things, but mostly at the fact that a jury of their peers exonerated these four men of the charges brought against them, charges that, in millions of people's opinions, were laid out in glorious black and white, as it were, for all the world to see.

The horror came next as I listened to and watched the events of the aftermath unfold. As I watched the fires burn, the crowds get out of control and the rebellion

spread across Los Angeles and up to San Francisco, Seattle, etc., I was horrified that what was only a distant part of my memory (Watts, Detroit, Newark, etc.) as a kid growing up in middle class suburbia was suddenly becoming very real to me. And, as I saw Reginald Denny being pulled out of his truck and beaten nearly to death, I did something I've never done before—I got down on my hands and knees and prayed for a world gone mad.

Finally came shame, the emotion that seems the hardest to shake. I'm shamed that I'm part of a country whose judicial system needs a serious overhaul, to say the least. I'm shamed that a man who calls himself our leader thinks he can get on national television and attempt to relate and respond to what is happening in inner cities nationwide, when as recently as three months ago he didn't even know what a supermarket scanner was. This same man, whose son helped rob scores of people of millions of dollars, is now promising to prosecute the looters of Los Angeles and San Francisco to "the fullest extent of the law." Well, sir, looting is looting, whether you do it in street clothes or in a three-piece suit, so as long as we're prosecuting, let's do it across the board, OK? Amazing!

I'm not professing to have all the answers here, and I'm certainly not about to attempt to excuse some of the abhorrent behavior we've all witnessed over the past few days. But what happened, happened—it's too late to go back and change that, and it probably would have happened eventually anyway, acquittals or no acquittals. Something else would have sparked it. There is a serious current (no longer an undercurrent) of racism, bigotry and seemingly acceptable hatred of anyone who is perceived as "different" running through "America the Beautiful, My Country 'Tis of Thee," and sending in the National Guard might calm things down for a few days, maybe even a few weeks, but in the long run it'll be comparable to putting a band-aid on a gunshot wound. It just won't help.

The only way we're going to get anywhere close to getting out of this mess is by first acknowledging that there is a mess... and by talking about it—with our friends, our loved ones, our children, our parents—and by continually sharing ideas and feedback. It is only by open communication and active listening that we can take another step forward—and replace the shame with pride.

Kenneth J. Altman is a freelance writer living in San Francisco. He is Director of Promotion for Real Music in Sausalito, California.

GUEST EDITORIAL (cont'd)

leagues had been roughed up as they emerged from the Circuit Court. "Hell, if some lawyers were beaten up, maybe it wasn't a total waste." (No, she was not amused.)

Yeah, I'm riding the train again. I'm also wondering about those AU kids. Did they think this was like facing down Bull Connor? Was this akin to sitting at lunch counters, when it was illegal and the all-white police force hauled you off? How about being beaten for the criminal act of conducting voter registration?

'Fraid not. This wasn't the same. It didn't CHANGE anything. It didn't sway opinion, it didn't influence law, it didn't correct injustice. This system, which creates and maintains oppression, is still in place.

That's the real challenge. Instead of jacking yourself off in a free for all, no matter how cathartic or opportune, oppressive institutions and empowering people in real ways is the foremost task. Turn the videocams on us all as we go about this process.

Not that riots are all negative. In the '60s, Watts, Detroit and Stonewall sent clear messages, resounding calls for people to wake up to what was going on. Yet Liberty City, the protests over Dan White's wrist-slap conviction, and the current disturbances don't fall into that category.

MARIA HELENA DOLAN

Fierstein Fan

To the Editor:

I am writing in regard to your April 16-22, 1992 issue and the article on Harvey Fierstein by Steve Warren. I am a big fan of Mr. Fierstein's and was concerned at his comments of the lack of support from the gay community towards Torch Song Trilogy. Many of my friends went to see it in the theatre and now also own the video and love it. We are just a small number, but I'd like to let him know how much we enjoy his

work. Please send me an address where I could write to Mr. Fierstein.

Thank you very much for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
G. Allen Barbee

Editor's note: Thanks for your interest. You can reach Harvey by writing: Harvey Fierstein, c/o Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Ave., Hollywood, CA 90038-3197

Good health

To the Editor:

The "Rethinking HIV & Health Care" by Lisa Blake (v.5,#7) was great! I hope you publish more of her. Her thinking is clear and "non-quack" oriented. She most likely has some powerful suggestions. I would like to become aware of them.

Sincerely,
Laurentz

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Kudos to you for your report on Homosexuality: Can It Be Changed?

If the narrow-minded "religious" kept listening after you "sucked them in," maybe they realized that you don't need to "fix" anything that isn't broken.

I would suggest, however, that if on any other show that involves gay men you have your staff call NGLTF (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force) or HRCF (Human Rights Campaign Fund) or P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to get names of gay men you can talk to other than those you find in the bar scene. Bars are a part of gay life but not the only part.

Also, what about lesbians? Maybe you could do a whole story on why lesbians are seldom mentioned... even extend it to women

in general and relate it to why none of the studies, social or medical, include them. Why does our society do work with men and then extend findings to include women when they were not part of the research? Look to AIDS research. Women are dying more quickly than men. Why?

I am including phone numbers for you for the three organizations I mentioned and hope that your staff will enter them in the computer and use them the next time you need to talk to people in the gay community.

HRCF 202-628-4160
P-FLAG 202-638-4200
NLGTF 202-332-6483

Yours truly,
Judith G. Colbs
President
Atlanta P-FLAG

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



SEBASTIAN'S CLOSET



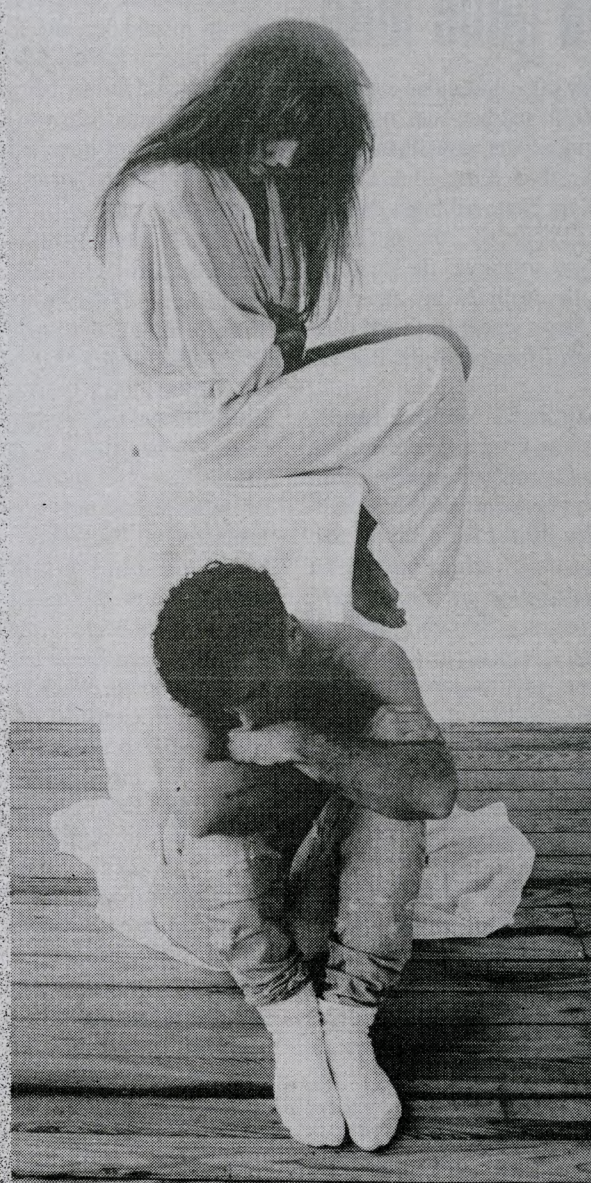
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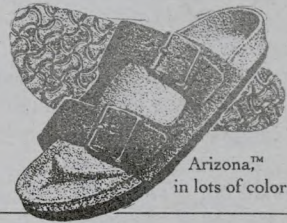
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"F" is for fashion, fun, fad and frivolity

It's definitely *the* season in Atlanta to make a fashion statement. There'll be several major opportunities to dress up or dress down in everything from semi-formal (at the Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner on May 16), outrageous (at the "Cotillion of Fantasy" Pride Prom on June 13), politically correct? (at the Pride Festival and Parade on June 27 and 28), to the provocative (at Hotlanta in August). Not to mention the re-emergence of Western Wear spawned by the ever-increasing popularity of two-stepping, in bars and clubs from Philly to Long Beach.

First, let's consider semi-formal outfits. For men wishing to retain the basic look of the tuxedo but with a twist, the bow tie with matching cummerbund offers infinite possibilities. At any well-stocked formal wear shop, the selection will be wide-ranging and varied with a large dose of rich silks in patterns reminiscent of the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods to inspirations from Japanese kimonos. You'll be familiar with some of the designers such as Pierre Cardin, Yves Saint Laurent and Perry Ellis.

If cummerbunds are a nuisance or a bigger splash is what you're looking for, choose a brightly-colored vest. Like many accessories, vests have come a long way from simple solids and pinstripes. There are countless overall patterns including cottage roses by Ralph Lauren, to polka dots by Perry Ellis, to Southwestern stripes by Cafe. For a neat slimming-down look, a vertical striped vest can be the perfect wearing apparel. Woven cotton plaid vests by Introspect and linen double-breasted pinstripe vests by New Republic are among the latest trends.

An alternative to the vest is suspenders, which have made an enormous comeback over the last several years. Silk seems to be the favorite in suspenders these days, in patterns, paisleys, stripes and polka dots by Ralph Lauren, Liberty's of London and Perry Ellis.

For that most severe—and yet mysterious—look, there's the all-black outfit. The black shirt—a most versatile garment—can be worn without even a tie under the tuxedo or suit. Preferred by most clothing consultants is a pattern-on-pattern, all-black, silk shirt. To soften this look slightly, use a pocket square in a striking solid or print, matching socks in a bright color or whimsical pattern by E.G. Smith and an oversized jewelry piece on the lapel.

Or indulge yourself completely by substituting the vest, tie and cummerbund, with a beautiful patterned shirt by Jhana Barnes, Ungaro or your own favorite designer and accent with coordinating socks and pocket squares.

Women can also adopt many of these dressing suggestions for semi-formal wear since the tailored look in jacket with pants can definitely offer a feminine air. Finely combed cotton, linen, silk and mixed blend blazers in rich solids from bright sunflower yellow to subtle pastel tones are available from Liz Claiborne, Adrienne Vittadini or Calvin Klein.

For foot worshippers and adorers of the shoe, women have the advantage of completing their outfit with shoes by Salvatore Ferragamo, the subject of a controversial retrospective currently presenting his women's footwear from 1898 to 1960 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Apparel at this year's Pride Prom shouldn't be all white-glove unless you're planning to come as The White Rabbit from "Alice in Wonderland." After all, the theme is "Cotillion of Fantasy!" Dress can definitely be up or down, more or less, and emphatically ambisexual to your heart's content.

If it's ball gowns and evening dresses, then take your "p's and q's" from what many of the Hollywood starlets were wearing at last month's Academy Awards. Now if you don't have \$4,000 and up to purchase one of these frocks (many of them recently featured in LA Style), then improvise combing the off-the-rack discount houses to the thrift stores for something akin to these latest "looks" in high couture.

As far as the question of hemline, the short and the long of it is that you're sure to be "fashionable" either way. However, the short skirt has captured the trendiest of dressers. Women can create a whole new outfit by accessorizing a short black leather skirt. A sequined or beaded jacket will offer the right air of festivity and sparkle to the occasion.

Those wishing to dress with a little provocative subtlety can always accent the tuxedo with a red snakeskin bow tie, black

leather trousers, black leather and chain suspenders and silver-toed black cowboy boots. Wear either a traditional white cotton pleated dress shirt or a denim casual shirt to round out the tuxedo look of the 1990s. Southwest Indian-inspired jewelry or a studded black leather belt tops off the right accent.

For many it's always a big dilemma as to what to wear to the annual Pride Festival and Parade. Though it's always an upbeat and empowering experience, everyone realizes that such public displays of pride are basically political events. Anyone who wants to be "politically correct" with their fashion statement should be pleased with the various choices this year.

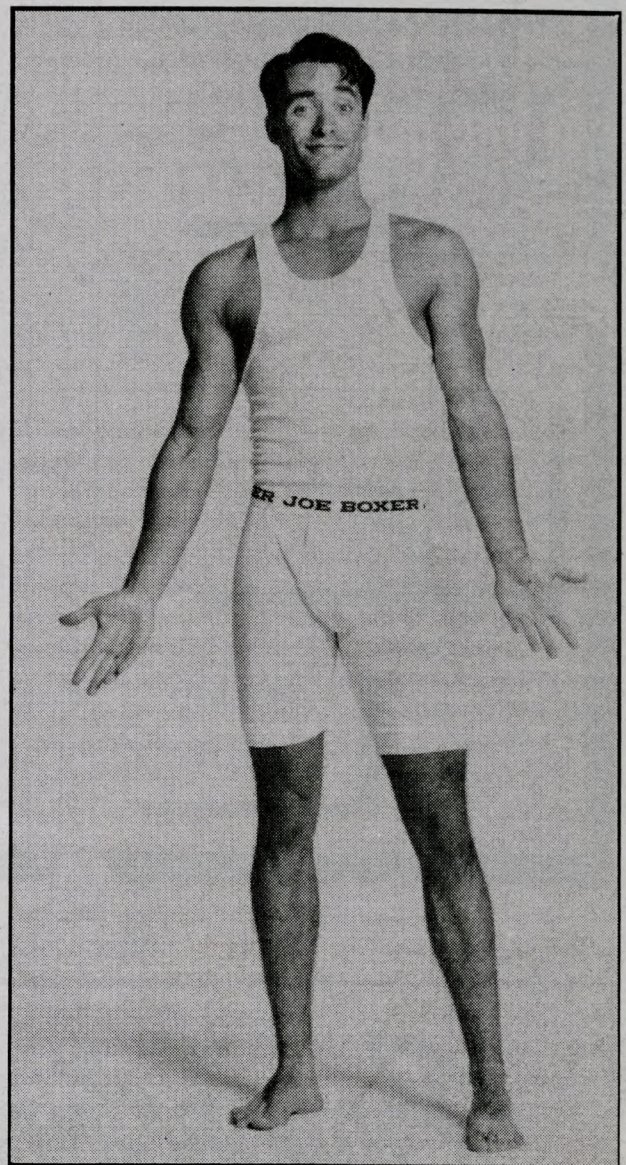
There's no doubt that the venerable t-shirt wins out over all other apparel for the most direct political statements. Organizations of all kinds offer an array of t-shirts for sale to raise money. By wearing one of their t-shirts, you can make simultaneous political and fashion statements. That's why some activists refer to these "message" clothes as "tribal wear." Mark Simon of A Different Light in West Hollywood explains, "It's stuff you wear when you're with your own [kind], at gay gatherings or protest marches."

Some of the most provocative messages can be found on t-shirts sold by the local chapters of ACT UP. Propagating AIDS awareness, safe sex, the importance of condoms, and the apathetic federal government's stand on these issues, these t-shirts say it loud and clear. Some of their designs include Keith Haring's "Ignorance=Fear / Silence=Death"; the Dick Tracy kissing Superman with the caption, "Clark wants Dick/Dick wants Condoms;" the "Safe Sex is Hot Sex" series from Germany; and the Bush AIDS Flags (an American flag with skull and crossbones in lieu of fifty stars).

On the other hand, there's been a number of new fashion labels in response to the "downwardly mobile" economic climate these days. Clothing called Poor House, Recession Wear, Anti Job Wear, and Poorwear specialize in price-sensitive t-shirts with messages about the economy and the government's do-nothing policies. While these enterprises in the garment industry are not gay, there are smaller counterparts that are responding to political issues.

Lizard Wear designs a complete line of boxers that have a condom pocket. A portion of their profits goes to AmFAR (The American Foundation for AIDS Research) and a free condom and information about the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases is included with every purchase. Their all-cotton, patterned shorts that can be worn as underwear or outerwear with jockeys or swimsuit underneath. Though they're primarily designed for men, women have entered into the "boxer rebellion" in a big way, so consider this line somewhat unisex. Why not wear your Lizards to the pride festivities or Hotlanta this summer?

For the body-conscious, slim-shaped pants are the *rage*. Designers Isaac Mizrahi, Donna Karan, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Girbaud and Z. Cavaricci have all recently included the narrow pants in their menswear collections. Guess that they'll go nicely with the sleeveless shirts to show off those well-developed biceps. Willi Wear, with its multiethnic theme, is being resurrected as a menswear line, featuring printed cotton shirts and linen shorts. Look for their color-blocked jeans, with one white

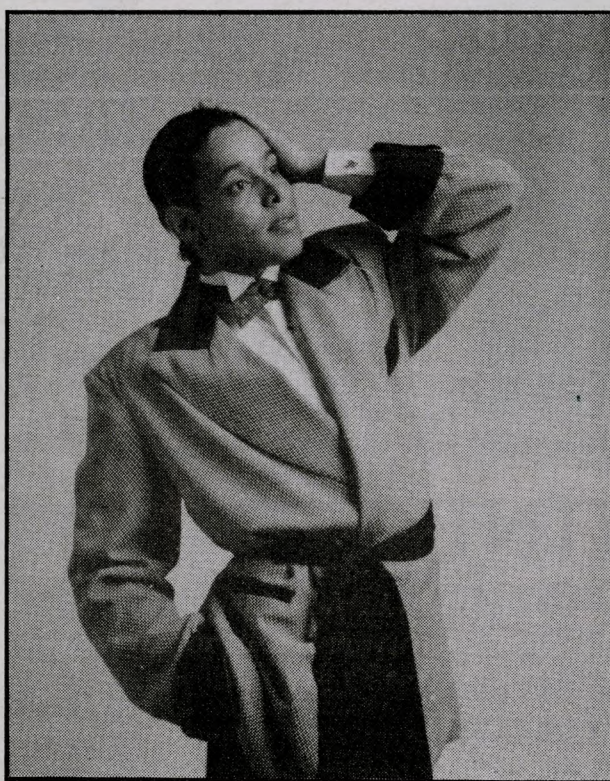


leg and one black. It's predicted by fashion trendsetters to be a knockout seller!

My interest in Western Wear started with Bruce Weber's lensing of Patrick Ford in an unforgettable spread in *GQ* in the 1970s—for me, it's never been out. But it's now coming back in a big way, especially with the revival of interest in two-stepping and gay rodeos.

The cowboy boot has been raised virtually to an American icon. Tony Lama, Laredo and Justin have expanded the designs, materials and distribution of their boot lines. Much of the Guess imagery in their current advertising campaigns emphasizes cowboy belts and hats for his and hers. Vintage clothing stores dedicated to Western Wear have begun springing up in major cities like Los Angeles, New York and Boston. So go back to your closet (if you're over 35) and resurrect all those cowboy shirts that you've been saving. They're as stylish as you can get today. Now aren't you glad you didn't throw them away?

THOM CARDWELL



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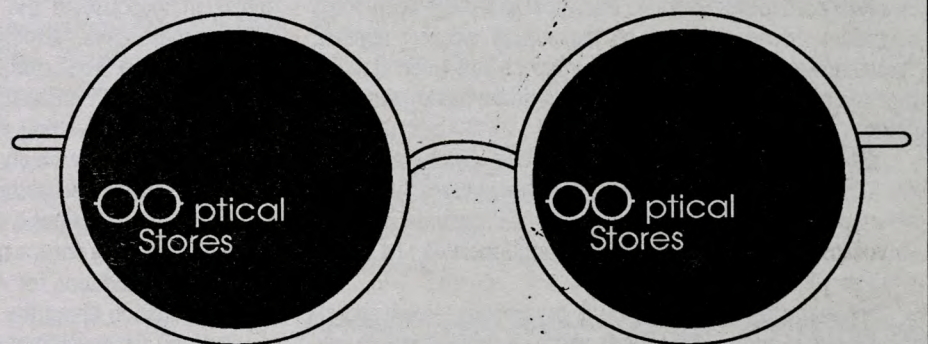
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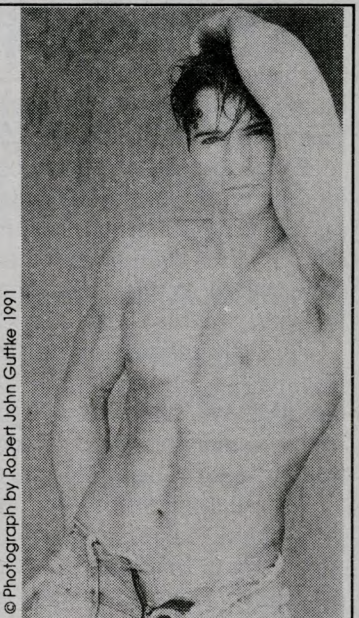
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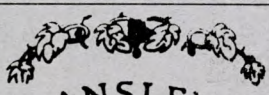
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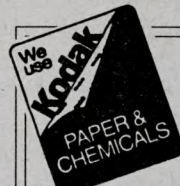
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Hutsville (cont'd)



The residents themselves deny any serious addiction problems. "Some of them have an alcohol problem, some of them have a drug problem," says Mines. "And some of them are just misfits. Do you know you find the most brilliant people in trouble?"

With relocation around the corner, all of Hutsville's residents are in trouble. The city too busy to hate is dragging its heels on the fate of this segment of the gay community, and the August 23 debut of the Georgia Dome is fast approaching. And the construction is not the only reason many city officials want Hutsville moved.

About five months ago the city claimed the area was a sanitation problem. After advocates from the Task Force for the Homeless intervened, city officials agreed to provide sani-

tation services as they would to other communities. Now the Sanitation Department comes out at least once a month to clean the trash and debris from the dump.

Fires, like the one that razed Mines' home, are another concern to the city. On November 6, 1991, there was a fire in one of the huts that burned through some electrical lines under the bridge, resulting in between \$10,000 and \$20,000 worth of damage. At that time, Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson said he would move residents out within 30 days. Advocates for the homeless charged city officials with the responsibility for relocating them. While the city has done numerous assessments of the situation, not one resident has been moved.

"There is no concrete plan as of yet," said Jerome Eppinger, the Department of Human Services' staff person assigned to Hutsville. According to Eppinger, several plans are being discussed.

"The problem is, you're talking about the hardest homeless people to place," he said. Residents of Hutsville are, on the most part, unskilled, unprepared for the job market and in need of substance abuse treatment, he added.

Homeless advocates agree with that assessment. Since most residents have no job or other income for rent, Single Room Occupancy facilities are not an option. That leaves the streets and shelters, an option most residents find disagreeable.

"I'd go for transitional housing," said a friend of B.J. Byers.

"That's you," Byers replied. "I want to have my own apartment by myself."

"A shelter won't do," said Mines. "You're under somebody else's roof, there's no privacy."

"You'd have to see what it's like in a shelter to understand this," said Sherry Siclair, housing coordinator for AID Atlanta, which offers support services to HIV+ residents. "The quality of life at Hutsville is much better than in the shelters. They have a home base, something that's intrinsic to being a human being."

"Which would you choose," she added, "sleeping on a cot with 200 other people in a big room or living in a home with doors and windows and furniture that's just yours?"

Advocates continue negotiating with city officials over the fate of Hutsville's

There are five other sites similar to Hutsville located around the city. Mad Housers of Atlanta, a nonprofit grass roots organization working to house the homeless, builds about two huts per month, every other Saturday. They have a standard frame which can fit on the back of a pickup truck. Unfortunately, there is a waiting list of about 30 people for huts, and Mad Housers must relocate two of their sites immediately. They are looking for help—volunteers, donations, building materials, pick up trucks—to move 41 huts. Call Shane at 755-4034 for details.

citizens. "We are requiring that if they are moved," said Anita Beatty, director of the Task Force for the Homeless, "they are given other choices with a say in the process. It's important that whatever options they're seduced with, they are real."

Mines, who attends Task Force meetings and calls himself Hutsville's "official spokesperson," just shakes his head.

"They told us we wouldn't be here in April but here we are," he said. "It's all about money and we don't have any."

The sun over Hutsville and the nearby

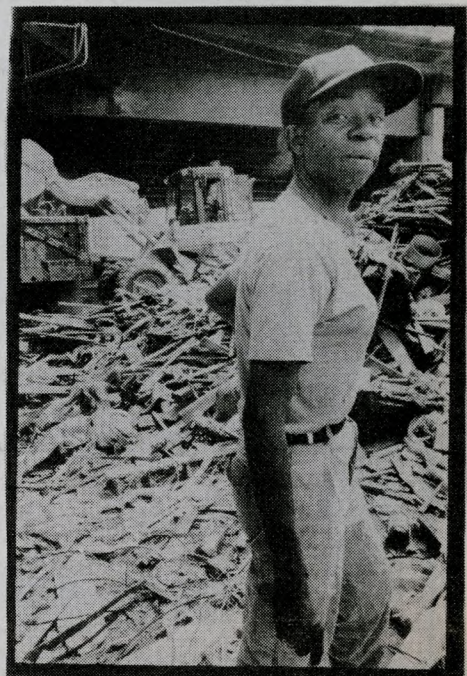
Dome rises toward noon. Residents have been talking with Cedric Maddox, director of the department of sanitation. While acknowledging that the area is a health hazard, he has agreed to leave some of the wood for cooking fires. The residents promised to keep their trash out of the woodpile.

Today, life in Hutsville goes on, but soon Hutsville itself, which some say has been here for nearly 25 years, will be gone. Glancing toward the now quiet bulldozer, Curtis sums it all up.

"This is the last days of us staying in Hutsville," he says matter of factly. "We got to move soon."

LIZ LAPIDUS and KC WILDMOON

LEFT: Hutsville Mayor Dale Mines. BELOW: B.J. Byers walks by City of Atlanta sanitation department bulldozer. Photos by Skye Mason



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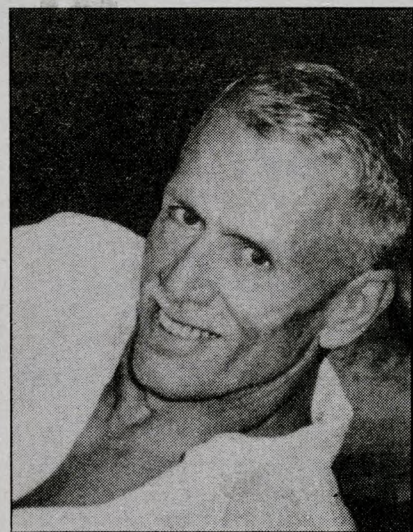
Chicago, IL—The Anderson Prize Foundation announced the four recipients of the second annual Stonewall Awards, which reward individuals whose activities contribute to the quality of life for America's gay and lesbian community. Each recipient will receive a check for \$25,000, awarded without requirement or obligation.

This year's awards honor four activists from each region of the country. They include:

- Amy Ashworth of New York City, the mother of three sons, two of whom are gay. When her eldest son came out, she began learning about gay and lesbian issues and was outraged by society's treatment of homosexuality. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to bring gay and lesbian family issues into the mainstream. Ashworth has served as director of New York City Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and regional director of the Parents FLAG Foundation.

- Christian Haren of San Francisco, who became known as the former "Marlboro Man" model who had AIDS. His real work began when Catholic nuns asked him to speak to their students. This launched his pioneering program, The Wedge, which has been duplicated all over the country, followed by another program called The People with HIV in the Classroom Project.

- Graciela I. Sánchez of San Antonio, is the executive director of Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. By gathering the groups together, Sánchez helps create a more effective environment for local activism, in gay and lesbian issues and a host of others. In 1987 and 1988, Sánchez studied film and video in Cuba and produced a 14-minute film about gays in Cuba called Not Because Fidel Castro Says So, which has been shown at film festivals worldwide.



- Al Wardell of Chicago, who has made an impact as president of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Key programs he has shaped include: preparing guides for high school counselors

to help gay and lesbian students; creating a prison support committee and police sensitivity training; convincing both the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times to create and staff gay reporting beats; and training a statewide volunteer lobbying corps. Wardell is a teacher in the Chicago public school system.

"These four achievers demonstrate the range and depth of gay and lesbian leadership in our country. These are people who were affected by issues and moved to make a difference—to change, educate, heighten awareness and shake people's false assumptions. Their work provides inspiration not just to the gay and lesbian community but to all Americans," said Paul A. Anderson, the founder of the Stonewall Awards and a native of Chicago.

Pictured: Christian Haren.

BOOK REVIEW

JULIA HUTTON, who has shared her "bed and mortgage" with another woman for the last ten years, got this idea for a book: "I was talking with friends about sex, and though frank, we were in some ways inarticulate. We needed magnitudes of language beyond Kinsey and the Karma Sutra." There was nothing on the bookshelves so, tape recorder in hand, Hutton did explicit interviews with men and women, ages 17-73, who view sex as a powerful positive force in their lives. The result is "Good Sex: Real Stories from Real People" (Cleis Press, June



1992, 24.95 cloth, 12.95 paper) which the author describes as "a kind of X-rated Studs Terkel."

I am a dyke. I came out fifteen years ago and have not led a particularly sheltered life: although I expected to learn one or two things from this book, I did not anticipate what actually happened. "Good Sex" has bent my world view permanently out of shape.

Let me introduce you, for example, to "Cybelle." She is a straight woman who lives with a man called Larry. Cybelle cross-dresses as Alan, and Larry dons women's clothes to become Debra. They go out to parties cross-dressed as members of the opposite gender. Sometimes Cybelle, as Alan, wearing a dildo, goes to peepshows to watch two women perform together, and masturbates—still wearing the dildo—in front of the women. When he is leaving, he takes off the dildo and waves goodbye with it.

At work "I'm definitely Cybelle but... I often wear a vest and tie, and sometimes I wear a whole man's suit... I get cruised by the closet lesbians..." At this point, I begin to lose track: here was a woman dressing as a man, who sometimes dates a man dressed as a woman, and sometimes gets blow jobs—as a man—from women... but there again, sometimes she is a woman only pretending to dress as a man...

Now I can no longer look at a woman without wondering what she's up to after hours. And I wonder: who are the straights, and who are the perverse? Is there any difference, and who decides, anyway? The world has suddenly become a very strange and eerie place.

"Good Sex" has also taught me much about men: how some feel about sex and gender and desire. Male sexuality has always been a mystery to me. For example, I never understood why some men would enjoy going to a beach night after night and having a dozen different encounters each time. Once, yes, maybe even twice, for the experience, but night after night? Surely they would end up feeling just a little demeaned (not to mention exhausted). Now, I understand—at least in part.

Then there is the drag queen who shaves his chest and his stomach, but not his legs. "After all," he quips, "I'm a feminist."

This book is a plea to the world, from queer and straight alike: Why can't the world set aside rules on sex and gender and just let us be? "Good Sex" does not provide answers. As Julia Hutton says, "it's more a fistful of Polaroids than a clipboard survey poking towards a conclusion."

While you read "Good Sex" you will live in the heads of sixty-two different people, each with a unique perspective on sex. It will teach you things you did not know, and perhaps that you did not want to know. Such knowledge is valuable. Read it.

NICOLA GRIFFITH

Pictured: Julia Hutton. Photo by Barbara Hernesman

GRASS ROOTS

COLUMBUS' LEGACY SUBJECT OF ARTS, EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Alliance for Cultural Diversity (ACD) is hosting RECORDEMOS: REMEMBER, May 22 - 25, a grass-roots conference for artists from around the country. The conference marks the Quincentennial anniversary of Columbus' arrival to the Americas and examines its effect on the political, cultural and social thought of our time.

To some, the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival is a time for celebration; to others it is a time to question our heritage. Columbus' arrival brought with it the genocide of native Americans, as well as a new mentality of greed which still exists in our society today.

The conference will feature performance, visual, film/video and written art with several gay Atlanta area artists including Rebecca Ranson, Joyce and Jacque, Chris Walker and Debra Hiers. This conference attempts to unite artists with a platform for moving further into dialogue around issues.

According to Genie Barringer, issues which might arise, such as racism in the gay and lesbian community, will be addressed by a consortium of formal respondents to speak about a particular aspect or issue of the piece. This is designed to be less formal than a panel discussion, said Barringer, "because panels are hierarchal. We want to present the [artist's] work as a springboard for further dialogue about issues."

The conference is divided into three sections. Friday is an Educators' Symposium, where local teachers are invited to discuss how the Quincentennial can be dealt with in the classroom. Activism and the Arts will continue throughout the weekend, examining the broader issues of art and how they are influenced by the Quincentennial thought. The Children's Conference will run through Saturday and Sunday for children under the age of 16. It will include workshops in African costume-making, movement, creative writing, visual art, videography and painting a Work Map.

ACD is an national network of progressive and community-based artists, activists and educational workers who share the understanding that culture is an inalienable right and that political and economic democracy cannot exist without cultural democracy. ACD began a campaign for organizing counter-Quincentennial work at its 1989 conference. Volunteers are still needed. For more information please contact Genie Barringer at 377-4670.

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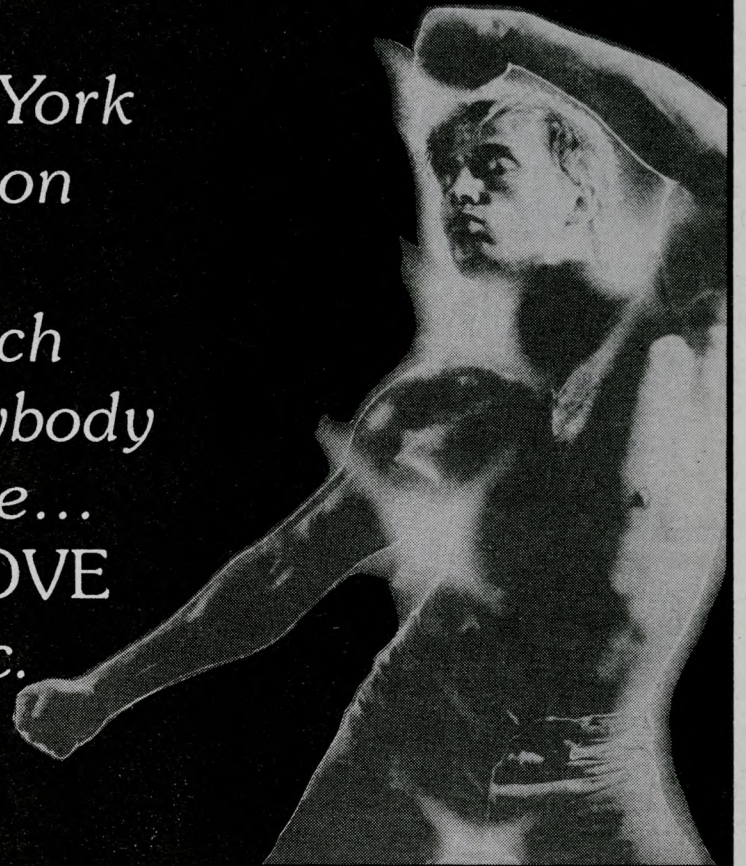
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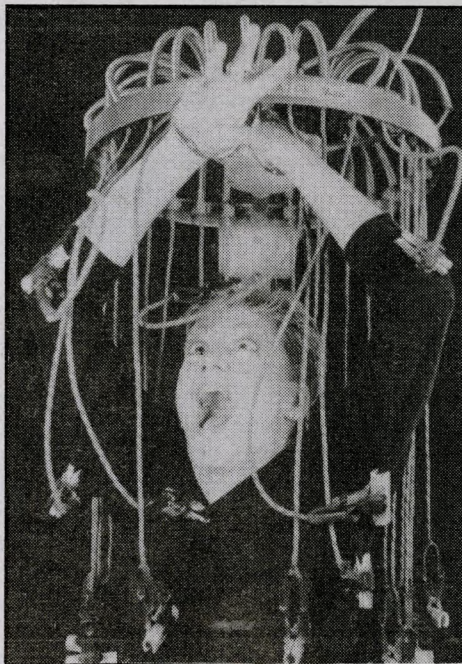


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HAPPENINGS

Tues, May 19 — **JUST AFTER INCA...One Woman's Journey through Incest to Healing**

Rebecca Bass reading, discussion

Thurs, May 21 — **INVISIBLE LIFE**
E. Lynn Harris reads from his book about
bisexuality in the Black community

Thurs, May 28 — **CHRISTIAN FEMINISM?**

Connie Tuttle, M.Div.

C A L E N D A R

14 THURSDAY

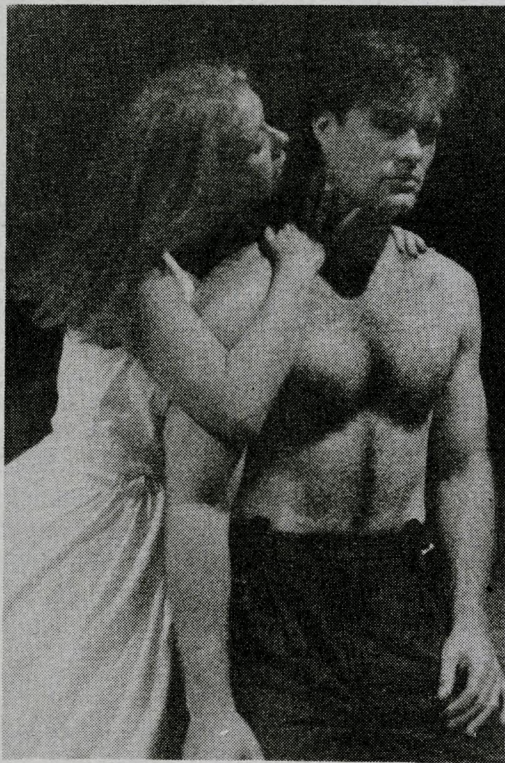
ELLEN ROSNER (WITH CAMILLE). Chicago singer/songwriter and former lead singer of Women of All Sexes will be performing with her saxophonist Camille Rocha at The Star Bar, next to Bond in LFP.

OUR BODIES, OUR SELVES: THE WAR AGAINST WOMEN'S BODIES. African-American author Judy Willis explores how society's notions of beauty are used to oppress and destroy women's sexuality and love for their bodies. Charis Books & More. 7:30 pm. 524-0304.

ACLU BENEFIT. Go hear the Big Fish Ensemble at Variety Playhouse. \$7. 9pm. 524-7345.

15 FRIDAY

DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS. Neighborhood Playhouse presents Eugene O'Neill's poignant drama about a New England farm family's battle for property, love and immortality. Opening



tonight thru June 13. **NAPWA OPEN HOUSE.** Come see the new space for the Women's Feminist HIV Hot-line, the Atlanta Buyers Club. 44 12 St., 3pm til 8pm.

AMY RAY HOSTS Ellen James Society, Kristen Hall and Gerard McHugh in concert at Center Stage. \$7. 8pm.

KING THACKSTON. A reception for the local artist's first one-man show in five years. Included are

works from his Murders, Miracles, Mandalas and Visual Sentences Suites. Gallery MSL at TULA, 75 Bennett St. 352-6935.

PRIDE COMMITTEE BENEFIT. This weekend, Blake's is where Pride is at. Come get info and browse through the various Proud t-shirts, buttons, posters and bandanas. Call the Pride Line for more-662-4533.

B-MOVIE, THE PLAY. Tom Wood's wild and wacky comedy has Blonde

Bombshells, Handsome Hunks and lovestruck Girl Fridays. See Horizon Theatre's wind-up production of the season. Opening tonight thru June 28. 584-7450.

16 SATURDAY

SPRING FLING FLEA MARKET. South Atlantas for Neighborhood Development (S.A.N.D.) holds its annual shop-til-you-drop-fest from 9am til 4pm. Go south on Moreland, turn right at Delaware. Call 622-0067 for details.

DOUG MARLETTE. The Pulitzer Prize winning former political cartoonist of the Atlanta Constitution will autograph copies of his new *The Before & After Book* at Borders Book Shop, 3655 Roswell Road, from 1pm til 2:30pm. 237-0707.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND DINNER. 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. Entertain-

ment by Robert Ray. For tickets call (404) 662-4280.

BYRON GALVEZ. One of Latin America's most important artists will exhibit his paintings and sculpture at Merrill Chase Galleries at Lenox Square. Opens today with a champagne reception from 5pm til 8pm. Running thru June 7. 266-1199.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Yoel Levi conducts Bernstein and Sibelius, with Georgia native Robert McDuffie as guest violinist in Bernstein's *Serenade for Violin and Orchestra*. 8 pm. Symphony Hall. 892-2414.

17 SUNDAY

TORY BEATTY. Local lead singer for "Proposition" performs live at Backstreet as the group

debut its hot new dance single, "Go With It!" Reception to follow.

18 MONDAY

NORTHERN EXPOSURE. If you know who Cicely and Roslyn are, tune in Channel 5 at 10 pm and meet them. If you don't know who they are, turn to Dish RIGHT NOW, and make a point to acquaint yourself with this quirky, wonderful series that depicts the Great White North as rural America should be.

18 MONDAY

BIKE TO WORK DAY. The Atlanta Bicycle Campaign wants you to pedal to a lunchtime rally at Woodruff Park at Noon. There will also be rush-hour bike convoys—assert

your right to bike! 659-2036.

JUST AFTER INCA... ONE WOMAN'S JOURNEY FROM INCEST TO HEALING. Rebecca Bass reads from her novel and signs books at Charis Books & More. 524-0304.

20 WEDNESDAY

SOCIAL DISTORTION, plus Pegboy and Best Kissers in the World, at GSU's Sports Arena. \$10 (\$5 to students). 8pm.

WEST SIDE STORY. 10 Oscars! No commercials! WGTV, Channel 8, 9pm.

Pictured:
UPPER LEFT: Terry Higgins and Patricia French in "Desire Under the Elms"
BELOW: "Ameneecer (Dawn)" by Byron Galvez

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

ROSE EXTRAVAGANZA. Atlanta Botanical Garden's tribute to Gertrude's three favorite flowers continues, with experts available to answer questions on May 13 & 14, and with Stephen Scanniello, author of "Roses of America", speaking on the 15th. Atlanta Botanical Garden. Piedmont Park. 876-5859.

ROMEO AND JULIET. Thru 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.

LES MISERABLES. Thru May 17. Victor Hugo's epic masterpiece of Paris returns for one week only. The triumphant return of the award-winning musical. Fox Theatre. 249-6400.

DECORATORS SHOW HOUSE. Thru May 24.

Marvel at the handiwork of 24 area decorators as they turn the 10,000 square foot home at 3594 Tuxedo Court into a "European Estate." It benefits the Atlanta Symphony. Call 264-4499. **GREATER TUNA.** The comedy starring Joe Sears and Jaston Williams about Texas' third smallest town, Tuna. Thru May 26. Alliance Theatre. 249-6400.

NUNSENSE. This Off-Broadway long-running hit play offers irreverent humor at a fevered pitch. Thru June 6. Onstage Atlanta. 420 Courtland St. 897-1802.

GEORGIA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL. Thru June 7. The 7th annual event returns. 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 \$10;

\$5 for kids. 964-8575 for more info.

STAND UP TRAGEDY. A tough new play about the violence in which many young black men live — and die. Directed by Chris Coleman. Thru June 14. Actor's Express. 280 Elizabeth St. 221-08312.

SCULPTURE BY BROWER HATCHER. Thru June 27. A two-part show of both interior and exterior work by one of Atlanta's premier sculptors. Heath Gallery, 416 East Paces Ferry Rd. (262-6407) and Eve Mannes Gallery, 116 Bennett Street (351-6651).

SAGA! THE WHITNEY BONNEVILLE STORY. May 21 thru June 7. SAME brings back Jeff Shanks' drag-musical-documentary-spoof-comedy about the "life" of Whitney Bonneville. 14 Street Playhouse. 881-0817.

THE FLIRTATIONS. May 31. Lyrics that will make you laugh, cry and holler for more from America's premier gay a capella songsters. Variety Playhouse. 524-7354.

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 496-4352.

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.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. June 17 - July 5. ATC Productions brings back Seymour,

Audreys I & II and the whole gang, in this hit musical with songs by the late Howard Ashman and Alan Mencken—those Little Mermaid guys. Variety Playhouse. 249-6400 for tickets.

LESBIAN AND GAY

PRIDE '92. June 27 & 28. A week-end full of activities culminating with the march on Sunday. Lea Delaria emcees at Piedmont Park after the march. 50,000 are expected. See you there.

A MIDNIGHT CLEAR AND THE PLAYBOYS

FILM REVIEW

In the new World War II drama, "A Midnight Clear," Ethan Hawke plays Will Knotts, a sensitive, misty-eyed army sergeant chosen to lead an infantry and reconnaissance squad on a dangerous mission to map German troop movements. The year is 1944, and it's Christmas time on the front lines of Europe's snowy battlefields.

The kicker is that Knotts' squadron is composed of young men uniquely like himself: kids whose IQs weigh in at 150, minimum. Also, a member of his company, tagged Mother Wilkins by his fellow soldiers, is in the midst of a complete mental collapse.

Early on, Knotts' squadron comes across a deserted French chateau brimming with fine wine, sumptuous bed coverings and canned sardines. But Mother Wilkins cloisters himself in the attic, sitting for hours on end in monastic isolation, talking by candlelight to figures in paintings kept there in storage. It never occurs to the geniuses downstairs to lay off the wine and sardines long enough to relieve him of his gun.

But then this movie itself ought to be placed under 72-hour observation. "A Midnight Clear's" cast of characters may have IQs of 150, but virtually every decision they make is stupid. Directed and written by Keith Gordon, "A Midnight Clear" is excruciatingly bad. The only reason nobody snatches that gun away is that the movie couldn't come to its meaningless conclusion were its characters to behave rationally.

The German soldiers turn out to be just regular guys. They want to surrender to the Americans. They even give the Americans a Christmas tree they've decorated as a peace offering.

The film's puny sensibility also makes room for our old



friend, the whore with a heart of gold. A frightened, emotionally devastated young woman, she's alone in the city with no place to go and contemplating suicide (her husband was killed days before the war).

The gents take her back to their place for a screw, but decide it wouldn't be punch after hearing her story. Just before sunrise, though, knowing they will be transported overseas later that day, she silently makes the rounds of their hotel rooms, servicing each of them in turn. God only knows how we're meant to interpret this scene.

Gordon's direction is as trite as his writing. If his camera isn't lingering inexpressively on stricken faces or bullet wounds, it's focusing on a sweet little fawn mistaken for a Nazi—typical of the film's sophomoric symbolism.

The term atrocious is sufficient commentary on the actors' performances. But I can't end this review without recounting the profoundly ironic and uplifting scene in which the German and American soldiers sing Christmas carols together, cheerily gazing upon that symbolic Christmas tree they've decorated in potatoes and, er, hand grenades.

One luminous Irish tale leads to another. Last year gave us "The Miracle," Neil Jordan's plaintive, ironic meditation

in the hell of unrequited love. Now comes "The Playboys," another pawky drama, starring Robin Wright, Albert Finney and Aidan Quinn as people dodging mines along the path of obsessive entanglement.

We are in Ireland, in the late 1950s, in one of those villages ruled by the thunderclap of the local Catholic priest. The town beauty, named Tara (Ms. Wright), has just born a son outside of marriage. Led by the parish priest, the townspeople insist she name the baby's father.

Tara refuses steadfastly. She also blinks at the flood of marriage proposals offered her, one by a local farmer down on his luck, another by the village constable, called Hegarty (Mr. Finney), who carves a beautiful crib for her out of wood painted sky blue.

When Tom (Aidan Quinn), a member of a troop of wandering, rascally theatre folk called the Playboys arrives in town, we understand what Tara has been waiting for—a spellbound romantic attraction with a mutual desire for sex.

Egged on by the townspeople, Constable Hegarty's obsession with Tara grows wrenching. "Marry me or I'll go mad," he pleads. Fighting the bottle and driven by undercurrents of despair, he sees himself as a man running out of last chances.

"The Playboys" was directed by Gillies MacKinnon, here making his debut. The flaws in his direction pale in the light of his accomplishments. MacKinnon's gifts are abundant and ringing, the rare example of a first time director reaching early maturity. His pacing of scenes is an example of subtle phrasing in art. And his work with actors is superb. His cast uniformly brings their characters to luminous, complicated life.

Jean-Claude Petit's delicate score evokes the film's swaying moods with reticent splendor. And the script, by Shane Connaughton ("My Left Foot") and Kerry Crabbe, extends to its characters a quality lately misplaced amid the chaos of hype and high concept—benevolence.

TERRY FRANCIS

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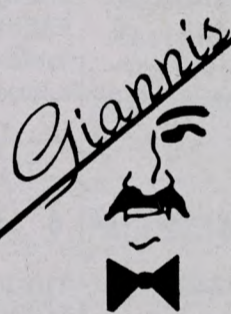
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The business of art met the art of business at Burkhardt's Art Fest '92. The patio areas to the back and side of the Burkhardt's complex were covered with local artists and craftspeople offering their work for sale. Colorful abstract canvases and works on paper vied for viewer attention with jewelry, t-shirts and cards. Artists of note included Michael Williamson, Roger Labunski, Michael Housley, Rodney Pittman, Christine Paradise, Quinn and Jody Hanvey.

Williamson's dark good looks made a striking contrast to his colorful portraits. He has been painting professionally for the past two years and his obvious talent was reflected in the many works he sold this weekend.

Hanvey creates cards, jewelry and t-shirts which promote safe sex, gay pride and monogamy all at once. Much of his work incorporates nude male images, most often his own. "I make the photo and serve as my own model. That way I don't have to worry about release forms or paying someone else." Hanvey is also an entertainer and has just wrapped up a collaboration with Steve Meisel and Madonna, a book which is to be released this summer. He quipped, "I just spent eight hours nude on Madonna's lap."

Sharing the confines of a single booth were artists/partners Rodney Pitman, maker of masks, and Michael Housley, painter. Nearby was jeweler Christine Paradise whose Marietta-based company is known as Dash of Trash. Around the corner was Roger Labunski, an abstract expressionist with two distinct styles—one a free-form splatter of color, the other making use of bold blocks of solid color against a contrasting field. "He paints in two styles for a simple reason—he's schizophrenic!" pointed out his partner, Miriam Romain.

I am told that the weekend event, which included three auctions, music and food was a complete success for all involved, especially Project Open Hand, which will benefit from the event to the tune of over \$8,000.00. Much credit goes to Mary and Palmer Marsham as well as Craig Benoit (aka Lola) and the hard working staff of Burkhardt's. And

AFTER HOURS

DANNY ROBLE



the artists themselves who contributed so much.

Spotted enjoying the festivities was activist Pat Hussain. Never having met her, I introduced myself and asked what was the status of her show on Cable 12. The one episode I had seen was an in-depth discussion of religious groups. Ms. Hussain explained that her show, called "In God's Image," will be broadcast in late May and will be a discussion and clarification of the Leviticus texts with two ministers from the First Metropolitan Community Church.

Here is some great news for serious fans of serious drag. Entertainer Tony DeSario is adding a new career hat to his wardrobe—that of entrepreneur. He has put together a cast of some of the best performers in Atlanta and is

launching mid-week shows at Thelma's Pump Room at the Armory. Show nights are Wednesday and Thursday with a cast to rival any show bar in the country. One needs a calculator to count up the titles won by these girls—I'll mention the most recent ones.

There is stage veteran Tina Devore, most recently crowned Miss Georgia USA; Motion, who is Miss Atlanta Continental; blonde bombshell Lauren LaMasters, currently reigning as Miss Georgia Continental as well as Georgia Entertainer of the Year; Ashley Kruijz, recently crowned Miss Atlanta USA. Had enough? Hold on to those calculators, sisters and brothers, because also in the cast is Miss USA '90, Cezanne. With this cast, who's not to worship!

Add into the mix dancers Keith Rogers and the aforementioned Mr. DeSario and you have something for everyone. Atlanta needs a shot in the entertainment arm and I wish Tony and his cast much success and "break a heel." Call 881-9280 for show times.

CALLIN' OUT AROUND THE WORLD! ARE YOU READY FOR A BRAND NEW BEAT? SUMMER'S HERE AND THE TIME IS SOON FOR MARCHING IN THE STREET! Next month brings around Atlanta's biggest show of force by our community, Gay Pride '92. Last year's huge turnout was the biggest ever, making our city's march the third largest in the country. Nothing is more empowering that to walk the parade route from the Civic Center to the green lawn of Piedmont Park, surrounded by thousands of people who are not afraid to be themselves and to share their pride with all Atlanta. Will you be there?

The Pride Committee is working hard to ensure that the '92 March is as memorable as '91 and they need your input and support. Volunteers are needed to help with entertainment, fundraising and security. What better way to contribute to the community than to be an active participant in such an empowering march and rally? Call 682-4533 to find out how you can help or sign up at Blake's on 10th Street during a Pride Preview on May 15 and 16.

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Working It Out: That's the name of a new quarterly newsletter that will cover gay/lesbian employment issues. Ed Mickens, who was the editor of Genre magazine for a while, is the brains behind what Dish believes is a great idea whose time is overdue. W.I.O. will address three broad employment areas—law and company policy, education and training, and benefits and compensation issues—with news, profiles, columns, letters, and resource listings. Sounds fabulous to us. In fact, the only thing that's keeping us from jumping for joy is the rather steep (\$60/year) subscription rate. That's OK for corporations and law offices. But for folks as cautious (and penurious) as Dish, W.I.O. offers the ability to see a free sample before deciding to invest the whole 60 smackers. If that sounds like a deal you can't resist, send your name and address, along with a request for a sample copy, to Working It Out, PO Box 2079, New York, New York 10108.

Right-Wing Wrongs: At the other end of the rainbow from Working It Out is a fundraising letter that Dish recently received from the Christian Action Network—a retrograde lobbying group in Forest, VA. Seems that these folks are raising money (and signatures) to support H.R. 299, which is just a piece of legislation that would abolish the National Endowment for the Arts. You read right—we said *abolish*—not limit funding or place restrictions on grants. Luckily this nasty little bill is all tied up in committee. And it's likely to stay there—unless these Christian crazies get a lot of support for their fanatic agenda. In the meantime it would not hurt for you to drop a note (or give a ring) to the office of your US Congressperson and tell him that he can look elsewhere for votes if this bill ever sees the light of day.

Albee Innocent: We're sure that regular readers will be more than a mite relieved to learn that Edward Albee has been acquitted of the charges of indecent exposure filed against him in Miami in January of this year. Actually, Albee wasn't acquitted; the charges against him were dismissed by a judge who agreed with Albee's lawyer that the well-known homo playwright was guilty of no more than taking off his trunks to rid them of some

Dish

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



pesky grains of sand. Such exposure is a crime in Florida only if it is vulgar and/or indecent. Albee's actions were judged as neither. The dismissal came more than a month ago, but Dish has been behind in reading the "Miami Herald." Sorry for the delay.

Tales From The North: "Northern Exposure" has saved the best for last this year. In the season finale (May 18, 10pm on Ch. 5-WAGA), flashbacks tell the tale of the town of Cicely's founding by two lesbians who showed up in 1909 Alaska trying to escape the "polite society" of the lower 48. A CBS press release reports that "from the day they arrived, oppression in the foul and uncivilized town ceased to be tolerated." Isn't it amazing what a couple of lesbians can do? Roslyn (with big gun) and Cicely are portrayed by Jo Anderson (post-Linda Hamilton beauty in "The Beauty and the Beast") and Yvonne Suhor. Dish can't wait.

Crime Crap: Dish is ready for Rodger Brown (who writes the Creative Loafing's The Blotter column) to find a new voice with which to report the seemingly endless string of crimes—especially the domestic violence incidents—upon which he appears to dote. We suspect that Mr. Brown's (and the C.L.'s intention) in running The Blotter is to make citizens aware of the level of crime that pervades our fair city. That's fine. But through the years Brown's tone has become more and more cynical, nihilistic and, dare we say, even casual. Truly terrible incidents are regularly presented as if they had no impact on the lives of the victims or their communities. That's not the case...and, we hope, not Mr. Brown's intention.

Alternative or Oppressor?: Hairdressers, florists and cosmetic counter clerks need not apply for membership to a new gay men's group in Atlanta—The Mountaineer's Club. Maybe Dish is being a mite too sensitive here, but we have at least one friend in each of the aforementioned professions. And when somebody discriminates against our friends, we feel burned too. We're all for new and creative organizations that seek to serve different segments of the community. But we're wondering if this "new social organization for non-stereotypical gay men" that wants to "provide a place away from all the usual gay 'crap'" is what it claims to be. Or is it yet another example of how some gay men (and some lesbians) find ways to exclude their (potential) allies whilst pandering to their oppressors? Write The Mountaineer Club, PO Box 191102, Atlanta, GA 31119-1102 for more info.

May 14 - May 20, 1992

Jupiter is now moving forward in Virgo, while Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are in apparent retrograde motion. Basically this indicates constant, unexpected change and growth and seems to require that we all come to a much better understanding of our own human nature and unconscious processes.

ARIES, with Mars now activating your 1st house, it is extremely important for you to be physically active. Even if it looks like there isn't a free minute in your schedule, at least leave your car in the far end of the parking lot. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Patient **TAURUS**. If you find your patience wearing thin or you are feeling unappreciated by friends or family, you may find you are doing something that's not pleasing to yourself. May be time for a change. Dear **GEMINI**, this may not be the best time to make a major move, but it is an excellent time to be in touch with old friends and associates. Opportunities await, be discriminating.

CANCER, your close friends and business associates may be less efficient or effective for awhile and you may feel like you

STARSIGNS

have to take up the slack for them, but it is really better all the way around if you don't. **LEO**, you may need some extra personal time for exercise and exploration, or at least some travel in your busy schedule. If nothing else will work, at least get out of town for a long weekend. **VIRGO**, it is now full steam ahead on all your favorite projects, but please don't take on anything new until you have finished a few that are current.

Dear **LIBRA**, this is an excellent time to reconnect with old friends and to cultivate greater depth in your current relationships. Also a good time for a little more passion and romance in your life. **SCORPIO**, if you are experiencing emotional or internal pressure, it may be you are in a kind of healing crises. Be

very gentle and kind with yourself and let the old wounds heal. **SAGITTARIUS**, you really can rely on your creative ability and expression for a more enjoyable life. There is no rule book for the times we are living in right now. Take every opportunity to exercise your creativity.

Dear Conscientious **CAPRICORN**, it is extremely important for you to learn ways to reduce your personal stress and tension. Relaxation, meditation, exercise, sports, even movies are all options to unwind and enjoy life a little more. If you are a politically or socially active, **AQUARIUS**, you may find yourself caught up in The Cause. You need personal time to rest and regenerate, so don't wait until you are burned out to take a break. Perceptive and intuitive **PISCES**, you may need to find ways of focusing and channeling your growing sensitivity, so you won't be quite so vulnerable to everyone's passing thoughts and feelings. Remember, not everything you feel is yours.

MARY BAILEY RULE is a professional astrologer who specializes in personal, relationship and career interpretation. She can be reached at 364-6073.

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN...

THE HAT SISTERS WERE EN ROUTE TO AN EXCLUSIVE AND FABULOUS AFTER HOURS PARTY SOMEWHERE EAST OF FIJI WHEN THEIR AIRCRAFT DEVELOPED SUDDEN ELECTRICAL TROUBLE AND WENT DOWN...

DIDN'T I ASK YOU NOT TO SMOKE IN THE OHM? LAVATORY!

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, NEARBY FISHERMEN MIS-TOOK OUR HEROINES FOR LOCAL DEITIES & RUSHED TO THEIR AID...

LOK SOW ADLAI! MAHANA BIG FUT! NOWBHANO!

*GOOD LORD ADLAI, IT'S THE GODDESSES OF SUN AND MOON. THEY'VE DROPPED DOWN FROM THE BLUE & ARE NOW DOING MEDIOCRE ESTHER WILLIAMS IMPRESSIONS JUST YARDS FROM OUR HUMBLE VESSEL... G

SOUTH SEAS SISTERS...

THE DESERT ISLAND THEY WERE TAKEN TO WAS NICE, THOUGH THE COUNTRY-FRENCH CAFE WAS ABSURDLY OVERPRICED, AND THE NATIVE GAY COMMUNITY SEEMED TO BE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING ALONG...

VA LANKO BIG SPANO (SPINELESS, ASSIMILATING, GUPPIE LADDER CLIMBER!)

SUK POW NOGNOW! (SHRIEKING 'QUEERY' PUSHING, DOGMATIC SLOGANEER)

THAT NEXT WEDNESDAY, A GAY CRUISE SHIP (CONTACTED BY SHORT WAVE) ARRIVED TO FETCH THE SISTERS, WHO, AT A BANQUET BEFORE DEPARTURE, OFFERED THEIR HOSTS SOME GENTLE ADVICE...

TRY NOT TO CONSTANTLY TEST EACH OTHER'S CORRECTNESS..

TRY TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S POINTS OF VIEW.

TRY TO HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR.

FORTUITOUSLY, EACH WEDNESDAY ON THIS PARTICULAR ISLAND ALSO HAPPENS TO BE "SACRIFICE-VIRGINS-TO-THE-GODS-BY-PITCHING-THEM-DOWN-THE-VOLCANO" DAY. — THE ISLANDERS DEEPLY APPRECIATED THAT THE SISTER-GODS SAVED THEM THE TROUBLE.

HEY, WHO NEEDS A LONG SCHLEP UP A VOLCANO... YEA AND IN ALL THIS HUMIDITY GIVE YOURSELVES A DAY OFF... HECK, WE'LL TAKE THESE VIRGINS OFF YOUR HANDS RIGHT HERE!

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O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

AIDS Organizations

AID Atlanta—872-0600
 AIDS Hotline for Women—888-9991
 AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta);
 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). AIDS Legal
 Project—688-5433
 AIDSCHAIM—Edie, 642-3467
 Atlanta Buyers Club—(404) 874-4845, or PO Box
 77003, Atl, 30357.
 Childkind—936-9655
 First MCC AIDS Ministry—872-2246
 Georgia AIDS Therapy Information Network
 —1-800-551-2728
 The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project
 —633-0634
 National Assn of People With AIDS/Atlanta
 —874-7926
 The Names Project/Atlanta—605-7386
 The Names Project Quilting Bee—872-2246
 Outreach, Inc.—(404) 346-3922
 People's United Pet Support—370-0178
 Positive Outlook On Health—872-9954
 Project Open Hand Atlanta—525-4620

Arts/Entertainment

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—872-4432
 Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—627-7830
 "Funny...That Way"—875-2275
 Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc—
 881-0817
 Southern Country Atlanta—938-0609

Bars

The Armory—836 Juniper. 881-9280
 Backstreet—845 Peachtree St. 873-1986
 Blake's—227 10th St. 892-5786
 Buddies—239 Ponce de Leon. 872-2655
 Bulldog & Co—893 Peachtree. 872-3025
 Burkhardt's—Ansley Square. 872-4403
 Collier Rd Library—857 Collier Rd. 355-5189
 The Cove—586 Worchester. 875-2477
 Crazy Ray'z—1492 Piedmont. 873-4655
 The Eagle—308 Ponce De Leon. 87EAGLE
 551 Downstairs—551 Ponce De Leon. 873-4052
 Frank's Place—778 N. Highland. 881-0259
 Gallus Bar & Restaurant—49 6th St. 892-8983
 The Heretic—2069 Cheshire Bridge. 325-3061
 Incognito—857 Collier Rd. 355-5189
 Loretta's—708 Spring St. 874-8125
 The Metro—48 6th Street, 874-9869
 New Order—1544 Piedmont. 874-8247
 Opus—1086 Alco St. 634-6478
 The Otherside—1924 Piedmont Rd. 875-5238
 The Pear Garden—11 Luckie St. 659-4055
 Petrus—1150 Peachtree St. 873-6700
 Phoenix—567 Ponce De Leon. 892-7871
 Scandals—Ansley Square. 875-5957
 Tin Lizzie—Ford Factory Square. 874-3961
 Tower Lounge—735 Ralph McGill. 688-5463
 Traxx—306 Luckie St. 681-5033
 Visions—2043 Cheshire Bridge. 248-9712
 Weekends—688 Spring St. 875-5835

Direct Action/Political

ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—523-6201
 ACT UP—874-6782 (O) and 605-7458 (info)
 Atlanta Committee for the 1993 March on Washing-
 ton—(404) 662-4199 or PO Box 5282, Atlanta,
 GA 30307
 Catalyst—(404) 776-1478
 Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
 —605-7477
 Gay Republicans—Republicans for Individual
 Freedoms, 2980 Cobb Parkway, Suite 192-172,
 Atlanta, Ga 30339
 GAPAC—Georgia Political Awareness Coalition—
 368-7420 & 872-8095
 Human Rights Campaign Fund—Field office,
 373-6330
 LEGAL—605-7476
 National Association of People with AIDS Hotline—
 874-7926
 National Organization for Women—875-0176
 Neighbors Network—874-5171
 Queer Nation—605-7396
 Straight But Not Narrow—242-2256 (voice mail)
 STOP Bias Crimes Hot Line—605-STOP

Professional

Atlanta Business Networking Assoc.—621-5032
 Bar Owner's Assn—1874 Piedmont Rd., NW, Suite
 211-B/102, Atlanta, GA 30324
 Fourth Tuesday—662-4353
 Georgia Assoc. of Physicians for Human Rights
 (GAPHR)—231-2251
 HomeGirls—662-0105
 Nat'l Federaton of Career Women—(404) 659-0315
 OUTstaff (Emory)—727-2787 (Donna)
 Success Oriented Networking Group—662-4202

Spiritual

All Saints Metropolitan Community Church
 —622-1154
 Catholic Gay and Lesbian Outreach—521-2962
 Congregation Bet Haverim—642-3467
 First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta—
 872-2246
 Gay & Lesbian Mormons—570-2561 (dig. page)
 Integrity—642-3183
 Lambda Light—873-2137
 Lutherans Concerned/Atlanta—636-7109
 Oakhurst Presbyterian Church—378-6284
 Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns—
 373-5830
 Unitarian Universalists—634-5134 or George at
 688-2242

Sports/Outdoor

Atlanta Team Tennis Assn—621-2699
 Atlanta Venture Sports—242-4899
 Atlanta Women's Social Tennis—662-GAME
 Friends Atlanta—662-4501
 Front Runners/Atlanta—621-5007
 Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—SASE to: GANG,
 PO Box 7546, Atlanta, GA 30357
 Hotlanta Soccer—577-0418
 Hotlanta Softball League—PO Box 14582, Atl.,
 GA 30324, 873-4061
 Hotlanta Volleyball—621-5062
 S.E. Gay Rodeo Association—PO Box 8262,
 Atlanta, GA 30306. 874-6556
 Women's Rugby—659-6916 or 761-8939
 TRICKS Bridge Club—2980 Cobb Parkway, Suite
 192-172, Atlanta, Ga 30339
 Underwater Escapes—289-0696

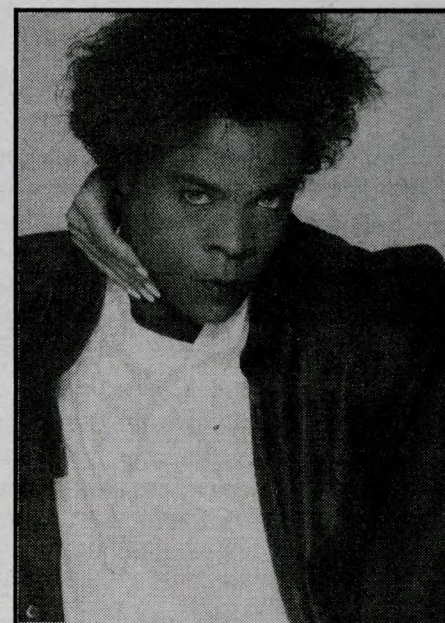
Service/Support

African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance
 —458-3003
 Athens Gay and Lesbian Association—P.O. Box
 2201 Athens 30612-0201 or call 404/549-9368
 Athens Lesbian Information Line
 —(404) 613-7661
 Atlanta Couples Together—365-2455
 Atlanta Educational Gender Info Service
 —PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033.
 (404) 939-0244 (evenings).
 Atlanta Gay Center—876-5372
 Atlanta Lambda Community Center—PO Box
 15180, Atlanta, Ga 30333. 662-9010
 Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
 Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—PO Box 5502,
 Atlanta, Ga. 30307, phone 378-9769.
 Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—239-8016
 Black and White Men Together—892-BWMT
 Codependents Anonymous—239-1657
 Chrysalis Women's Center—881-6300
 Coming Full Circle—624-1799 (Saf)
 Delphi—P.O. Box 14591, Atlanta, GA 30324
 Emotions Anonymous—872-0979
 First Women—Write G.G. Richardson, PO Box
 724711, Atl. 30339, phone 612-9473.
 Gay Fathers Association—296-8369.
 Gay Help Line—6pm-11pm 892-0661
 Georgia Girth & Mirth—PO Box 9678. Atlanta,
 GA 30319. (404) 621-5710
 Georgia Lesbian Ecofeminists—525-9085
 The Group—892-0661
 Gwinnett Lambda—PO Box 464848,
 Lawrenceville, GA 30246
 Interact of Atlanta—455-6795
 Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—237-6262
 Leather S/M Discussion Group—873-2453
 Lesbian Support Group—627-7387
 Lesbians and Gays with Children—373-3089
 Lesbians Over 50—Sarah, 850-1005
 Lesbians With Children—740-1729
 Men of Little 5 Points—PO Box 5425, Atlanta, GA
 30307
 Name the Violence—370-1317
 Out Youth—Chance at 688-1954
 Overeaters Anonymous (gay/lesbian group)
 —892-5868
 Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
 —296-0830 or 875-9440
 Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
 Single Lesbians Group—466-3287
 Women In Kahoots—(WINK)438-1421
 Women of Wisdom—723-1112, or write P.O. Box
 451065, Atlanta, GA 30345-1065.
 Wordsmith Society—Ron at 892-2815
 Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
 Zami—315-7684

Students

Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—727-6692
 Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw
 Comm. College 426-8160
 Georgia Tech Gay & Lesbian Alliance—497-0684
 S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—248-9307

O U T L I N E S

KEITH ROBINSON**Age:** 28**How Long in Atlanta:** 7 years**Occupation:** Special Events Production /
Design**Relationship Status:** Single**Hobbies:** "My business is my hobby,
because I do all the things in my business
that I enjoy."**Favorite Magazine:** House and Garden:
"It's fabulous!"

You may recognize Keith Robinson's face from television. He is the Out and About host on Out in Atlanta, a public access show produced by his roommates, Leif Eric Spivey and John Ishmael. Out in Atlanta is a half-hour talk show with a news segment, a social segment and occasional on-location reports, all focusing on the gay and lesbian community. "Out and About is basically a community social section of the show," says Robinson.

Out in Atlanta started its first season last year with an episode on the Gay Pride weekend activities. "It's become a very important part of all our lives," says Robinson of his and Spivey and Ishmael's involvement in producing the show. "It's a very important message to our community," he adds. "It shows the community, homosexual and heterosexual: number one, that we are an important voice and, number two, our diversity, which makes us stronger." The show has also had an impact on Robinson himself. "Until I started doing this television show, I wasn't as out as I am now. This television show is a release for me," he says.

Thanks to a grant from the Bureau of Cultural Affairs Cable Access program and donations by local doctors and businesses, Out in Atlanta has been able to occasionally move out of the studio for on-location shooting—at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, at the Atlanta hearings on domestic partnership, at gallery openings, and to the King Center for interviews. "We'd like to get in our car and go to other parts of the Southeast when things are happening. I think it would really strengthen the show, but it's difficult." Robinson adds, "All these things cost money."

Robinson thinks the show would also benefit from more community involvement. For Out and About, Robinson currently gets most of his information from the printed gay media, though a few organizations, like Black and White Men Together, send their monthly newsletters to the show. "At the end of my show I always say 'If you have anything that you'd like to share with us here at Out in Atlanta you can contact us at P.O. Box 724968, Atlanta, Georgia 30339.'" But he still receives less mail than he'd like. Robinson compares this lack of response to what he sees as a lack of community involvement on the part of many Atlanta-area gay men and lesbians. "If more people spent less time worrying about what they're going to wear out to the bar every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night and started caring about all the issues that we're faced with in our community, then we'd move a lot farther a lot faster.

Robinson runs his own business, Gloriosa Design, out of his home, a ware-

house studio space which he has recently moved into and begun remodeling. "Gloriosa is an exotic type of lily," he explains, and "exotic" describes his home as well as his business. Robinson's high-ceiling studio is divided into living space, work space and entertaining space, each area designed for function. "I do a lot of entertaining, entertaining clients and just entertaining, and I love space," he says.

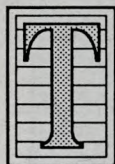
Through Gloriosa, Robinson produces special events and does interior design, as well as furnishing weekly flower accounts. He says, "My main focus is special events production and catering." One of his accomplishments was designing and producing the opening party for the Cirque de Soliel. "I had to take a 10,000 square foot space and transform it into a big circus party, and that's the kind of thing I like to do," he says. But he hastens to add that he does not do it alone; "I have a very talented team of individuals who work with me." In addition to graphic designer and friend, Robin Davis, Robinson's production team includes roommates Spivey and Ishmael. "John is an excellent chef, and Eric is excellent at Public Relations, and they are both great at production."

Gloriosa Design has existed four years, and Robinson has big hopes for its future. "I've waited so long for this to happen," he says; "My business has just taken off in the last three years." He has a busy summer ahead, with several weddings on the agenda, and he anticipates even more growth in the business. But more than finding a ready market and serving it, Robinson is doing what he loves. "I like to see the looks on peoples' faces when they see the wedding bouquets, or see the food and its presentation."

As for the future of Out in Atlanta, Robinson would like to see the show expand into the Southeast and then some. "We want a national show," he says. "We think we have the professionalism for a national show, and we think it would be well-received." But like all great dreams, Robinson knows this one would take funding. "It'd be great if we could hop on a plane and go to San Francisco Gay Pride and to New York Gay Pride, and on our Gay Pride show have all that." Robinson is clearly an energetic young man who thinks big.

DEBBIE FRAKER

MARIA HELENA DOLAN



he Visceral Pleasures Afforded by Nepeta Cataria—Aurlphobes maintain that cats and gardens don't mix. (These people probably poison rodents, hire chemical companies to 'treat' their lawns, and think Bush is doing a good job, too.)

That being as it may, I find cats a natural complement to outdoor diggings/doing. Properly respectful and appreciative in the presence of superior beings, I grow the sacred herb for them.

No, not cannabis sativa; nepeta cataria—catnip. The intertwining of cats and catnip is lost in the hoary mists of dreamtime. At some point, cats grew receptor sites in their brains for the active chemical within catnip (although almost 30% lack the gene which controls the receptors, and hence are not sensitive to catnip's effects).

We know that catnip has a long history of human medicinal uses. In *The Master Book of Herbalism*, Paul Beyeryl insists that "catnip is good for all sorts of nervous disorders. (It's a) nervine, stomachic, carminative, tonic, diaphoretic, refrigerant, antispasmodic, stimulant."

"(Catnip contains) the chemical nepetalactone, similar to the active principle in valerian which can promote sleep. It is best mixed with camomile, which is also an anodyne, or pain reliever, and with caraway seed as a flavor enhancer." (*Landscaping with Herbs*—John Adams) (Yes, I have heard that some PWAs are experimenting with it; but no one I personally know.)

How does one go about cultivating this herbaceous perennial? Catnip likes well-drained, moderately rich (more sand than clay) soil. She adores a lot of sun, can handle some shade, doesn't require a lot of fertilizer, and is virtually pest-free.

You can start her from seeds. Rest them in a wetted

← THIS OR THAT →
EARTHSHAKIN' OBSERVATIONS

cloth or paper towel for a few hours before putting them into the plot, the large pot, or the windowbox (make sure screens are secured; crazed kitties will push away any barriers between them and their herb).

Catnip also transplants well, and spreads freely—a member of the mint family, after all. The plant grows to about 3.5 feet high, topped by tiny lavender flowers.

There are some dwarf forms: *N. mussinii* (Persian catnip), grown for flowers; and *N. cataria* var. *citriodora* (Lemon catnip), prized for her citrusy smell. These make good evergreen borders. Mulch catnip, and she'll often make it through the winter without difficulty. If she dies back, she'll green up quickly in early spring.

If you opt for transplants, local felines may love them to death!! I have several plants, so none of them take too many hits too frequently.

And if you've ever observed a catnip orgy in progress, can you be surprised by this quote? "You must keep control of the catnip source, because cats will open things you thought they couldn't open and will go places you thought they couldn't get to in order to get at (it). One day you'll come home to find your cats rolling drunkenly on the rug, catnip littered all about. I'm not saying there is anything really wrong with all this—the catnip won't hurt them...But cats become immune to the effect of catnip if it is used too frequently." (*The New Natural Cat—a Complete Guide for Finicky Owners*)

I keep a locked stash in the house. But I have pulled Malita, Most Evil Kitty in the Galaxy, out of a child-

proofed cabinet where she was frantically trying to pry open a screw-top jar lid containing the precious herb. (The only time she has ever considered opposable thumbs useful rather than laughable.)

HERB DRYING WITHOUT TEARS

Want to keep some of those herbaceous perennials when the season's over? Drying them is the answer; and such an easy one, at that.

Now, I'm not crazy about the microwave route, although a lot of gardening columnists recommend this nowadays. Being an old-fashioned kind of Amazon, I prefer the tied-in-a-bag-and-hanging-upside-down method.

The really desirable part of the herb tends to be the volatile oils, whether for medication, flavoring or aromatic usage. The trick is to keep these from vaporizing along with the moisture.

I tie the stalks together, place the plant upside down in a brown paper bag (branches first), tie the bag around the stalks and hang everything from the stalk tips. String, yarn, nylon, whatever can tie. The bag keeps the oils in place and keeps dust off the plants.

Naturally, drying transpires faster in a moisture-free, heated environment than in, say, a sauna. Summertime attics are particularly good for this purpose.

Unless, of course, your attic 1) doesn't exist, 2) was built for fifty pound dwarves, not great big Queers. Mine is the latter case.

So I hang my bags from the ceiling in the un-air conditioned family room. (Everyone knows warm air rises, and cats can only leap so high.) After one or two weeks, I strip off the leaves and place them into glass jars.

A word of caution: DON'T put undried herbs into jars; you'll have a nasty, slimy moist crop in just a few days, and you'll wind up throwing out the entire contents.

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(good thru May 30th. Limit 3 rolls of 35mm film)



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Briarcliff & Clifton
873-4513

WHAT'S FALAFEL?

FALAFEL

Pharaonic cooks almost certainly invented ta'amia or falafel, fried rissoles made from mashed beans, garlic, and spices. Coptic christians consume large quantities of Falafel during Lent.

Falafel Sandwich: Falafel rissoles in a pita wrap served with lettuce, tomatoes and tahini sauce.

the CEDAR TREE

Your Neighborhood Delicatessen & Take Out
Emory Village Shopping Center
(404)373-2118

FREE Fountain Drink FREE
with purchase of any sandwich
exp. 5/30/92

SUNDAY POTLUCK

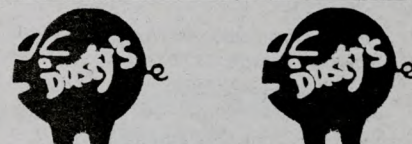
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Authentic North Carolina Style
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Chicken • Ribs
Brunswick Stew

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Lunch & Dinner 7 Days

1815 Briarcliff Road
320-6264

The Private World of Water Ponds—Have you been thinking about an escape from the violent, cruel, threatening world? Have you been feeling the need to look “inward” at yourself and nature? Have you been secretly yearning for your own place of retreat? Well, you can fulfill all of these in your own backyard with the creation of a water pond.

“It’s a very private world,” remarked Bill Dowden, a local pond supplier who can wax philosophic or elaborate enthusiastically on the highly technological aspects of water ponds.

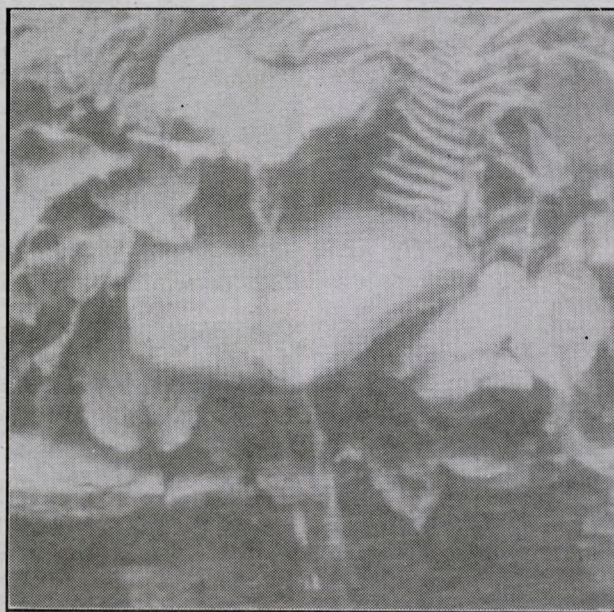
“Water ponds are private worlds for most hobbyists who want them for themselves. Sometimes they’re willing to share their ponds with others, but basically they seem to be for people who are looking for something inward. That’s why these water ponds are never in people’s front yards.”

Experiencing a current wave of popularity for hobbyists in areas as diverse as Atlanta, Nashville, Maryland and parts of Ohio and Indiana, water ponds are marvelous projects with lots of artistic freedom. That’s true also of the high-tech aspects of water ponds. “There’s really no limit as to what you can do technically with your water pond,” he said.

There are certain specific guidelines in the design and construction of a water pond. Digging the 18-20 inch deep hole and establishing a perfectly level top edge is crucial for a water pond. The hole itself should have steep sides, no shelf, a flat bottom and be constructed of materials that will not hurt the liner. For example, where the soil is clay (like in Georgia), smoothing it out while wet will produce an ideal pottery bowl shape. If the soil contains sharp rocks (like in Kentucky and Tennessee), cover it with two inches of river sand or a suitable non-biodegradable and durable underlayment.

Dowden advises against using newspapers or biodegradable carpeting. He recommends a 12-ply Permalon liner—it’s a permanent membrane (unlike some vinyls), is absolutely fish-safe, structurally-strong, puncture- and tear-resistant and available in most sizes and shapes.

After positioning the liner, measure how much water your pond can hold, in case you ever need to medicate your fish.



While the pond is filling up, the liner should be folded on the sides for a neater appearance. Immediately drain the pond partially and tape the folds down with 5 inch wide liner tape—this keeps fish from becoming trapped behind the folded edges.

The edge can be decorated by using clean fieldstones. The first layer should overhang the pond, with the second layer covering the spaces between the first layer’s stones. The liner’s edge should be lifted up, forming a structural dam behind it to keep out surface water. Flipping the liner over the dam, the area outside the pond should be covered with something porous such as pine bark, pine straw or river stones. With this design, the pond will appear to be flush with the ground level with the water just below the top of the rocks.

Which waterfall pump system to use can be determined by measuring the vertical height from the surface of the water, as well as how many gallons per minute will be pumped. The Calpump made of stainless steel and brass

(rather than aluminum) is excellent and comes with a built-in valve for adjusting.

When it comes to water gardens, Dowden stresses “the importance of an ecological balance.” “Plants,” he says, “are the key, but the hobbyist has to decide on which ones to use and whether to allow Mother Nature or themselves (as ‘the intruder’ to the system) to supply them. If you choose Mother Nature, she’ll add algae. Since water naturally contains ‘organic nutrients,’ plants are placed in the water to consume all of the nutrients, thereby maintaining clear beautiful water in the pond.”

A few fish will live on bugs and other edibles; as more fish are added, food must also be added to the pond. Following this progression, more food equals more organic matter equals more fertilizer. It’ll then be necessary to add the correct number of plants to consume it all.

Dowden warns against the use of biological filters to get rid of the algae. “All that the biological filters provide is a home for bacteria that create a waste treatment system.” Other alternatives Dowden discourages for maintaining clear water are removing the fertilizer through water changes and employment of an ultraviolet sterilizer.

Dowden notes that the important decision is “what level of involvement the hobbyist wants to have with the water pond.” The demands of a water pond can vary from “zero” to “high” maintenance depending upon the number of fish, plants and other factors in the overall balancing act.

In choosing fish, Dowden urges beginners to choose goldfish, and to stay away from koi fish (a type of carp). “Pick the ugliest ones that are actually cute-looking. They’ll grow quite large. Relate to them and have fun with them,” he said.

For the “serious” owners who cultivate it, water ponds will become a time-consuming hobby that makes some demands upon them and requires them to interact with something. Dowden suggests that the fish “be thought of just like any other pets. They need care and attention. They’re totally dependent upon the owner of the pond. Psychologically, they fulfill mankind’s need to be needed.”

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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.

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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.

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

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

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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.

Atlanta Gay Center - Plus groups for HIV-affected people. Fridays, 8:00pm and Sundays, 6:00pm. 63 12th Street. Call 876-5372 for more info. Helpline, 892-0661, for info, counseling and referral. 6:00-11:00pm 365 days a year.

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

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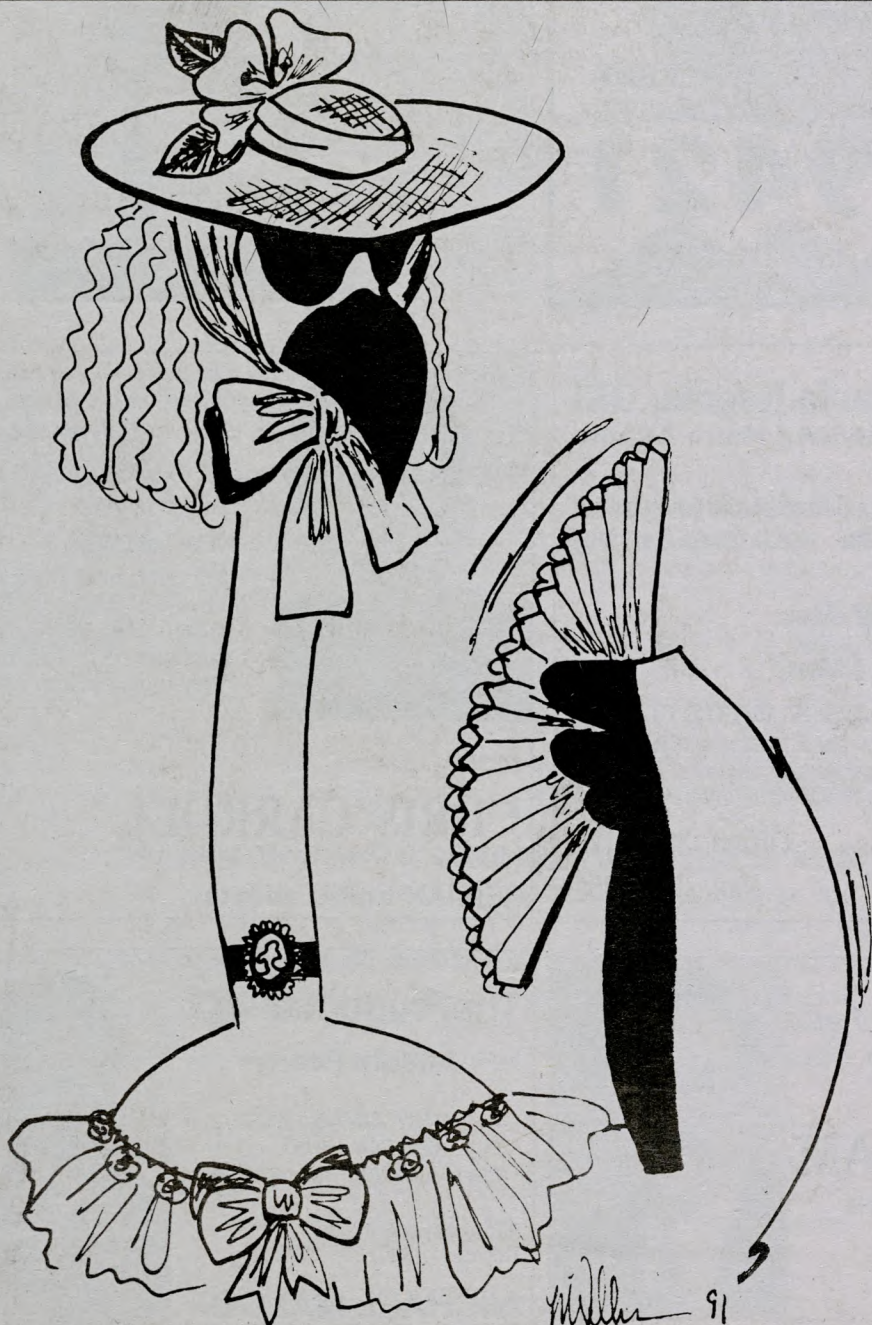
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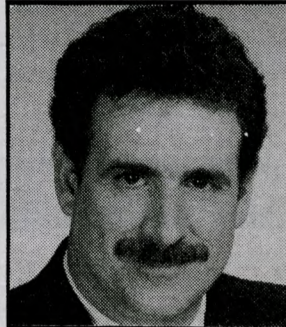
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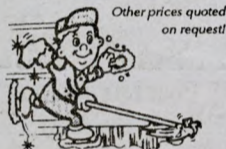
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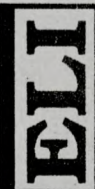
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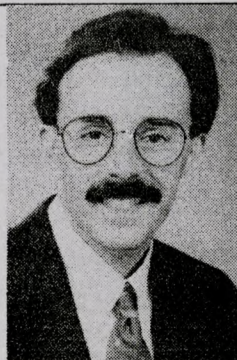
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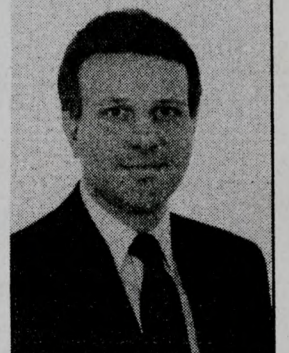


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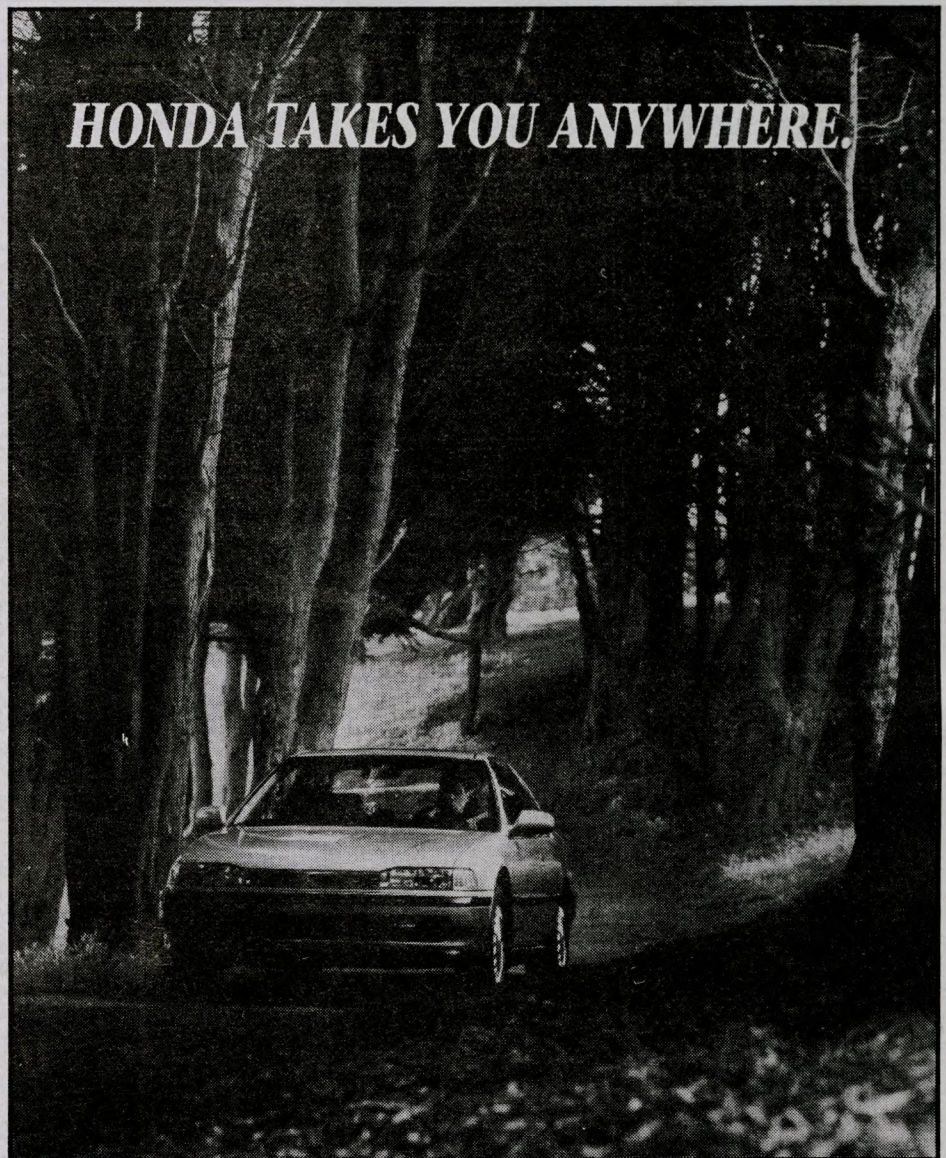
WEEKEND SPECIAL*

\$44.00 nightly

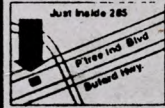
* single or double occupancy

- Walking distance to all Midtown activities including Piedmont Park
- Off-street Parking
- Quality, Service, Comfort

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Travel Agency

"We will help create a unique and exotic vacation for you anywhere in the world."

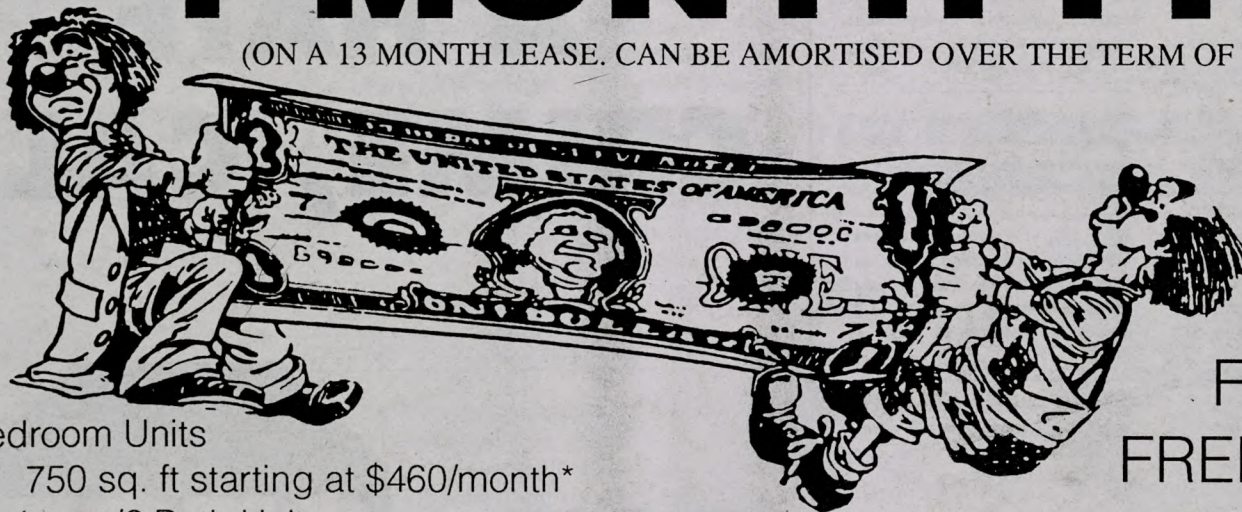
- ⊙ Free ticket delivery
- ⊙ Fast, efficient service
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- ⊙ Specials available

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- 2 Bedroom/2 Bath Units
1150 sq. ft. starting at \$595/month*
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1550 sq. ft. starting at \$805/month*

*(Special Amortised)

- FREE GAS HEAT
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Performance on June 6
7 - 11 pm
Tickets & T-Shirts
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OUR PLACE
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1500 Travel (cont'd)

MEXICO BEACH, FLA. Elegant vacation rental lets you get away to the beach. Located in picturesque Mexico Beach, Fla, this private lesbian home offers daily & weekly reasonable rates. Bed & Breakfast available. (904) 648-8764. (5.13)

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The only gay/lesbian accommodations at the ocean between Ft. Lauderdale and Rehoboth. 10 miles to historic Charleston. Affordable deluxe rooms and breakfast, social hour, 8-person spa and pool. PO Box 41, Folly Beach, SC 29439.

(803) 588-9443

1600 Volunteers

Volunteer Counselors are needed for Grady's Infectious Disease Clinic. Help orient new patients to HIV, clinic services, and healthful living skills. Contact John H. Templeton at 616-2440.

AID Atlanta is recruiting volunteers to become facilitators for SAFE SEX Parties in the gay community. These parties are lots of fun. Also volunteers to conduct safer sex/risk reduction workshops. Call Pat Grindel for information —872-0600. Volunteers needed in various areas of AIDS service and education. Training provided. Call AID Atlanta, 872-0600.

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

GLAAD/Atlanta needs volunteers to monitor drive-time radio shows, some radio news and talk shows, and television news and entertainment programming. If you are interested in becoming a part of GLAAD/Atlanta please call 286-7477. The only way to defeat homophobia is to confront it.

American Hospice is seeking a few heroes to work with AIDS patients and their families, assisting with shopping, reading, being a friend. If you can volunteer a few hours a week, call us. 698-8000.

1702 Women

Music lover (Album 88 to Bonnie Raitt), romantic fem. seeks androgenous, fun-loving intellectual for REAL friendship / relationship. Let's talk and get to know each other. ☎ 50021

GBF, very tall, progressive looking, love variety, sucker for emotions, romantic surprises and corny movies. Favorites are dancing, talking from the mind and heart, eating, socializing, and life itself. Seeking woman with self-pride, crazy-streaked and monogamous. I want to learn and grow with someone. ☎ 50018

GWF, 30, professional, new to Atlanta. If you are looking for a wine & roses lady w/a good sense of humor, sensual nature & a try-anything-once attitude, call me and throw caution to the wind. ☎ 50016

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

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, 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

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

Hot, sexy black female, 21 years, seeks same for fun, friendship & more. It's my first experience. Call & leave a message ☎ 50017

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

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.

AD OF THE WEEK

Music lover (Album 88 to Bonnie Raitt), romantic fem. seeks androgenous, fun-loving intellectual for REAL friendship / relationship. Let's talk and get to know each other. ☎ 50021

DRAWING, WEEK FIVE: Here's the fifth 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.

GRAND PRIZE: Dinner for two at CIAO BELLA
To place VOICE CONNECTION voice personals, use classified order form.

TO REPORT A HATE CRIME, CALL



Sponsored by Southern Voice. Formerly 286-BIAS. A service of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union/Georgia

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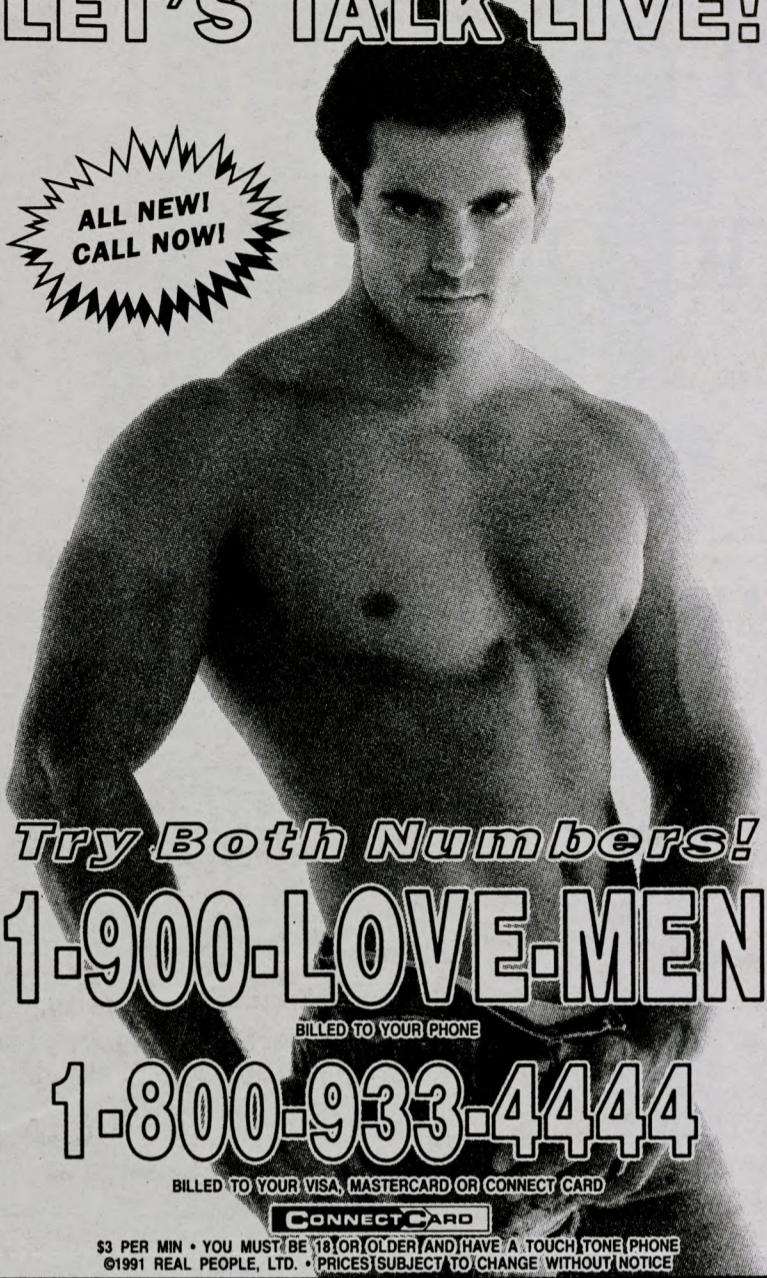
TO PLACE FREE AD
Simply fill out the classified order form at the beginning of this section. 20 WORD MESSAGE FREE. You may have an SV forwarding mailbox for \$10.00 or you may elect to use your own PO Box for \$5.00. Mail or drop off your completed order form with payment at our offices.
A simple instruction sheet will be mailed to you 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.

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CONNECT CARD

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Must be 18 years or older. ©Jartel, Inc., 1992

THE GAY CONNECTION™

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IT'S THE CHOICE OF A LIFETIME



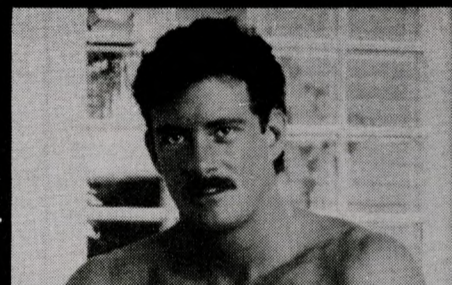
FIND OUT ABOUT DRUGS, SEX AND AIDS

CALL - 1-800-322-AIDS

976-4MEN

976-4MEN

Atlanta's Exclusive Gay
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Messages Change Often.



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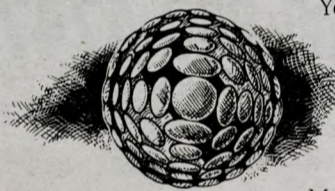
You must be 18 yrs. or older.

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?

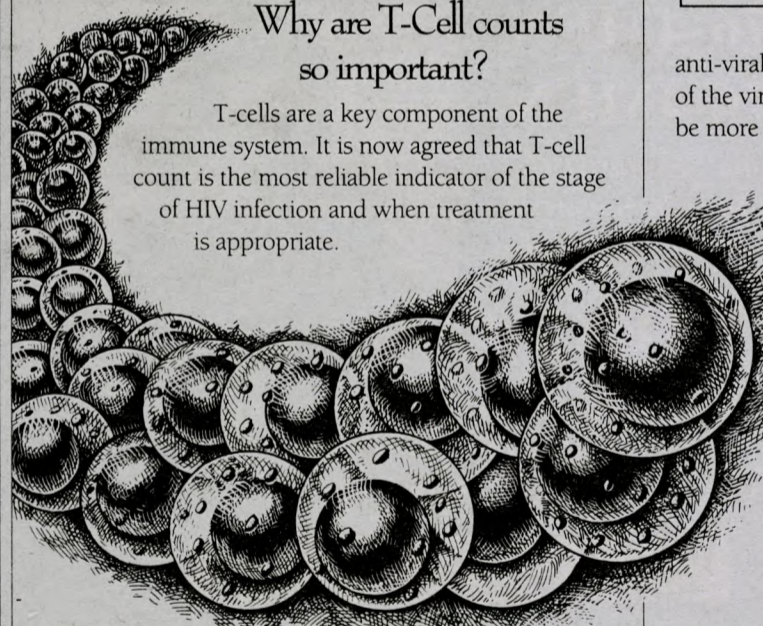


Yes! Long before the first symptoms appear, HIV is already damaging your body's immune system.

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

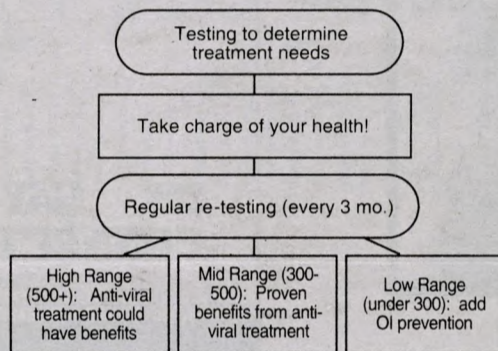
Standard treatment guidelines point to anti-viral therapy when the T-cell count approaches 500, although some researchers now believe that therapy at the 500+ level can produce meaningful results. When the count falls below 300, preventatives against opportunistic infection are indicated.

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.

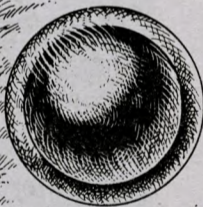
Is combination therapy something I should consider?

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

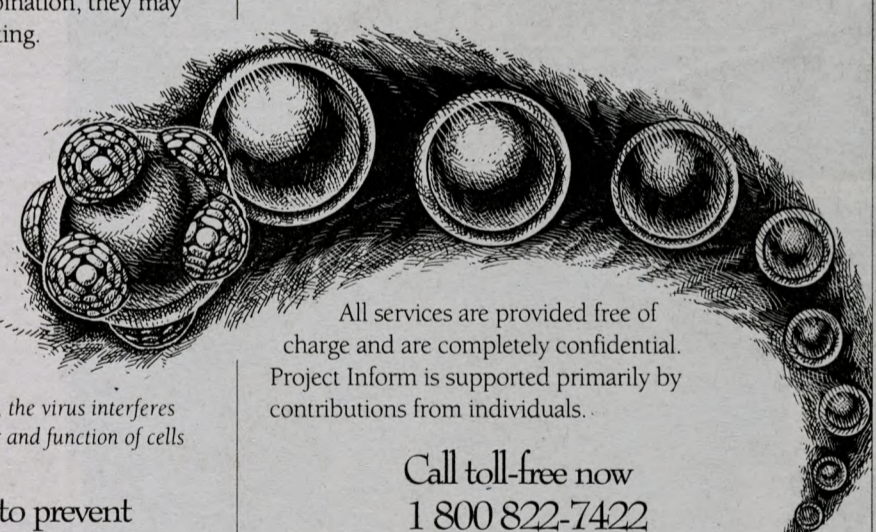
understand what your doctor is telling you. Don't hesitate to bring other viewpoints to your doctor's attention as you learn about them.

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.

Since 1985, Project Inform has provided information to over 100,000 people nationwide through our toll-free treatment hotline—the only one of its kind in the U.S.



All services are provided free of charge and are completely confidential. Project Inform is supported primarily by contributions from individuals.

Call toll-free now
1 800 822-7422

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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