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VOICE

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Magic Resigns

In his letter of resignation from the National Commission on AIDS, basketball star Magic Johnson accuses President Bush of dropping the ball in the fight against AIDS

Los Angeles—Making good on earlier threats to resign his position on the National Commission on AIDS, Magic Johnson sent a sharply worded letter to President Bush on Sept. 25 complaining that the president is ignoring AIDS. Other AIDS activists, including actress Elizabeth Taylor, joined Johnson in scolding the Bush administration for its response to the epidemic.

"I cannot in good conscience continue to serve on a commission whose important work is so utterly ignored by your administration," Johnson wrote. "I am sorry to have to write this letter, but I am afraid that there is little that will be accomplished in the next four months."

AIDS activists and advocates decried the situation that forced Johnson to tender his resignation, but most said they understood the frustration.

"It's a shame that the commission will be missing the credibility and first hand experience Magic Johnson brought to it," said Diane Paulaskas, executive assistant at AID Atlanta, "but we fully understand his position. Hopefully he'll remain active, and continue to make an impact on this country in a more broad way than through the commission."

Johnson, 33, retired from pro basketball last November when he announced he had tested positive for HIV.

Bush quickly appointed Johnson to the commission, but the former Los Angeles Lakers star soon began to criticize the lack of attention he said the Bush administration had paid to its work.

He threatened in July to resign from the commission, saying it hadn't been given enough money.

White House deputy press secretary Judy Smith said Friday the administration has proposed \$4.9 billion in AIDS spending in 1993.

"Combating this disease is an administration priority," Smith said. "It has increased funding since 1988 by 170 percent and in 1992 spent \$4.3 billion for research, more than for any other disease except cancer."

Louis Sullivan, secretary of Health and Human Services, said in a statement distributed by the White

House that Johnson's "absence from the commission's work represents a missed opportunity for himself and for the millions of Americans, especially young people, who know and look up to him."

But Elizabeth Taylor, who has raised millions of dollars for AIDS research, and other activists echoed Johnson's complaints.

"Evidently President Bush announced the other day he was going to give more money to AIDS research," Taylor said in a statement. "But this appeared to be in response to a heckler. Has anyone seen it in the budget or is he just replying on the defensive?"

Paul Lerner, director of communications for AIDS Project Los Angeles, said little of the \$4.3 billion cited by Smith actually goes for research.

"The actual number is \$851 million," Lerner said. "The rest of the money goes toward treatment and care and includes Medicaid reimbursement."

Elizabeth Glaser, the wife of "Starsky and Hutch" star Paul Michael Glaser and founder of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, said she didn't think Johnson's resignation was politically motivated.

"He has HIV. He's fighting for his life," said Glaser, who has HIV and addressed the Democratic National Convention about AIDS in July.

The commission issued a statement that said: "While President Bush has lost the benefit of Magic Johnson's counsel, the country has not. We're certain that Mr. Johnson will continue making unique and invaluable contributions to AIDS awareness, education and prevention."

Commission member Lawrence J. Kessler of Boston said other commissioners "share his frustration, feel his disappointment and wish that this administration was more capable of a response to this epidemic."

Bill Clinton, campaigning in Boston, said he would try to get Johnson involved again if elected.

"He [Johnson] knows that this administration has not done anything on AIDS," Clinton said. "We've got a good AIDS commission, a good AIDS report,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

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Domestic partnership languishes in absence of Mayor

Hate crimes collection suffers from underreporting

Atlanta—No dramatic changes in the state of lesbians and gays in the city arena have occurred here in the last three months, but the summer was not without some glimmers of hope and progress. Lack of action on domestic partnership has been most disappointing, while the City Council Public Safety Committee's Lesbian/Gay Task Force seems to have the market on the bright spots.

First, the bad news. Marcia Okula, Mayor Maynard Jackson's special assistant for lesbian and gay issues, says that work on domestic partnership has been stalled most recently by Jackson's open heart surgery.

"Just before his surgery," she said, "he met with the senior advisors, and said that he wanted a meeting on [domestic partnership] so that we could finish the process. I was working on setting up that meeting when he went into the hospital."

A study committee set up to research the issue and present recommendations to the Mayor finished its work earlier this spring. That report recommended supporting City Councilmember Mary Davis's ordinance granting domestic partnership status to partners of unmarried city employees, and support of a city-wide registry of domestic partnerships. Okula said that follow-up research, requested by the Mayor and the city's finance department, has also been completed. But until Jackson's recovery, no further progress can be expected.

Straight But Not Narrow, however, is working to support domestic partnership legislation. Atlanta's group of gay-friendly straights is sponsoring a postcard campaign urging the mayor to make it happen.

"We've got about 1000 postcards filled out," said Jeff Cronkite, SBNN's political co-chair. Cronkite says they're waiting until Jackson is back on the job to present them to the mayor, and that the group will continue to press for domestic partnership for "however long he takes to make a decision."

Public Safety Committee
Lesbian/Gay Task Force

After a rough start this spring, the Public Safety Committee's Lesbian/Gay Task Force has completed its first quarterly report for the Committee's review, as well as adding two new members, Lavonne Casey and John

Howard.

Among the items on the quarterly report was a request that the committee look into the arrests of seven Queer Nationals earlier this year for "jaywalking" while requesting money at the corner of Buford Highway and Lenox Road. Those charges were dismissed by a traffic court judge, but the Task Force believes that the police report contains inaccuracies and illogical statements, and has asked the Committee to review the police report on the incident.

"The Task Force is asking for an apology to all of the people arrested," said co-chair Ricky Wilson. "The Public Safety Committee will come their own conclusions."

The Committee is scheduled to meet on September 28, but at press time it was not known whether it would be considering any of the Task Force's recommendations at that time.

Hate crimes

Also in the Task Force's purview is the perennially sticky issue of bias crimes collection. Larry Pellegrini, secretary of the Task Force and president of the ACLU's Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter, which collects bias crime information from the Bias Line (605-STOP), said that the Police Department and the Bias Line's collections had only one common report.

"I think most of the reports we get [on the Bias Line], they don't report to the police," said Pellegrini, "for whatever reason."

Deputy Chief Eugene Robinson, newly appointed police liaison to the gay/lesbian community, stressed the importance of reporting bias crimes to the police.

"Often we just can't get the information [from victims]," he said. "We need these victims to let us know when they believe they've been the victim of a bias crime."

At the same time, those who report crimes to the police rarely call the Bias Line. Pellegrini said that it was a problem both the Task Force and the ACLU were studying.

"We're trying to find out how we can get people to report to us, and to the police," he said. "In order to have an impact, people have to report. We'll assist them through the rigors of it all, but they have to do it. We can't do it for them."

Pellegrini said that as part of that assistance, the ACLU in conjunction with the Task Force has begun talks to include gays and lesbians into the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, an independent organization funded by the Metro Atlanta Crime Commission and a grant from the city.

"There's a lot of potential for us, to be helpful to both of us," said Pellegrini, adding that VWAP is very open to the inclusion. "Most likely we'll get somebody down there."

KC WILDMOON

Kentucky sodomy law struck down

Frankfort, KY (AP)—In a major victory for lesbian and gay rights in the Bluegrass State, the Kentucky Supreme Court last week struck down that state's anti-sodomy law, ruling that privacy rights should apply to gays and lesbians as well as heterosexuals.

In a 4-3 ruling on September 24, the court said the state sodomy law, which bars "deviate sexual intercourse with another person of the same sex," violates the state constitutional right to privacy and the right to equal treatment under the law.

Just because a majority of citizens "finds one type of extramarital intercourse more offensive than another, does not provide a rational basis for criminalizing the sexual preference of homosexuals," wrote Justice Charles Leibson in the majority opinion.

The law seeks to impose moral values, Leibson wrote. He noted that the state no longer makes it a crime to commit adultery, fornication or deviate sexual intercourse between het-

erosexuals.

The case has drawn wide attention. Gay and lesbian groups as well as right wing religious groups have filed briefs in the case.

It arose during a local police sweep in Lexington, in which officers in plain clothes would park in a downtown area and talk to people to see if they would be solicited for sexual contact. Jeffrey Wasson, then 23, was arrested in January 1986 after he spoke to an officer for about 20 minutes and then asked him to "come home" to his residence, according to court documents. The officer asked for details and Wasson suggested sexual activity.

Leibson's opinion said there was no suggestion the sex would take place anywhere but Wasson's home, it was intended to be between consenting adults and no money was offered or solicited.

Chief Justice Robert Stephens and Justices Dan Jack Combs and Thomas Spain joined Leibson in the ruling.

But Justices Joseph Lambert, Donald Wintersheimer and Charles Reynolds sharply

CONTINUES TOP, NEXT COLUMN



Clinton talks to gay and lesbian supporters in Columbus

Columbus, GA—Democratic Presidential hopeful Bill Clinton stopped beneath a Human Rights Campaign Fund banner here on Sept. 23, shaking hands and thanking gays and lesbians for their support, before starting on a bus tour through Georgia with his running mate Al Gore. "It was clear he knew who we were," said HRCF national lobbyist Cathy Woolard. "Of all the politicians there, he was the only one who didn't act like he didn't see this enormous sign." Woolard said the encounter confirmed her conviction that Clinton is committed to gay and lesbian issues. "He didn't have to stop and talk with us," she said. Woolard said that after Clinton and Gore had spoken to the crowd, a man introduced himself to the HRCF group as a gay member of Tipper Gore's staff. "He was obviously out at his job," Woolard said. "And comfortable with it."

KC WILDMOON

dissented, denying that any right to privacy existed and complaining that the decision would promote homosexuality.

"Those who wish to urge that homosexual conduct is immoral and those who oppose the portrayal of homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle will encounter the majority opinion as a powerful argument to the contrary," Lambert said.

But regardless of the anti-gay banter from

the dissenting justices, the prevailing opinion on this state's highest court is that gays and lesbians are more than second-class citizens. "We need not sympathize, agree with, or even understand the sexual preference of homosexuals," wrote Justice Leibson, "in order to recognize their right to equal treatment before the bar of criminal justice."

MARK R. CHELLGREN

Helms amendment cuts contributions to pro-gay groups

Washington—At the urging of Sen. Jesse Helms, the Senate has removed any charity that challenges the Boy Scouts' ban on gays and atheists from the federal workers' annual fundraising campaign.

Helms (R-NC) won a voice vote Sept. 17 on his measure, tacked onto an appropriations bill for health funding. "I'm not going to sit idly by and watch these radical militants attempt to destroy what the Boy Scouts have meant to this country," he said. "To hell with their lifestyle."

The amendment requires the Office of Personnel Management to drop charities from the Combined Federal Campaign that "attempt to compel" BSA to change its policy of refusing participation by gay and atheist scouts and leaders.

The organization most directly affected would be the United Way of San Francisco, which earlier this year cut BSA funding be-

cause of its anti-gay policy. But AIDS service agencies' budgets could be deflated by Helms' measure if they are CFC-listed and take an anti-BSA stand.

Helms' rider must win approval by a joint House-Senate committee before being considered by the House of Representatives. The House declined to approve a similar measure by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), so firtal adoption is unlikely, said Gregory King of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

The Senate move is the third in a series of Congressional attacks on companies that withhold funding from the Boy Scouts. Following the failure of the House measure in August, Rohrabacher and conservatives launched an unprecedented boycott against businesses fighting the BSA's homophobia.

The Boy Scout amendment was Helms' first anti-gay attack since his return from hospitalization for major heart surgery, but was not the only one. Another amendment, to ban federal spending on school-counseling programs for gays and lesbians, was also adopted by a voice vote.

JOHN ZEH

Calif: Job discrimination against gays banned

Sacramento—California became the seventh state to ban job discrimination against gays and lesbians last Friday when Gov. Pete Wilson signed a gay rights bill.

Last year, Wilson vetoed a similar but more extensive bill, sparking violent protests in the streets of California cities. This year, planned protests against Wilson's expected veto turned into parties, as thousands of gays and lesbians

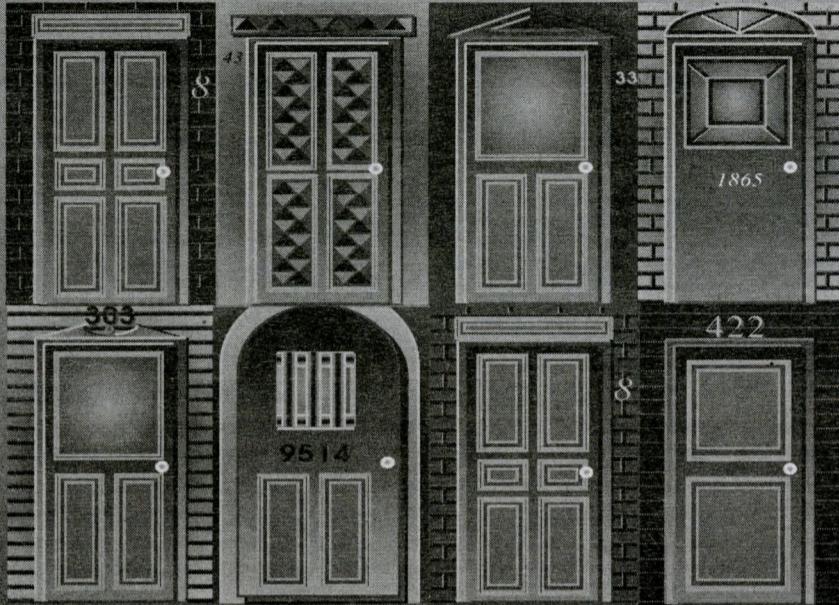
spilled into the streets to celebrate.

"We have so many disappointments," said gay San Francisco police officer David Tussey. "It's nice to claim a small victory."

While gays and lesbians hailed the signing, critics were quick to condemn, saying the bill will encourage the spread of homosexuality and sexual diseases. Steve Sheldon, executive director the Traditional Values Coalition, said that his organization is considering a ballot initiative to reverse Wilson's action.

The bill goes into effect on January 1.

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Alabama doctors testify against state HIV testing law

Montgomery, AL (AP)—A top state public health official said Alabama's year-old HIV-testing law creates a double standard for testing for the AIDS virus.

Private doctors are not required by the law to obtain a patient's consent before testing for the human immunodeficiency virus, Dr. Donald Williamson, director of the bureau of preventive health services in the Alabama Department of Public Health, testified Thursday. But doctors in the state public health system must get consent before testing for the virus, he told U.S. District Court Judge Harold Albritton.

In his challenge to Alabama's HIV testing law, Birmingham resident Robert H. Hill, the plaintiff, maintains the law is unconstitutional. Williamson said certain medical conditions, particularly tuberculosis, might warrant testing a patient for the AIDS virus without consent because asking for consent might drive the patient out of treatment. He also said testing a patient for HIV without consent might be warranted when a health-care worker has been exposed to the patient's blood through an injury on the job.

In earlier testimony, doctors likened the law to the infamous Tuskegee Institute study in which a group of black men with syphilis were left untreated as researchers watched the course of the disease.

"If you antagonize groups at risk, they stay away," said Dr. Donald Goodwin, a public health epidemiologist with the World Health Organization and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "In Alabama, especially, which has a history of patient mistrust based on the experience at Tuskegee with the treatment of syphilis, there needs to be a climate of cooperation between the medical community and patients."

High-risk behavior is interpreted differently by almost every physician, said Dr. Steven Clark, an infectious disease postgraduate fellow at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"In some parts of Alabama, a male wearing an earring would be interpreted as a sign of a high-risk group," said Dr. Clark. "Blacks are far more prone to be suspected of HIV infection than whites and are recommended for testing far more often than whites."

Clark said emergency room medicine, especially, does not warrant HIV testing because emergencies must be handled immediately, regardless of HIV status, while 24 hours are needed to get test results confirmed and known.

Home for PWAs in trouble in Mississippi

Jackson, MS (AP)—The first home here for people who are HIV positive or have AIDS may soon shut its doors because of management problems, according to officials of its founding organization.

Members of the Mississippi Gay/Lesbian Alliance discussed the fate of the Sandifer House during a meeting last week. The home was opened in 1985 amid complaints from neighborhood residents.

"Right now, it looks pretty bleak," said Kathy Switzer, a former board member of the gay organization. "The problem is bad management of the house."

Switzer said she did not know when a decision would be made on closing the facility. The boarding house was founded as a haven for those HIV positive or with AIDS and nowhere else to go.

Conditions at the Sandifer House have also deteriorated, said Eddie Sandifer, executive director of the Gay/Lesbian Alliance, after whom the house was named.

"The house was set up to provide good nutrition and a clean environment. Now it's

not providing either," said Kenneth Hart, 37, an occasional resident of the house.

"My intent isn't to destroy the Sandifer House, but to see it restructured and rebuilt," Hart said. "It has served a place in this community."

Sandifer said he lacked funds to make improvements and that supporters who helped him open the house have other causes.

Eight people now live at the house. "About three people there really need help," he said. "The others could probably be housed somewhere else, but nobody will take them."

Alliance members may not leave Sandifer a choice. Switzer said the house has become a financial drain and that Sandifer has failed to take accountability for reversing the decay that has set in. Switzer said the intent of the membership is not to leave the tenants homeless. She said those who need assistance in relocation will receive it.

ACT UP/Nashville protests Baptist Hospital

Nashville, TN—The newly formed ACT UP/Nashville hosted activists from surrounding areas on Sept. 19 for a protest against Nashville's Baptist Hospital. Some 45 marchers held a legal picket at the hospital, which is under fire because an emergency room physician refused to treat a patient with AIDS.

The hospital has taken no action against Dr. John Peters, who, on June 16, refused to treat Anthony McLendon because of the man's HIV status.

Eleven members of ACT UP/Atlanta joined the protest, the third held against the Tennessee hospital.

"ACT UP/Atlanta supports Anthony McLendon, Anna Green [McLendon's sister and organizer of the first demonstration from which ACT UP/Nashville was formed], and ACT UP/Nashville in their fight against AIDS phobia and discrimination," said ACT UP/Atlanta member Uri Vaknin. "We went to Nashville to show solidarity in a tangible way."

E. BENNETT

Fla. HRS wants murder charge against man with AIDS dropped

West Palm Beach, FL (AP)—State health officials want a judge to drop murder charges against a man who has AIDS, saying he would not be competent to stand trial in the slaying of his wife.

Officials with the state Health and Rehabilitative Services in Miami wrote a letter to Circuit Judge James Stewart last week, explaining Clarence Hoff suffered from AIDS dementia. The letter said Hoff probably would not be competent to face charges that he murdered his wife and attacked one of his daughters.

Hoff, 50, of Boca Raton, told police he had been thinking about killing his family for about a year before he bludgeoned his wife with a hammer and wrapped her head in duct tape on May 8, 1991, according to records.

Moments after the slaying, Hoff walked into his daughter's room and attacked her with a hammer, according to court records. She escaped, got her teen-age sister and the two girls climbed out a bedroom window.

They called police from a neighbor's home. Hoff, who has been diagnosed with AIDS dementia, was found incompetent to face the charges in June. Since then, he has spent 18 days in Jackson Memorial Hospital, officials said.

Two nursing homes in Dade County that take AIDS patients have refused to admit Hoff, and social workers at Jackson Memorial say they cannot continue to help Hoff because of the murder charges, HRS officials wrote.

"It's a very sad case," said Assistant Public Defender Nancy Jardini, Hoff's attorney. Jardini said she believes Hoff is dying and would like to see him spend his final days in a nursing home instead of a state mental hospital.

Taylor Talks Down Heckler

JIM MARKS

Elizabeth Taylor debated with a heckler who challenged her statement about everyone being susceptible to AIDS. Taylor was speaking at Kaufmann's department store in suburban Pittsburgh where she was promoting her White Diamonds perfume. "I have a daughter-in-law, the mother of two of my grandchildren, who is dying of full-blown AIDS," Taylor shot back last Wednesday. "I have it in my family. Pretty soon every one of you is going to have it in your family." The heckler, Virginia D. Yimin, 68, had screamed, "I'll never get AIDS. I'm a devout Catholic." The relative Taylor mentioned is Aileen Getty, Taylor's former daughter-in-law and granddaughter of the late oil tycoon J. Paul Getty. Taylor went on to say she doesn't think President Bush has done much to fight AIDS. She said she plans to talk to Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton about the disease. "Hopefully, it will be a hopeful conversation," she said. Kaufmann's donated \$5,000 to the Pittsburgh AIDS task force emergency fund, and Taylor and the perfume's manufacturer each matched the donation.

Mass. Gives Benefits To Domestic Partners: Massachusetts Gov. William Weld signed an executive order on Sept. 23 giving unmarried couples, including gays and lesbians, bereavement and hospital visitation rights. "We take these steps in recognition...people choose to arrange their lives in different ways," said Weld, a Republican. The new order applies only to the state's 3,000 managers, although collective bargaining may bring the new benefits to union workers as well.

Gay Man Files Complaint Against Forth Worth PD: A gay man who says police officers kicked him in the shin and compared him to a "tooth fairy" has filed a complaint with the police department. Roy Downs was arrested Sept. 10 when two officers hauled him out of the Corral, a gay nightclub, and took him to the Presbyterian Night Shelter. He said police told him he was being arrested for public intoxication, but Downs says he was only drinking coffee at the bar. John Aubry, the Corral's owner, confirms Downs' statements. The arrest was part of several police raids of gay bars over Sept 9-10.

DeConcini Calls For Repeal Of Military Ban On Gays: Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ) called on Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney last month to set up a commission to study the military's ban on gays and lesbians. In a letter dated August 13, DeConcini said that the policy should be updated to "reflect the factual realities of late twentieth century living." DeConcini, who has not been known previously to be overtly supportive of lesbian and gay issues, wrote that such policies "should be based on fact and documentation, not emotion."

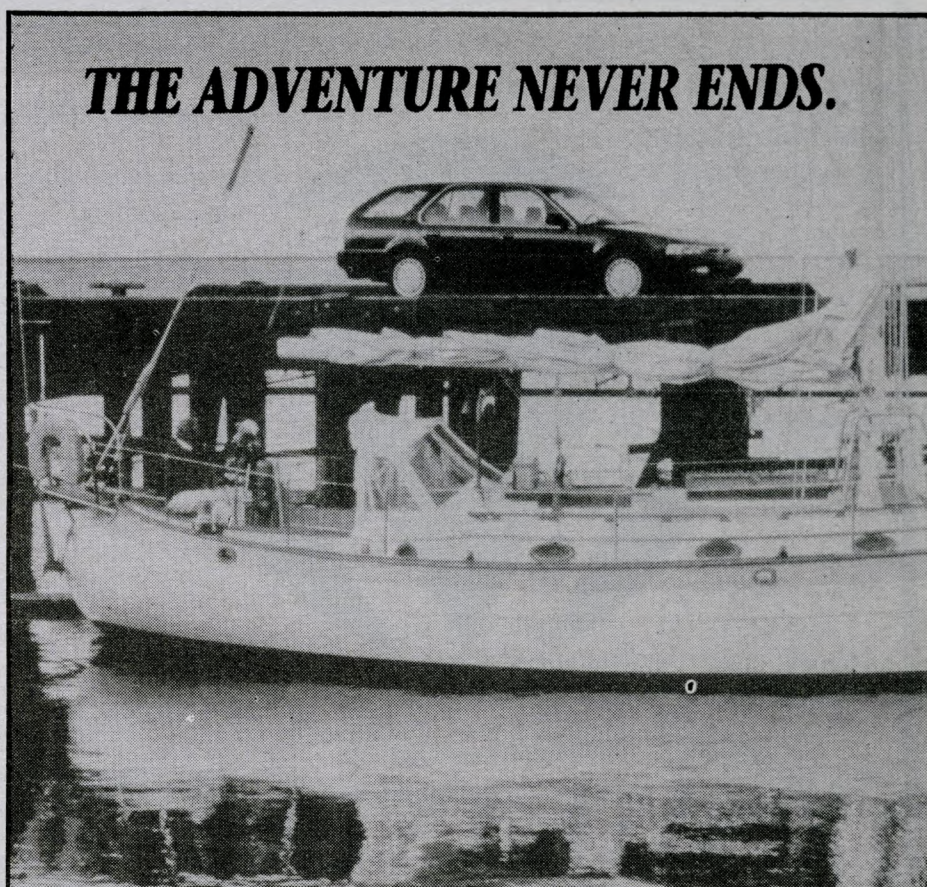
Board Recommends Discharge For Gay Airman: A hearing board has recommended honorable discharge for an Air Force sergeant who came out on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" in July. Staff Sgt. Thomas P. Paniccia vows to continue fighting to end the military's "sanctioned bigotry." "It's just time," he said. "This ban will fall." During Paniccia's hearing, a legal officer ruled that Paniccia's statements that he is gay were sufficient to bring his discharge.

ACT UP Plans To Wrap Hands Around The White House: Less than a month before the November general election, ACT UP/DC hopes that thousands of AIDS activists from around the nation will link hands around the White House in conjunction with a showing of the NAMES Project Quilt on October 12. The demonstration is scheduled to begin at 12 noon. "With hands linked, we will surround the White House, and return the favor of turning our backs to the deadly inactions of two presidents who, for eleven years now, have turned their backs to people with AIDS," said ACT UP spokesperson Margaret Cantrell.

Students Enroll At LeVay Institute For Gay Studies: Seventy-five people have enrolled at the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Education, an institute begun by Salk Institute researcher Dr. Simon LeVay and city planner Christopher Patrouch last spring. Students say the school provides a welcome opportunity to study gay issues in a friendly environment. LeVay acknowledged that original estimates of 500 students and 50 instructors was too ambitious, but he and Patrouch say they have achieved their primary goal of offering education with a gay perspective. "It's important to define homosexuality for ourselves as opposed to having the definition thrust on us by a straight, homophobic world," said Patrouch.

Procter & Gamble Adopts Anti-Discrimination Policy: The Procter & Gamble Company has joined the growing list of companies with an anti-discrimination policy for gays and lesbians. The new policy took effect last week. "It was added to reflect what our actual practice is," said company spokeswoman Linda Ulrey. "We've had a long-standing policy against discrimination of any kind."

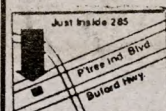
Cambridge Includes Gays In Definition of Families: Gay and lesbian activists claimed a small victory as the Cambridge, Mass., City Council passed the state's first ordinance broadening the legal definition of families to include gay and lesbian couples. Cambridge is the 19th city in the nation to adopt a domestic partnership law that extends some of the legal rights provided married couples to gay and other non-traditional partners, according to city council member Alice Wolf. "This is not approval or disapproval of anything," she said. "What this ordinance does is recognize people are living in different settings and lifestyles. The new law extends health coverage to partners, as well as guarantees gay and lesbian couples visitation rights to hospitals and detention centers."

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Understanding PMS can help to cope with symptoms

Philadelphia (AP)—For many women, the irritability, frustration, and depression that signal premenstrual syndrome are like an enemy within—from which you can run, but can't hide. Although a certain degree of these symptoms is inevitable for adult women, understanding the causes and treatments of PMS can help women cope with the monthly blues.

"Virtually every woman who ovulates probably has some PMS symptoms, caused by the dramatic fluctuation of her hormones," says Dr. Craig A. Winkel, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. "The good news is that these symptoms don't mean that there's anything wrong with you, but that the hormones in your body are functioning normally."

There are tremendous increases in a woman's levels of estrogen and progesterone in the 10 days to one week before her menstrual period begins, Winkel explains.

"In one day, a normal ovulating woman's level of estrogen can increase by 24 times and her level of progesterone can increase by 49 times," he says. "No other hormone in the human body more than doubles in a day. So of course, her body reacts to these changes with a variety of symptoms, including emotional mood swings, irritability, and weight gain due to water retention and carbohydrate craving."

One way to tell the difference between "normal" premenstrual symptoms and severe PMS is if the mood swings and level of discomfort interfere so drastically with your life that you are unable to work or function. If you consistently experience debilitating PMS, you may want to seek medical treatment, as well as try to reduce your exposure to stressful situations during the time before your period.

"Premenstrual syndrome is a multi-faceted disorder and must be treated in a multi-faceted way," Winkel says. "But one of the problems is that the condition itself and the effectiveness of various treatments are very difficult to measure."

"At this point, nothing has been conclusively demonstrated to stop the symptoms of PMS, other than preventing ovulation. Since this 'cure' can be worse than the original symptoms, the best treatment is to help the patient to cope and investigate whether any other medical conditions may be contributing to her PMS."

In some women, their high level of progesterone, which affects the body's metabolism of carbohydrates, can aggravate the symptoms of hypoglycemia, or low-blood sugar. These include paranoia, difficulty handling stress, and irritability. To avoid this, Winkel recommends that women with PMS eat six small meals throughout the day rather than three large meals and abstain from caffeine,

which can stimulate the body to burn more sugar.

In addition, PMS can be aggravated by a deficiency of vitamin B6, a vitamin that affects the action of estrogen in the brain. In some cases, B6 supplements can help reduce a woman's PMS symptoms.

The uncomfortable bloating that occurs before one's period is due to the body's conversion of progesterone into a salt-retaining hormone, which causes a woman to retain fluid.

"Basically, your body is saving water for a possible pregnancy," Winkel explains. "The blood flow to the uterus of a non-pregnant woman circulates at a rate of about 20 to 30 cubic centimeters per minute, while the blood flow to the uterus of a pregnant woman at term circulates at a rate of approximately 600 cubic centimeters per minute."

To reduce the resulting bloating, Winkel recommends that premenstrual women drink lots of plain water, so that sodium can be excreted through urination, thus leading to natural diuresis.

The severity of a woman's premenstrual symptoms may be related to the amount of stress she is undergoing at that time. Winkel says that most women do not develop the symptoms of PMS until they reach their early-to mid-20s, although they probably began menstruating in their early to mid-teens.

"The more weighty worries of a 25- or 30-year-old, as compared to the relatively light worries of a 15-year-old, may be the difference that aggravates her symptoms of PMS," he says.

As with any situation in which you are especially vulnerable to stress, it is important to get enough sleep, eat a well-balanced diet, exercise, and find time to relax.

"Do whatever works for you," Winkel says. "If you crave a particular food and you feel that it helps you, then stick with it. Although no particular food or medicine has been proven effective, PMS affects women in very individual ways and should be treated individually."

Finally, Winkel advises women to "take the good with the bad" and remember that the same female hormones that protect premenopausal women from heart disease create the symptoms of PMS.

"According to a study conducted in England, only a very small percentage of women, less than 5 percent, are really rendered helpless by PMS to the extent that they commit violent acts or require complete bedrest," he says. "But one of the primary reasons that women outlive men is the protection their hormones offer."

Salk AIDS vaccine to be tested in Wisconsin

Milwaukee (AP)—An AIDS vaccine developed by Jonas Salk is expected to be tested on hundreds of Wisconsin AIDS patients early next year, an official with an AIDS research group says.

Lisa Al-Hashimi, senior project manager for the Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium, has met with Salk vaccine researchers about bringing the vaccine to Wisconsin for clinical trials on AIDS patients.

She said the vaccine researchers were interested in Wisconsin because of a large number of patients available as research subjects who were registered with the consortium, a non-profit organization that provides access to clinical trials for HIV-infected patients.

The Salk vaccine also will be tested in other states, Al-Hashimi said.

She said she also was setting up clinical

trials for Wisconsin with other scientists who were working on promising new anti-viral medications.

Al-Hashimi said scientists developing the new medications want to keep details of the research project confidential. She spoke of having Salk vaccine clinical trials in Wisconsin at a workshop of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program Annual Conference and in an interview.

Salk, inventor of the first polio vaccine, has conducted AIDS vaccine work on animals and some patients. The vaccine, unlike vaccines used to prevent diseases such as flu and mumps, would combat the AIDS virus in people who are already infected with HIV, the virus causing AIDS.

The vaccine triggers elements of the immune system to destroy the HIV virus. Al-Hashimi said the vaccine research has shown that levels of the virus in blood can drop following vaccination.

Philadelphia AIDS outreach team takes the message to the streets

Philadelphia (AP)—Something keeps Richard Liu going, bounding like a bird dog from hooker to hustler, car to club.

"Come here!" he shouts to a transvestite ambling along a downtown sidewalk. Eighteen-year-old Mercedes, dressed this night in a low-cut blue satin blouse, tight jeans and low heels, smiles warmly and crosses the street toward Liu, who presses condoms wrapped in safe-sex brochures into his hand.

"Oh thanks, I needed those," Mercedes says. Then he gestures to Liu and his partners in an AIDS outreach team. "They're a life-saver."

So they hope.

Seven nights a week, in twos or threes, the AIDS outreach team from Philadelphia Community Health Alternatives prowls the streets, the alleys, the clubs, the bathhouses and the parks of the central city, dispensing condoms, information and advice to the people who are at highest risk of being infected by the AIDS virus.

In the enormity of the AIDS epidemic, it



Richard Liu, right, and his AIDS outreach team partner, Jamal Weaver, demonstrate condom application to a street person.

is a small thing they do. They are sandbagging a tidal wave.

But in the small world of Philadelphia's "gay ghetto" and in the sex markets—gay and straight—nearby, what they do accounts for a story of quiet heroism.

By comparison to some cities—even smaller ones, such as San Francisco and Washington—Philadelphia's outreach efforts are modest.

Philadelphia Community Health Alternatives (the largest AIDS organization in the city, although not the only one) has a \$1.1 million annual budget and a staff of 28, including the eight members of its outreach squad.

But that \$1.1 million buys a lot—AIDS testing, services for AIDS patients, a myriad of educational programs, and the work of the street team.

No one can say how successful these efforts have been. There are 4,800 Philadelphians diagnosed with AIDS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, and the number grows inevitably.

Richard Liu is 22, a college student who grew up in the suburbs outside Philadelphia. He is an "AIDS baby," a gay man who has never known a world of sex without AIDS. In lieu of a cure or vaccine, he and his fellow members of the PCHA street team are doing all they can to save lives.

At a time when younger gay men are spurning safer sexual practices and some older gay men are abandoning them, when more

people are dying from the disease than ever, there is a growing sense of urgency to the mission of these young men.

"We're celebrities around here," Liu says as he and 21-year-old Jamal Weaver stroll up 13th Street around midnight, past an adult bookshop, a leather sex-toys shop, an all-male porn theater; past transvestite hookers, teenage hustlers, gay couples and cruising suburbanites.

They are a diverse group, these members of the AIDS team. The five out tonight are black, white and Asian; gay, straight and bisexual; from the suburbs and the inner city.

They have been working the same streets for nearly a year now, and have so far avoided danger. "We know pretty much where to go and where not to go," says Ahmad Hiller, the youngest member of the team at 20.

That means ignoring some of the areas that offer the highest risk of exposure to AIDS, but also violence—such as drug shooting galleries.

Liu and Weaver have split off from the rest of the team. They walk up 13th Street like cops on patrol, handing condoms and information to virtually everyone they see. Most people take the handout, some sullenly, some greedily, some with a smile or a joke. The idea, Weaver says, is not to supply condoms. It is to supply reminders. To be the conscience of the community. To be a nag.

Two men come toward them, and Liu and Weaver hand them the kits. One of the men, Preston Hart, gratefully takes a condom and stuffs it in his sock. Then he says he won't need it.

"Most of my friends have already died of AIDS," Hart says. "I don't try to do nothing with nobody anymore."

Another man walks by, scowling. Weaver thrusts a condom toward him. The man says he doesn't need it; he, too, claims never to have sex anymore.

"Give it to your friends," Weaver implores. "They're not around. They died, man."

He walks into the night.

In the clubs, the atmosphere is brighter. The AIDS workers bounce through to the upbeat of dance music, hip Santas who dip into red shoulder bags to hand out their condom kits. "Practice safe sex!" they shout.

"Keep up the good work!" one man shouts back. Some protest jokingly: "I'm a virgin!"

But here, too, there are signs of pathos, of the terrible price the gay community has paid. At Key West, a sleek gay bar tucked away in an alley, manager Jim Gagne is sitting on a bar stool sipping a vodka and soda.

Gagne talks admiringly about the AIDS outreach team, and says they are welcome in his bar. He says he doesn't mind having his patrons reminded of AIDS. "I think they should be reminded." Then he mentions, in an undertone, that his lover of 16 years died of AIDS a year ago. And his voice goes tight with emotion.

A little while later, Rich Liu is sitting on the steps of a building on 13th Street, his night of patrol at a close. A few pedestrians stroll by; two drunken men come by and mumble something unintelligible. Liu, who packs an animated intensity into his slim frame, is talking nonstop. He is talking about gay men and AIDS.

"A lot of the old crowd that were there at the beginning are burnt to a crisp. Now there's a whole new group coming up...I'm an 'AIDS baby,' and I guess I'm one of the ones who's going to have to step in and fight the war. It's a war, an epidemic, a pandemic..." He goes on.

How long can he keep this up? He is young, bright, capable. How long can he keep prowling these streets? "Until it ends," he says fiercely. Then he concedes, "I don't know."

He speaks with pride of the gay community. "We set up our own health clinics, we set up our own food delivery programs, we went out there and created educational literature for other people. We've done a lot...In our own, crazy way, we're the ones saving the world."

So they hope.

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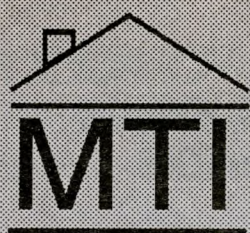
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Mattea shows solidarity with fight against AIDS at Country Music Awards

Country singing star Kathy Mattea, who is the celebrity spokesperson for this year's From All Walks of Life scheduled for October 4, has pushed her commitment to the fight against AIDS even further since we interviewed her in our last issue. As this issue went to press, Mattea told Southern Voice she would wear a red AIDS awareness ribbon at the Country Music Association Awards program scheduled for Sept. 30 where she will be a presenter. While that might not sound exactly like a radical move to many of us—it's a strong statement in Nashville right now considering the flap over the CMA's recent decision to offer green environmental awareness ribbons to the awards program attendees.

On Sept. 23 Variety published an article saying that the CMA had voted to wear green ribbons for environmental awareness instead of red ribbons for AIDS awareness. "If anybody's going to wear a red ribbon, they're doing that on their own," Janet Williams of CMA told Variety. "No one has proposed that to us; we're doing green ribbons."

In that same article an anonymous Nashville source told Variety that they hoped someone would wear a red ribbon at the Awards, but said they "can't imagine who'll have the guts to do it." And one Nashville music industry source said, "It's time to take a stand and not be a bunch of hicks." The source went on to say that they considered the CMA Board "rednecks and chickens."

The next day Ed Benson, Executive Director of CMA, issued a statement denying that the association had voted against red ribbons. "At no time was the Country Music Association approached by anyone to request that all participants at the CMA Awards program wear red ribbons," he said. "Those who want to wear AIDS ribbons or choose to wear no ribbon at all are free to do so. In fact, red ribbons will be available to the performers."

Benson went on to say that the CMA had received a proposal in June from Earth Communications Office (ECO) with the idea of providing green ribbons. "Many of our artists and industry leaders are concerned and committed to environmental issues which profoundly affect the health and welfare of every person on the planet," he said.

Mattea told us that she doesn't know if

the CMA did or did not actually vote to not wear AIDS ribbons, and she feels that is not the most important issue. "The important thing is, no matter how it came about, is that there will be red ribbons backstage and probably worn by a lot of people. The controversy has raised the issue so it's going to be thought about a lot in the [country music] industry, and that's good."

Mattea will be one of the gutsy ones at the CMA awards. She says she plans to wear both a red and a green ribbon. "But my red ribbon will be on top," she emphasized. "I'll wear the green one because I do support environmental issues, and by not wearing green, well, I don't want to slap anybody in the face." Mattea hinted that she would have worn the red ribbon even if the CMA had not issued its statement saying red ribbons would be available.

Mattea has worn a red ribbon before, she says. "I got my first ribbon at the American Music Awards in January and I wore it the next night while I was taping Hot Country Nights. Someone asked me about it and I was happy to tell them what it was for."

Other country music artists have been seen recently sporting AIDS ribbons. Garth Brooks wore one last Tuesday on The Tonight Show, and on Sept. 20 Kenny Rogers wore one at the 1992 Lifesongs AIDS Benefit Concert in Baltimore. During the concert a documentary called "The Stories Behind the Red Ribbon" debuted which profiles four people living with AIDS who all wear the red ribbon.

Red, Hot and Country

Mattea also told us that she will lead the effort to produce "Red, Hot and Country," an album featuring various country artists to benefit AIDS research. Previous releases, "Red, Hot and Blue" and "Red, Hot and Dance," have already raised millions for the American Foundation for AIDS Research and other AIDS organizations.

"We've been talking to AmFAR for several months," Mattea said. "I can't tell you who the artists will be because those have not all been confirmed. But I can tell you it will be done in such a way as to raise the most money."

The head of Mattea's record label, Luke Lewis, is being very helpful, she says. Lewis



Kathy Mattea will lead the effort to produce "Red, Hot and Country," an album featuring various country artists to benefit AIDS research.

was involved in the "We Are The World" project. "He's very excited about it and willing to help out in any way he can," Mattea said.

Mattea will be at the front of the AIDS Walk on Sunday, October 4. "I'm bringing several musicians with me and they plan to walk too," she said. She was both surprised and excited to learn that 35,000 walkers are expected. "Oh my God," she said when she heard the predicted numbers. "That really fires me up. I had no idea it was going to be that big."

Mattea's next project after the Walk will be the taping of a CBS special "Women of Country" set for broadcast next January.

Eleven performers are scheduled for the show including Emmylou Harris, Wynonna Judd, Pam Tillis, Tanya Tucker and Trisha Yearwood. The special will be taped in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on October 6. Wonder if she'll wear a red ribbon then?

Mattea will perform along with Melba Moore, Jane Olivor, Kristen Hall and a cast of over 150 local artists around 4 pm at Piedmont Park after the walk. If you haven't registered you can still do so on Saturday, October 3 at Colony Square Hotel or at Piedmont Park on Sunday, October 4 from Noon-2. The Walk is scheduled to start at 2:15.

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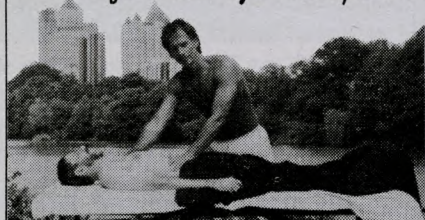


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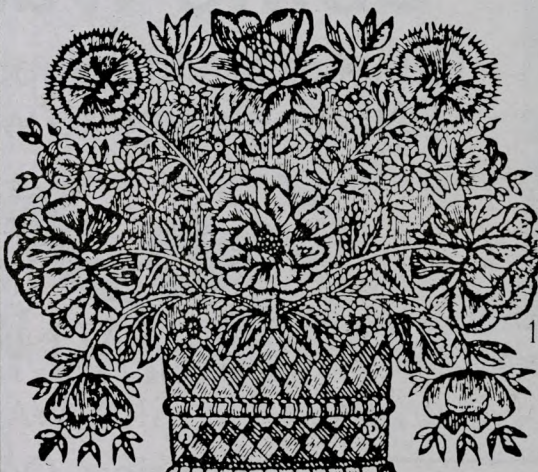


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NEXT WEEK

National Coming Out Day is Oct. 11. We'll

talk to the founders and tell you all about the first Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Arts Festival scheduled to celebrate the occasion.

Piercing and tattooing.

We know we promised it for this issue, but hey, we're human! Tune in next week.

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

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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

Unsafe sex is still a problem

The news regarding levels of unsafe sexual behavior among gay men doesn't look good. A 1991 survey of gay men in 16 U.S. cities found that 31 percent had had unprotected anal sex in the past two months, sometimes even with known HIV+ partners. Last year, cases of Hepatitis A, an indicator of unsafe behavior, jumped as much as 42 percent in New York City, and similar increases were reported in Denver, San Francisco, Canada, Australia, and elsewhere.

Most gay men have made major changes in their sexual activity as a result of AIDS, but as the epidemic enters its second decade, a significant number of men seem to be returning to older, decidedly unsafe practices, or are being less careful about less risky, but still dangerous ones.

"People are getting sick and tired of hearing about safe sex," says Ryan Black, one 28 year-old gay man who asked that his real name not be used. "People are still dying, and [some gay men] are thinking that there hasn't been an end to this for ten years, and they're sick of waiting, sick of playing it safe and going to all of the trouble of using that stupid rubber. So they say, 'Oh well, just skip it.'"

"It's still considered a taboo subject to talk publicly about unsafe sex," Black says, "but everyone's doing it."

Not exactly everyone is doing it. "What has returned is some unsafe sexual activity, but not [anywhere near] the level of 1981," says Bob Wood, Medical Director of the AIDS Prevention Project in Seattle, Washington.

Still, if the rates of new infections are any indication, plenty of people are being plenty unsafe. One major study, the Multi-Center AIDS Covert Study, or MACS, has followed a large group of uninfected gay men from four different cities since the mid-80s. What they've found is that younger gay men, ages 20 to 23, are the most likely to become HIV-infected, and they do so at a rate of about 4 percent a year.

According to the Multi-Center study, the risk of infection in gay men drops in the late twenties, to about a 1 percent chance each

year at age 30 and thereafter. But all told, given current standards of sexual safety, by the time he turns fifty, the study found that an average 20 year-old gay man has at least a whopping fifty percent chance of becoming infected with HIV. And since the men participating in the study were highly motivated—educated about safer sex, willing to get tested and fill out detailed questionnaires regularly—the real rate of infections may be even higher than that. "Fifty percent may be a best-case scenario," Wood says. "A higher percentage of gay men may become infected."

"It blows my mind to think about well-informed people I know having unsafe sex," says Ben Factory, a 31 year-old bisexual and a national coordinator for Bi-Net, USA, a national bisexual organization based in Washington, D.C. "I felt that by 1986, we were really starting to do well in changing behaviors. [But now] there's some sense of fatalistic inevitability [in the gay community]. People say, 'Either I'll get it or I won't, and I'm just not going to bother about it.'"

According to Factory, at least self-aware bisexual men have generally become and

GUEST EDITORIAL

stayed sexually safe and, in his experience, are a whole lot safer than either gay men or heterosexual women. "I am propositioned with unsafe sexual practices less frequently [by bisexual men] than by either gay men or straight women. I'm astounded by the amount of unsafe sexual behavior [in those two groups]." Still, he concedes, there are probably plenty of closeted bisexual men who are sexually unsafe.

Among lesbians, the level of unsafe sex may be even higher. Holly Mulcahey, owner of It's My Pleasure, a feminist novelty shop in Portland, Oregon, says "There is a fair amount of education and a fair amount of discussion about safer sex," and that at least the lesbians she knows who are not in long-term, monogamous relationships practice safer sex regularly. But according to Jill White, a lesbian who asked that her real name not be used, many lesbians just don't see themselves at risk. "Almost no lesbians I know are safe," she says. "The fear-thing just isn't there."

But the most pressing problem for AIDS

educators is the slipping standards of safety among gay men, who still comprise this country's largest numbers of AIDS cases and HIV infections. "The condom-thing in the '80s was kind of like a fad," Black says. "People who'd never used condoms before used them as a sexual aid, and now they're getting kind of tired of it because it's boring. It's extra trouble."

Part of the trouble is the "grey" element of safer sex, the fact that even many safer sex acts contain some degree of risk. The lack of definitive answers makes it possible for a person to deny, minimize, or rationalize his or her own risk.

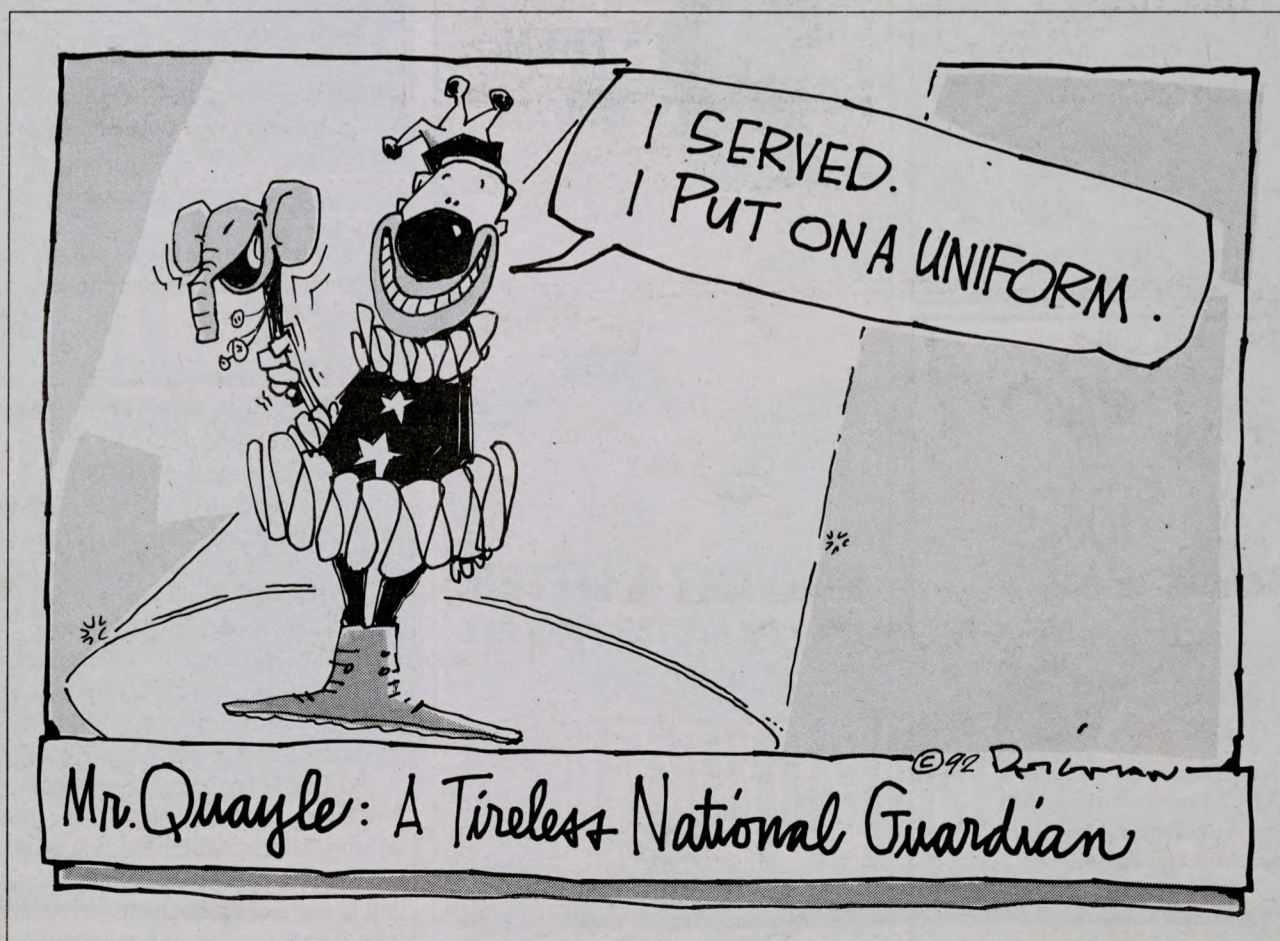
All researchers agree that oral sex is much less risky than anal sex, and may even be safer than anal sex with a condom. But several recent studies have proven that oral sex, even prior to ejaculation, is capable of transmitting HIV (but ejaculation makes the act far riskier, research says). Among gay men, however, unprotected oral sex is the accepted norm, in part because of disagreement among AIDS educators and lax norms in the gay community. Everyone does it, so it seems safe. "I don't know anyone who would use a condom for oral sex," Black says. "I wouldn't."

According to Bob Wood, if every gay man switched from anal to oral sex, new infections among gay men would almost completely stop. "If they could then switch from oral unprotected to oral protected, then we'd probably have the problem solved," he says, pausing before adding, "but I doubt we're going to get that."

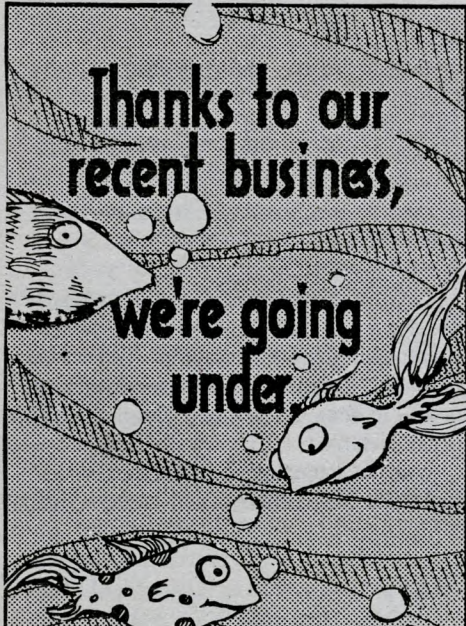
Ryan Black cautions against finger-pointing and simply blaming gay men for their lack of will power. Indeed, statistics show that heterosexuals, as a group, have been even less successful than gays at changing their unsafe sexual behavior, and gays certainly have no monopoly on continuing dangerous habits like smoking despite overwhelming proof of their health risks.

In an age when we know how HIV is transmitted, any new infection is frustrating since virtually all these infections are easily preventable. Safer sex could slow or almost completely stop the spread of the disease called AIDS but, if recent trends are any indication, counting on this happening doesn't seem like a very safe bet at all.

BRENT HARTINGER



Thanks to our recent business, we're going under.



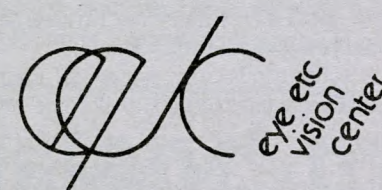
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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Brian Jackson and John Ellis will celebrate their 7th anniversary on October 4. The couple met in Jacksonville, Fla. and have been together and happy ever since. Brian wants to thank John for his love and support in recognition of their special day.

Liz Hill and Joan Karpeles have been together for 8 years, but the couple cannot agree on the exact day of their anniversary. They do agree that it was the same night that Presidential hopeful Walter Mondale debated AIDSphobic President Ronald Reagan. If anybody remembers the date of that debate Liz and Joan would appreciate a call. They'd like to end this family feud once and for all. Congrats, girls!

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Kat Martin, who will turn the ripe old age of 23 on October 17th. Details of the celebration plans were sketchy at last report, but we do know Rolling Rock stock will take a big jump during this particular weekend.

Belated congratulations to Stosh Ostrow who celebrated his birthday on September 5th. Hope it was a happy one, Stosh!

GAY FRIENDLY OCCASIONS

Emily Nussbaum, founder of the Atlanta group Straight But Not Narrow, was featured in the pages of this month's leftist rag The Progressive. Nussbaum told the magazine she founded the group after last year's Pride parade. "I was unsure of my position there," says Nussbaum. "Then I saw a couple of people holding signs that said STRAIGHT BUT NOT NARROW, it was a really powerful statement." SBNN has expanded to include some 250 members in chapters around the country and has been very active here at home protesting at Cracker Barrel, working for repeal of the sodomy law, and holding discussions. Nussbaum says her aim is to educate straight people. "It's not up to gays and lesbians to do all the education," she told The Progress-

sive. "It's a moral imperative for straight people to get involved because we walk around every day enjoying benefits gay people are denied." Thanks Emily, it's good to have friends like you. For info on SBNN, call 242-2256.

SPORTING OCCASIONS

Congratulations to the Pear Garden's P.G. Sluggers, who won the C Division Championship in the Gay World Series in Los Angeles last August. The Sluggers, a first year team with obviously some real ringers in tow, were the first team from the Southeast to ever win a first place title at the Gay World Series. Hey, who needs the Braves with a team like this?

OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Get out your dancing shoes and gold chains! The Georgia Organizing Committee for the March on Washington (GOCMOW) will hold a dance in celebration of National Coming Out Day on Saturday, October 10th from 7 to 11 PM. The festivities will be held at Atlanta Waterworks at 650 Bishop Street. Lenny Lassiter will D.J. the evening and Eileen Stone will give dance lessons to those with two left feet. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door, and are available at Charis, Hairanoia and Brushstrokes. Call 662-4199 for more info.

Speaking of National Coming Out Day...what better way to come out than to have your name printed in the paper? If you want to take that next step, I urge you to send me your name, and maybe a bit about yourself to the address below, so we can help you out of the closet and into the pages of SoVo. Or, NCOD may be a good time for you to take the plunge with the other Occasions in your life, be they birthdays, anniversaries or graduations, etc. I look forward to hearing from you and you, and you, too! Come out, Come Out, Wherever You Are!

compiled by CANDACE CHELLEW
If you would like to report an important "occasion" in your life, please call us at 876-0789 or write to us at: Southern Voice/Occasions; PO Box 18215; Atlanta, GA 30316

Johnson (con't.)

cal and AIDS communities.
Your kind words to me aside, your Administration has not done what it could and should to address a situation which, day by day, poses an increasing danger to the well being of millions of Americans, and which threatens to cast an even wider pall across our nation. AIDS is a crisis of monumental proportions, and it cannot be fought with lip service and photo opportunities.

JOHN NADEL

The following is the text of the letter of resignation sent to President Bush by Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to advise you of the decision which I have made regarding serving on the National Commission on AIDS.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the commission because it has given me the chance to learn so much about AIDS and what must be done to fight it. My fellow commissioners are a wonderful group of caring and dedicated people who have worked hard and effectively to develop a bipartisan consensus and plan of action this country should follow in the fight against AIDS.

As I think you know, along with my fellow commission members I have been increasingly frustrated by the lack of support, and even the opposition, of your Administration to our recommendations—recommendations which have an urgent priority and for which there is a broad consensus in the medi-

I cannot in good conscience continue to serve on a commission whose important work is so utterly ignored by your Administration.

Mr. President, when we met in January I gave you a letter in which I expressed my hope that you would become more actively involved in the fight against AIDS. No matter how good the team may be, I said, it won't win the championship without the owner fully in the game. I am disappointed that you have dropped the ball, and that your Administration is not doing everything that it must to fight this disease.

I am sorry to have to write this letter, but I am afraid that there is little that will be accomplished in the next four months. Accordingly, I have regretfully decided to resign your appointment to the National Commission on AIDS.
Sincerely,
Earvin Johnson Jr.

AL COTTON

Lessons from the Sixth World

His name is Alan. The Gay Spirit Visions Conference first learned of his intention to attend last weekend when he wrote us a letter asking if there would be anyone to sign for the deaf attendees.

As the Grand Poobah of the Diversity Committee, it fell to me to correspond with him. I dutifully warned him about our inability to provide more than volunteer signing for our keynote speech, and perhaps a little more during our opening and closing ceremonies. Did he know of someone who would like a scholarship in return for signing? The letter went out.

A week later, there was a message on my answering machine from someone who was reading what Alan was typing. "Please call Alan later," the voice said. I did, and I was completely unprepared for the unintelligible bark that came from the other end of the telephone. With amplification, he could understand me perfectly, but I was at sea. For a while, I asked him to repeat what he was saying; for a while, I pretended to comprehend; and after about five minutes of intense focusing, I could make out virtually everything he said.

It was clear that Alan understood what would and would not be provided for him, and he was coming anyway. I told him of our Ride Share Committee, which could get him to The Mountain after his plane landed. We hung up, and I went about my business for the evening.

Intellectually, our conference had dealt with this issue last year. Our keynote speaker, Andrew Ramer, had discussed the many "Worlds" of our world. We all know about the First World (Us), the Second World (the Soviet Union and its allies, a/k/a, Them), and the Third World, the non-aligned countries. Following that comes the Fourth World, comprised of Peoples that are enveloped in other countries—the Welsh, the Kurds, the Catalans. Then comes the Fifth World, the landless People, like the pre-Israel Jews or the Gypsies.

Gay men and lesbians are in the Sixth World, which is made up of People who are not born into their own People—those with common issues, a sense of community with each other and separateness from society, and a heritage of stories that cannot be passed onto them by their parents. Along with us, the Sixth World contains the Handicapped, the Blind and the Deaf Peoples.

As our organizational process proceeded, it became pretty clear that our Sixth World concerns stopped at the border of the Land of the Sexual Diversity, and was rather unconcerned about the Quiet Lands across the river. Our Ride Share coordinator informed us that Alan needed transportation not from Atlanta but from Asheville, and he would be needing it late Friday night, perhaps after our Conference had already begun. This, of course, became yet another reason for him to stay home. The general consensus was, "Encourage him not to come; we're not prepared to deal with his issues this year."

Perhaps, with my attention elsewhere, I failed to communicate fully that Alan's handicap was more accurately described as hard of hearing, and not total deafness—two hearing aids and a good seat, and he can make out most of what goes on. But

my instinct says that if I had ever said it that clearly, it still wouldn't have been heard by a committee full of people with working ears, who heard only "burden" and "difficulty" and "expense" when they heard the word "deaf."

But hinting that Alan should "wait til next year" didn't work either. A last minute letter explaining our difficulties and promising a refund if we couldn't work out a ride resulted in Alan changing his plane ticket to an afternoon Atlanta arrival. We rented a car, found a driver, and Alan made it to The Mountain. Late, of course—after registration had ended, and we discovered we were as befuddled about where the handicap-equipped Cabin 7 was as we were about his presence.

Now that Alan was there, what would happen? The answer very quickly came back, "Find somebody else to pull our cookies out of the fire." The Friday night opening ceremony was signed from beginning to end by our volunteer, who had paid a full attendance fee to deal with his Gay Spirit, and not the increasingly dark Shadow side of the committee's.

But Alan kept talking, and we kept listening. All during the weekend, he forced us to stop, to focus, to concentrate in order to hear what he had to say. Alan stood there and told us his truth, just by standing there.

By Saturday morning, we had figured out that someone could sit next to Alan (and our other deaf attendee Jack), and write on a legal pad enough words and phrases for them to understand a lot of what was going on.

And by Saturday night, the treasure that Alan had brought with him from the City of Brotherly Love was clear. At our evening entertainment, he taught us a song—four verses of Holly Near's "We are a Gentle, Angry People," including "We are deaf and hearing together/ And we are singing, singing for our lives." The Great Room in the Lodge on The Mountain had never seemed to me so great as it did right then.

As a conference organizer, I want to thank our Double-Sixth World Brother for so strongly wanting to explore the four issues of the conference—Touch, Shadow, Power and Gifts—and for prevailing over our indifference, and occasional hostility, toward getting him there. As it was, he became the physical embodiment of all four of our words—he used his Power to Touch us, and became a Gift from our Shadow to strengthen our process.

To our credit, we did ultimately get Alan to The Mountain. But our failure is that we did not deal with him any differently than hearing people generally deal with deaf people. I'd like to think that, because of where we as gay people have come from, we are different—truly kinder and gentler, fierce on behalf of the underdog, not needing to have the shoe on the other foot to understand. Not this year, alas.

I do think we on the Committee now understand a little bit better how Sixth World People can be seen as disposable by others, and exactly how Sixth Worlders can dismiss a Double-Sixth World person the way the other Five Worlds dismiss us. Some lessons have to be learned the hard way.

We are vowing to do better next time, and I am telling this story in hopes that someone will hold us to it. But I bet you won't have to—Alan's coming back next year.

FIRST PERSON

Be sure you know who your friends are

To the Editor:

I know I'm probably being unfashionable bringing up such a prosaic thing as the upcoming election and not talking up the presidential race (which has been done to a point of nausea). It's hard for many of us to realize the local elections (especially for Congress) are going to be more defining for our community than Bush v. Clinton.

Our "friends" have been anything but. Senator Wyche Fowler has continually stated his opposition to granting us minority status ("sanctity of the family" and all that rhetoric). 5th District Congressman, John Lewis, has talked a good game, but in six years he has failed to deliver anything.

I briefly met both Senator Fowler and Republican challenger Paul Coverdell in their respective campaign headquarters, and I honestly have reservations about both. Senator Fowler's record on gay issues is less than sterling and Mr. Coverdell, in the primary runoff, seemed to play "Who's more homophobic?" with challenger Bob Barr. Yet privately, Mr. Coverdell seemed more inclined to listen and answer questions about gay and lesbian issues; Senator Fowler dismissed my questions summarily.

Fifth District Congressman John Lewis and his challenger, Paul Stabler, were both at a recent candidate's debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters (Fourth District Democratic candidate Cathey Steinberg and Sixth District Democratic candidate Tony Center were also there; their Republican counterparts either sent a surrogate (Newt

Gingrich) or ignored the debate altogether (John Linder). But since I live in the Fifth (as does most of Atlanta and Sandy Springs), I was more interested in what Lewis and Stabler had to say.

Congressman Lewis has been a supporter of gay issues, he told me, but Mr. Stabler was clearly the more passionate one on what concerned us. Of all the candidates at the forum, he was the only one who wore an AIDS remembrance red ribbon. John Lewis told me he didn't have one—I asked. Mr. Stabler also pointed out his policies in the private sector of non-discrimination in hiring and promotion regardless of sexual orientation, his opposition to the ban on gays in the military, and so forth.

I know the national Republicans have done a lot of public gay bashing (I almost put my foot through the television during the convention). But the local Democrats have either done nothing for us or have done their own form of private gay bashing.

This November is going to be a defining time for us. For the first time, politicians are talking openly about gay issues. I only hope a lot more members of our community will take the time to get in the candidates' faces and ask them the hard questions. I did, and I learned who our "friends" aren't. I learned there are Republicans who I can respect, admire, and vote for (certainly Stabler over Lewis, probably Coverdell over Fowler, but definitely Clinton over Bush—I'm not totally nuts).

Anyone know the phone number for the Log Cabin Club?

Sincerely,
Michael Kaye

Glad we could help

Dear Christina and Leigh,

On behalf of the membership of POOH (Positive Outlook On Health), I would like to thank you for your publication's support of our organization's efforts by continuing to print our notices in your community and AIDS services sections. Our organization continues to focus on the social needs of HIV positive Gay men. Providing this space enables those (especially outside of the perimeter) whose lives have been touched by HIV to become aware of the existence of organizations such as ours.

It was especially touching for me recently to take a phone call from a young man who lives in a rural area of a neighboring state. He had just tested positive for HIV and was informed by his doctor that basically his life was over, he could never enjoy intimate companionship of another human being, and he was essentially already dead.

As luck would have it he came across a copy of Southern Voice and after reading one of the many HIV/AIDS related articles he was able to evaluate his doctor's sugges-

tions for the B.S. that they were, and go on with his life.

As we talked, I discovered that his health was excellent by any standard, he was simply HIV positive. Since he really needed friends and a social network, and at least for now was not in need of a support group, he went "shopping" through the virtual smorgasbord of listings for AIDS/HIV related service organizations afforded space in Southern Voice until he found one that fit his needs.

This human being confided in me that he had seriously contemplated ending his life as he felt alone and isolated. Southern Voice can be proud. By providing organizations like ours a public forum, at least one life has been spared, another human being is back on the track of living an adjusted and normal life with the knowledge that he is not alone, and no matter what, he will always know where he can find the latest information. Thank you Southern Voice!

Sincerely,
Frank Behrens
Secretary, POOH

We are they

To the Editor:

How many times in our gay little lives have we heard or said ourselves, "THEY ought to do this or that" or "SOMEBODY needs to..." or "I don't vote because it doesn't make a difference..."? First, there is no such thing as "THEY." "WE" are "THEY." Likewise there is no "SOMEBODY."

And if "WE" don't vote and get involved in the shaping of our society, then somebody else will and that "SOMEBODY" just might be some crazy religious idiot who'll pass laws and have us all put away for being what we are!

"NEVER," you might say, or "couldn't happen in the U.S." But stranger things have happened in this world and if we are too apathetic, history will repeat and we will

have deserved it.

Together we are a powerful and mighty vote in this nation. We mustn't hide ourselves and our lives day in and day out in these bars we call our second homes. I see too many gay people whose lives amount to nothing but searching for sex and/or a few drinks.

We must be proud of what we are. Get out, get active, participate in life, and by all means...REGISTER TO VOTE AND THEN VOTE!

Doug Stickel
Atlanta

Editor's note: The deadline to register to vote in the November election is Oct. 5. Contact your local voter registrar to find out where to register in your county.

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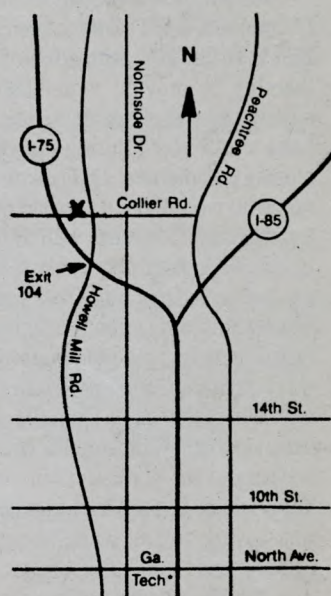
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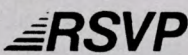


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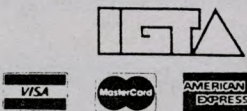
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Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta

East Coast Discovery
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November 20-27, '93
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Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta, San Diego

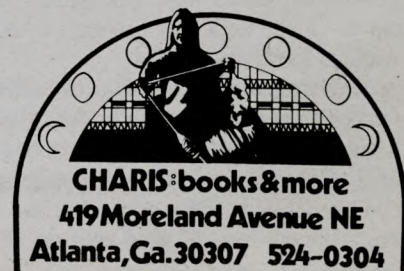


charis books and more presents

Gloria Naylor



Charis presents the author of "Mama Day" and "Women of Brewster Place" on Monday, **October 5** at **7:30 pm**, at the **First Existentialist Congregation**, 470 Candler Park Drive. She will be reading from and signing her new book, "Bailey's Cafe." This event is free.



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OUT & ABOUT

LESBIAN FILMS

CLAIRE OF THE MOON

Ask any lesbian how many times she has seen the movie "Desert Hearts" and it will probably be more than she can remember. Though an excellent movie, it is one of the few whose main story line is that of a developing lesbian love relationship. This is something that director Nicole Conn hopes to change as she releases and promotes her new film "Claire of the Moon" from Demi-Monde Productions.

Conn's movie is set at a retreat for women writers on the coast of Oregon. Claire Jabrowski (played by Trisha Todd), a popular satirist, and Dr. Noel Benedict (played by Karen Trumbo), author of a controversial study on sexual behavior, find themselves sharing a cabin as roommates during this retreat.

The more serious and somewhat uptight Dr. Benedict, who has just experienced the disastrous ending of a love affair, finds Claire's lifestyle disturbing. She works hard at writing during the day and goes out at night to drink and meet men for casual sex. Noel has already publicly revealed her lesbianism during one of the retreat's rap sessions.

Claire finds Noel's intelligence and determination impressive but disagrees with her philosophy that men and women are unable to share a deep relationship because they are incapable of truly intimate communication. The two women call a truce that develops into a mutually respecting friendship. They cause one another to re-examine their beliefs and lifestyles. Claire takes a second look at her life of booze and one night stands and whether or not she can really maintain power over men this way. Noel soul searches her psychological rhetoric and becomes more objective after Claire accuses her of being the quintessential uptight shrink. Eventually the two women face up to their attraction to one another.

"Claire of the Moon" started as a \$30,000 16mm directorial debut and evolved into an ambitious project of screenwriter and director, Nicole Conn and producer Pamela Kuri. The film ended up being shot for \$1 million in 35mm. Conn and Kuri have been working together as partners for the past five years and primarily used the talent and support of the Portland, Oregon film community. Conn's own home was used as the main production office and shooting location. Limited funds remained a constant problem during the film.

To finance her project, Conn told *The Advocate* recently that she "basically begged, borrowed, and stole." Her biggest investors were her stepfather and a boss at a Portland construction company where she was employed.

"Claire of the Moon" is being test marketed in various cities around the U.S. It has played in Portland, Los Angeles, and Austin, TX. If all goes well, it will be released nationwide this winter.

Critical response to Conn's first movie has been mixed. The *Los Angeles Times* says, "'Claire of the Moon' overcomes its first-film uncertainties to end up as the best American lesbian drama since 'Desert Hearts.'" According to a review in the *Austin American Statesman*, "...its production qualities are nearly first rate. What drags it down is a script that can't help descending into philosophical pseudo-babble." The June 1992 issue of gay/lesbian publication *Just Out* predicts that "Lesbians will drink this movie up because it is all that is out there for us."

Yet this prediction has not proved entirely true as lesbians have been "Claire of the Moon's" harshest critics. A recent article in *The Advocate* says that the film is getting negative response from the lesbian community, the community that Demi-Monde Productions was counting on for its strongest support. Producer Pamela Kuri explained to *The Advocate*, "Without a doubt, the lesbian community has been our harshest critic. They expect the film to be everything for everyone. They're saying that it's time to get beyond the coming out story, that they've heard it too many times before. They want stories about lesbians being integrated into society, about what their lives are like once they've already come out."

Director Nicole Conn defended the movie by saying, "Lesbians need to get over themselves. I mean there are lesbians coming out every day, every minute—and they need to see these kinds of stories. And if there are certain lesbians who are having these issues with 'Claire of the Moon' and want to see other types of movies, then they need to give us money to invest in our next projects."

Conn is indeed interested in taking on future projects and for



Karen Trumbo (left) and Trisha Todd star in *Claire of the Moon* to be released nationwide later this year

this reason she has founded Demi-Monde Productions, an independent Portland based film company. As a Hollywood refugee, and a woman who has had a lifelong love affair with old movies and happy endings, Nicole Conn hopes to make subsequent movies that deal with lesbian characters and themes.

Not only did Conn direct the movie but she wrote the screenplay as well. It has some basis in her own personal life and various experiences of those close to her.

Despite the criticism "Claire of the Moon" has received, no one can argue with Conn and Kuri's hard work, talent, and dedication in their first film endeavor on a low budget. The total cost for making the film was \$1 million. For a \$1 million budget, the film is of very high production quality. Undoubtedly, this movie will bring the lesbian and gay community out to the box office so that they may form their own opinions.

CAROLYN BIBB

HOLLYWOOD BRIEFS

NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL ELITE

The biggest names in show business assembled in Beverly Hills for a fund-raiser last Wednesday night that reaped \$1.1 million for Clinton's campaign and the Democratic Party. It was one of the largest Democratic fund-raisers in history, and marked Hollywood's first major assault on the presidency of George Bush and his campaign attacks on the "cultural elite."

In an event that rivaled the Oscars or the Emmys for star power, celebrities Barbra Streisand, Dustin Hoffman, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Richard Dreyfuss and Steven Spielberg turned out to toast the Arkansas governor.

Streisand performed live for the first time in six years, opening with "On a Clear Day" and ending the evening by leading Clinton and more than a dozen celebrities on stage in "God Bless America."

The event was sponsored by the Hollywood Women's Political Committee, which in July organized a celebrity fund-raiser that reaped \$375,000 for women Democratic U.S. Senate candidates.

The Clinton fund-raiser featured a parade of stars who sang his praises. Clinton himself spoke briefly before taking part in the all-star "God Bless America" singalong.

"I have always aspired to be in the cultural elite that others condemn," he told the audience, a reference to the attacks on the entertainment industry by Vice President Dan Quayle and other Republicans.

Beatty, a veteran of Democratic causes, delivered the sharp-

est line of the evening: "I would say that it's remarkable the Republican Party has moved so far to the right that Richard Nixon disapproves."

Strange bedfellows Television evangelist Pat Robertson's entertainment company, hoping to expand its TV network into Britain, bought the London company that owns MTM Productions, the maker of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "Hill Street Blues." The deal is set to close in January.

The \$68.5 million pending purchase of TVS Entertainment by Robertson's International Family Entertainment Inc. (IFE) would make the conservative evangelist and former Republican presidential hopeful a partner of Harry Thomason and Linda Bloodworth-Thomason, who produce "Evening Shade" for MTM.

The Thomasons have played a major role in Democrat Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. Their other sitcom, "Designing Women," regularly takes pokes at the Republican administration.

"TVS has produced programming with a family-oriented focus that is compatible with IFE's programming needs," said President Timothy Robertson. Timothy Robertson is the son of Pat Robertson.

The Thomasons quickly noted the irony. "We're always glad to welcome another member to the 'cultural elite,'" Harry Thomason told the *Hollywood Reporter* in Monday's editions, referring to Vice President Dan Quayle's attack on the media.

"Maybe now we can get him to change his vote to Bill Clinton."

Hollywood + NGITF Actor Richard Gere opened the program for the second annual Hollywood benefit for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on September 13 in Los Angeles. About 500 industry insiders and gay and lesbian activists gathered for the event which raised \$170,000 for the grass roots gay group. Gere talked about having just lost a friend to AIDS. "I don't think we're doing enough," he said. He pledged to go to Washington to pressure lawmakers to "get rid of this plague now."

Blue Angel Some biographies are nothing more than clip-and-paste jobs of previously published material. But not Donald Spoto's opus on Marlene Dietrich (Doubleday, \$24). He spent eight years on research before putting together "Blue Angel: The Life of Marlene Dietrich."

Dietrich remained an enigma to many of her friends and fellow actors, from her early days in Berlin until her death at age 90 last May. A cross-dresser, Dietrich was heavily involved in love affairs with both sexes, a trait she explained by saying that "in Europe, it doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman. We make love with anyone we find attractive."

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gala fundraiser

Enjoy performances from various local personalities and performers and celebrate National Coming Out Day at the nightclub BABYLON from 6 to 8 pm on October 11. Benefits AGALAF & National Coming Out Day. \$5 at the door

performance showcase

At the 14th Street Playhouse on the 16th thru the 18th be entertained by dance and theater from several local talents.

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C A L I F O R N I A

1 THURSDAY

ROMEO AND JULIET.

The Atlanta Ballet opens its season with Shakespeare's classic tale of love and fate. Maniya Barredo and Nicolas Pacana dance the leads. Through Oct. 10. Atlanta Civic Center. 249-6400.

PERILOUS ADVANTAGE. Anna Livia reads from her translation of the writings of the famed lesbian salon-keeper Natalie Barney. Charis Books, 7:30 pm. 524-0304 for more info.



and Sunday at 4 pm. 373-4154 for more info.

BLACK & FEMALE: WHAT IS THE REALITY? Eight year of this weekend retreat workshop at Forrest Hills Resort in Dahlonga, presented by Be Present Inc. Sliding scale fees, 524-7361 for info.

2 FRIDAY

BURKHART'S COUNTY FAIR. Starts tonight and runs through Sunday. Burkhart's presents a carnival benefit for From All Walks of Life. Performing artists, arts & crafts, game booths and more. 897-1804 for more info.

HRCF CAMPAIGN MEETING. Members of HRCF are invited to a general meeting for campaign '92 activities update. 7-9 pm at NAPWA, 44 12 St. 231-5751 for info.

TANZGRUPPE MAJA LEX. Dynamic women's dance company from Cologne, Germany, performs at 7 Stages. Presented by Several Dancers Core and the Goethe Institut Atlanta. 8 pm. Also Saturday at 8 pm

3 SATURDAY

PETS WITH SANTA. Here's your chance to get a photo of you, Fido and Frisky with Saint Nick. 10-5 at the Atlanta Humane Society. Appointments encouraged, call 873-5562. Also Sunday, 1-5pm.

FALL GARDENING SYMPOSIUM. Addresses Gardening for Wildlife, providing a sanctuary for birds and other animals displaced from native

habitats. Atlanta Botanical Garden, all day. 876-5859 for details.

ORMEWOOD PARK CELEBRATION. The yearly Tour of Bungalows and Street Festival kicks off today and continues Sunday. Lots going on in this South of I-20 neighborhood. Festival on Woodland Ave. from Ormewood to Eden on Saturday only.

BIG CHICKEN ROAD RALLY. Women in Kahoots (WinK) sponsors this competitive driving event for women. Awards, potluck afterwards, and loads of fun. 438-1421 for info on entering.

MENDING HEARTS. The moving documentary which follows the lives of a group of HIV+ Atlantans has a second national PBS broadcast. WPBA. Channel 30 at 10 am. Also airs on Sunday at 11:30 pm on WGTV. Channel 8.

HIV UPDATE. This month's program features new AZT guidelines, discussion of the possible new strain of AIDS and antiretroviral combination therapies. Co-produced by AID Atlanta. 6pm, People TV, Atlanta Ch. 12.

4 SUNDAY

FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. Oct. 4. Put on your walkin' shoes for a cause that matters. Atlanta's 2nd Annual AIDS walk. Country singing great Kathy Mattea, Melba Moore, Jane Oliver and others will perform. Find out how to be a part by calling 885-6800.

A QUESTION OF ATTRIBUTION. Masterpiece Theatre season premiere's with this look at the Burgess-Maclean-Philby spy scandal of the 1950s. 10 am, WGTV, Ch. 8.

BAROQUE CHAMBER MUSIC. Concordia Antiqua performs works by Bach, Bassano, castello and others at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 4 pm. 658-1357 for more info.

5 MONDAY

GLORIA NAYLOR. The author of *Mama Day* and *Women of Brewster Place*

reads from her latest, *Bailey's Cafe*. 1st Existential Cong., 470 Candler Pk. Dr. 524-0304 for info. Sponsored by Charis.

OUT IN ATLANTA. Atlanta's own public access gay television show features interviews, news, entertainment, history and more. 10:30 pm. Cable Channel 12, People TV. Same show airs again on Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

GAY USA. A gay and lesbian news show produced in New York includes national and international coverage. Cable Channel 12, People TV. 11pm.

A DISTANCED LAND: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF JOHN PFAHL. John Pfahl is known for his reverence for the American landscape, as well as his exploration of the state of the environment. Through Jan. 8, 1993, at the High Museum at Georgia Pacific Center.

FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. This is opening day of the DeKalb school system's latest and most magnificent addition. Take "A Walk Through Time In Georgia."

REGISTER TO VOTE. Today is the deadline to register to vote in the November elections. Don't miss it.

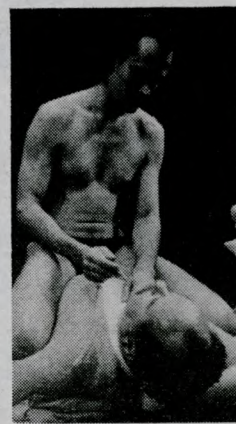
6 TUESDAY

SHOWCASE NIGHT. Tuesdays are Showcase nights at JoHanna's Upstairs. Drop in for dinner and the show.

ROSEANNE. No, we still don't know who is and who isn't, but Jackie sure is spending a lot of time with separated-from-hubby-Arnie Sandra Bernhart. 9 pm, WSB, Ch. 2.

7 WEDNESDAY

POSITIVE LIVING. This new series is a forum for persons living with AIDS, their loved ones, families and health care providers. Medical and nutritional information, interviews with activists, political leaders and educators, special events and activities and more. 2:30 pm on Cable Channel 12, People TV. Same show airs again on Oct. 10 on Channel 20 for North Dekalb residents at 10 pm.



Pictured:
ABOVE LEFT:
Tanzgruppe Maja Lex performs Oct. 2-4 at 7 Stages. Photo by Ludger Schneider.

ABOVE RIGHT: Brian Wicker and Richard Daley in Allen Bowne's "A Snake in the Vein," produced by SAME's OutProud Theatre. Runs through Oct. 11 at the 14th Street Playhouse. BELOW: Maniya Barredo and Nicolas Pacana in the Atlanta Ballet's "Romeo and Juliet." Opens Oct. 1 at the Atlanta Civic Center and runs through Oct. 10. Photo by Neil Chaput.

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

A SNAKE IN THE VEIN. Through Oct. 11. SAME presents this new play by Allen Bowne which is a poetic decent into the nightmare of addiction which features two heroin addicts, a gay teacher and a young bass guitarist. Thurs. thru Sun. TULA Galleries. 75 Bennett St. 609-9590 for info and tickets.

THE HARVEY MILK SHOW. Through Nov. 29. To those in last year's audience who laughed, wept, and shouted with joy, and to those who stood outside without tickets, word up: reserve now. Chris Coleman returns as openly gay San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk in this highly acclaimed musical. Actor's Express. 290 Elizabeth St. 221-0831 for tickets.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. The gleefully gruesome musical from the Academy Award-winning team of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. Runs through Nov. 1. Onstage Atlanta. 420 Courtland St. 897-1802 for tickets.

PRELUDE TO A KISS. The season opener for Horizon Theatre Company is a magical fairy tale for adults. Prelude was nominated for a Tony award in 1990 and took home the OBIE award for best play. Runs through November 29. Horizon. Little 5 Points Community Center. 584-7450 for tickets.

BYSTANDER. Through Oct. 17. Photographer Doug Ischar captures the terror and insanity of hate crimes against gays and lesbians in his exhibit at

Nexus Contemporary Arts Center. 535 Means St. 688-1970.

WHY I LIVE AT THE P.O. Through Oct. 3. Southern Fried Productions presents Eudora Welty with a twist. A musical adaptation of the award-winning short story about the next-to-smallest post office in Mississippi. Mercer Fine Arts Auditorium. 378-8646 for more info.

GREATER TUNA. Through Oct. 4. The characters of Tuna, Texas are in East Point! Sears and Williams are not there but their spirits are. Tri-Cities Theatre. 2750 East Point St. East Point. 681-6091.

MICHAEL VENEZIA. Through Oct. 15. Recent works by Venezia who is a founder of ARTCARE, an

annual art charity for AIDS. Venezia is also one of the producers of "Angry Love" which will be on exhibit at the Atlanta Arts Festival. Opening reception at 6:30 pm. The Lowe Gallery. 75 Bennett St. 352-8114.

THE NAMES QUILT. Oct. 9-11. The entire quilt, over 20,000 panels, will be on display in Washington, D.C. A fundraising brunch for the National March on Washington on April 25, 1993 will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11 and honors National Coming Out day. The "Brunch on Washington" will be at the Omni Georgetown Hotel from 11 am - 1 pm. (202) 628-0493 for more info and tickets.

HIV TREATMENT IN 1992: LIVING WELL WITH HIV. Oct. 13. A



free public forum presented by Atlanta NAPWA, discussing the news and views coming from the recently completed VIII International Conference on AIDS. 7:00 pm.

SYMPOSIUM ON HATE CRIMES. Oct. 10. Artist Dough Ischar, whose installation "Bystander" is on exhibit at Nexus, leads this symposium on hate crimes against lesbians and gays. Nexus Contemporary Art

Center, 2pm. 688-1970 for info.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY DANCE. Oct. 10. At the Atlanta Water Works. Sponsored by Georgia Organizing Committee for the March on Washington. Tix available at Charis, Hairanoia, and Brushstrokes or at the door. For more info, 662-4199.

THE ATLANTA GAY AND LESBIAN ARTS FESTIVAL. Oct. 9-18. A

week of art, performance and fun to celebrate National Coming Out Day. 874-8710 for more info. **ATLANTA LESBIAN/GAY EDUCATIONAL NETWORK.** Oct. 24-25 at the Georgia World Congress Center. Weekend-long networking—workshops on relationships, civil rights, living with HIV, and more. For information on registration, (404) 248-9342.

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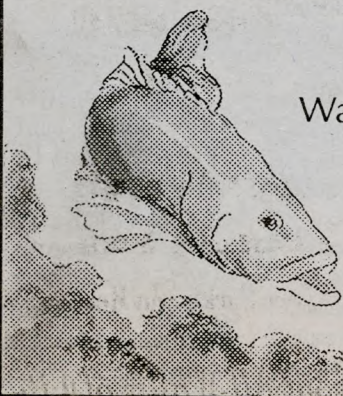
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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

To listen to folks who claim to know, Atlanta is pretty much without a purveyor of decent, authentic Mexican food. That's not to say that the city is without Mexican eateries, or that nobody patronizes them. It is to say that much of what passes for Mexican food here is boringly similar and too often reliant on quantity rather than quality to keep customers coming back.

There are, of course, exceptions to the rule—El Charro, Mexico City Gourmet, Nuevo Laredo and The Sundown Cafe all offer menus that are not simply endless repetitions on a theme of taco, tamale and tostada. But until **The Chile Tree** (469 N. Highland Ave, 668-0836) opened a couple of weeks ago, Atlanta was without much true texture when it came to food from south of Texas.

The Chile Tree's dining room still looks much as it did in its previous incarnation when it was Babushkas—a dozen or so international flags still fly over the front door and the babushka still hangs on the wall. A few pieces of Mexican art now also adorn the walls, south-of-the-border chotzkes hang out in nooks and crannies, and prayer candles light some tables. Music is mostly pop salsa that makes me want to get up and dance.

The Chile Tree's food is billed as Yucatecan—a cuisine reliant more on nuance and technique than the usual Tex-Mex glop of cheese and pepper-laden tomato sauce. The menu reads like a dream, suggesting all sorts of adventures down heretofore untraveled gustatory trails: fried plantains with peanut/tomatillo salsa; cactus pieces with tomato and cheese in a lime vinaigrette; grilled fish with a chile, orange and achiote sauce. Yum!

Soon after you are seated, two or three salsas and voluminous quantities of chips hit the table. The latter are salty and slightly sweet—almost annoyingly addictive. The salsa verde—tart, slightly hot and easy to eat—is consistently the best of the lot of dips. A mix of chipotle peppers, chocolate, and pineapple is sweet, hot and beautifully balanced one time, blander, but still interesting the next, and not offered at all on a third visit. Red salsa is little more than just OK, but nicely spiked with cilantro.

So it goes with most of the rest of the menu; what works really works well. When preparation or conception misses the mark it usually does so only by degrees, not miles.

An appetizer of fried plantains is sweet and easy to stomach. The peanut-tomatillo salsa that accompanies it is sweet, tart, tasty and seems to have little if anything to do with the plantains—which are much happier dunked in the green salsa. Ceviche is remarkably filling for an appetizer and easy on the tongue—too mild perhaps, but a drop or two of the electric green habanero chile sauce that hangs out at every table is guaranteed to turn up the flame.

Flour tortillas filled with chopped eggs, pumpkin seed sauce and a couple of pieces of pepper are also easy to eat, while being neither boring nor challenging.

Sopa de lima, chicken vegetable soup with a dose of lime and dried oregano, does exactly what an appetizer is supposed to do: get your taste buds pumping and ready for continued oral pleasures. The broth is light and sweet, with the lime offering a tart counterpoint. I'd just as soon the dried oregano was replaced with fresh, but that's a quibble. A milk-based corn soup laced with poblano peppers and mint is less bracing than the sopa de lima, but serves almost as well to tempt the palate.

Almost everything that's good (and not) about the food at The Chile Tree can be summed in a simple salad of jicama root and orange pieces, laced with cilantro, lime juice, and serrano peppers. When properly assembled, this simple dish is an absolutely heavenly amalgam of flavors and textures—sweet, tart, crisp, soft, hot and cooling all at once. But when the oranges aren't juicy, the cilantro limp and the chiles not in attendance, ethereal become merely mundane. Not bad, just ordinary.

Most pleasing of the entrees that I've sampled are papalobo peppers stuffed with mild cheese, corn, and onions and topped with cinnamon scented creme fraiche. These rellenos, unlike their more common cousins, are steamed rather than fried. Taken on a whole, they're not unlike the jicama salad, a wondrous joining of flavors, textures and smells. Their meat-filled (but still steamed) cousins, topped with a dark tomato sauce, are good too but not so much fun as the veggie version.

Shrimp in a creamy chipotle-laced sauce were a tad over-done the one time that I sampled them, but the sauce was so yummy that the cooking transgression was quickly forgiven. Though a mite pricey at \$11.95, they are definitely worth a try.

Also worth your while are fat slabs of roast turkey slathered in a mole of chocolate, fruit and peppers. This is the one dish at The Chile Tree that could actually be called heavy. With a couple of shared appetizers it would be plenty for two and perfect fare when the weather turns chilly.

The single out and out failure that I've sampled in three visits to The Chile Tree are chicken thighs cooked in banana leaves and seasoned with oranges and achiote. The chicken has been way over cooked and bland, bland, bland both times I've ordered it.

All entrees are accompanied by large portions of very decent black beans and white rice scented with garlic and garnished with bits or tart tomatillo. The rice is always good, but especially tasty when the chef goes heavy on the garlic. Both flour and corn tortillas come for the asking.

Bread and rice puddings are warm, sweet and laced with very good cinnamon. Coffee and decaf from J. Martinez are excellent. Service is attentive, if a bit tentative.

The Chile Tree is remarkably good for a restaurant so young in both concept and execution. Consistency is a problem and the menu will no doubt go through several incarnations before the place reaches maturity. But the potential to mature into wonderful restaurant is definitely here. Give it a try soon.



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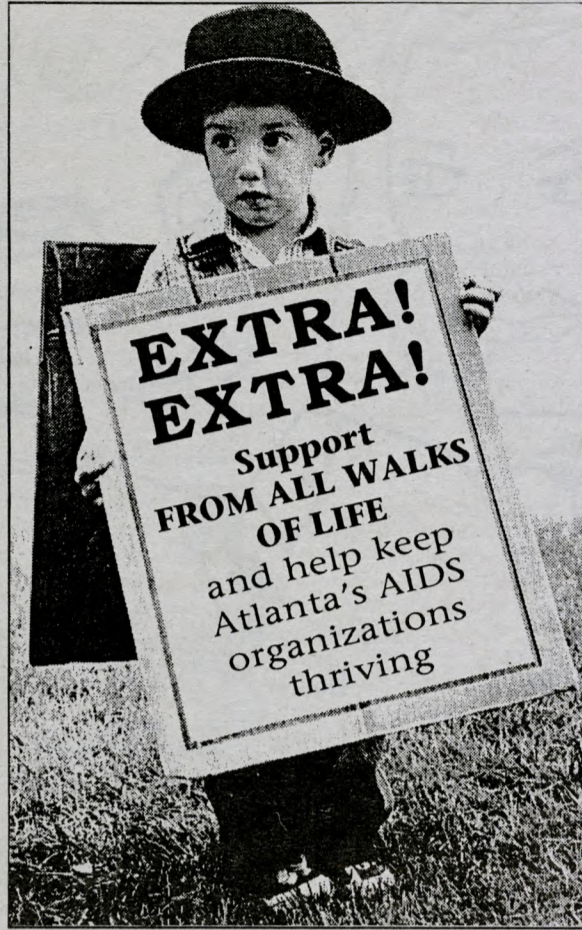
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

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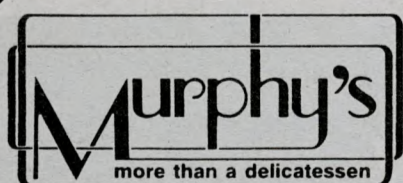
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The major news this week is all about the upcoming **From All Walks of Life** fundraiser to be held October 4. Not only great because of its widespread support from people outside the normal AIDS awareness circle, this year's show after the walk will be an amazing assembly of talent. Starting at 4 PM the program will feature over 150 of Atlanta's most talented performers including members of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, cast members of "Straight from the Heart," the Human Rights Campaign Fund show, the Atlanta Ballet, Actor's Express (with a solo by Chris Coleman), and rising star Kristen Hall.

And if all that isn't enough, how about Kathy Mattea, Jane Olivor, and Melba Moore? This will be Mattea's first involvement with an AIDS benefit. She has recently lost one of her closest friends to the disease and is eager to contribute her time and talent. And those of us who remember the incredible voice of Jane Olivor will be front row center to hear her live and in person. She has recently resumed her performing career after an extended hiatus. And what more needs to be said of Melba, a legend who has been entertaining us for years and at the same time working so hard on behalf of those fighting this plague?

After the Walk, keep walking to **Burkhart's** at Ansley Square for their second annual **County Fair**. This fun-filled fundraiser benefits From All Walks of Life—Burkhart's owners Mary and Palmer Marsh will absorb all expenses so that all monies raised will go directly to the Walk—and will feature such county fair attractions as a dunking booth and a pie toss wherein you can take aim at your favorite (or least favorite) local celebrity. Possible targets include Sandy Thurman of AID Atlanta, State Senate candidate Ron Slotin and House candidate Mike Polak, Bev Cook of the Heretic, SoVo editor Chris Cash, Don Smitzer from the Metro, Danny Donohue from the Gallus, Chonne from the Cove, Arlene Bianco from Scandals...oh my the list does go on. Should be no problem to find an appropriate object at which to vent...

And the entertainment! Ms. Ramona Dugges and Flint, Apple Love, Peg Bundy, Big Ruby, Gilda Golden, the cast of JoHanna's Upstairs, the crowning of the Country Fair Queen...The festivities certainly promise something for everyone.

Other highlights include ring toss, palm readers, tarot readers, and some queens who just read. There will also be an auction of goods and services donated by local professionals, as well as a hunk and hunkette auction. Hmmm. And don't miss the ugly

AFTER HOURS

DANNY ROBLE



Melba Moore will be just one of the performers at Piedmont Park following From All Walks of Life on Sunday, October 4

foot contest and the cakewalk. The county fair starts at 8 pm Friday and runs through Sunday night. See you there!

There was something for everyone (at least musically) at **Flag Jam '92**, held at the Georgia Dome. The entertainment roster seemed to be aimed to please all of the people all of the time, with varying degrees of success.

Souless diva Whitney Houston got the ball rolling after being introduced by the very tanned Dick Clark, singing her Olympic hit, "One Moment in Time." Next came a round of dignitaries (including President Bush), saying dignified things

about our city and the Games to come. Add in a marching band, marching athletes, marching red, white and blue clad teenagers and finally a huge white flag bearing the Olympic rings which served as a stand-in for the real thing which was somewhere in South Georgia.

After a few warm fuzzies from George and Barb, Dick Clark returned to introduce the Godfather of Soul, James Brown. We got an introduction, but no James Brown. Dick returned to the stage explaining that the President was leaving the Dome and the Secret Service was keeping the backstage area clear, delaying James and his band for a few moments. In Dick's words, "They have but one priority." I know that's right...whatever you do, don't let anything happen to President Bush. His understudy isn't qualified to lead the night shift at a 7-11, much less this country.

After watching the godfather sweat his way through three numbers, I went down to the media room to catch some of the hoped-for interviews with the Big Names. Not much luck in that department. Of all the celebrities in the show, only the girls of TLC bothered to come to the media room to meet the press. Seven television crews went home with nothing for the late news but a few words from a hip-hop group. They seem to have toned down their safe sex message (at least for this occasion) and wore only one brightly colored condom per girl.

Other entertainment included Marietta-raised Travis Tritt, Trisha Yearwood, Carlos Santana, Gladys Knight, Lee Greenwood, and country group Alabama.

For those of us who delight in the beauty of dance, Atlanta's **Several Dancers' Core** is co-sponsoring along with the Goethe-Institut Atlanta the U.S. Premiere of **Tanzgruppe Maja Lex**, a modern dance troupe from Germany. Named for their much admired late founder Maja Lex, the troupe carries on her expressive style. Two of the dances the group will perform are "Sedinka," an exploration of the daily routines of women, and "Initium," which deals with the rites of passage of a young girl. Several Dancers Core will alternate performances with the Germans, making for a varied and interesting night of dance.

The **Seven Stages Performing Arts Center** on Euclid Avenue in Little Five Points will be the scene of the performances on October 2 and 3 at 8 PM and on October 4 at 5 PM. A reception for the dancers follows the Friday performance. Tickets are only \$10 with a discount for students and seniors.

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Her father's daughter

Being the daughter of a top Republican official doesn't stop Dee Mosbacher from speaking out on lesbian/gay issues

Imagine being a daughter of one of the most influential families in the Republican Party.

Imagine growing up across the street from now Secretary of State Jim Baker and in the same town as the Bushes, who'd come over sometimes to play football when you were a kid.

Now, on top of all that, imagine being a lesbian.

For Dr. Dee Mosbacher, these imaginings are reality.

Dr. Mosbacher's father, Robert, is a dyed-in-the-wool (and powerful) Republican—the former Secretary of Commerce who now is a top official in Bush's reelection campaign.

Dee Mosbacher, the 43 year old Regional Medical Chief for San Mateo County, and her lover, a professor of psychiatry at UCSF Medical School, have been together for seventeen years, which makes their relationship the longest lasting of the entire Mosbacher family. Mosbacher describes her father as accepting of his daughter's lesbianism and respectful of her long-lasting relationship.

"Personally, he's always been completely supportive of me, but he can separate the personal from the political, and I can't," she explained.

In talking about her relationship with her father, Mosbacher makes it clear that although the issues of this year's election season are particularly close to home, disagreeing with Dad is nothing new. Mosbacher was involved in the anti-war and the abortion rights movements of the late 1960s and early 1970s, so she knows all about political chasms in her family.

Mosbacher and her father continue to be somewhat close through it all, close enough that she feels comfortable communicating her

thoughts and fears about his party to him.

"We've always been on opposite sides of the political fence. This [year] is particularly difficult, because the personal is political and the political personal. We do talk about it. He knows exactly how I feel."

She was even able to organize a meeting between her father and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force earlier this campaign season.

One thing that has changed this year is that ever since her father has taken on the Bush campaign, Mosbacher's found herself with something of a media opportunity. She's been interviewed by several major newspapers about her personal and political differences with her father, and has used those times to educate the public about the harm that the Republican Party is doing to lesbian and gay people.

"I'm a fairly private person and I'm not sure I'd be doing this under most circumstances. [But] people have picked up on the fact that I'm out, and I'm so concerned with the mean-spirited turn" the Republican Party's taking, that



DEE YOUNG

Dr. Dee Mosbacher, daughter of top Bush official Robert Mosbacher, says the Republican campaign is based on "fatal," not "family" values.

it's important to speak out, Mosbacher says.

It's Mosbacher's guess that although her father loves her, he probably wishes she'd pipe down.

"I'm quite sure they see me as a political liability. I know it's really tough for my father. He must be getting pressure. I'm calling them on their hypocrisy, [and] I'm sure at some level he wishes I wouldn't be so out there."

Although every campaign season is a time of strain in Mosbacher family relations, she says that this year has been the most difficult yet.

"This year it seems that the Republican camp has taken a mean spirit and a dangerous turn. The rhetoric of the far right seems to have taken over. Violent hate crimes against lesbian and gay people are up 30 percent. When we have national leaders making bigoted and homophobic comments, it gives people license to beat us up on the street."

"When kids are teenagers and are discovering their sexual orientation is when they need the most support from their families. We have Bush and Quayle making devaluing and dehumanizing comments, which puts pressure on parents to turn away from their kids. The rate of suicide is three times greater [among lesbian and gay youth] than heterosexual youth because of alienation young people can feel at a time like this. That's dangerous, and that's why I call it fatal values, not family values."

As you might think, Dee Mosbacher plans to vote for Clinton, despite the fact that her father is running the Bush campaign.

"Clearly there's a concerted effort by the religious right to take over the Republican Party. I think a resounding defeat would be helpful for us. [It will say that] we—not just lesbians and gays—but we as a people will not tolerate this kind of bigotry as a nation."

"Homophobia is the last acceptable form of bigotry. I hope it's in its near to final gasp. But if the Republicans win, we have a longer road ahead of us," she added.

Meanwhile, as the campaign rolls on, Mosbacher is working on several projects of her own. She's in the process of producing one video about lesbians in sports and another about lesbian parents and their children.

Most importantly, Mosbacher feels that every lesbian or gay person can, in their own way, do what she's done this election season.

"I hope to encourage others who are lesbian or gay who have friends or family who are religious or conservative. If we put a human face on being lesbian or gay, it could make a difference. Come out. Now is a critical time to do that."

RACHEL TIMONER

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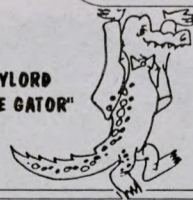
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Crime of the Week: Dish doesn't much like porn—especially videos—but we thought we'd share the the attached photo with you to make a point about certain freedoms that we don't have in the state of Georgia. The picture of the cop sans uniform came from All Worlds Video which makes male erotic fantasy videos. They asked if we'd like a copy of their latest release "Kiss-Off" to review. The answer, of course was "no." The reason is that you cannot buy or rent this video in Georgia without risk of being arrested. Much as we don't like porn, we believe that you should have the right to buy and view the stuff to your heart's content. Think about all this—especially if you're inclined not to vote in the upcoming election.

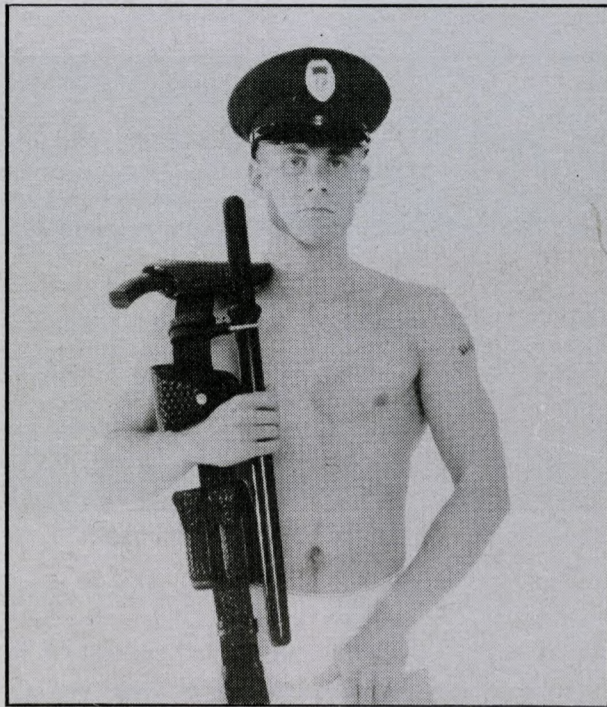
Parker Dies: Speaking of porn, producer/director/star Al Parker died from AIDS last month. We couldn't find a decent picture of him that did not include his infamous penis, so we guess fans will just have to remember him in their dreams. Rumor has it that Parker worked for Hugh Hefner at the Playboy Mansion before he decided that being bisexual was too trying an experience. Dish met big Al at the '87 March on Washington; he seemed to be a kind and considerate gentleman. We'll miss seeing him in '93.

Shar Responds: Since we're on erotica we thought we'd share the contents of a note from Shar, assistant editor at "On Our Backs" in San Francisco: "Oh Dish darling...I was surprised to learn that you didn't know that lesbians used condoms...In San Francisco, lesbians don't just use condoms on our dyke-dicks for less mess and ease—we also use condoms as symbols of our fuck power. A woman with the ring of a condom showing through her back pocket or rolled up into her T-shirt sleeve means that she primarily fucks (as opposed to getting fucked). It's much like letting the black lace of your lingerie show just a little. It hints at your sexual side—what you might get to see more of later (if you're good)... "On Our Backs" offers two safer sex videos for lesbians. Call 800/845-4617 for info.

Happy (Black) Lacey Anniversary to You: And for this week's final bit of erotic play, Dish would like to extend best wishes to "Black Lace" as it begins its second year of publica-

Dish

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



Dish doesn't particularly like porn but we also don't like the fact that in Georgia you cannot own a video such as "Kiss Off" (pictured above) without fear of being arrested

tion. This is, to our knowledge, is the only regularly published (it's quarterly) erotic journal for black women who love women. We've not seen it on news stands hereabouts, so if you are interested you may want to send \$20 for a year's subscription (or

\$7 for a sample issue) to Black Lace, PO Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

Proud Brew: This is the best idea that Dish has heard in at least a week. At the urging of a Toronto gay bar owner, the Brick Brewing Company has started producing, bottling, and distributing a Canadian style lager called Pride. The label is adorned with a large pink triangle and a portion of the profits of the sale of the beer goes to a local gay/lesbian arts support group. Pride now accounts for about three percent of the beer sold in the area's lesbian/gay bars. This seems like a singularly capital and profitable idea that some American brewer (like maybe Friends Brewing Co. right here in Georgia) should latch onto. Dish doesn't drink much, but we surely would welcome the opportunity to tip back a Pride Lite when we do indulge.

Ramtha's Rage: A man who lives in Tacoma Washington is suing his ex-wife for \$10,000 a month support because the entity she channels (a 35,000 year-old warrior named Ramtha) told him he could not die from AIDS, despite the fact that he has been infected with HIV since the early '80s. When they divorced in '89, Jeff Knight settled for a lump sum divorce settlement of \$120,000 from New Age spiritualist J.Z. Knight because she promised him Ramtha's continuing support and protection from HIV. Jeff now wants the extra money because Ramtha's protection turned out to be a sham and he has medical bills to contend with. And you thought you had melodrama in your life!

Telling Words: According to "Details" magazine these are the top five words used by the following artists in their songs. Garth Brooks: night, heart, time, day, love. Public Enemy: man, brother, Public Enemy, black, bass. Wilson Phillips: life, love, good-bye, baby, time. George Michael: baby, man, monkey, hand, sex.

Letting Freedom Ring: You know those brightly colored anodized aluminum rings that you see hanging around folks necks? Well, they were invented by a man named David Spada whose visage will be one of 12 depicted in an Absolut Vodka ad series that features gay/lesbian artists. The spread will run in the October 6 issue of The Advocate which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. To order Freedom Rings call 1/800-84SPADA.

Bringing dark or hidden knowledge or secret activities may be the theme with Venus and Mercury going into Scorpio this week. But with the Sun still in Libra, there should be a balance between exposure and individual rights. Politics may get hot, so remember, a vote for Murphy Brown is a vote for real Family Values! Murphy Brown for Vice President!

ARIES, if someone wonderful waltzes through your life this week, it is a good idea to take things slowly at first and do your best to develop a friendship. If you are too intense or in too much of a hurry, you may scare them off. **TAURUS**, you may have very interesting and intense people in your life for the next few weeks and you may hear things about people you already know that were once deep dark secrets. You may even find yourself sharing very personal information. **GEMINI**, many people who know you and care about you depend on your cheerfulness and sense of humor to help them through the rough spots in their lives. Just be sure you are taking good care of yourself while you are being there for others.

CANCER, if you are feeling more stressed than usual, you may need a massage and more physical exercise such as walking or swimming. Be careful not to use food as a way to relax or you

STARSIGNS

might relax your way into a few unwanted pounds. **LEO**, your health is the key to a long and prosperous life. If you aren't taking good care of yourself or you are running your batteries down, it would be a very good idea to recharge, rest a bit, relax and eat well, for a change. **VIRGO**, with all this constant change, your ability to organize and put gobs of things in order could be in real demand. Not everyone is good at bringing order out of chaos, so look around, especially at work to see who or what needs help.

Happy Birthday **LIBRA**! Hopefully you are enjoying your month and taking time to celebrate with good friends, extended family and lovers. It is your month, so have a wonderful time, doing things that are fun and special for you. **SCORPIO**, with Venus and Mercury moving into your 1st house of personality and personal appearance, you may feel more at ease sharing your

feelings and you may want to update your wardrobe or start exercising on a regular basis. Have a good time! **SAGITTARIUS**, philosophically speaking, life is not turning out exactly as we expected, but with all this change there is a lot of room for creativity and inventive effort. You should be right on the cutting edge with your creative mind.

CAPRICORN, are you feeling a sense of relief now that Uranus and Neptune are moving forward again? It is time to get moving on major career and personal projects. However, remember that trying to do things the "old" way may not work very well. **AQUARIUS**, you may find numerous opportunities for growth and development in your job or career. Speak up a little more often and do whatever you can to negotiate peace and harmony in any situation that is tense or volatile. **PISCES**, with Mars, Mercury and Venus all circulating through water signs, you may be feeling much more at home in the world. Take advantage of this cycle by reaching out to old friends and letting them know what you are doing. You'll find new friends too.

MARY BAILEY RULE is a professional astrologer who specializes in personal and relationship chart interpretation as well as crisis management. She can be reached through her voice mail number, 717-4326.

Dykes To Watch Out For



MARIA HELENA DOLAN

THIS OLD HOE
EARTHSHAKIN' OBSERVATIONS

It all began innocently enough, during my childhood. My Italian mother lamented long and loudly about the dearth of fresh basil in Puerto Rico. She felt that her pasta dishes suffered with that dried stuff—and it was plain uncivilized. (Never mind the horror when you could not obtain ricotta, and had to settle for [gasp] cottage cheese.)

Why she didn't then put seeds out into that wildly fertile volcanic-residue soil, I can't say. But I came to appreciate the fresh leaves of this ancient plant, *Ocimum Basilicum*.

Basil seems to have originated long, long ago in India, spreading to North Africa on spice routes, and thence across the Mediterranean. The Hindu deities demanded it as offerings millenia ago. The ancient Egyptians grew Sacred Basil (*O. Sanctum*) in pharonic and temple gardens.

Long regarded as a symbol of love and romance (sacred to Venus), she was also employed as a funeral herb. Basil further provided courage during Rites of Initiation. Too, it is said that she lends compassion and good humor to all those who share it at the table. And her oil can soothe insect stings and bites.

Both types (bush and garden) like a dry, sunny spot. And they don't like too rich a diet or soil. (There are some perennial forms, too such as *O. Gratissimum*, "tree basil," but they're not too common.)

The bush type can be pinched to form a "fairy mound." The garden type typically grows to about 3', sometimes 4', high.

Mine are frequently head-high or taller. My secret? I don't do anything. Nothing. I let her self-sow, especially around the bird bath.



María Helena Dolan and her head-high basil

The birds use the bath water as food softener. You see, they steal the cat and dog food we place outside, dip it into the water, and then chow down. (In addition to all the jumpies, creepies, and crawlies they can handle.)

I scrub the resultant bird shit/pet food residue out 2-3x a week. That's all the nourishment the dozens and dozens of plants receive. And they go wild.

My *O. Basilium* v. "Purple Ruffles" farm started with one plant from a garden buddy four years ago. I pull out more of it now than I let stand. True, if I'd cut off the seed heads, I wouldn't have these thick stands of mini-forests.

But I sort of enjoy that. James Adams says "The fragrant garden is imperfect without a border of basil bolting to flower in the hot summer sun." ("Landscaping with Herbs")

I've also followed Louise Riotte's advice for two seasons. Ah, Louise...remember that scene in "Wayne's World" where the boys bow down before Alice Cooper, screaming "We are not worthy"? I feel that way about Louise; every gardener on the planet should have her books.

So, Louise says, "Basil helps tomatoes to overcome both insects and disease, also improving growth and flavor." ("Carrots Love Tomatoes") As usual, the old gal is right.

I quit interplanting the marigolds (*Tagetes*), incorporating basil instead. True, marigolds do have an anti-pest, beneficial effect—but only with the orange varieties, and only directly around their roots. So alternating rows of marigolds with veggies has no real effect for the adjacent plants. Only close interplanting will help here.

Since one basil can self-sow dozens and dozens of daughters for next season, the cost benefit figures here too. But mostly, I enjoy that spicy aroma. I prepare loaves of garlic bread with fresh basil leaves. And the purple ruffles variety does well in flower arrangements.

In fact, when I interviewed Mickey Day a few weeks before his untimely death, I brought him a bouquet of garden gleanings; Lantan, Blackberry Lillies, and Purple Ruffles. He seemed genuinely touched, and commented especially on the basil's smell. (You can indeed fill a room with that fragrance, and not grow weary of it.)

Like all annuals, basil provides a lesson in life's cyclicity. There's birth, growth, flowering, death—and return. I walk among those spicy leaves, and I cannot for that moment experience sadness. Undoubtedly, generations of Italian cook forebears agree.

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OUTLINES

REID L. CHRISTENSEN

Age: 58

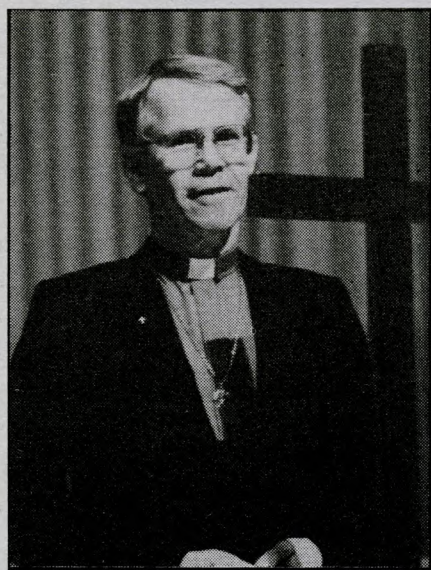
Relationship status: together 17 years

How long in Atlanta: 4 years

Last book read: "Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalists"

by Bishop Spaun

Pet peeve: People Parking in Fire Lanes



There's something about the First M.C.C. (Metropolitan Community Church) when you walk in. Maybe it's all the interesting souls that have gone or the echoes of hundreds of worship services concluded without the new testament being warped by fundamentalists. Perhaps because it's a place where everyone can come to terms with their religious beliefs without judgment, where Christianity, the heart and spirit all meet in unity. A lot of M.C.C.'s warmth and character is shaped by its pastor, Reid Christensen, who has turned the church into a place that he calls "a haven for lesbian and gay refugees from the fundamentalist religions."

"Jerry Falwell always quotes from Romans 1:26," Reid adds. "Falwell says and I quote: 'Romans 1:26 clearly says that homosexuality is an abomination to God.'" At the mention of the quote Reid's eyes flash with an uncharacteristic moment of anger. "It doesn't say that," he explains, "and when people don't run to the bible when they hear him say that on T.V. they feel that it must be true. I say that it is a lie of the devil. The fundamentalists contend we change scripture—but their literal interpretation of scripture ends up backing them into a corner all of the time."

"The bible can't be taken literally without it becoming meaningless," he continues, "and I'm not denying that we look upon the bible as the inspired word of God. But God didn't dictate it. The real perversion is not sexuality, because it's always been a part of human history—God has created homosexuality in all life forms—the perversion is to take a book of love and use it as an instrument of hate. I have people who come in here just this side of suicide by some of the things they've been told by the fundamentalists. This is perversion. God loves all his children."

When listening to Reid speak, his compassion and caring are evident. This is not a man whose belief in God and the Holy spirit is a job—it is his life. The church has a class every six to eight weeks called Homosexuality and the Bible. "We go over all the scripture that has ever been used to condemn our lifestyle," he recounts, "and we read it and discuss it and invariably the question always comes up—'but what does this have to do with homosexuality?' And without pushing anybody into it that's my point. It has nothing to do with homosexuality."

Those familiar with the M.C.C. building know that it isn't exactly the ideal place to have a ministry. "It's paid for," Reid says smiling, "but how much can you do with a place that has no windows?" The church, which has a policy of allowing any lesbian and gay organization to use their meeting space for free (though all make unsolicited contributions) has simply run out of room. Recently an offer has been made on the building and Reid is considering, with the backing of his congregation, consulting architects and building on a new site. "All over the Midwest I have begun congregations with as little as ten members—and when they were established I moved on to the next beginning. Here it's nice to be partici-

pating in the continuing growth."

M.C.C. has the largest AIDS ministry of any church in Atlanta. In fact, Reid points out, "we were fortunate to receive a grant to enable us to have an Assistant Pastor to work entirely with HIV+ people. And anyone who wants to make a quilt—we're here Thursday night and the sewing machine is ready. And we make the ribbons that are everywhere in Atlanta." Reid admits that there are a lot of memorial services, "but," he clarifies, "we make it a celebration of life." Much of Reid's focus is on the spiritual needs of those who are HIV+.

"Many have a need to make peace with God because they have been estranged from religion so long they are in a spiritual no man's land. I encourage their spirituality which enables people to let go without emotional pain. Death is not an end. It is a beginning to another life in a better place. This is why parents and even funeral homes call me. Can you imagine a preacher doing a memorial service where he is recounting all the supposed sins of the deceased?"

Reid is candid about his own ongoing fight with cancer which was discovered in a routine chest x-ray about a year ago. His hair has grown back (darker than before, he says with a chuckle) after a series of experimental chemotherapy treatments. "My oncologist said I had a fifty-fifty chance. So John (his lover) and I made a will and filed Power of Attorney and I made peace with God. But it wasn't time yet for me. I think God has kept me here because I have so much left to do."

Reid has not always been a pastor. Born in the upper peninsula of Michigan, Reid had a childhood goal of becoming a newspaper publisher. He attended Michigan State University in East Lansing and received a journalism degree and went to work in a moderately sized town in Illinois in advertising for the local daily paper. "Yet I felt I had the calling when I was about 20, but you've got to put yourself in the space of 38 years ago. I didn't know how you could reconcile homosexuality with being a pastor."

About 17 years ago Reid saw an ad in a gay publication for an M.C.C. church not far from where he was living. "When I walked in, the first thing they did was embrace me—and it was such a relief that I cried and cried, and I knew this was the place for me."

Reid's family, both extended and siblings, are comfortable with his lifestyle. He was able to offer his father his first and only communion before his death, which Reid says was "one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. Dad said he knew what Jesus Christ meant to me." And to Reid freedom in Jesus Christ means, "the freedom to be what we are. Because then, even if it is just on Sunday, we are honest with God's love."

IAN W. GINSBURG

ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Organizations

AID Atlanta—872-0600
 AIDS Education/Services for Minorities—POB 87277, Atlanta, 30337, 762-6002
 AIDS Hotline for Women—888-9991
 AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide). AIDS Legal Project—688-5433
 AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)—876-2317
 AIDSCHAIM—Edie, 642-3467
 Atlanta Buyers Club—(404) 874-4845, or POB 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.—609-9590
 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 Cheshire Square—2345 Cheshire Br. Rd. 634-5895
 Buddies Midtown—239 Ponce de Leon. 872-2655
 Bulldog & Co—893 Peachtree. 872-3025
 Burkhardt's—Ansley Square. 872-4403
 The Cove—586 Worcester. 875-2477
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 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
 Goodies—64 Third St. 873-3355
 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
 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)
 Catalyst—(404) 776-1478
 Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—605-7477
 Gay Republicans—Republicans for Individual Freedoms, 2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
 Georgia Committee for the 1993 March on Washington (GOCMOW)—(404) 662-4199 or POB 5282, Atlanta 30307
 GAPAC—Georgia Political Action Committee—872-8095, FAX 874-8628
 Human Rights Campaign Fund—Field Committee, 231-5751
 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—POB 15114, Atlanta 30333-0114
 Fourth Tuesday—662-4353
 Georgia Assoc. of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR)—231-2251
 HomeGirls—622-0105
 Nat'l Federation 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
 Christ Covenant MCC, Stone Mountain—297-0350
 Congregation Bet Haverim—642-3467

First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta—872-2246
 Gay & Lesbian Mormons—570-2561 (dig. page)
 Integrity (Episcopal)—642-3183
 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/Hobbies

Atlanta Team Tennis Assn—621-2699
 Atlanta Venture Sports—242-4899
 Atlanta Women's Social Tennis—662-GAME
 Front Runners/Atlanta—621-5007
 Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—SASE to: GANG, POBo 7546, Atlanta 30357
 Hotlanta Soccer—577-0418
 Hotlanta Softball League—POB 14582, Atl. 30324, 873-4061
 Hotlanta Volleyball—621-5062
 Lambda-Dogwood Car Club—POB 941263, Atlanta 30341
 S.E. Gay Rodeo Association—POB 7881, Atlanta, 30357, 760-8126
 Women's Rugby—659-6916 or 761-8939
 TRICKS Bridge Club—2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
 Underwater Escapes—289-0696

Service/Support/Social

African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—458-3003
 American Educational Gender Info Service—POB 33724, Decatur 30033. (404) 939-0244 (evenings).
 Asians & Friends—Atlanta—262-3375
 Athens Gay and Lesbian Association—POB 2201 Athens 30612-0201 or call 404/549-9368
 Athens Lesbian Information Line—(404) 613-7661
 Atlanta Couples Together—365-2455
 Atlanta Gay Center—876-5372
 Atlanta Lambda Community Center—POB 15180, Atlanta 30333, 662-9010
 Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
 Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—POB 5502, Atlanta 30307, phone 378-9769
 Atlanta Lesbian Singles Organization (ALSO)—843-4492
 Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—239-8016
 Black and White Men Together—892-BWMT
 Codependents Anonymous—239-1657
 Chrysalis Women's Center—881-6300
 Delphi—POB 14591, Atlanta, G 30324
 Emotions Anonymous—872-0979
 First Women—Write G.G. Richardson, POB 724711, Atl. 30339, phone 612-9473.
 Friends Atlanta—662-4501
 Gay Fathers of Atlanta—296-8369
 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America—623-4099
 Gay Help Line—6pm-11pm 892-0661
 Georgia Girth & Mirth—POx 9678, Atlanta 30319. (404) 621-5710
 Georgia Lesbian Ecofeminists—525-9085
 The Group—892-0661
 Gwinnett Lambda—POB 464848, Lawrenceville 30246, 923-5874
 Hospitality Atlanta—627-0520
 Interact of Atlanta—455-6795
 Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—237-6262
 Leather S/M Discussion Group—873-2453
 Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous—325-4909
 Lesbian Support Group—627-7387
 Lesbians and Gays with Children—766-3600
 Lesbians Over 50—850-1005
 Lesbians With Children—740-1729
 Men of Little 5 Points—POB 5425, Atlanta 30307
 Name the Violence—370-1317
 Out Youth—POB 78401, Atlanta 30357, 239-9286
 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
 Uniformed Services Activity—Box 6057, Arlington, VA 22206
 Women In Kahoots—(WINK)438-1421
 Women of Wisdom—723-1112, or write POB 451065, Atlanta 30345-1065.
 Wordsmith Society—Chris at 498-0137
 Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
 Zami—908-3356

Students/Alumni

Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—727-6692
 Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw Comm. College 426-8160
 Georgia Tech Gay Alumni Group—POB 50291, GA Tech Sta., Atlanta 30332; 873-2263
 Georgia Tech Gay & Lesbian Alliance—497-0684
 S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—248-9307

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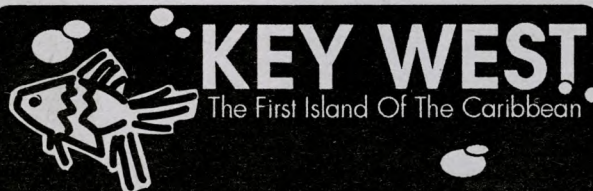
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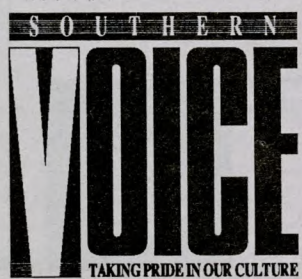
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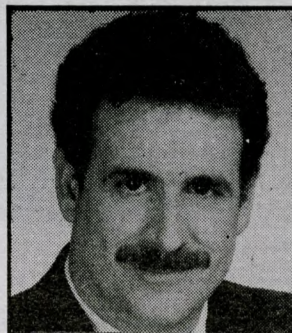
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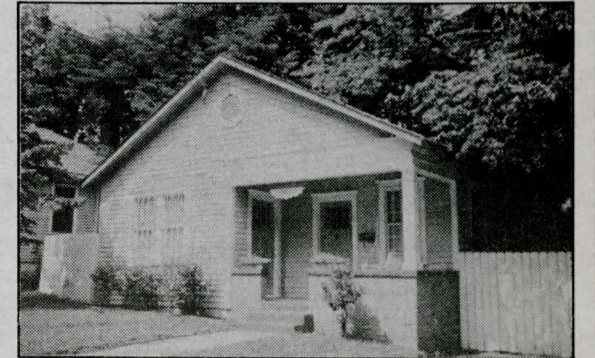


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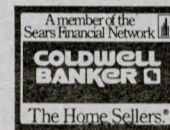


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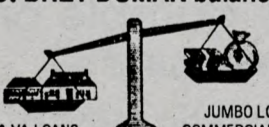


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AID Atlanta: the Southeast's largest non-profit AIDS service agency. Services include education, case management, transportation, housing, buddy program, practical support, homeless services, pediatric services, support groups, AIDS Information Line.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

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

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

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

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HIV+ Narcotics Anonymous (NA) for African Am. Wed. eve., transportation avail; Family support group for loved ones of HIV+ African Am.; "Laxx Lovers" sex-pos. HIV prevention prog. for GBM (need volunteers also); FREE

ANONYMOUS HIV TESTS, counselling, referral (minority cultural sensitivity) begins mid Feb. For confidential info call OUTREACH, INC. 346-3922.

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

P.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 provides access to optional treatments for the HIV community in the Southeast. Our hours of operation are 12-5 PM, Tuesday through Friday. We are located at 44 Twelfth St., NE, with parking available in the rear. For further information phone (404) 874-4845, fax 874-9320, or write P.O. Box 77003, Atlanta, GA 30357.

ACT UP/Atlanta: 874-6782 (office & 24hr. voice mail)

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)

Employment

PART TIME

Do you love animals? **P.A.L.S.** (Pets Are Loving Support, Inc.), a non-profit org., helps PLWA/HIV in need keep their pets as long as possible. Seeking a motivated person to coordinate office P/T (possibly F/T in Jan.). Pos. avail. Sept. 21. Must be organized, self-generating, flexible, and enjoy being with people. A sense of humor helps too. Contact Susan August, 876-PALS. (5.32)

10-3 Entry level receptionist needed...light typing, gay friendly environment. PWAs welcome. Call Laura 370-0986. (5.33)

Part time cleaning help needed. Pleasant working conditions. References needed. Call 325-7404. (5.32)

DJ needed to spin records in new urban contempo dance club in Memphis. Must be cultivated in house, hip-hop dance music. Send

sample tape and brief history to LMG, P.O. Box 3689, Memphis, TN 38173. (5.32)

\$200-\$500 WEEKLY Assemble products at home. Easy! No selling. You're paid direct. Fully Guaranteed. **FREE 24 Hour Recording.** 801-379-2900 Copyright #GA158DH. (5.33)

FULL TIME

DATA PROC./OFC PERSON

We need positive, people oriented persons with excellent telephone skills; friendly; able to work with all types of people; knowledgeable of Wordperfect 5.1; Paradox, MS DOS. Call 215-9811. (5.33)

Retail Sales position. Salary + commission. Please call 409-1333. Gwinnett Area. (5.33)

Health

PERSONAL GROWTH

Hurt by your church? **Spiritual Recovery Services** is where you can tell your story. Therapy that's affordable. A compassionate, sensual approach to spirituality. 873-2587. (5.32)

Classes forming in **Creation Spirituality** of Matthew Fox, renegade pro-gay, pro-choice, pro-feminist priest. A compassionate, sensual approach to spirituality. 873-2587. (5.32)

Merchandise

Packard Bell Computer 386 SX, and copier. Richoh St #460. Call for prices, 377-9870. (5.32)

Pets

PETS FOR ADOPTION from P.A.L.S., Inc.

Butch, six yr. old Persian male, healthy and all shots current, declawed, neutered. Ferguson, 10 yr. old male, calico, healthy, all shots current, neutered. Call 876-7257. (5.33)

Real Estate

FOR RENT

Rent with option to buy. Sunny, spacious VA-Highlands 2 BR, 1 BA Craftsman house. Central A/C, hardwood floors, 4 fireplaces, large eat-in kitchen, new appliances & carpet, deck with skyline view, fenced yard, carport. \$700 month. 315-0113. (5.33)

FOR SALE

VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND

3 BR, 2 BA brick house on park. LR, DR, huge den, kit. w/vaulted ceiling. Renovated. \$209,000. OWR. 876-3503. (5.32)

GRANT PARK-GORGEOUS

Almost new 3 BR, 3 BA home w/many special features. \$129,900. Steve Bland, Remax Achievers, 847-0808. (5.33)

Roommates

Inman Park. GWF, 44 yr. old, quiet professional, non-smoker. Lovely 2 BR, 1 BA turn-of-century home to share. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, W/D. Must like pets. \$300 + 1/2 util. 577-0644. (5.34)

Share my quiet 3-bedroom, 2-bath Stone Mountain home. Own master bedroom with private bath. Non-smoking, pets negotiable. 498-8843. (5.34)

Responsible, working, stable, younger BiWM seeks same or GWM to share 2/2 house, with fireplace, in Smyrna, new to GA. Gym member a plus. 801-8222. \$350, references. (5.33)

Share 3 BR, 2 BA house in North Decatur. \$350/mo. + 1/2 util. No smoking, pet negotiable. 908-2959. (5.35)

Great Inman Park / LSP house to share with professional woman. Has A/C, W/D, DW, security, fireplace, cathedral ceiling. \$375 + 1/2 util. 727-8932 (d), 522-2597 (e). (5.34)

BARTER

Full-time college students: private room, kitchen, util., for 15 hrs/wk maintenance work on private estate; own car, 21+, GPA 2.5+, enjoy work, quiet environment. No tricks or parties; serious letter, resume, references. POB 567611, Sandy Springs, GA 31156. (5.34)

GWF needs to share spacious house on a lake with back yard pool. Room plus extras \$400/mo, 15 min. from downtown and 15 min. from Decatur in S.W.D. Pets negotiable. No smokers - can discuss children. 243-3111. (5.36)

Share large 3 BR Apt, 1-75/Howell Mill, separate bathroom. Util., washer / dryer included. Non-smoker, male only. \$350/month. 352-9095. (5.33)

Room for rent 285/85 North. \$325/month includes utilities. No drugs. No pets. References required. 246-9645. (5.33)

Roswell Rd. Area-GBF seeks GF to share 2 BR TH. Pvt. BA, furn, parking, \$325/mo + 1/2 util. Dep. & ref. req. 594-1114. (5.32)

Services

RESIDENTIAL

ATTN WORKING WOMEN

Reliable Lesbians to run errands, do gift shopping, hospital / nursing home visitations, pet care, letter writing, housecleaning - more! 633-9113. References. (5.34)

HOUSE CLEANING

Margie F. Too much to do & not enough time? I can help 872-2815. Leave message - I'll get right on it. (6.18)

Travel

SKI CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO. Gay owned bed and breakfast in historic mountain town. Hot tub, gourmet breakfast, ski bus, apres ski parties, more. Call for lift-lodging packages. (303) 349-1201. (5.50 - E.I.)

Volunteers

AID Atlanta is seeking volunteers to help with gay outreach. If interested, call Katherine Wright at 872-0600. (5.35)

Tired of homophobic and heterosexist images in the media? Join us! **GLAAD**, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, working for positive changes in the way America views the lesbian and gay community. For more information call (404) 605-7477. (5.36)

SAME's 4th Annual Arts for Pride Festival will be held on Dec. 6. Volunteers are needed to assist in all aspects of the event. If interested, join us at the Tula Gallery (75 Bennett Street, Suite N-1) on Sunday, Oct. 10 from 1-3 pm. Call 609-9590. (5.32)

DeKalb Community Council on Aging needs volunteers to help deliver meals-on-wheels to the elderly in Little Five Points. If you have at least one day a month that you can help deliver, Monday through Friday, 11am to 1pm, then call at 370-4081. Your help is deeply appreciated. (5.36)

Domestic Violence is the single largest cause of physical injury to women—more than rape, muggings, and automobile accidents put together. The Women's Resource Center of DeKalb County is currently seeking volunteers for the following positions: crisis hotline, child advocacy, office support, shelter advocacy and legal advocacy. For information, call 688-9436. (5.36)

Volunteers needed to work on the presidential campaign of the Bill Clinton / Al Gore ticket. 231-5751. (5.36)

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.

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CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

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1189 Virginia Avenue, NE



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Atlanta, GA 30316

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By Mail: Mail completed order form with payment to SOUTHERN VOICE CLASSIFIEDS P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

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SUBTOTAL _____
(4 weeks minimum) x # weeks _____
TOTAL COST _____

Category _____ # of issues _____ Text (Please print): _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Voice Connection

WOMEN

GF seeks fun, intelligent, good looking female for friendship, possible relationship. Me: 5'8", 150 lbs and a good catch. ☎ 1075

Youthful GWF, mature BiWF seeking differently pleased females for role-playing, fantasy. Instructions for beginners. POB 620021, Atlanta, GA 30362. ☎ 1074

MARRIAGE

GWM, 27, seeks GWF for marriage of convenience. Would father child if you desire. Former Olympian. Degree sports administration. ☎ 1076

GW Feminine, Latin Lover. Sexy, 5'7", 125lbs - 30 something. Independent, strong, Funny. You—tall blonde feminine - 30 something - opposites attract! ☎ 1029

GWF seeks attractive, romantic lesbian over 30 for relationship. ☎ 1028

GWF, femme, 25, w/5yr. old daughter seeks GFs for friendship. The rest is destiny's call. Call me today! ☎ 1026

Cute, feminine, GWF, 26, educated, motivated, professional, energetic, somewhat wild and wacky, seeks kindred spirits. No drugs or butch. ☎ 1024

30 year old GBF looking for 30 & up GBF. No drugs and no drinking. ☎ 1023

Looking for a fun-loving friend-lover near Asheville, NC. I am feminine, healthy, a little shy, goofy (not looking), 30, and very much alive BiWF. Call me, talk to me, how else will we ever meet? ☎ 1025

Fem GWF, 22, into politics as well as old-fashioned romance. Seeking butch for possible relationship. TRAY ☎ 1022

Very attractive, feminine GWF, 31, professional, non-smoker who loves the arts, travel and theatre seeking same for fun or possible relationship. ☎ 1021

GBF, 38, professional, attractive, very effeminate, seeks the ideal aggressive female for serious relationship. Butches welcome. ☎ 1019

Hot Chocolate professional, mother of one, 32, slender & attractive, seeking tall, slender, handsome woman to share quality time. ☎ 1020

GWF, 28, intelligent, feminine, attractive non-smoker who lives near Asheville, North Carolina. Loves outdoors and romance. Seeks girlfriend for friendship, possibly more. ☎ 1018

GBF, 33, good looking, fun loving, serious, aggressive, drug free. Seeking 100% lesbian, 19-33 years old, companion to travel with on a Caribbean vacation. Absolutely no bisexuals, smokers, no drugs, for friendship and possible romance. ☎ 1017

GF with interstitial cystitis wants to meet other G females with interstitial cystitis to form support group. Confidentiality assured. ☎ 1015

New to Atlanta, GBF, in search of that special lady who's not afraid of an interracial relationship. ☎ 1003

GWF, 30, lonely, heart broken, seeking GWF for friendship, possible relationship. No more games. Honest, serious. Loves outdoors, movies and more. ☎ 1002

GBF, 22 looking for GF's between 21 & 30. For friendship and possible relationship. ☎ 1014

Pretty GBF, 25, 5'5", 120 lbs, very affectionate. Seeks gay fem female who's intelligent and serious about a friendship / relationship. ☎ 1013

Seeking attractive hermaphrodite female for friendship & possible romance. Me: attractive, androgenous female. Intelligent, funloving. Let's talk. ☎ 1069

F musician seeks others (M/F) for new band. Blues / Rock / Folk / Country. No pop. It scares me. ☎ 1011

GWF, 34, 5'5", Med., brown/blue, Creampuff Dyke, but no twinkie. No drugs, alcohol, bars. Seeks friendship, possible relationship. ☎ 1009

GWF seeks "sensual" lesbian over 27, not into playing games for long term monogamous relationship. ☎ 1008

Single black female, 30, professional, discreet, seeking same. Enjoy movies, theatre, music and love to have fun. ☎ 1007

GWF. You are: 30-40, health conscious, non-smoker, independent, self-assured, honest, You're slim, attractive, comfortable w/sexual-

ity without making a statement. You like movies, snow, beaches, quiet times, good friends. You are not into outside appearance only. I am all of the above & more. ☎ 1006

Looking for a friend, companion, and possible lover for fun, concerts outside, and sharing time. I'm 18, fem. Heaven seeker ☎ 1005

Attractive GWF, 26, 5'6", 140#, shapely build, tomboy / feminine. Loves outdoors & old movies. Seek GWF, 25-35, feminine for possible romance. Call ☎ 1070

GWF, 25, Attractive, fit, independent, professional, non-smoker. Love outdoors, time w/ friends & romantic evenings. Seeking GF for friendship, possibly more. ☎ 1012

Adventurous, fit, responsible, cute, non-smoker, romantic, sporty outdoors lady GWF seeks to meet friends and compatible GWF. ☎ 1004

MEN

BiWM, happily married, seeks friendship with same, 25-35. I am 29, 5'8", hairy and fit. ☎ 1073

GWCM, 23, seeks non-smoking GWCM 18-30 with a genuine love for life and laughter to help paint "picket fences." ☎ 1078

GBM, 5'9" - 196 lbs. seeks top GBM for honest, serious friendship and or relationship. Serious persons please. ☎ 1077

Wrestlers wanted by athletic WM 5'11", 190#. ☎ 1068

GWM, 39, handsome, professional, masculine, healthy, in shape, hairy, horny. Seeks attractive top for discrete, safe daytime fun & friendship. ☎ 1067

GWM, 29, 5'9", 160, Br/HZ. Very masculine, good-looking, muscular, health-conscious, honest, educated, high-achiever, humanitarian, stable, laid-back, casual, playful, out-going, open-minded, with varied interests, seeks same. ☎ 1066

GWM, 25, honest, sincere, looking for GWM 28-35 for good times, possible friendship leading to solid relationship. ☎ 1065

Tom from Atlanta, visiting Washington DC Thursday, August 6: sorry you had prior commitment. When will you return? Harry. ☎ 1064

VOICE CONNECTION

DIRECTIONS (vertical text on left)

DIRECTIONS (vertical text on right)

TO PLACE FREE AD

Fill out the classified order form in this section. 20 WORD MESSAGE FREE. An SV forwarding mailbox costs \$10.00 or you may use your own PO Box for \$5.00. Mail or drop off your completed order for with payment. A simple instruction sheet will be mailed to you which will enable you to record your spoken message AT NO COST.

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Check each week's paper for ads which interest you. Choose ad(s) with the symbol ☎ and call 1-900-370-4099. 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 \$1.50 per minute charged to your phone bill.

CALL NOW (\$1.50 per minute. Must be 18 or over. Touch tone phones only.)

GWM, 26, college student, 6'0", 165 lbs, muscular, clean-cut, looking for wealthy WM for fun and excitement, any age, weight. ☎ 1060

ROBERT

We met sunday night August 16th at Crazy Ray's. Thanks for showing me the city. I had a great time. Call me in Chattanooga. ☎ 1063

WM, 25, 5'9", 175 lbs., seeks other non-stereotypical WM 18-30 for friendship or more. I live in Chattanooga but travel to Atlanta weekly. All answered. ☎ 1062

GWM, 30, 5'9", BL/BL, 170, looking for my "thirtysomething." Call VOICEbox for address or leave message. ☎ 1061

GWM, 32, 5'11", 165, HIV neg, short black hair, dark eyed top man needs light hair blue eyed bottom boy. ☎ 1059

WM, 29, 6ft, 175, Bruce Willis type, DISCREET, closeted, seeks long, monogamous relationship with same. Henry, Rockdale areas. ☎ 1058

GWM, 20; attractive, non-stereotypical, passionate, relationship-oriented, W.G.C. student seeks cute, young GWM student 18-22 for friendship or more. ☎ 1056

TAG—YOU'RE IT

Do you feel like the maytag repairman? No phone messages. No maintenance contracts. No service calls. Maybe I can change your life. ☎ 1057

GBM, 36, 6'4", 185#; Top seeks tall and/or fat GWM into GR; welcome bald, beards, gray, hirsute, big feet. ☎ 1055

Hot, horny, hairy, heavily hung hunk, Daddy-type (early 40's) seeks sons, companions. Preferably tall, muscular, endowed. ☎ 1054

Masculine, attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 185# seeks masculine black male for fun & possible relationship. ☎ 1053

GWM, 29, Professional, nice-looking, HIV positive, is interested in meeting similar professional guys for friendship or possible relationship. ☎ 1052

GBM, 20, 6'3", 175, very attractive ex-model, seeks attractive, fit, professional yet fun GWM 21-35 for friendship or more. ☎ 1051

GBM, 35, Ph.D., honest, sincere, professional, financially secure, aggressive, seeks GWM, Italian, Hispanic with similar qualities. Let's talk / get acquainted. ☎ 1050

GWM, 22, college student, feels disgusted by the effeminacy and crudeness typical of gays; is looking for someone else who is not at home among them. ☎ 1049

BM, 18, 5'8", bottom seeks masculine male, any race, for fun, friendship and much more. ☎ 1048

Attractive, fit, professional GWM couple 26/38. Seek adventurous, imaginative, submissive, in shape guys into discipline, bondage, leather, servicing. Curious, inexperienced OK. ☎ 1047

GWM, 31, 155, Br/Br, handsome, well-adjusted, hopeless romantic seeks swell guy (18-35) for relationship. ☎ 1046



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CLASSIFIEDS

WM, 31, 6'3", 230 lbs, professional, enjoys local music scene, movies, Braves, concerts, wants to meet intelligent non-stereotypical friends. ☎ 1045

WM, 42, 180lbs, 6'2", HIV-, looking for masculine. Uncut, HIV-, blue collar kinda guy for afternoon shade breaks. ☎ 1044

Asians, Blacks, Hispanics! Mature WM, hot, fun, physical, more. Beginners welcome. ☎ 1043

Senior seeks to mentor, pamper, and have daytime relaxation and fun with attractive male 20-40. ☎ 1072

MASSAGE

Attractive, gentle, strong, mature, WM, 45, 6'0", 165#, blonde/blue, seeks masculine men 25+, fun/friendship. ☎ 1042

Attractive GWM, 35, HIV+, seeks other GWMs for friendship & fun, I'm 5'6" BI/BI, 122#. Healthy. Call ☎ 1079

GWM - handsome, lovable, blonde, submissive, surfer type. Love animals, Midtown, endowed, Gemini, positive, sincere, honest, drug free, musician. ☎ 1040

WM, 24, blond, blue, 6', 158#, seeks guys 18-30 for great times. ☎ 1041

Submissive WM, 30, fit and attractive, total novice, wants to learn strict discipline and dominance. At your service! ☎ 1039

Beguiling GBM, 30, Attractive-Long-Hair (bottom), seeks dominant attractive (top) but sensitive GWM Italian or Hispanic for relationship, good times. ☎ 1038

GWM, 23, cute, wants to meet guys 22-26, "semi-red necks," long hair a plus, pick up the phone & let's talk. No one-nighters. ☎ 1037

GWM does daytime cleaning, laundry, massage and service for attractive dominant. ☎ 1071

Attractive GWM, 40's, writer. Dark hair / beard. Blue eyes, 5'8". Into fitness, traveling, sex. Seeking prosperous 30's GWM author / publisher. ☎ 1036

Very masculine suburban WM, 40, 6', 175 lbs, dark curly hair, mustache. Seeks submissive daytime companion for discreet encounters & friendship. ☎ 1035

Denures a Plus! Know what I mean? Short, husky, stud, 41, GWM. Looking for Mr. Right or Mr. Right Now. ☎ 1034

Professional GWM couple (28,29) seek similar couples for platonic friendship. Interests: movies, dinner, symphony, plays. Call us today at ☎ 1033

WM, Blond, Blue, 6', 158#, seeks WM 18-30 for special friendship. Looking for someone w/ weekdays free. Call ☎ 1032

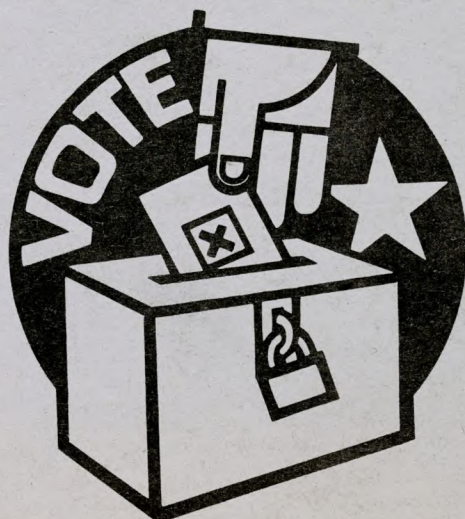
A piece is missing from my life's puzzle. Is it you? GWM, 41, 5'8", Brn/Bl. Let's talk. Let's meet. Today! ☎ 1031

GWM, 29, handsome, trim, honest, compassionate, traditional acting, a sense of self-worth, a thinking individual, looking for same 25-35. ☎ 1030

STOP IT.

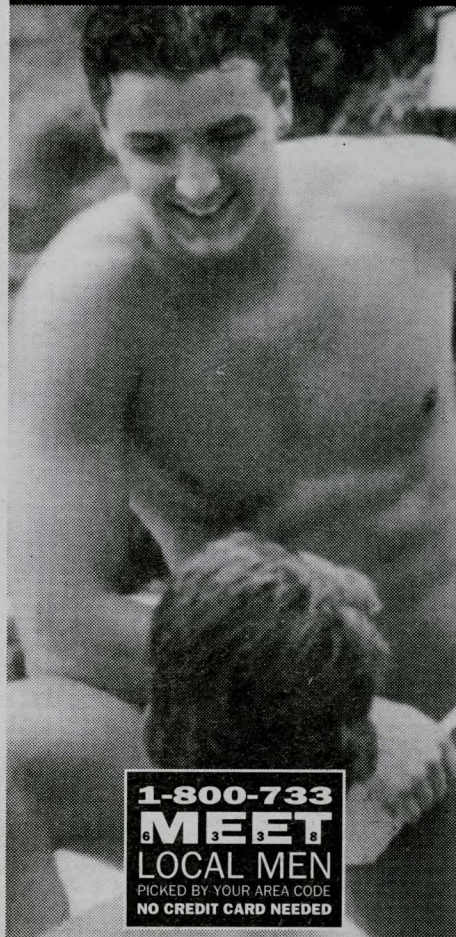
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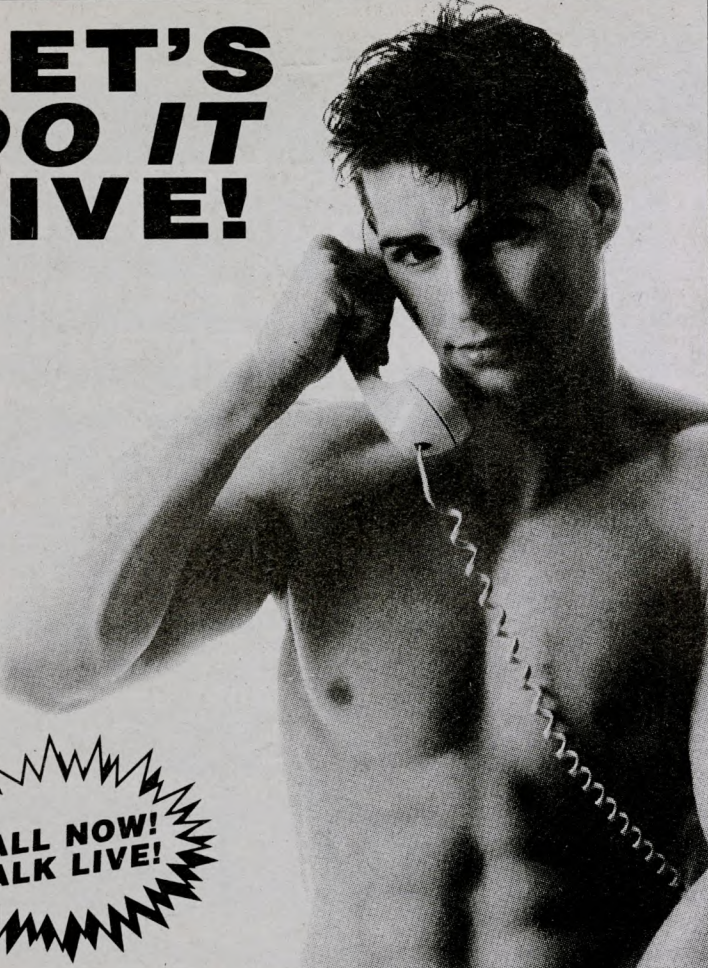


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The NAMES Project AIDS Candlelight Memorial March



Photo: Karen Holberg

RISE UP, AND BATHE THE WORLD IN LIGHT!—WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

Join Liza Minnelli, Joel Gray, Patti Austin, Gay Mens Chorus of Washington, Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project, Jim Graham and Riley Temple of Whitman-Walker Clinic, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Caitlin Ryan, Chief, DC Agency for HIV/AIDS.

6:00 pm—Gather at the Ellipse

March from the Ellipse to the Lincoln Memorial for ceremony

Limited candles available—please bring your own, along with a holder.

Saturday, October 10, 1992
Washington, DC

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