

VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

DEC 10 - DEC 16 / 1992

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THE MEN'S MOVEMENT

What's in it for gay men?

AL COTTON

How does a gay man feel at the prospect of being cooped up with 80 sensitive straight men for an entire day? For Gary Kaupman, the decision to attend an event of the Atlanta Men's Center was not stress-free. "I felt apprehensive and intimidated. I wondered, 'Will my truth be denied? Will I be disappeared? Will I have to explain myself yet one more time?'"

This apprehension will resonate with many gay men, and represents the first hurdle the Atlanta Men's Center must negotiate to reach its goal of increasing gay involvement. As Atlanta's resource center for the increasingly popular Men's Movement, the Center frequently gets caught in the middle, encountering both the suspicion of gay men and derision of straight men uninterested in change.

This month's Penthouse, in addition to Jennifer Flowers, features the latest in a series of attacks on the Men's Movement. Parodies of tree-hugging men desperately trying to get in touch with their feelings at a suburban Ramada Inn have travelled from the cover of Newsweek to Murphy Brown to Esquire, and show few signs of abating.

What straight society finds threatening, of course, is that lots of men from traditional backgrounds are coming together to work at changing what it means to be a Man. It's quite logical that organizations like Esquire and Penthouse, which have a vested interest in seeing that men do not change, would fight this. And many gay men, as men interested in changing society, are trying to find a way to fit into and support this movement. How does all this connect to the Atlanta Men's Center?

Origins of the Men's Movement

As the 1960s ended, it became clear that Feminism would not fully succeed until men also began to change. The first efforts began in the early 70s with the National Organization of Changing Men (now called the National Organization of Men Against Sexism, or NOMAS). NOMAS began as a coalition between groups who understood homophobia and sexism as

manifestations that arise from the same source—the patriarchy.

NOMAS's agenda (as discussed in Newsweek) include support for women in employment and divorce, and strong anti-discrimination and anti-pornography stances. Their membership is small—about 5,000, 50% of which is gay men, 10% women—and their national profile low.

The Men's Movement's entry into mainstream consciousness was jump-started by the mythopoetic work of Robert Bly, a noted poet whose writing about the Great Mother pointed him toward the crippled image of the Father in our society. As far back as the Industrial Revolution, when fathers were first taken out of the home to earn money, Bly argues, men in Western society have been and continue to be poorly fathered.

Bly's method of discovering and healing these wounds involves myth telling. A group gathers to hear its leader tell a story, possibly about a King who tries to prevent his Son from seeking the Most Beautiful Woman in the World. The story stops intermittently for men to describe how they relate to it, why a specific detail jumped out at them, and what issues it brings up. Much myth telling occurs at the infamous Wild Man Weekends, where men leave society for a weekend to drum, dance, and bond with other men. Nothing in the Men's Movement has been as viciously parodied as these gatherings.

Atlanta Men's Center

When men discover the need to address these issues (often while in therapy), they turn to local men's centers like the Atlanta Men's Center for support. And while it is Bly's work that is attracting people, the Atlanta Men's Center does not limit itself to the Mythopoetic Men's Movement. "We see ourselves as a clearinghouse and resource center for men who are interested in self-examination, not just for the Mythopoetic Men's Move-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 17
Photo Caption: Drumming at an Atlanta Men's Center retreat

Nunn asked two gay staff members to resign in early 1980s because of security concerns

KC WILDMOON

Atlanta—Reports that Georgia Senator Sam Nunn forced at least two staff members to resign because of their sexual orientation in the early 1980s has sparked grumbling in the gay and lesbian community, especially as Nunn's name is frequently mentioned as a possible Secretary of Defense under President Bill Clinton.

It's not the first time reports of Nunn's treatment of gay staffers has surfaced—in 1988, when Nunn was considered a possible vice presidential candidate with Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis, several newspapers, including Southern Voice, investigated the reports, but the staff members involved declined to go public. Nunn's office refused to comment

at that time, but a statement released to the Philadelphia Gay News in May 1988 said that certain firings had involved "security clearance procedures."

Late last month, the Washington Blade reported that two staffers—Greg Baldwin and Ralph White, Jr., both attorneys—were forced to resign by Sen. Nunn, in 1981 and 1982, respectively, after he learned they were gay.

"He said, 'I don't want to fire you or officially ask for your resignation. But I think it would be best if you go look for another job,'" Baldwin told the Blade. Nunn was then a member, and is now chair, of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

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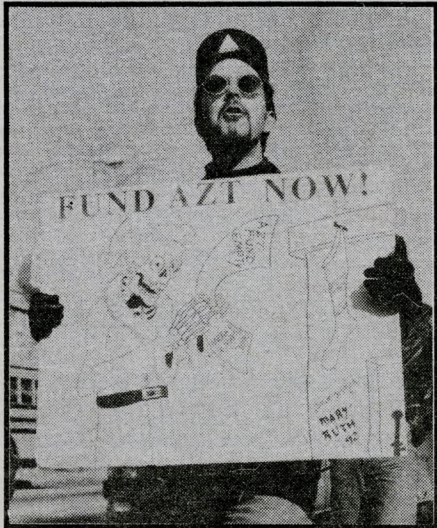
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Gov. Miller authorizes \$150,000 for AZT emergency fund

700 people on program, and those on waiting list, assured of needed medication through February

Atlanta—Governor Zell Miller has released over \$150,000 from his emergency fund to provide AZT for poor and uninsured AIDS patients through February. Georgia's program



Jeff Graham of ACT UP, along with other ACT UP members and NAPWA members, protested the lack of funding for AZT for indigent persons on World AIDS Day in front of the state capitol.

had run out of money earlier this fall, but a rebate from AZT's manufacturer kept the program going to the end of the year.

The \$158,000 from Miller's discretionary fund will allow the Department of Human Resources to provide AZT free of charge to the 700 people already on the program, as well as people on the waiting list for the drug, said DHR Infectious Disease Unit head Dr. Joe Wilbur.

"We want people to know that if they've heard the program is closed, it's open again," he said. "We're taking new patients now."

At the opening of the 1993 Georgia General Assembly session, the legislature is expected to take up a supplemental request for \$700,000, enough money to fund the AZT program until April, when federal dollars from the Ryan White Care Act will again roll in. Additionally, DHR officials will ask the legislature to include the program in the state's annual budget.

The governor's move came the day after World AIDS Day, and activists, who have been pressing the state to come up with the money to continue the program for months, were pleased but concerned with the length of time it took.

"I certainly applaud Gov. Miller for doing this," said ACT UP/Atlanta's Jeff Graham, "but once again I've got to ask why did it take so long? It's ridiculous that we have to take to the streets each and every time something like this comes up."

Graham also said he would be watching the legislature closely in next year's session.

"In dealing with the state of Georgia, I don't believe anything until I see it," he said. "Putting it on the budget is one thing, but will it be properly funded? And will they commit to increasing it as the demand increases?"

KC WILDMOON

Christian gays angry over rebuff by Nat'l Council of Churches

New York—Angry lesbian and gay Christians demonstrated on the floor of the National Council of Churches (NCC) meeting in Cleveland on Nov. 13 after NCC's General Board rejected the application of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) for observer status by a vote of 90-81. UFMCC applied for observer status, which confers only the opportunity to attend meetings and speak with the chair's permission, in May, 1992.

"It's easier to get into heaven than into the NCC," said the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson of Los Angeles, Ecumenical Officer for UFMCC, who was invited to the dias to speak after the vote.

"We have come to this point after 11 years

Cleveland in conjunction with the NCC meeting.

The vote came nine months after Orthodox churches resumed ties with the NCC after a 10-month split to protest liberal positions of the council and member denominations on homosexuality and other issues.

Somewhat surprisingly, the NCC General Board reinforced its 1973 commitment to "civil rights without discrimination as to affectional or sexual preference" by passing a resolution condemning the approval of Amendment 2 to the Colorado State constitution. They further encouraged "the leaders of each member communion and their public policy and advocacy offices to work for civil rights for all people."

After the meeting, Elder Wilson rejected the NCC Membership Committee's recommendation that talks continue between the council and UFMCC, saying there would be no point to such talks after the church had been so severely rebuffed.

In its written statement, UFMCC said, "By



Rev. Syngam Rhee (left with glasses), NCC President and Rev. Joan Campbell (glasses), NCC Executive Director, meet with the leadership of the Metropolitan Community Churches.

of relationship with you," she continued. "And now we have had to endure this experience of hearing you have a conversation about us, but not with us."

The vote touched off an emotional demonstration by UFMCC members, as well as by members of gay and lesbian caucuses from denominations that already belong to the Council and from other non-member denominations. Leaders from these groups were meeting in

not recognizing us today as observers, the NCC and its members have taken an unprecedented action to try to deny our very existence. The NCC took its actions in order to preserve the unity of their organization. The result is not Christian unity but unholy and false unity."

UFMCC originally applied for membership in NCC in 1983, and threats of a pullout by Orthodox churches were largely responsible for a decision to table that application.

Police fired for botching Dahmer investigation

Two patrolmen returned 14 year old victim to serial killer's home

Milwaukee (AP)—The city was right to refuse to rehire two patrolmen who left a drugged, naked boy with serial killer Jeffrey L. Dahmer, because the men simply failed in their duty, say relatives of Dahmer's victims.

"They didn't do their jobs so they deserve to be fired," said Shirley Hughes, whose son Anthony was Dahmer's 12th victim.

His remains were in Dahmer's bedroom and undetected by the officers who went to Dahmer's apartment May 27, 1991.

Joseph Gabrish, 29, and John Balcerzak, 35, had pleaded guilty to an administrative charge that they failed to investigate when they encountered Konerak Sinthasomphone, 14, naked and incoherent outside Dahmer's apartment.

After his arrest two months later, Dahmer confessed to killing the boy hours after the officers left the two alone.

He is serving life in prison for 15 killings

in Milwaukee County and one in Ohio. Police who eventually searched his apartment found human heads, torsos and skulls inside.

Police Chief Philip Arreola fired the officers Sept. 6, 1991, saying they disregarded procedure, including filing reports that would have alerted authorities that Dahmer had a sex-crime history.

The officers' attorney, Ken Murray, said they were "scapegoats" for a police administration that didn't have the "guts or courage to take the heat." He said he would appeal.

But Catherine Lacy, whose son Oliver was Dahmer's 16th victim, said she wasn't "doubting that they were good police officers, but they did not do their job."

Dahmer, 32, told police the officers accepted his explanation that the boy was his adult lover and had gotten drunk, and complaints by black neighbors about the officers' decision to leave were disregarded.

Transcripts also showed the officers joked about the incident during police radio transmissions.

Art Murchison, a counselor to victim relatives, said the decision "gave a strong message to the city of Milwaukee, black and white, Catholic or whatever, gay and straight, to put aside the prejudices."

ANTHONY SHADID

QN members allowed to attend Cracker Barrel stockholder's meeting

CEO Dan Evins hints at talk to discuss issue but doesn't deliver

Lebanon, TN—Six members of Queer Nation/Atlanta who own stock in Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores Inc. attended that company's annual stockholders meeting on Nov. 24 unhindered by Cracker Barrel officials. The Tennessee-based restaurant chain promised a Tennessee judge it would not interfere with the QN shareholders' rights to attend the meeting, in stark contrast to last year's annual meeting when CB officials delayed the gay shareholders' entrance into the meeting until near the end.

Queer Nation members and other gay activists across the country began buying stock in the company as a part of the continuing protest against the firings of at least seventeen gay employees since early 1991.

At the stockholders meeting, company CEO Dan Evins twice spoke with Queer Nation co-chair Lynn Cothren, asking Cothren to call to set up a meeting to discuss the issue. But Evins' office has not returned Cothren's calls.

"He spoke to me before and after the meeting and seemed ready to talk," said Cothren. "But I really think he was scared we were going to disrupt the meeting."

In early 1991, Cracker Barrel issued a policy stating that the company would not employ gays. After the policy was made public by Southern Voice, Evins rescinded the company-wide policy, and left the issue to be decided on a store-by-store basis. None of the fired employees were rehired, however, and

some were fired after the policy was rescinded.

"He says the issue is over, that it's a dead issue," Cothren said. "But it's not a dead issue to the people involved in [the protest coalition], it's not a dead issue to the seventeen fired employees, and it's not a dead issue to Queer Nation."

Some major company stockholders, including the New York City Employee's Retirement Fund and the New York Teachers' Retirement Fund, have joined QN's attempts to persuade the company to adopt a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and to pay restitution to fired employees. At last year's annual meeting, the New York City Comptroller's office, which controls the city employee fund, proposed just such a non-discrimination policy to be voted on at this year's meeting. That attempt to change the policy came to naught, however, when the federal Securities and Exchange Commission sided with Cracker Barrel last month, ruling that the issue concerned day to day operations and need not be brought before the stockholders.

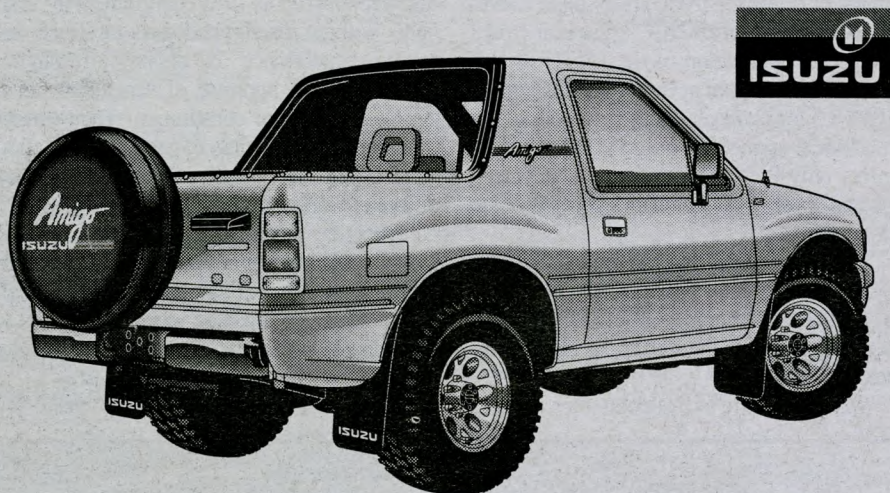
KC WILDMOON

NOTICE

If you are having trouble getting through to the sex education hotline you can write a letter expressing your thoughts. The committee is receiving many more calls and letters against, than it receives in favor of, the proposed sex ed program that suggests beginning AIDS education at an earlier grade, and discussion of homosexuality in neutral terms. Let them know how you feel. Write to: Ad Hoc Committee on Sex Education
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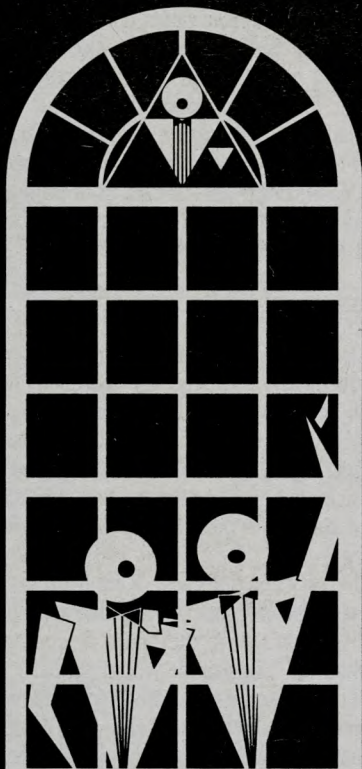
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Gay rights foe mounts drive against cable television programs in Tampa

Tampa, FL (AP)—A man who helped reverse Tampa's gay rights law is taking aim at cable television programming after a viewer, shocked at seeing a man strip and fondle himself, found there was nothing she could do about it.

David Caton, Florida director of the American Family Association, wrote to the Hillsborough County Commission last week asking that something be done about public access television.

"Our hands are tied," said Roger Holleger of Jones Intercable. "We're unable to offer any kind of censorship whatsoever."

Caton, who led a successful Nov. 3 referendum drive that reversed a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation, said he would mount a letter-writing campaign.

Late one night when Lee McCanless couldn't sleep, she switched on the television and flipped through the channels. She stumbled across a video performer taking off all his clothes and fondling himself. So incensed that

this was in her living room, she wrote a complaint to the county commission, contacted her cable TV company and spoke with Caton.

Holleger said he met with state prosecutors to see if anything could be done, but they determined that the shows did not violate community standards for obscenity.

But that may change next year, when new rules governing cable television take effect, Holleger said. As part of the rewrite of cable regulations, Congress gave the Federal Communications Commission power to regulate content on public access channels. But the FCC hasn't written new rules, and it will be months before it does.

Holleger says adult-oriented programming accounts for only 5 percent of what is broadcast on the public access channels.

Cable TV customers can ask their cable company to block out the public access channel. Some companies do that free, others charge.

TN boy who was taunted by schoolmates dies of AIDS

Red Boiling Springs, TN (AP)—Family and friends have bid good-bye to Robert Doyle Hatcher, a young hemophiliac who died last week of complications from AIDS.

Hatcher died at the age of 15, a little more than three years after he contracted AIDS during a blood transfusion.

More than 150 people attended an overflow service at a local funeral parlor.

"The world is hard and life is bitter, there is hope for heaven," said the Rev. Steve Bode, a former pastor at Red Boiling Springs' First Baptist Church.

No mention was made of Hatcher's illness or the painful discrimination the boy said he received from school classmates.

Two weeks ago, Hatcher told reporters that schoolmates threw rocks at him, tripped him on the bus and left him out of games because of his illness.

"They just, I guess, didn't understand or something," he said eight days before dying in Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Men and women of all ages, including some of Hatcher's schoolmates, attended services at Anderson and Son Funeral Home. They later joined in a 60-car procession to the Smith Chapel Cemetery on the outskirts of town.

Robert's fate caught the attention of several country music stars. Tanya Tucker, Lorrie Morgan, Holly Dunn, and Rudy Gatlin all visited Hatcher while he was in the hospital.

"He was well loved by many people," said Danny McCaleb, a relative.

FL man injects girlfriend with HIV+ blood, kills self

Pensacola, FL (AP)—An AIDS-infected parolee raped and injected his ex-girlfriend with his blood, then fatally shot himself.

A day before his 32nd birthday, Terry Boatwright put a 9 mm pistol to his chest and pulled the trigger, ending a 45-minute standoff with police in a shopping center parking lot.

Terry Boatwright, who had been suicidal most of his life, took 20 to 30 tablets of the tranquilizer Valium just hours before his death, his brothers said last Sunday.

"All he wanted to do was start over with a new life, but he couldn't. No one would ever let him forget about his past," said half-brother Johnny Schumer, 24.

Escambia County sheriff's deputies were attempting to arrest Boatwright a day after a former girlfriend charged him with raping her and using a syringe to inject her with his in-

fect blood after abducting her to Alabama.

Boatwright was fleeing deputies when he crashed his vehicle into a ditch last Saturday night, then got out threatening to kill himself.

He walked across the street to the small shopping center. Officers failed to persuade him to surrender.

Boatwright tested positive for AIDS more than two years ago but didn't know how he had contracted the virus, his brothers said. They said he was an intravenous drug user and remained promiscuous after finding out he was HIV positive.

Charlotte plans gay library/cafe

Charlotte, NC—Plans are underway to open a gay and lesbian library in Charlotte, according to Q-Notes, a Charlotte gay newspaper.

A non-profit corporation has been established to operate Collections Library and Cafe, which the four-member board hopes will increase the understanding of gays and lesbians by the general public as well as provide support and information to gays and lesbians. According to promotional material, "the library project is dedicated to and in support of gays and lesbians who struggle daily to live happy productive lives in spite of the magnitude of oppression, and who desire a non-bar atmosphere in which to socialize and improve the quality of life."

The location of the library will depend upon how much money is raised between now and next spring. Donations of books, tapes and money are now being accepted. To make a donation call Ruth Derrow at (704) 366-7465.

Lack of interest kills Charlotte political group

Charlotte, NC—Charlotte's four year old political action group, First Tuesday, will close shop early next year because of a lack of active participation.

Q-Notes reported in late October that the First Tuesday board had only two members, and efforts to recruit more members had been unsuccessful.

Board member Darryl Logsdon told Q-Notes that a proliferation of new organizations in the Charlotte area meant less participation. "We're cutting the pie into smaller pieces," he said.

The other remaining board member, Don King, said that funds would be retained to continue the project which documents anti-gay discrimination.

Powell Doesn't See Mass Exodus If Gay Ban Lifted: Gen. Colin Powell, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says lifting the ban on gays in the U.S. military would not "break the force" or cause mass resignations. Powell told students at American University last week that he supports the ban, but the military is "struggling how best to handle that" if the ban is lifted, as President-elect Clinton has pledged to do. "I hope we can keep some of the emotionalism out of this issue until we have time for a full debate, and I think that will take place early next year," Powell said. Powell, who is black, told students that he gets "testy" when people compare the integration of blacks into the military with the gay issues. "I need no lectures" on the history of blacks in the military, he said.

K-Mart Does Not Discriminate: A letter to Kansas City's Tax Increment Financing commission indicates that K-mart Corporation has a non-discrimination policy based on sexual orientation, according to a report in the Lesbian-Gay News-Telegraph. "[K-Mart] does not discriminate against persons because of their sexual preference," said the letter, signed by vice-president Peter Palmer on October 20. The letter was sent to the commission as part of a contract bidding process between K-Mart and Wal-Mart for the right to develop a tract in the heart of Kansas City's lesbian/gay community.

Cincy City Council Passes Gay Rights Ordinance: The Cincinnati City Council has voted to enact a law to protect gays and others from discrimination in housing, public accommodations and employment. Councilman David Mann, the Democratic congressman-elect from Ohio's 1st District, voted against it. "It's going to, I'm sure, result in a ballot issue and a very destructive year in our community," he said. Charles Winburn, director of the conservative New Wave 2000 coalition, also condemned the vote. "This is a sex ordinance. It's a sex manual, and I don't think it has any place in the chambers of City Hall," he said. "It's anti-family, it's anti-business and it's definitely anti-God."

Transsexual Republican Wins Seat in Mass. House: The Boston Herald reported that 52-year-old Republican Althea Garrison, who was elected last month to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, was formerly a male known as A.C. Garson. According to Suffolk County Probate Court records, Garrison changed her name in May 1976. The Boston paper reported that Garrison had been a frequent candidate for the legislature, finally defeating Democrat Irene Roman this year.

Lockheed Protects Gays: High Tech Gays newsletter reported last month that Lockheed Missiles and Space Company has added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy. The newsletter reported that a gay employee group had been in negotiations with the company for some time, and that the company made the move after the California Assembly passed AB-2601, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.



Miss America Faces Criticism For Paid AIDS Appearance: AIDS activists are concerned that a \$1200 fee paid to Miss America Leanza Cornett would be better spent on services for people with AIDS. Cornett received the payment from the New York State Museum in Albany for an appearance at the museum's display of 800 panels of the Names Project Quilt. "Does she need \$1200 to do that when people are struggling and lacking medical services and lacking decent, affordable housing?" asked AIDS activist Steve Baratta. Cornett said she would donate some of the fee to help AIDS patients, but declined to say how much.

MN Organization Forms To Oppose Gay Rights: A new organization called Traditional Values Coalition of Minnesota will oppose efforts to expand the state's anti-discrimination law to protect gays and lesbians, a spokesman for the group says. "We are building a grassroots movement to stop any attempt to add 'sexual orientation' to the Minnesota Human Rights statutes," said Michel Chisum of St. Paul. Sen. Allan Spear, DFL-Minneapolis, who has authored gay rights legislation in the past, said an aggressive effort will be made next year to amend the Minnesota Human Rights Act to outlaw discrimination against gays and lesbians.

NY Neighborhood School Board Suspended For Refusal To Use Gay-Positive Curriculum: NY Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez has suspended the Queens District 24 school board because its members refused to adopt a curriculum that required teaching respect and tolerance for gays and lesbians. "I am truly saddened that we have come to this," Fernandez said. "Saddened by the irony that teaching children the fourth 'R,' respect for their neighbors and themselves, has brought on the hateful condemnations" of recent months. Fernandez has appointed a substitute board, and ordered them to meet with parents and teachers to agree on a curriculum that includes lessons about gays. The suspended board has vowed to appeal.

Government Agencies Fight in Court Over Gay Marriage: Two DC government agencies are fighting each other in court over the right of a gay couple to marry. The DC corporation counsel, the district government's top lawyer, has argued that the city's marriage bureau acted correctly when it refused to issue a license to two men. The district's Human Rights Commission contends that the bureau violated the DC Human Rights Act by discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. The Commission has filed a brief in a lawsuit brought against the city by the two men, and the corporation counsel's office has asked the DC Court of Appeals to throw out the brief.

Judge Allows AIDS Patient Survivors To Sue Ex-Lover: In a ground-breaking case, the parents of a man who died of AIDS are suing their son's ex-lover for allegedly infecting him, according to the New York Post. Justice Louis Sangiorgio of the New York state Supreme Court on Staten Island ruled that the parents of Anthony Blanco, who died in Sept. 1990, can sue his ex-lover, John Sullivan. Evan Wolfson, a lawyer for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, told the Post the case is "very troubling when there is no evidence the survivor infected the deceased."

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Shanti House opens door as largest AIDS housing facility in nation

A ribbon cutting ceremony and standing room only crowd marked the opening of Shanti House in San Francisco on November 30. The site of the former Americana Suites Hotel at Market and Franklin Streets in the city was heralded as the largest single AIDS housing facility in the nation.

Sixty-five people diagnosed with AIDS or disabling ARC (AIDS-Related Condition) will be housed in the 20 studio, 35 one-bedroom, and 5 two-bedroom units, each equipped with its own kitchen and bathroom. Men and women of all backgrounds will live at Shanti House in what many hope will be a supportive community atmosphere for all residents.

expected by the end of the month, and a waiting list of six to eight months was in place on opening day.

"Moving to Shanti House has been truly a miracle because it is going to be such a wonderful place to live," stated Ja'nes Cuthbertson, a person with AIDS and one of the first residents to move into Shanti House.

Applicants to the residential facility must meet "specific entrance criteria" related to their suitability for living in an independent housing environment. To facilitate their transition to the facility, residents will be required to attend regular in-house community meetings as well as regularly meet with their designated Resident Advocate. "This building is



Ja'nes Cuthbertson, a resident of the newly opened Shanti House in San Francisco, relaxes in his room. Shanti is the largest AIDS housing facility in the US.

The residential facility is designed to assist low-income HIV disabled San Francisco residents with the emphasis on helping those who are newly indigent and at risk of becoming homeless. "We are especially excited to be opening Shanti House and expanding the housing options we can offer to people living with AIDS in time for the winter holidays," stated Eric Rofes, Shanti executive director.

Residents of Shanti House will pay 25% of their income as rent, and client advocates will work with applicants applying for benefits. Staff advocates will also link residents with Shanti Project support services and other local resources, including free dental care at the University of the Pacific CARE Dental Program and meal delivery from Project Open Hand. Full occupancy of Shanti House is

going to be home to 65 people and we at Shanti Project have the responsibility of creating a safe environment for the residents and, because we are leasing, to its maintenance," stated Ramon Matos, a Resident Program Advocate.

"The shortage of affordable, appropriate housing is one of the most critical issues facing people with AIDS, both nationally and in San Francisco," stated Dr. Mitchell Katz, director of the San Francisco Public Health AIDS Office. Funding for Shanti House is provided by \$500,000 in Ryan White CARE funds augmented by initial planning and start-up grants from the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency.

ARTURO JACKSON III

FDA approves new drug to fight pneumocystis

Research Triangle Park, NC (AP)—AIDS patients will have a second alternative to treat pneumonia symptoms with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of a compound marketed by Burroughs Wellcome Co.

The drug atovaquone, with the brand name Mepron, will be recommended for people who cannot take trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (TMP/SMX) to treat mild to moderate cases of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia or PCP.

About 80 percent of all AIDS patients suffer from PCP due to impaired immune systems. Up to 50 percent of AIDS patients cannot take TMP/SMX because of side effects including rashes, lowered white blood cell counts, fever, nausea and vomiting, officials said last Monday.

Burroughs Wellcome tested the drug on 322 patients at 37 sites across the country and in Canada and Europe. While Mepron has side effects that may include headache, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever and elevated liver enzymes, researchers called the drug a good alternative.

Dr. Sharon Safrin, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology at UC-San Francisco, was the principal investigator in the studies at San Francisco General Hospital.

"Certainly I think it's going to be a very useful alternative," she said. "It seems to me that the approval for this drug came very closely on the heels of the formal results being available for this study."

Since November 1991, more than 900 people have received Mepron free of charge under FDA controls.

Burroughs Wellcome announced that starting Jan. 1, patients who use more than 411 grams of the drug in a year will receive their medication, up to an additional 684 grams, at no cost for the rest of the year.

The company's price to a wholesaler for 411 grams of Mepron is about \$3,500.

David Peck, an AIDS activist with ACT UP/Boston who had negotiated with the company to make atovaquone available, said he was pleased with the FDA approval.

"Early access and rapid approval of atovaquone mean survival for thousands of people living with AIDS who face the life-and-death consequences of PCP," he said.

Basarrate named Jerusalem House Development Director

The Jerusalem House Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Louisa Basarrate will serve as the organization's first Development Director.

Jerusalem House is a non-profit organization which provides permanent housing for people with HIV/AIDS who would otherwise be homeless.

Basarrate joins Jerusalem House after two years with AID Atlanta, where she most recently served as Development Coordinator. Her volunteer affiliations include Hands on Atlanta, the Atlanta Humane Society, AID Atlanta and Art/Care.

Basarrate is a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church. She is married to Armando Basarrate, an attorney with Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs.



©HEADSHOTS

AIDS vaccine test gets go ahead from medical specialists

Bethesda, MD (AP)—A large-scale AIDS vaccine trial that Congress approved without scientific endorsement won qualified backing from a committee of medical specialists.

The panel voted unanimously last Monday to recommend that the director of the government's National Institutes of Health, Dr. Bernadine Healy, endorse the clinical trial of a candidate vaccine called gp160.

But committee members made clear that there was insufficient data under traditional scientific standards for the vaccine to be tested and several speakers at the daylong meeting said they would prefer to wait until more data on the drug could be collected.

Congress included \$20 million in a defense appropriation bill to pay for national testing of the vaccine. The action followed lobbying by the drug's manufacturer, MicroGeneSys of Meriden, Conn.

Healy and others at NIH criticized Congress for voting for a drug trial that had not been approved by scientific study, but committee members said valuable knowledge could come out of the project.

The trial would use vaccines to treat patients who are already infected with the AIDS virus. The purpose of the vaccine would be to strengthen the immune systems of patients so the virus could be controlled or defeated.

Shortly before the vote, Dr. Gregory Dubs, a New York physician infected with the AIDS virus, told the panel that if he continued treatment only with the drugs now available, "I know I will surely die."

He said that although there was a need for more data on AIDS vaccines, "a lot of us don't have time to wait for perfect data," said Dubs, a member of ACT UP.

The NIH panel's recommendation will now go to another committee that will advise Healy. She, in turn, will issue a report on the advisability of conducting the national trial. Under the bill passed last month, \$20 million was appropriated the trial to be conducted by Defense Department researchers.

In a final vote, the committee also recommended that the national trial include patients who are not connected with the military even though Congress put the money in a defense money bill.

Healy criticized the way in which Congress approved the drug trial, saying "it's dangerous to go through a lobbyist" to force a vaccine trial on human patients.

PAUL RECER

Blacks dying from AIDS at much higher rate than whites

Atlanta (AP)—AIDS and most other illnesses rob more years from blacks than whites and the disparity is growing, federal health researchers report.

AIDS was considered a white, gay male disease when it was discovered in 1981. But researchers for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported last Friday that AIDS now matches cancer as the fourth leading cause of premature death in black men. Only homicide, accidents and heart disease are bigger killers of black men under 65.

"The rate (of premature deaths) from AIDS for black men is three times that of white men," said epidemiologist Robert H. Hahn Friday. "The rate for black women is more than nine times that for white women."

The study found the rate of potential life lost from AIDS in 1989 was 11.1 years per 1,000 black men, while the rate for white men was 3.9. For black women, the rate was 2.8, compared with only 0.3 for white women.

Hahn said the analysis also points out increasing disparities between the overall premature death rates for whites and blacks.

"In 1989, for both males and females, blacks have 2.2 times the rate of whites in years of potential life lost," he said. "And the difference has expanded since 1979 by 10 percent among females (from a ratio of 2.0) and 16 percent among males (from about 1.9)."

Overall premature death rates declined between 1979 and 1989, although less for black men than any other group.

Black men lost 141.8 years of potential life from all causes of death in 1989, down from 142.1 in 1979. For white men, the rate went from 75.3 in 1979 to 65.3 in 1989; for black women, from 79.2 to 74.3, and for white women, 39.7 to 34.0.

CAROLYN S. CARLSON

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Protests, marches, giant condom mark World AIDS Day

London (AP)—A 17-foot condom stood next to Nelson's Column on Trafalgar Square on Dec. 1. In Perth, Australia, 147 crosses were laid at a busy intersection.

Observances of World AIDS Day included whimsical demonstrations to promote condom use, protests demanding more resources to combat the disease and vigils to remember the thousands who have died.

In Atlanta over 250 people braved a cold windy night to participate in a Candlelight Walk sponsored by the Community AIDS Network. Four groups of walkers assembled at the Midtown and Arts Center MARTA stations, Piedmont Park and the IBM Building to walk to Colony Square for a speak out and information fair. Mayor Maynard Jackson signed a proclamation declaring Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day in Atlanta.

Elsewhere in Atlanta Nexus Contemporary Arts Center closed its art galleries and showed four AIDS-related videos in support of "A Day Without Art," a day of mourning for artists lost to AIDS. The High Museum of Art had special installations throughout the day.

In San Francisco, the Fine Arts Museum presented a special sculpture installation and sound score. Rudy Lemcke's "Immemorial," a metaphor for lives cut short by AIDS, also contains a large chalk circle on the floor filled with the outlines of bodies to reinforce the concept of loss and impermanence. "The Song of the Helix," an electronic score of HIV fighting the body's t-cells, accompanied the sculpture.

In Bombay, which has India's highest concentration of people infected with the virus, movie stars marched on Monday night, ex-



"Immemorial," a sculpture by Rudy Lemcke at the Fine Arts Museum in San Francisco, is a metaphor for the lives cut short by AIDS.

horting people to "have fun, but don't forget Nirodh (a popular condom brand name)."

The World Health Organization, the U.N. agency sponsoring World AIDS Day, says about 2 million people in Asia could die of AIDS by the year 2000.

The giant condom replica at London's Trafalgar Square was to draw attention to condom use as the most effective way of stemming the AIDS epidemic in Africa and Asia, said the Marie Stopes International charity, which was soliciting money at the site to fund condom distribution in the Third World.

JESSICA BALDWIN

OBITUARIES

Ira Behar

Our Loving Friend, Ira Behar, age 35, passed away on December 1, 1992 due to complications from AIDS.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. David Behar of Riverdale, Ga., sister and brother-in-law, Sarina & Weley Parker of Rex, Ga., nephew, Cameron Parker, grandmother, Sara Behar of Miami, Fla., and a circle of devoted friends and clients.

Ira had a very successful career in the beauty industry in New York, Dallas and South Carolina. He was a favorite Atlanta hairdresser for the last several years and was most recently associated with Gloria Hair Design in Virginia Highlands until he was unable to continue work.

Interment services were done privately and his friends are arranging a Memorial Service

for Sunday, December 13.

In lieu of flowers, his friends ask that donations be made directly to Project Open Hand and Haven House/Atlanta.

"FLY HIGH, DEAR ONE...WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU"

Richard W. Keel

January 2, 1956-November 30, 1992

Richard's life support systems stopped functioning on Nov. 30 at 9:30. Richard entered eternity happy, healthy, and whole. He is survived by his lover and friend John Nunn, his dog Bogart, and many, many friends and acquaintances.

Donations may be made in Richard's name to Project Open Hand or Jerusalem House.

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

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

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Coverdell was the best choice —maybe

At long last, the election is over and the lesbian and gay community in Georgia moved ahead politically again. With the media and associated political pundits finally recognizing the role we played in carrying Georgia for Clinton, and sending Fowler to an early retirement by essentially the same margins, we should reflect for a moment on this victory before beginning the task of spending our political capital in the new year.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who worked with the Human Rights Campaign Fund on the Clinton campaign. Because we had over 350 active volunteers working the final 2½ months, it's impossible for me to thank each individually. However, I would like to recognize the extraordinary organizing work and dedication of our field associate, Don George, who gave his all, for months, on the campaign. The work would have been much harder and the results less stunning without him. Our team pulled together with spirit and dedication every day of the campaign in an effort I've not seen before in Atlanta politics. With this kind of experience and enthusiasm, we will surely pass a civil rights bill in the Clinton era.

Unfortunately for Senator Fowler, the remarkable work of most of these volunteers ended early because HRCF did not endorse a candidate in the Senate run-off. I'm sure that there is some ambivalence

among people regarding the outcome of this race, but I feel like the possibilities of progress among the two Georgia Senators is great.

Senator Nunn certainly saw the hard-earned power and political experience this community has gained over years of scrapping in the backwash of Georgia politics. If he remains in the Senate, I feel this will translate into a new relationship for the future.

The loss of Senator Fowler as the next Chair of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee should be hailed as the victory that it is. Senator Fowler's vote against DC's Domestic Partnership legislation during the summer, and his subsequent refusal to discuss the matter in a productive manner,

GUEST EDITORIAL

raised the community's ire to the boiling point.

The DC Appropriations Subcommittee is the site of review for all sorts of non-federal issues that affect our community such as sodomy repeal, domestic partnership, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, recognition of Georgetown University Gay and Lesbian Student Groups, etc. As Chair, Senator Fowler would have been the person to lead and defend these issues against attack by the Christian Coalition and their Senate stooges. In my estimation, he was quite simply not up to the task.

Senator-elect Coverdell, on the other hand, is a political unknown to most Atlanta lesbians and gays. He was seen court-

ing the votes of the religious right, but stopped short of accepting their endorsement—just as he stopped short of accepting ours. The political reality of a statewide race in Georgia is that it's frequently too close to call. Coverdell went to his Republican base and tried to avoid antagonizing us publicly while making quiet overtures and building tentative political relationships with lesbian and gay politicians. Good politics—dangerous partners.

Senator-elect Coverdell was a supporter of sodomy law repeal as Senate Majority Leader in the General Assembly in the early 1980s; under his watch, the Peace Corps added "sexual orientation" to its non-discrimination statement and began AIDS education programs in Africa; he is tentatively pro-choice—unusual for a Georgia Republican. I think Coverdell needs lots of education on our issues and the reality of our lives. We have shown that we have the political savvy to take a Senator out of office and our issues are moving ahead faster than those of our opposition, the Christian Coalition. If Senator-elect Coverdell is a betting man, he'll find the political odds of siding with us the bet for the 1990s.

It's my hope that each person will take the time to write to our Senators and new Members of Congress to ask for their strong leadership on our issues in the new Congress.

CATHY WOOLARD

Cathy Woolard, an Atlanta native, is Public Policy Advocate for the Human Rights Campaign Fund

C A R B O N C O P Y

The Editor
Atlanta Journal
72 Marietta Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

This is my first letter to your paper. What stirred me from my silence was your November 17, 1992 editorial advising President-elect Clinton to "go slowly" on his promise to end our country's military discrimination against gays. During the past week we've heard some rather shrill cries of "go slowly" from various predictable quarters. How startling it is to hear that a cadre of career-military old men are against this change. Let's be honest, reasoned-thoughtful-concerned. "Go slowly" is really just transparent camouflage for entrenched-prejudice-clinging-to-any-tenuous-justification "DON'T DO IT!"

You dusted off and paraded out General Schwarzkopf's comments as if they were something other than the same dingy laundry list of excuses for perpetuating discrimination.

Sexual advances? Contrary to what the general/best-selling-author may think, advances of the heterosexual kind are not limited to Navy gatherings in Las Vegas. Sounds like there was a whole lot of that going on behind the sand dunes in Saudi Arabia. Better go ahead and ban those babes, too—for good measure.

Let us not forget the shower argument. Tenuous to the point of being downright silly, it still manages utterance with a, um, straight face. How laughably arrogant to assume that our nakedness would send ei-

ther sex into an uncontrollable frenzy. Are our "macho" fighters so jittery and delicate that they cannot bear to be undressed except under tightly controlled circumstances?

The argument that allowing gays to serve would "damage the image of the military services" is the most interesting reason posed by the now-rich general. Would it really be so bad if our country's armed services were no longer regarded as a safe haven and symbol for intolerance for other Americans?

The gays "in leadership positions" argument cannot be responded to appropriately in deference to your status as a family paper. I will say, however, that I am left unpersuaded by a self-serving observation that can be most charitably described as speculation, as the military spends many millions each year to make sure that gays are never placed in such a position to prove their worthiness. Just a hunch—they'd probably perform just as badly (and well) as their heterosexual counterparts.

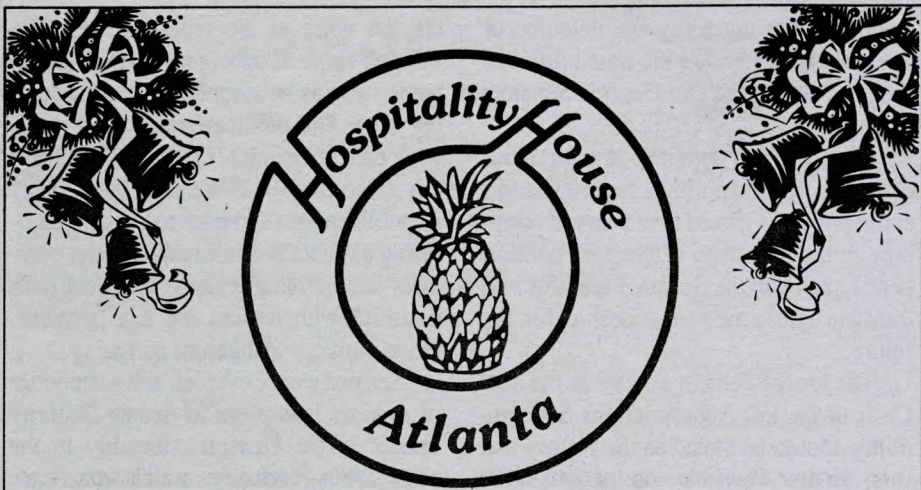
Trust only comes with understanding and experience. If there are people who claim that they will leave the military, if gays are allowed to join—good riddance. Let them seek out a little self-satisfied niche in the private sector, where, in most places, they will be free to act upon their dislike of those different from them.

Our armed forces are paid for by all of us, not just the few who tend to think of it as their protected domain—sort of like a restricted country club, only where everyone wears the same thing and spits a lot. I

hate to be a stickler for constitutional accuracy, but in this country the military is run by an elected official—not any general, no matter how many ticker-tape parades. Our current commander-in-chief, who agreed with you, just got fired. Remember? Things change. Thank goodness.

Paul A. Bradley
Atlanta





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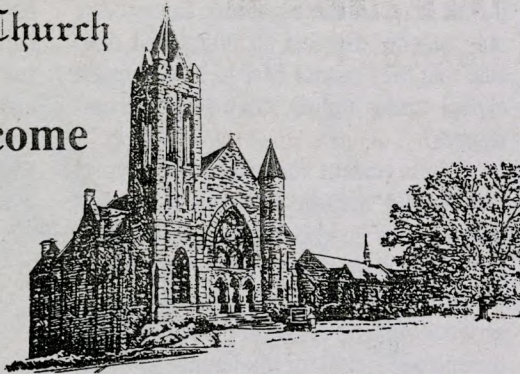
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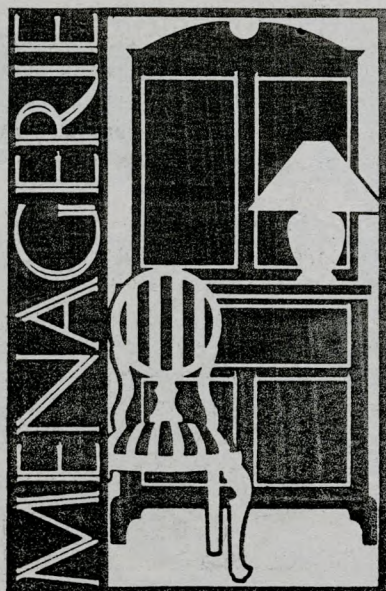
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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES:

Kecia Cunningham and Lenny Lasater celebrated their 2nd anniversary on December 6. The celebration lasted for an entire week with events with the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus and SAME. You may remember Kecia and Lenny as members of the Bickerson Family...a SAME video that premiered at the recent Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

party on Saturday, December 19th at 11:30 p.m. at JoHanna's. Tickets to Kitty's Kountry Kristmas are \$5 at the door and all proceeds go to Open Hand. For more information call Alain Howard at 636-5665.

OUT AND ABOUT:

Congratulations to the brave gay men and lesbians who offered themselves up to the



Kecia Cunningham and Lenny Lasater celebrated their second anniversary on Dec. 6.

AWARDS:

Congratulations to the kitchen staff at Project Open Hand. They recently won a recipe contest sponsored by the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Patti Creasman, Stephen Woods and Cynthia Hariston created the fudge tort that won them the dessert award.

Atlanta Journal Constitution for their recent two-part series on gays and lesbians. Rick McGranahan told about his trials and tribulations of growing up gay during high school. Also giving their story was Melissa Fant, Lyn Brannon, Rick Shrimsher, Rob Harlow, Jon Allen and Kris Knaak.

JOBS:

No sour grapes coming from Chuck Lockwood, who recently was hired as the Operations Manager/Controller for Australian Wines, Inc. Chuck is responsible for all accounting functions at the company as well as operations such as shipments and ordering. Australian Wines imports fine wine from Australia, New Zealand, South America and South Africa. Congratulations on the new job Chuck...now I know who to ask about the best wines...

Unfortunately, the AJC included a bit of its own homophobia. In a discussion of "how they got that way," the AJC just had to ask "expert" Paul Diamond, a pastoral counselor at First Baptist Church of Atlanta, who (surprise!) doesn't believe homosexuals are born that way. He says it stems from an inferiority complex. "...you don't match up to the next guy—maybe you're small in the locker room—then another homosexual guy comes along and starts giving you attention, and this is where you get your identity."

HOLIDAY OCCASIONS:

Project Open Hand will hold a Christmas

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



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AL COTTON

Long distances

I was at the Eagle on the Friday after Thanksgiving, and saw two new, attractive faces—tourists, I guess, in town for the holidays. They made a nice looking couple—two men, one slightly taller and bulkier than the other with a closely cropped handle-bar mustache and a three day growth of beard, the other slightly more “clone”-y, standard '80s mustache and physique, both with black cowboy hats on.

I first saw them when I was standing next to the dance floor and they were at a right angle to me. I admired from afar for awhile, but someone's head kept bobbing in and out and then back in my way, and I had to keep craning my neck to see them, which looks both goofy and obnoxiously cruisy, so I gave up and walked to the front bar.

I must have been standing next to an acquaintance of theirs, because about five minutes later, they wandered right up in front of me and sat down. Their friend goes to buy drinks, and they lean over to talk. The one with the Fu Manchu (he looks like a Billy to me) reaches around to give the other one (who must be named Ed, I decide) a pat, running his hand gently up and down his spine—just to let him know he's here. As Billy's ear gets within an inch of Ed's, his hand resting on Ed's lower back, their story starts unreeling in my mind.

Billy was born, let's say, in Hickory, North Carolina. He had a standard, Southern middle-class small town upbringing—his parents were a touch on the bigoted side, but not horrible. Billy was always kinda quiet. In high school, he ended up doing more solitary hunting than double dating, since he found it easier to miss a deer than score with a girl. Sexually, Billy did without a lot, though there was one guy he sorta rolled around with in his friend's father's barn a few times.

Billy moved to Asheville to go to college a year after his father died, and finally got up the nerve to check out a bar in Charlotte one weekend. The drag shows and cologne weren't his style, and he felt like a fish out of water, not hanging around long enough for the beer to calm him down. There were places in Asheville he knew about for a quickie when he felt like he was going to explode, but he didn't like doing that, and he used them as little as possible.

Ed was born in Knoxville, and stayed there until he was about six, when his parents split up and his Mamma took him with her back to Houston. He grew up kinda wild, playing around in public restrooms, then into a druggie crowd. He dabbled at college, vanished into the Houston bar scene for awhile—when you're mamma's so religious, that's an easy way to rebel.

Nothing seemed to take for Ed. Jobs in construction came and went, but Houston was so large, and Ed had never figured out how to use the bars for anything but drinking and sex. He even tried dating a woman once, at his mother's insistence, which was a disaster, and after he told her why, she didn't speak to him for six

months. To this day, they send each other Christmas cards and pray for each other to change.

Their meeting, of course, was pure chance. Ed's father had moved to Asheville, and on a trip back to visit, Ed decided to stay. After about a month in town, he was at the McDonald's near the Biltmore and dropped his Coke right on top of the boots of this incredibly hot guy. He apologized profusely, as their eyes met and locked onto their targets like photon torpedoes on a Romulan warbird. Billy smiled, and Ed insisted on taking him to the shoeshine stand in the mall. Billy was an hour and a half late getting back to work.

Ed was the one who had asked for a phone number, and managed to wait 24 whole hours before calling for a date. They went to see a movie at the cheap theater, and Billy astonished even himself when he reached over about 30 minutes into the movie and put his hand on Ed's knee. After a quick meal at Shoney's, they adjourned back to Billy's apartment to quench their whetted appetites.

That was a year and a half ago. Ed moved in in June, when his lease was up. Ed's father calls them “roommates,” and talks with Billy about football when they're around each other. Billy's mother had them over on Thursday for Thanksgiving dinner, just like she does every Sunday, and wonders how she'll feel if Billy ever tells her what her instinct says is going on between him and Ed. Billy thinks he might have to talk with her after Christmas.

They're excited about their long weekend in Atlanta, with Clint Black tickets for Friday night. Ed almost had to work, but when he explained to his boss that he and his “buddy” had concert tickets, he found someone else to work the Saturday morning shift. Ed's got to be back to work on Sunday, so this'll be the only night in Atlanta, which is okay. Ed likes Atlanta, but it's too much like what he left behind in Houston. For Billy, Asheville's almost too big; he hopes some day to move back to Hickory with Ed.

That night at the concert, Clint sings “Loving Blind”—“I'd been lovin' blind,/ Lovin' every heart I could call mine/... But I just couldn't see/There was nothin' there for me.” Ed's eyes head straight for Billy's, Billy's hand around Ed's waist, and they forget completely about the people around them, and steal a moment in the darkness in the midst of country and western's slow passage into the 20th century.

The sounds of Nirvana from the dance floor cut my story short. And while I wonder what their real names are, Billy's hand is still on Ed's back. Whether they're from Asheville or Austell or Seattle or Sydney, mileage is a feeble measure of the distances they have travelled to arrive in front of me and sit together on these bar stools. Another song, a New Order '80s disco classic, revs up to finish my thought for me—“I used to think that the day would never come.”

C A R B O N C O P I E S

The honest truth about bisexuals

To the Editor:

I wish to offer a response to the guest editorial by June Dobbs Butts called “This is No Time for Bisexual Dishonesty.”

I admire, appreciate and agree with Butts' admonitions regarding the importance of being both safe and honest in one's sexual activities. But I resent the editorial's implications that a) bisexuals are the only ones who hide sexual behavior from their partners, straight, lesbian or gay, and b) that the bisexual community is to be characterized by the sexual activities Butts describes in her editorial.

I will admit that bisexuals who “camouflage themselves in fleeting episodes of anonymous sex” are at risk to contract and spread HIV. But I resent the idea put forth in this article that there is no other type of bisexual behavior. This equates bisexuality with dishonesty, and perpetuates a stereotype that is incorrect and damaging to bisexuals, gays, lesbians, and heterosexuals.

The editorial's punitive and stereotypical approach toward bisexuality hides the factors that perpetuate unsafe sexual behavior in our society.

“Bisexuals cannot turn to friends and loved ones to vent their fears about AIDS. And they dare not ‘blow their cover’ by suddenly taking the precautions of safer sex practices in the home.”

How have the gay, lesbian and heterosexual communities contributed to this environment? How have we discounted our bisexual friends' understandings of their own sexualities by telling them we think it only “just a phase?” How many times have we rejected friends who come out to us as bisexual, assuming that they have or will somehow infect us, when we have not used safe

Let's march on Colorado

To the Editor:

Many American people and organizations have called for a boycott of Colorado, including travel to the state as well as a refusal to purchase goods and services originating there. This action protests the passage of Amendment 2, which effectively voids all non-discrimination laws and prohibits legislation protecting gay people.

Who, however, is hurt by such a boycott? The voters who approved the amendment? The gay community and its sympathizers? I believe there is a show of strength that far exceeds the power of the gay dollar.

The gay community showed its strength in October 1987 by congregating for what, according to its planners, became the largest civil rights demonstration in history. Another march is planned there for April 1993.

I stand for the possibility of relocating the march on Washington to Denver, the only Colorado city large enough to house the swarm of marchers the April event will draw. Gay people and sympathizers are desperately needed by the gay community in Colorado. Boycotting their state will not help regain their legal protections as effectively as being with them in a show of unity. They are now legally discriminated against and have no protection from anti-gay forces.

Washington, D.C. has seen our strength. Now we must show Colorado our power and love, as well as show the rest of the nation that we will not only recreate but we will supersede the legal protections gay Coloradans once had.

If you want to show your support for human rights where it is urgently needed,

sexual practices in our gay, lesbian and heterosexual relationships, assuming that our partners are safe because they have told us that there is “no chance” that they have HIV? How many times have we carried the pictures in our heads of bisexuals as prostitutes, as promiscuous, as “flighty” and “immature”—names and images that were until recently ascribed to lesbians and gays; names and images we fight every day and call “discriminatory?”

I agree with Butts that the Kinsey scale should be revised, and that information should be collected from all people. I applaud and support her call for black demographers' perspectives. There are three other scales I have read about, the Storms Sexuality Axis, the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid, and the Multidimensional Scale of Sexuality. (Amanda Udis-Kessler, “Notes on the Kinsey Scale and Other Measures of Sexuality,” “Closer to Home: Bisexuality and Feminism,” Seattle: Seal Press, 1992). I am not sure they are any more helpful than the Kinsey scale, but they are available.

I wish to call for support from within bisexual, lesbian, gay and heterosexual communities for environments where honesty, integrity, and compassion can be expressed. If we cannot create non-judgemental atmospheres for those who, for whatever reason, have practiced unsafe sex, AIDS will continue to be spread throughout the world.

AIDS is no more a “bisexual disease” than it is a “gay disease.” It is a worldwide epidemic that has produced untold sorrow, unrecoverable losses and innumerable acts of bravery and compassion. We cannot afford to paint pictures from a distance anymore. We must all participate in piecing together acts of compassion and sewing them with threads of respect.

Sincerely,
Beth Burton

please contact your local chapter of March on Washington immediately. Urge them to move the march. If we do not stop the extreme right in Colorado, other states will follow suit.

I can assure you, this April 25 you will not find me in Washington; you will find me in the heart of our country, helping our newly-unprotected gay family promote visibility and generate acceptance.

Sincerely,
Chris Fabbro
South Pasadena, California

Thank You

The Atlanta Lambda Community Center wishes to thank the lesbian and gay community for their effort and support of our first annual Halloween Party. We are grateful for the work of individuals like Sherry Siclair, who initiated community fundraising with a support party and to Bill Lowe for providing his gallery space for the event.

Both Edie Cofrin and Joe Blount deserve a special thank you for agreeing to match the monies we raised at the party. To the many volunteers, sponsors (Southern Voice, Etcetera and Midtown Times), and supporting groups (SAME, ALGA, Party Network, Fourth Tuesday, PFLAG, Queer Nation, GAPAC, First MCC Church), we could not have done it without you.

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Gay man leaves \$510,000 to APF to study homophobia

Wayne Placek leaves instructions to put Dr. Evelyn Hooker in charge of research

The American Psychological Foundation (APF) will soon be funding research aimed at increasing the general public's understanding of gays and lesbians and decreasing homophobia, thanks to a \$510,000 bequest from a gay man who participated in a pioneering study of gay men conducted almost four decades ago.

The study, conducted by Dr. Evelyn Hooker and chronicled in the film "Changing Our Minds," concluded that there is no difference in the psychological adjustment between gay and heterosexual men, and eventually—in 1974—resulted in the American Psychological Association (APA) dropping homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. The APF is a non-profit, charitable arm of the APA.

Wayne Placek, a Nebraska native, left instructions that Dr. Hooker, now 85 and living in Santa Monica, California, head a committee to determine how the money would be distributed. His only requirement was that it fund research "to increase the general public's understanding of gay men and lesbians and reduce the stress experienced by those people in this and future civilizations."

Dr. Hooker appointed psychologist Dr. Stephen Morin, biochemist and gay activist Dr. Bruce Voeller, and the late Gay Games founder Dr. Thomas Wadell to help her decide where the money would go. After much consideration, she said, they chose APF because "there didn't seem to be any other foundation which would give us the latitude and achieve the purpose which we had to try to achieve."

The APF board has now set up another committee that will recommend guidelines for the types of projects to be funded, submission of proposals, and the amount of awards. Dr. Morin, who also serves on that committee, said that the fund had special significance because "government money does not go" into studying gay-related issues.

"[The Placek Fund] has the potential for making the critical difference in whether people address these issues or not," he told the APA Monitor.

"I hope very much that this would get a lot of people excited [about submitting proposals]," Dr. Hooker told Southern Voice. "Some straight people would come along—I'm one, but I've had my day—but hopefully this would interest gay and lesbian people, who, of course, have had the most experience."

Dr. Hooker said that there are "ways and ways" to achieve the end that Wayne Placek hoped for in making his bequest.

"We hope that the money would go to not only increasing the understanding of gay and lesbian people by the general public," she said, "but also diminishing the homophobia of the general public. That's one of my great hopes."

Research into prejudice and the its origins, Dr. Hooker said, will not end homophobia, but will aid the fight against it.

"It's down the road," she said. "Look at my research—did that end it? No. But it did help to end the self-derogation that gay men had, and thus it indirectly helped."



COURTESY AM. PSYCH. FOUNDATION

Dr. Evelyn Hooker's pioneering research eventually led the APA to drop homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. She headed a committee to determine best way to spend a \$510,000 bequest.

"I'd personally like to see incoming President Clinton make an order that says we're not going to have this treatment anymore by the armed services," she continued. "It wouldn't end the prejudice, but the understanding it would foster would help not only gays, but straights as well."

KC WILDMOON



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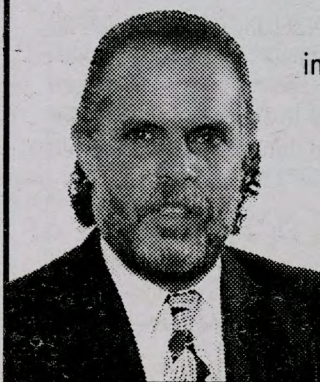
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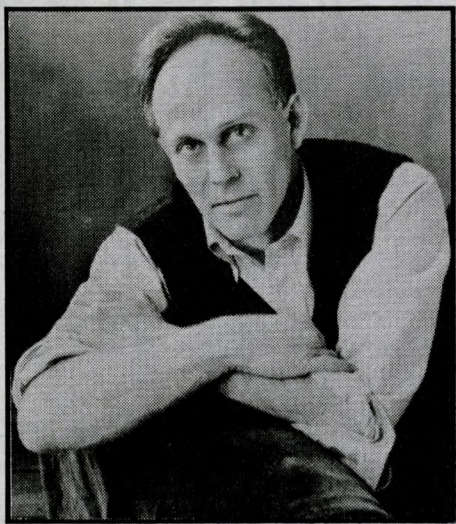
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Out in the World:

In search of a
global gay identity



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An interview with author Neil Miller

Is there a distinct identity among gay men and lesbians everywhere that defies legal restraints, ignores religious taboos and flouts social strictures?

Author Neil Miller wanted to know and set out on a tour of 12 far-flung countries to learn how other gays live. What he found was not so much a Western-style "gay identity" but a wide variety of homosexual experience—often despite heterosexual marriage and sometimes without society's condemnation.

Miller chronicled his discoveries during more than two years of travel in the book "Out in the World: Gay and Lesbian Life from Buenos Aires to Bangkok," (Random House, \$22). He interviewed a mix of gay activists and people he met at dinner parties, in coffee houses, even on a park bench in Japan.

"Certainly a modern sense of gay identity, with kind of long-term relationships and people not getting married and a community based on sexual orientation—I think that's a pretty contemporary Western idea that you didn't even find in the West 100 years ago," Miller said in an interview. "In my travels I was struck that there wasn't much of a sense of lesbian or gay identity except what happened to be imported from the West."

Miller also looked at the impact of AIDS on the gay population in every country he visited. In some, like Egypt and Japan, the effect was negligible. But in Thailand, which has a reputation as the Asian center of sex tourism, Miller found a dance troupe that tries to educate gay bar boys through its performances. In Australia, the government funds state AIDS councils which distribute some of the most explicit safe-sex materials anywhere, he said.

The other countries he visited were Argentina, South Africa, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hong Kong, Uruguay, Denmark, and New Zealand.

What he found has been largely uncharted up to now. While there are gay international travel guides, they tend mostly to be lists of bars, Miller says. A journalist and former editor of the Gay Community News in Boston, Miller was after day-to-day gay life.

In Egypt, Miller found men are free to have gay relationships, even if they are married. Few identify themselves as gay or homosexual, however. (Homosexuals are the passive partners in sex, according to Egyptian men—virtually none of whom would admit to ever playing that role.)

In Japan, gay male behavior is common but politely ignored, he found.

"In a culture like Japan's—where the way you appear on the surface is the most important thing—'coming out' as we would do in the United States is not something you would do," Miller said. "It's not that important to be really open about your personal life the way it is here."

In Hong Kong, Miller found a small gay community that was concerned about reunification with mainland China, slated for 1997. Lesbians were totally separate and virtually invisible; most were married.

"Hong Kong gays were positively starved for lesbian and gay culture—and for gay life in general. The major gay male social center seemed

to be the public bathrooms," Miller wrote.

In South Africa, he found the formerly all-white gay community slowly beginning to integrate. For many years, white gays in cities had their own bars, bathhouses and a monthly newspaper while nonwhite gays had virtually no culture of their own.

Miller attended one party in a black township where blacks, whites, Indians and people of mixed races wore Hawaiian leis and danced to American music.

"They were trapped by their various cultures," he wrote. "At the very tip of Africa they were trying to sort it all out, to the tunes of 'Blue Hawaii' and 'Amazing Grace.'"

Miller even interviewed an Australian Aborigine, who said homosexuality was accepted in his community because kinship was more important than sexual orientation. However, he said, his family treated him as though he were a woman.

In choosing countries to visit, Miller tried to get a taste of as many different cultures, political systems and religions as possible.

"I wanted to get some kind of mix between East and West," he said. "But I deliberately kind of ignored Western Europe basically because I felt a fair amount had been written about it."

The one Western country he visited was Denmark, because it's the only country in the world where same-sex marriages are legal.

"I went to Eastern Europe because I was interested to see how the fall of communism had affected lesbians and gays," Miller said. "It was kind of the same approach in South Africa—how the dismantling of apartheid was affecting homosexuals there."

He also chose Argentina and Uruguay because both countries were emerging from right-wing military rule.

Rather than seeking American-style gay liberation, Miller said gay people in the emerging nations he visited seemed more interested in legalizing marriage between homosexuals.

"If you live in a society where marriage is the only legitimate way to do things, then to legitimize gay relationships you have to get married," he explained.

Almost everywhere he went, Miller found it very difficult to locate lesbians.

"I think being a man hurt to a certain extent but I was also dealing in cultures where lesbians are just so invisible," he said. "I thought that if I had the name of a gay man or two maybe that would lead to meeting some lesbians in a place like Thailand or Egypt or Hong Kong. But that was not really the case."

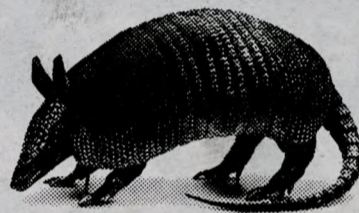
Miller cited economic dependency on husbands and families and cultural pressure to marry as the main reasons lesbians were so invisible.

"I really found you needed a women's movement of some sort for some sense of lesbian identity and community to really emerge," he said.

"And it's not just segregation," he added. "It's the fact that if a woman has emotional or sexual feelings toward another woman, that we would label lesbian in our culture, there's almost no scope for it."

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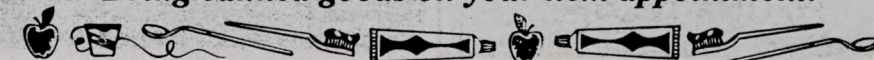
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San Francisco march draws hundreds in honor of Harvey Milk

San Francisco (AP)—Hundreds of people took part in a candlelight procession in memory of Harvey Milk on Nov. 27, as they paraded from the Castro to City Hall marking the 14th anniversary of the killings of Milk and Mayor George Moscone.

Police Sgt. Larry McKenzie estimated 300 people took part but organizers said the figure was closer to 1,000.

Taking up one side of the street, the marchers followed behind a banner reading "March on Washington, April 25, 1993."

Milk had called for such a march on the capitol, telling a Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco on June 25, 1978 that "gay people will not win their rights by staying quietly in our closets. We are coming out." Marches on Washington were held in both 1978 and 1987.

Fliers distributed along the line of the march said the demands of the 1993 March would include an increase in funding for AIDS education

after he was killed. But he was proud and he was the reason I went into politics."

Nolan, who ran for Congress this year but lost in the primary, said he and his partner plan to move to San Francisco where he will "some-day" run for public office, the San Francisco Examiner reported.

With drummers taking up the rear and a flute player marching in its ranks, the procession drew new participants as it made its way up Market Street.

"Many people are here to show support for ending the ban against gays in the military," said Allen White, a spokesman for the organizers. He pointed out that Milk had served in the Navy aboard an aircraft carrier.

On Nov. 27, 1978 Milk and Moscone were shot to death by former Supervisor Dan White. White crept through a City Hall basement window, shot Moscone four times in the head, reloaded, walked down a corridor to Milk's office



Hundreds of marchers in San Francisco honored the memory of Harvey Milk on Nov. 27. Organizers called for a large turnout at the April 25 National March on Washington.

and passage of "a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights bill."

The marchers broke into shouts of "We're here, we're queer, we're not going away" when they reached the steps of City Hall, but the event was mainly solemn.

"I only take part in peaceful marches," said a participant who would identify himself only as C.T.

Zeth McGinnis said he marched to "stand up to homophobia and show support for my community."

In contrast to previous years when mayors and supervisors have attended and spoken at the anniversary vigil, only one elected official attended the march—openly gay San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan.

"I never met him," said Nolan. "I came here

and shot him five times in the head. He said he had gone to City Hall that day to regain his seat as supervisor, from which he had resigned 17 days earlier for financial reasons.

He served a 6-year prison term and then committed suicide in October 1985 by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Some of the worst rioting in the city's history broke out in May 1979 following the verdict that White was guilty only of manslaughter. The so-called "White Night" riots resulted in 160 injuries and \$1 million damages, including the firebombing of some City Hall offices and the destruction of police cars.

The strategy at White's trial involved a so-called "Twinkie defense" that claimed he suffered from diminished capacity due in part to eating too much junk food.

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Where to go after Clinton victory major theme of conference

Pres.-elect sends letter of support to NGLTF's Creating Change Conf.

Los Angeles—President-elect Bill Clinton acknowledged the support of gays and lesbians in his campaign, sending a message of thanks via the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference.

"Hillary and I would like to thank you all for the hard work you have done for the advancement of human rights for gay and lesbian people everywhere. It is an inspiration to us all," the letter said.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your tremendous support during our campaign for change. Without your support, our victory on November 3rd would not have been possible. I now ask you again for your help and support in implementing the changes that are needed to get America moving forward once more."

Outgoing NGLTF executive director Urvasi Vaid read the letter at the opening of the 5th annual conference, held last month in Los Angeles. Vaid said that "years of struggle" made it possible for Clinton to send the letter, adding that those years were not yet over.

"But it is still extraordinary," she said.

At the conference, NGLTF announced the creation of a "transition document" for the Clinton administration regarding lesbian and gay issues.

"This presidential document represents the opportunity to translate campaign promises into life-saving policies," said NGLTF policy director Peri Jude Radecic.

Clinton's victory, and the passage of Amendment 2, colored much of the conference's proceedings.

The Clinton victory in fact raised a lot of questions for direct action groups such as ACT

UP and Queer Nation. In one meeting some 50 people discussed if it was best for those groups, who have historically stayed outside the mainstream of gay politics, to now consider different tactics. Members from both groups expressed frustration over waning attention from the media.

"We [ACT UP] are media dependent entities, and the media is ignoring us," one member said. "We threw ashes [the cremated remains of a person with AIDS] on the White House lawn, and the press ignored it."

A member of Queer Nation expressed similar experiences. "We've also exhausted our tactics," he said. "We have no one target or focus."

A woman who described herself as a radical lesbian feminist suggested that both groups move their actions away from large cities where such things are no longer news.

"Direct action depends on where you are," she said. "It is effective in smaller cities like St. Louis. The small towns are where it will work."

Still others expressed fear that larger gay organizations such as NGLTF and HRCF are pushing street activists aside.

New direct actions proposed were: a march on Lynchburg, Va., home of Jerry Falwell; a takeover of a broadcasting station; and continuing civil disobedience against such things as sodomy laws.

The primary question, however, was how to deal with the new Clinton administration, with several activists suggesting setting up dialogue.

"Now that we have liberals that will listen to our demands," one activist said, "we have to change our strategies. When they ask what we want, we better have an answer."

Nunn

Continued from page 1

Both White and Baldwin worked as researchers on defense-related projects. Baldwin was applying for security clearance when he answered affirmatively to the routine question about whether an applicant is homosexual. White was "outed" to Nunn in a letter from a man claiming to head an Atlanta group called Campaign for Morality in Government.

During a Washington press conference on November 25, Nunn confirmed that he had asked the staffers to resign.

"If they were not going to be able to handle classified matters, they had to find other employment," he said. "They were given every opportunity to find other employment, which they did."

Nunn also asserted that there are people "who have worked for me, who continue to work for me...have been kept on the job in spite of the fact I have knowledge of their homosexuality."

The Georgia Democrat would not confirm if any of his current staffers are gay, saying "it's a matter of privacy for those individuals."

These reports and Nunn's continued support of the Department of Defense's ban on gays in the military are disturbing to many gay and lesbian activists. Former Human Rights Campaign Fund executive director Steve Endean called the senator "spineless."

"The real issue here is Sam Nunn's homophobia," he told the Blade.

Queer Nation/National Capital agreed, and called for a kiss-in at Nunn's Washington office on Dec. 7, as this issue of Southern Voice goes to press.

But other activists, while acknowledging that Nunn's dismissal of the gay staffers was a troubling issue, will continue to try to work with the senator, particularly on the repeal of the military's gay ban.

"We need Sam Nunn, but we also need to



Georgia Senator Sam Nunn

pressure Sam Nunn," said HRCF field associate Don George, who is also a member of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America. "The whole thing is a 1950s kind of attitude, and a true leader would jump into the 1990s and make a statement to that effect."

"Nunn certainly needs to rethink some of his positions," he continued, "especially vis-a-vis the new policies coming from Clinton. I want to know exactly where he stands now."

HRCF lobbyist Cathy Woolard, a former Atlantan, agreed, adding that Nunn saw the power of the lesbian/gay community in the presidential election and the Georgia senatorial contest between Wyche Fowler and Paul Coverdell.

"I want to see Sen. Nunn move in the right direction," she said. "It's important that he learn as much as he can about lesbian and gay issues so that as we make progress on the military issue and the lesbian/gay civil rights bill in the Clinton administration, he can emerge as a thoughtful leader on these policy issues instead of playing catch up."

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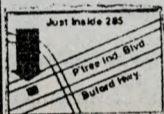
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COLORADO WATCH

Colorado's Amendment 2, which bans any measures that could offer basic civil rights to state's lesbians and gays, has generated fierce opposition. An economic boycott is in the organizing phases, conventions have cancelled, and Barbra Streisand urged, and then backed off just a bit, an entertainment boycott.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which helps fund openly gay candidates for political office, has issued a "travel advisory" for the state of Colorado, warning potential travellers that "adverse conditions" exist in the state.

"The lesbian and gay community should ski slopes in Oregon, Vermont or New Mexico, three states that have elected openly lesbian and gay public officials," said Lynn Greer, Victory Fund co-chair.

Some gays and several gay-friendly Colorado officials are scrambling to stop a boycott, claiming that such a move would hurt the very people it seeks to help. However, others—notably the Victory Fund and a Colorado group called "Boycott Colorado"—have called the passage of Amendment 2 a "civil rights crisis" and urged that the boycott is necessary.

Here's a recap of the latest:

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the National Organization for Women, the American Association of Law Libraries, the National Council for Social Studies, the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Education Association have all cancelled planned gatherings in Colorado. Officials estimate that the lost business could cost the state more than \$10 million in economic benefits.

The Atlanta City Council was the one municipality to ban travel by city employees to Colorado, but more are expected. In San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors have asked

city attorneys to draft legislation for a Colorado boycott. San Francisco's measure is expected to also ban purchases of Colorado products.

Meanwhile, state and local officials were scrambling to stem the boycott tide. Denver Mayor Wellington Webb appeared on The Arsenio Hall Show on Dec. 2, urging people not to make snap judgements. "For example," the mayor said. "I saw a videotape of police beating a man named Rodney King, and I saw a jury come back with a [not guilty] verdict. We didn't therefore, say everybody in California is racist."

Boycott supporters counter that no one is saying all Coloradans are homophobic. "The reality is that the state now has a law that nullifies any protection from discrimination against lesbians and gays," said Dr. Scott Hitt, another Victory Fund co-chair.

In Colorado Springs, home of Amendment 2 sponsor Colorado for Family Values, officials are not concerned about the boycott. "Right now, it seems to be an image problem and not an economic threat," said Brent Green, a convention bureau board member. "If the threat becomes a little more real, then maybe we will take a more aggressive stance, but simple information about the amendment seems to be the key right now."

Vail and Eagle County are considering ignoring Amendment 2. "I was disgusted," said Vail Councilman Tom Steinberg, who said he plans to introduce an anti-discrimination law at the municipal level. James Johnson, who will become an Eagle County Commissioner in January, plans to do the same at the county level. "Amendment 2 was defeated better than 2 to 1 up here," he said. "We're reflecting the concerns of the people who live in Eagle County."

We're here.



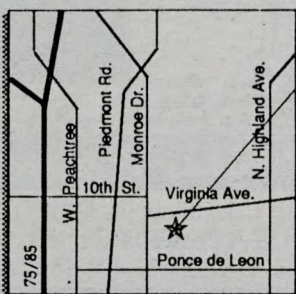
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Men's Movement

Continued from page 1

ment, but for all men," says Tony Rooney, current chair of the Center's Steering committee.

The Atlanta Men's Center offers several different types of events, designed to provide "enough programming for men to form relationships and get to know each other," says Steering Committee member Rick Kilmer. There are quarterly retreats, some of which are Wild Man Weekends; others are less structured. The Center also schedules monthly lectures and does major events once a year, like last October's visit by storyteller Michael Meade, who spoke at Emory University and led a full-day workshop.

Perhaps the most important of the Center's ingoing services are the support groups, which consist of 6 to 8 men who meet on a weekly or biweekly basis.

These groups are where much of the difficult work occurs, with a goal to create "a grounded, mature masculinity with good-hearted men," says Kilmer. Rooney notes that "it is a constant, ongoing process of men deciding 'How close do we get with each other, and what does it mean when we do it?' which is not easy."

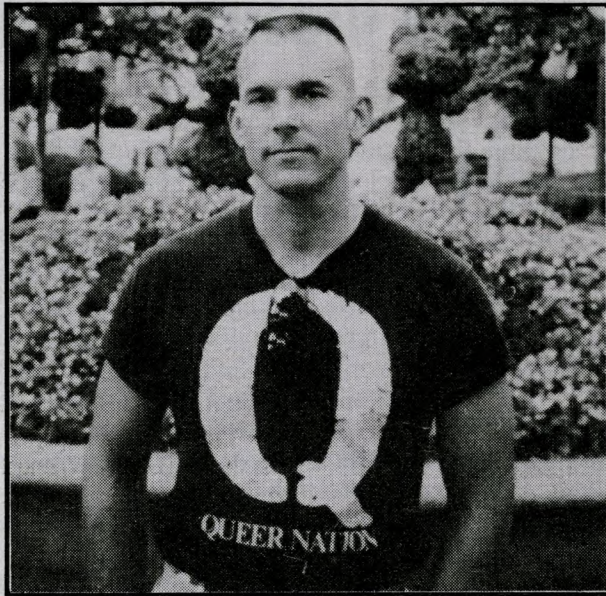
Outreach-wise, the Center leadership expresses frustration about its current level of both Gay and African-American participation: "What are we doing wrong?" Rooney and Kilmer both wonder. The Center prides itself in the fact that no one is turned away for inability to pay, with a sliding scale of dues and fees for men who are going through divorce or unemployment, and scholarships and work exchange available for special events.

What's in it for gay men?

Are they doing anything wrong? A better question is, with plenty of gay and gay-positive therapists and workshops in Atlanta, what can a gay man get at the Atlanta Men's Center that he can't get elsewhere?

"Access to men," says psychotherapist and Queer Nation member David MacDonald. The Center provides him with "a place where you can tell straight men that their ideas about gay men are wrong. I've also used these forums to tell straight men how angry I was."

Psychotherapist Russell Brooker, one of the gay men involved in founding the Center, points out that straight and gay men have different needs. "Straight men need to work on their feelings, and softer sides; this comes more easily to gay men.



"The activist in me needs to put my queer presence at Atlanta Men's Center events"—David MacDonald

Gay men need to work on finding a place in society, asserting rights, more like the women's movement."

But Center leadership says it likes the idea of different agendas working through the Center. Kilmer notes that one of the problems he sees with NOMAS is that it turned into a "war over agendas," and when one faction won, the others left. Brooker concurs about the Center's openness, saying that "if a group of gay men showed up to push their agendas there, the leadership would be ecstatic."

What sort of reception should gay men expect when they show up at the Center? Overwhelmingly positive, at least at first, is the consensus of men involved there.

But be prepared for culture shock. At the Meade event, a discussion of elders in our society elicited nominations for Norman Schwartzkopf and Billy Graham, infuriating Meade and causing Kaupman to realize he wasn't in Kansas anymore. "I was concerned about having committed to spend an entire day with men who consider Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf an elder," he says.

And once the agendas start duelling, you should expect conflict and be willing to fight for your issues, says writer Dave Hayward, who is leaving the Steering Committee of the Center after 2½ years. "When an issue arises, the gay angle may be

overlooked if a gay man isn't there to raise it. It's uncomfortable sometimes, but I'll raise it."

Most of the horror stories from Center events involve outside speakers, some with national reputations, whose homophobia horrified both gay and straight Center members. Brooker quit the Center over the homophobia and heterosexism displayed by Austin Men's Center speaker John Lee, leader of one of the Wild man Weekends. Other locally produced events dealing with gay issues, like the Center's workshop on homophobia led by psychotherapist Franklin Abbott, have been well-received.

MacDonald echoes the difficulties of working at the Men's Center, but finds the effort ultimately rewarding. He tells a story from a weekend retreat

"A straight man got up to speak. He commented that women are able to talk about how attractive other women are, but not men. Then he turned to me and said 'I just wanted to say that you are a very attractive man.' This was one of the amazing moments—men challenging a brutal, deadening way of being—that makes it so rewarding."

MacDonald sees gay men as having a critical role in the Men's Movement. "We have learned to deal with each other's bodies, which straight men haven't, except to beat them up. We're learning how to be in touch with our feelings and our feminine side, as well as how men can be close to each other. They need to learn this."

One might liken the efforts of gay men at the Atlanta Men's Center to missionary work. Certainly any gay man attending a mythopoetic poetic workshop will have to do some "myth translating" when the leader starts talking about "the most beautiful woman in the world." And Brooker acknowledges that "gay people over there are going to be giving to straight men."

But there are also many things gay men can gain from such a connection. MacDonald notes that "we can get a lot of information about owning our strength, our male side, that we've been told we don't have a right to." And about his presence there, MacDonald says, "The man in me is longing to be in relationships with other men; the activist in me needs to be there, to put my queer presence at their functions.

That's quite a "missionary position," indeed.

For further reading, see "New Men, New Minds," edited by Franklin Abbott; "Iron John," by Robert Bly; "Against the Tide: Pro-Feminist Men in the United States 1776-1900," edited by NOMAS members Michael S. Kimmel and Thomas E. Mosmiller; and magazines such as Changing Men and MAN!

For information about NOMAS, call 873-2563.

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Tips on how to avoid being a victim of holiday crimes

(AP)—Be careful in December when crime begins to escalate. Whether you'll be Christmas shopping at a mall, stopping at an automatic teller machine or walking through a parking lot, you may be at risk.

"The holidays are a great time for crooks to profit," says Mac Gray, deputy director of the National Crime Prevention Council, an organization in Washington, D.C., that works with law enforcement officials to combat crime. "Homes and cars are often full of gifts; people carry lots of cash and charge cards. Opportunities abound for criminals."

Here are some police-approved suggestions:

-In the mall. With their large crowds and frenetic pace during the holidays, malls can be more dangerous than they appear. "All types of criminals work the mall—car thieves, pickpockets, muggers—because they know that's where the money is," says Gray. To protect yourself, carry only receipts and small change in your

purse. That way, if the purse is stolen, the thief won't get away with much. Put cash and credit cards in your wallet and secure it in an inside pocket of your coat or jacket. Never keep it in your back pocket, where it's most likely to be stolen.

Be extra cautious and alert when walking in crowds. Pickpockets often work throngs of busy shoppers and prey on people who are not paying close attention to what's going on around them.

Don't store valuables inside your car. If you must, keep them locked in your trunk, not in view of the back seat. And never put packages in your car and then return to the mall to continue shopping. Thieves often wait for people to do just that.

-On city streets. Always walk confidently, as if you know exactly where you are going. Try not to appear lost or unaware of your surroundings.

Walk only on well-traveled, busy streets. Avoid areas with alleys, vacant lots or deserted construction sites. These are places where thieves often wait to pounce on unsuspecting passersby.

If you're taking public transportation, keep in mind that pickpockets often work near the exits of buses or trains, where it's easy for them to get away. Sit close to the driver or conductor.

When you park your car on the street, turn your front wheels sharply to the curb. This will make it difficult for someone to steal your car by towing it away, which is a new trend among thieves.

-Credit card precautions. When you're making a purchase, be sure your credit card is being used for only one transaction. A store clerk may try to run your card through the machine twice and use the second receipt to make a fraudulent purchase. Watch transactions carefully, and check your receipts. If you

notice something wrong, question it immediately.

Always take your charge carbons with you, and tear them up when you dispose of them. Thieves often take intact carbons from the trash, copy the charge number and use it to make mail-order purchases.

-At automatic teller machines. Avoid using these machines late at night. Police say that most ATM crimes occur after regular banking hours. Use only well-lit, secure ATM locations, preferably where there is a guard on duty. If there is no guard, study the ATM premises and its surroundings. The area should be busy, not secluded or deserted. Check for people loitering nearby or across the street. If the location doesn't seem safe, go to a more secure ATM.

Be sure to sign off the machine when you've finished your transaction. Criminals often try to break into accounts that are still open on the ATM screen and withdraw cash.



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Deck the House

Capture the holidays of your childhood, or the holidays you wanted, by decorating your home with items that hold meaning and comfort for you.

BY MARTHA WADE



Everyone in the gay and lesbian community celebrates the holidays in their own fashion, from being style-conscious and hip to being over-dosed with tradition, church, and the nuclear family. Many of us seem to be meeting somewhere in the middle, with our significant other and friends, who are now our family. We're no longer "just getting through," surviving the season, going through the motions with no attention to our emotions. We're now doing the season our way. The holidays of our youth, or what we wanted them to be, can be coordinated with our present views and lifestyles.

When decorating for the holidays, tune into yourself: use what's available without worrying about matching styles. If you like candles, use dozens, in luminaries lining the approach to your front door; on entrance or dining tables, in powder rooms; in pairs or in groupings of assorted sizes and shapes. The Yule Candle was an especially important household omen. Traditionally oversized and set to burn through Christmas Eve until dawn, if the candle went out before sunrise, it was considered bad luck for the coming year, as the Bayberry candle of today.

Look in your back yard for magnolia, pine and boxwood; holly and smilax if you're lucky. Smilax is a wonderful Southern native and a constant at Yule time. Twine the smilax with red metallic ribbon around the front door and place a pine wreath trimmed with ribbon and dried hydrangeas on the door for a warm welcome. For subtle sophistication, use a wreath of boxwood with gold cord on the front door and a simple garland of Georgia pine over the door.

The front windows may traditionally be illuminated from within by a candle accented with a ribbon and pine; a more complex approach is a fresh pine wreath centered with a lighted candle and hung with a ribbon.

Intertwine the stair and adorn the overdoors with smilax and red velvet; or hang fabric reinforced with wire to retain shape. Use the colors of the walls in the decorations.

Visit your yard again and adorn your tree with magnolia, nuts, berries, and ornate leaves, etc, all sprayed with gold. Spangle with a personal collection of wooden ornaments, angels, dolls, shells, and those fun Ban-Bashing whistles from last year's Pride Parade. Garland with faux pearls.

Instead of a real tree, you might use a collection of artificial ones. Look in the attic or visit the five and dime, toy stores, flea markets, or garage sales. Group them on mantels, or on a tier table, or on the floor if large enough; intersperse with "shakies" or other decorations. Or you might use a ficus. Drape a glorious fabric around the tree as a "cradle" for presents and other decorations. Under the tree place old toys from your youth or adopt a few when shopping.

In the fireplace arrange wonderful boughs of magnolia whose dark sheen reflect the candlelight. Fresh garlands of pine punctuated with large pine cones, apples, pineapples, artichokes, pomegranates or a combination thereof may grace a mantel while traversing the porcelain or mill spools on display throughout the year. This same decoration could be used on a piano interspersed with photos or other collections. Combine pots of amaryllis with the standard pots of poinsettias and group them on a

table under a mirror or in a fireplace.

A cherished compote or a silver Revere bowl, with a liner, filled with boxwood interspersed with shiny Christmas balls is always festive. Fruit with cascading ivy surrounded by a collection of candlesticks is an alternative; in the center of the fruit, sink a bowl of tempting holiday treats to be enjoyed at meals end.

Remember your own room with beeswax candles and greenery. Maybe drape the area over the headboard with a festive color-coordinated fabric and old lace or linen. And some plush pillows.

Also, don't forget the animals—they know that it's a special time and can sense the excitement. Give them extra love and attention

as they play in the wrappings.

Purchase gifts in community shops or any of the Southern Voice advertisers. This is a great way to spread the holiday spirit within our community.

On New Year's Day enjoy quiet and calm. Make a yule scrapbook with your significant other or friends. Include photos, ticket stubs of shared events, pretty wrappings and ribbons, name tags or any other trinkets which hold sentimental meanings.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 1993!

Martha Wade, Allied ASID, is an interior designer in Atlanta and can be reached through The Chore Store at (404) 215-9811.



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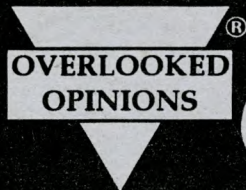
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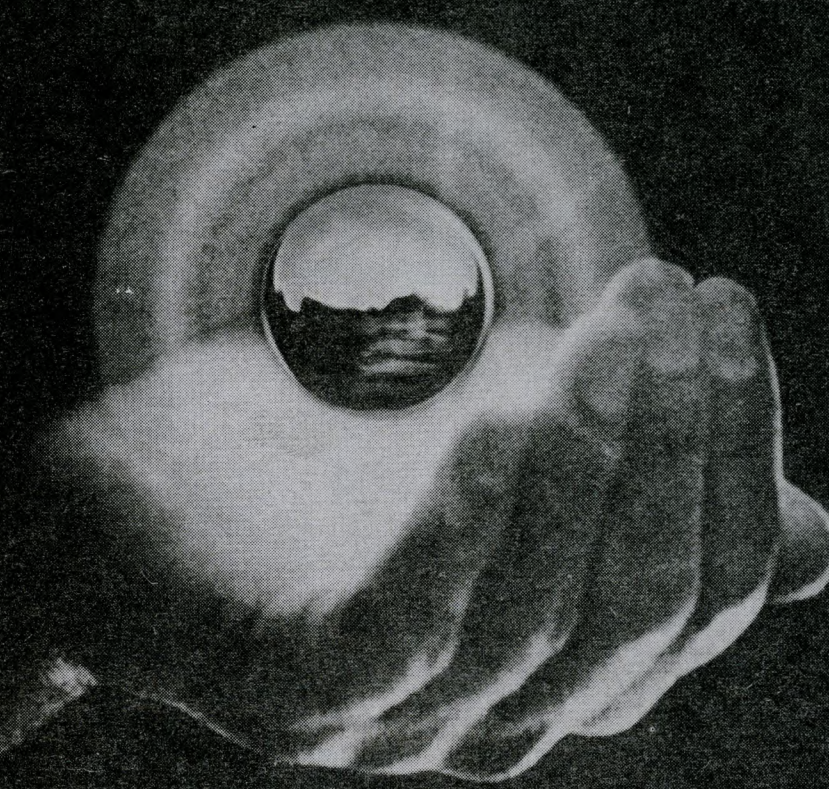
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OUT & ABOUT

HOLIDAY EVENTS

ASO HOLIDAY EVENTS

Don't panic, but by the time you lay eyes on this sentence Christmas is a scant two weeks away, and you're most likely four weeks behind. That should not stop you from enjoying all the activities this season has to offer, however. It may take some creative scheduling, but there are several things you just CANNOT miss this season.

First and foremost are The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concerts, featuring four different shows between now and January 2nd.

The most popular offering is **Christmas with Robert Shaw**. "For a lot of people this show has become a tradition, like the 'Nutcracker' or 'A Christmas Carol,'" says Mark Carrington, Marketing Assistant for ASO. "There is only a select amount of Christmas music they can perform, so it's not a new show every year, but it helps people bring in the holiday spirit."

Shaw, Music Director Emeritus and Conductor Laureate, will conduct the full symphony and ASO Chorus, along with the Young Singers of Callanwolde and the Morehouse Glee Club in several sacred and secular seasonal favorites designed to help you make the yuletide gay. Performances are Thursday Dec. 10th and Friday Dec. 11th at 8 p.m., and two performances on Saturday, Dec. 12th at 2 and 8 p.m.

Shaw will also conduct the Orchestra, Chamber Chorus and vocal soloists in three performances of **Handel's Messiah**. This year they will perform the Christmas portion of this magnificent seasonal classic, and round out the rest of the evening with Part II of Bach's majestic Christmas Oratorio. Performances are Thursday, Dec. 17th through Saturday, Dec. 19th at 8 p.m.

Kids from 1 to 92 will enjoy the **Kid's Christmas** performances with George Hanson conducting. Santa Claus and Lee Harper and Dancers will join in the festivities to help the kids sing their favorite Christmas carols, and there will be enough candy canes for everyone.

"The house is always packed for this show," says Carrington. "The kids are singing and dancing in the aisles. Sometimes, I'm sure the adults have more fun than the kids do."

Kid's Christmas will be performed Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., and the Sunday, Dec. 20 show is already sold out.

After Christmas, the celebration continues with five performances of **A Night In Old Vienna**. William Fred Scott leads the Orchestra in Viennese favorites including Strauss waltzes and lively polkas. The performances include a lecture on the pieces from Scott, but don't expect to be bored. "Scott is loved by the audience," remarks Carrington. "He's very witty and knows so much about the music. He's very easy to listen to, and he makes the music fun in how he talks about it and describes it to the audience." Four of the performances will be Champagne Concerts, where complimentary bubbly will be served up after the performance. Those shows include Tuesday, Dec. 29 and Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 8 p.m. and two shows on New Years Eve at 7 and 9:30 p.m. On Saturday, January 2nd, there will be a Coffee Concert of A Night In Old Vienna featuring Scott's lecture at 10:30 a.m. and the performance at 11. Coffee and pastries will be served.

All performances will be held at Symphony Hall, and ticket prices vary for each performance, but generally run from \$16.50 to \$37.00. For ticket info call the box office at 892-2414.

As for other activities, there are many traditional holiday offerings and some not so traditional ones.

Don't forget about **The Atlanta Ballet's 100th Anniversary performance of The Nutcracker**, which runs through Dec. 27th. The beloved ballet premiered in Russia on Dec. 17, 1892. Just like his Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker was initially considered a critical disaster. He died the following year, believing his compositions were worthless. And just in case you didn't know, he was gay.

A few fun facts about this year's performance: The Atlanta Ballet's ballerinas will wear out more than 150 pairs of pointe shoes during the 29 scheduled performances; the evening gowns worn in the first act use 25 yards of fabric and 60 yards of ruffles each, and each gown is valued at over \$2,500; and it takes 120 hours to create a Sugar Plum Fairy tutu from scratch.

Tickets are \$5.00 to \$36.25, and can be obtained by calling 249-6400 or through all TicketMaster locations.

Another Atlanta tradition is the Alliance Theatre's production of **A Christmas Carol**. Tom Key will play Ebenezer Scrooge in the Alliance's third annual staging of the Charles Dickens classic. Mr. Key is a well known area actor who may be



Robert Shaw, Music Director Emeritus and Conductor Laureate of The Atlanta Symphony, will lead the orchestra and chorus in "Christmas with Robert Shaw" and Handel's "Messiah."

best remembered for his performance in "Cotton Patch Gospel." A Christmas Carol runs through Dec. 26th. Tickets range from \$17 to \$33. 892-2414.

Here's a sampling of some other holiday happenings:

• **Christmas at Callanwolde** Each year the grand 1920 Callanwolde mansion is transformed into a wonderland by top area interior and floral designers. This year's theme, "Make a Joyful Noise: The Sound of Christmas," will be reflected in the decor of each room.

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; 1-9 p.m. Sundays. Through Dec. 14th. \$8; \$6 senior citizens; \$5 age 12. Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, 980 Briarcliff Road. 872-5338.

• **Star of Wonder** Lean back and enjoy the winter sky as the program explores the mystery of the star of Bethlehem.

8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 3 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; 3 p.m. Dec. 22-29. Through Dec. 29. Closed Dec. 23-27. \$2; \$1 students; free for seniors; under 5 not admitted. Fernbank Science Center Planetarium, 156 Heaton Park Drive. 378-4311.

• **The Holiday Celebration** At Stone Mountain Park. Each night you can enjoy the lights and decorations, including the tree of lights atop The Big Rock. On weekend evenings there are candlelight tours of the antebellum mansion, a sing along train, and visits with Santa.

Light displays and decorations nightly through Dec. 31. U.S. 78 East. Daily parking pass \$5. Small charge for some activities. 498-5702.

• **Danny's 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting** Each year, Danny Donohoe and Gregg Daugherty put together a fundraiser for PWAs by selling lights on the Christmas tree for \$5.00 in memory of those who have died of AIDS. This year's proceeds go to Project Open Hand.

The Gallus Restaurant Veranda. 8:30 p.m. Dec. 13. 875-9917.

• **Kwaanza Celebration** The African-American Holiday will be held Dec. 13, at the Georgia World Congress Center. 524-3248. And, on Dec. 12 at The Herndon Home from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 581-9813.

• **Victorian Christmas at Inman Park** The Victorian Christmas features a candlelight Christmas House Tour and music concert.

Dec. 12, 13, 7-9:30 p.m. \$6 in advance or 2/\$10; \$8 day of the tour or 2/\$15. 688-4667.

• **An Atlanta Christmas** Music and drama trace holiday memories back to the days when the city was called Terminus in this historical play written by Tom Fuller.

Onstage Atlanta. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Through Dec. 27th. \$10-\$13. 420 Courtland Street 897-1802.

• **Caroling Trains** Sing your favorite Christmas tunes while taking a scenic trip around Atlanta or to Stone Mountain Village.

The New Georgia Railroad. Through Dec. Call 656-6557 for tickets and scheduling information.

• **Christmas Wonderland** Helen, Georgia. Enjoy a German Christmas with the Altstadt Christmas Market, children's activities and holiday lights and decorations.

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; noon-6 p.m. Sundays until Christmas. Through January 3rd. (706) 878-2181.

• **Fantasy in Lights** Callaway Gardens in Columbus, Ga. 70 miles south of Atlanta on I-85. Ride through the Gardens in the nation's largest outdoor lighted attraction.

4 p.m.-10 p.m. nightly through Jan. 2. (706) 663-1220 for more info.

That's just a short list of the many activities going on around the Atlanta area. Take in as many as you can, and remember, Make the Yuletide GAY!

CANDACE CHELLEW

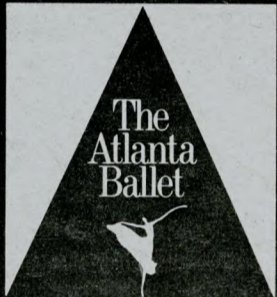
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Outlet Center

C A L E N D A R

10 THURSDAY

STEVE DANCZ. In a benefit concert for AID Atlanta, Dancz will perform original songs from his newly-released "Promised Land." The performance takes place at Variety Playhouse at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations. Call 255-9217 for further info.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS. 12 days of events to benefit Project Open Hand include an Xmas leather fashion show tonight at the Heretic, a cabaret show at Backstreet Friday, and a tree lighting at the Gallus on Sunday. Call 892-8983 for more info.

BE PRESENT PART IV. Charis Books and More hosts the last part of Lillie Allen's four part series teaching a process that builds individual and community well-being on the strength of self-knowledge rather than on the distress of oppression.

7:00-9:30 p.m. Call 524-0304 for more info.

NEW PLAY MARATHON. Different Voices Theatre Company presents staged readings of three new plays tonight through Sunday at Neighborhood Playhouse Studio. Works by playwrights Dana Leslie Goldstein, Claudia Lorkin, and Kate Moira Ryan. For more info call 370-1350.

11 FRIDAY

ELVIS AND THE MESSIAH. A Stone Mountain family's 23 year tradition of decorating their suburban home for Christmas is the subject of a George King documentary to be screened at IMAGE Film and Video. The 35,000 colored lights and black velvet portraits are upstaged only by the surrealistic Townsend family in King's thirty-minute video. 352-4254 for more info.

DRIVIN' AND CRYIN' FOR THE HOMELESS.

The Athens band performs at the Roxy in Buckhead to benefit The Atlanta Food Bank, Cafe 458, Habitat for Humanity and The Task Force for the Homeless. The concert begins at 8:00. 892-9822 for more info.

DEKALB CHORAL GUILD. The guild holds its annual holiday concert tonight at 8:00 and Sunday at 3:00 at the Emory Presbyterian Church. Carols spanning the centuries from around the world can be heard. Call 264-6101 for info.

CRIMES OF THE HEART. Through Dec. 12. Southern Fried Productions presents Beth Henley's moving play about three very different sisters awaiting news of the family patriarch. Fri.-Sun. Mercer Fine Arts Auditorium. 378-8646.

FLYIN' WEST. Through Dec. 13. The world premiere of Atlanta playwright Pearl Cleage's poignant story of the strength and struggles of black women homesteaders in 1898. Directed by Kenny Leon, artistic director of the Alliance Theatre. Tues.-Sat. at 8 pm; Sun. at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Alliance Theatre. 892-2414.

Elvis wart" or the "maybe Elvis toenail" at Joni Mabe's **EVERYTHING ELVIS.** You can find out how Nixon was grooming Elvis for the Presidency at the Nexus Contemporary Art Center through Dec. 19. Call 688-2500 for more info on how to feel the spirit of the King.

SOLSTICE BAZAAR. The Hughley Gallery and Objects features one-of-a-kind gift ideas in its holiday sale. Items priced \$5 to \$50 can be purchased weekends through Dec. 20. Call 523-3201 for details.

HIV AND WOMEN. The syndicated cable television program, **HIV UPDATE** focuses on issues that face the rapidly growing number of HIV-infected women. The program is repeated each Saturday in December at 6:00 p.m. on cable channel 12.

13 SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP. All Saints MCC Choir presents their annual cantata at 7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas pieces will be featured. 622-1154 for more info and directions.

CHRISTMAS BALL. The Otherside of Atlanta hosts a romantic evening which includes an 18-piece orchestra beginning at 7:00 p.m. For ticket info call 875-5238.

WINDHAM HILL. New Age artists Philip Aaberg, Modern Mandolin Quartet, and Barbara Higbie are featured in the Winter Solstice Tour. The Variety Playhouse will host this evening of seasonal music beginning at 8:00. For further info call 524-7354.

12 SATURDAY

SPARK THE PARK. The Friends of Piedmont Park are sponsoring a Clean Up at 10:00 a.m. at the Inaugural Stage. Members of the community are asked to bring rakes, trash bags and pride for a day of restoration and decoration. For more info call 874-0140.

EIGHTH NATURAL WONDER OF THE WORLD. See the "alleged

COMING

Museum of Art presents an exhibition of 118 original drawings and paintings and 75 rare children's books in a survey of children's book illustrators from the 18th century to the present. Characters such as Raggedy Ann and Andy and works of present-day favorites Maurice Sendak and Dr. Seuss will be featured. 892-HIGH for more info.

MASQUERADE '93. Feb. 13. Tickets are on sale now for the Mardi Gras party in Atlanta which benefits Project Open Hand. Last year over 2,000 attended which features Krewes, cabaret, food and non-stop dancing. Call 525-4737 for more info and tickets.

14 MONDAY

NIGHT AT THE OPERA. Puccini's "La Boheme" is featured in a multimedia performance at the Banquet Room at San Gennaro. Recordings, video, and live performances by Atlanta's Capitol City Opera Company highlight the evening of good food, good wine, and good people. For reservations call 636-9447.

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, and at 10 pm on City Channel 6.

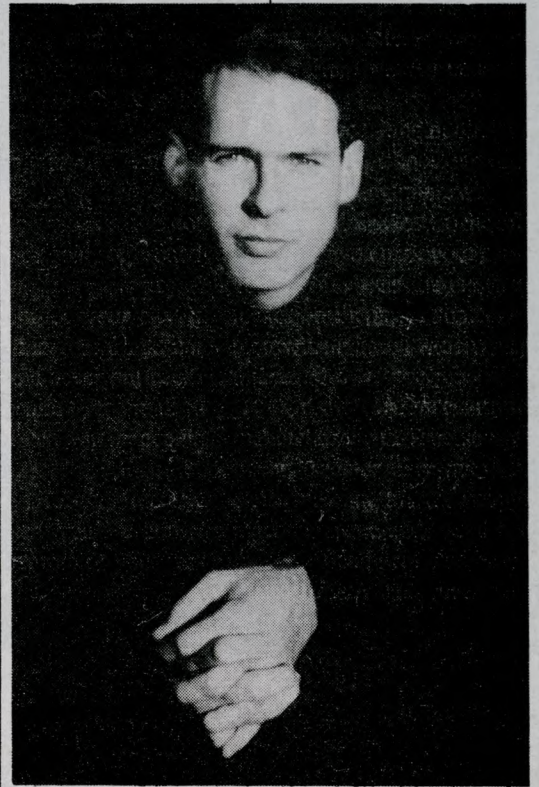
GAY USA. A gay and lesbian news show produced in New York includes national and international coverage. Cable Channel 12, People TV. 11pm.

15 TUESDAY

RACHE ALPERT AND SULL. These two singer-songwriters perform solo sets of original music with a comic twist. The show can be seen at the Star Community Bar in Little Five Points. Call 681-9018 for details.

HENRY IV. Through Dec. 19. Shakespeare's epic tale of chivalry and comedy. Wed.-Sat. at 7:30 pm. Shakespear Tavern. 499 Peachtree St. 874-5299.

THE 1940's RADIO HOUR. Through Jan. 2. Theatre in the Square in downtown Marietta presents its 11th Anniversary production of its holiday favorite. The show includes comedy skits, live sound effects and more than 20 popular tunes from the 1940s. Tues.-Fri. at 8 pm; 7 pm and 9:30 pm on Sat.; 3 pm and 7 pm on Sun. Phone 422-8369 for info.



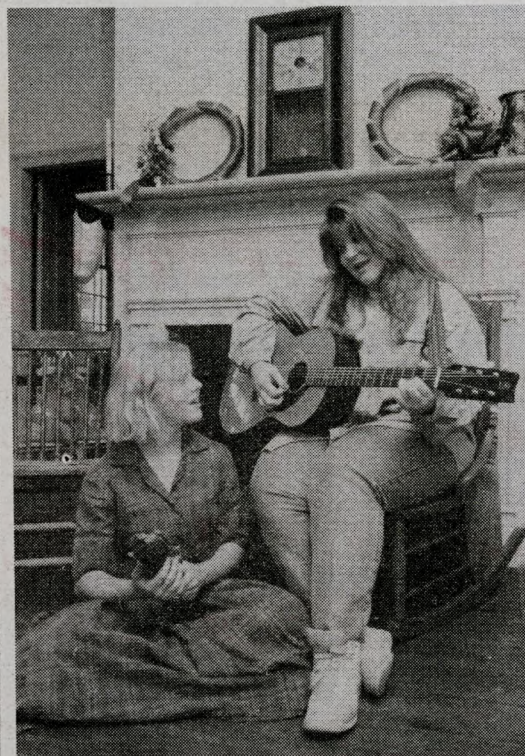
16 WEDNESDAY

UNDERGROUND SOUND. Masquerade hosts alternative dance night every Wednesday. DJ Wes Holley spins several genres of college music from Manchester Beat to the sounds of Seattle and Athens. Call 577-8178 for more info.

HARP AND SOUL. Diatonic autoharpsists Beth Heilderberg and Judy Austin perform at Monterey Jack's in Buckhead tonight. The duo combines country, blues and traditional styles in a powerful and expressive performance. For details call 233-8020.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS. Through Dec. 19. This 1940s story of a mountain family reunion at Christmas explores the many definitions that "family" takes. The world premiere production can be seen at Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur. 377-3714 for ticket info.

Pictured:
ABOVE: Steve Dancz performs Dec. 10 at Variety Playhouse in a benefit for AID Atlanta
BELOW: Harpists Beth Heidelberg and Judy Austin are in concert on Dec. 16 at Monterey Jack's
LEFT: Tandra Crowe as Lilly and Suzanne Epting as Little Lilly in Pamela Parker's play "Home for Christmas" which runs through Dec. 19 at Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur. Photo by Don Heath



ONGOING AND

WORKING. Through Dec. 20. Stage Door Players present Studs Terkel's Broadway musical about the work-a-day lives of real Americans. The pleasures and discontents which the non-fictional characters experience in their jobs are expressed through drama, music and dance. North Dekalb Cultural Center. Thursdays through Sundays. For more info call 396-1726.

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS. Through Dec. 23. Atlanta's signature Christmas show returns for its fourth year. This collection of traditional mountain stories and songs is written into script by Phillip DePoy and Eddie

Lee.

Theatrical Outfit. 1012 Peachtree St. 872-0665.

EBENEZER AND TINY TIM. Through Dec. 26. The Alliance Theatre presents Tom Key as a flying Scrooge in its production of Charles Dicken's immortal holiday tale "A Christmas Carol." The all-Atlanta cast will call up the ghosts of Christmases past, present and future. Call 892-2414 for ticket info.

THE NUTCRACKER. Through Dec. 27. The Atlanta Ballet presents the 100th anniversary of this holiday ballet. The magical tale of a little girl's Christmas Eve adventure attracts an audience of young and old alike. 873-5811 for ticket info.

OUTSTANDING AMERICAN PAINTINGS.

Through Jan 17. The 100th anniversary of Randolph-Macon Woman's College of Lynchburg, Virginia is celebrated at the High Museum of Art with an exhibition of American art. Works by Whistler, O'Keeffe, Prendergrast and Homer are included in the showing. For more info call 898-9285.

DREAM. Through Jan. 23. Emory Framing and Gallery presents an exhibition featuring the works of artists Lilly Cannon, Mary Carmichael, Phyllis Stapler, and Jill Wiscombe. Call 634-6568 for info.

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The Hidden Law



JERRY BAUER

Michael Nava

The virtues of Michael Nava's *The Hidden Law* (HarperCollins; hardback; 191 pp; \$19), his fourth Henry Rios novel, are many. To start with, there is the deft plotting. Two stories weave seamlessly through each other.

On a personal level, Henry struggles with his disintegrating relationship with his HIV positive lover Josh. Professionally, Henry struggles to find the truth behind the murder of prominent Chicano politician Gus Pena, a man poised to run for Mayor of Los Angeles at the time of his death. The two stories run concurrently, rarely overlapping, yet never getting in each other's way. With absolute economy, they embody one of the book's key themes: what it is like to live a life pulled in many directions.

Then there is Nava's impeccable portrayal of character, and the ability to capture a scene. Here he is doing both, at the funeral of a friend who has died of AIDS:

At the podium, Cullen's best friend was saying, "The last time I went to see him, he'd gone completely blind. So I sat down and held his hand and said, 'Honey, I'm so sorry,' and Cullen squeezed my hand and said, 'Girlfriend, you don't know the half of it. I never learned how to put lipstick on in the dark.'"

Nava passes with flying colors the basic test for any L.A. mystery—conjuring up the city's sun-splashed menace. One of his favorite targets is City Hall. "Around the domed ceiling were eight figures in tile representing the attributes of municipal government: Public Service, Health, Trust, Art, Protection, Education, Law, and Government. I searched in vain for the other four: Expedience, Incompetence, Corruption, and Avarice."

Giving the narrative substance as well as drive are the serious themes woven into the story. Henry is a recovering alcoholic, the murdered politician, Gus Pena, had nearly ruined his career when he killed a man in a drunk driving accident. Closely related to the struggle with drug dependency is Nava's pitiless examination of the pressure on a Chicano man living in an Anglo society. Pena, Henry's father, the murder suspect, all of them are stretched tight between the legacy of oppres-

sion, and the opportunities available. Success comes at a high cost.

And there is the gay theme, confronted just as directly as the others, and just as ambiguously. Like Nava's exploration of the pressures on people who are racially different, the story doesn't revolve around simple oppositions between right and wrong, oppressor and oppressed. Henry is an out gay man, a successful lawyer, who has been profiled in the Times, including the fact that he has a lover who is HIV positive.

Nava is not concerned with coming out, but with what comes after, with what it is like to live a gay life, and live with AIDS. Even though we see Josh through Henry's adoring eyes, he's not a plaster saint; somewhat self-centered and, perhaps inevitably, angry. The little touches—the funeral, their love making, their fights, Henry's jealousy, and the other man, also HIV+, that Josh has fallen in love with—move into an area of gay life that has rarely, if ever, been treated with such honesty and lack of sentimentality.

The *Hidden Law* deals with deep, even tragic themes, the tears in everything. Yet it never becomes sentimental or emotionally indulgent. There's an underlying dignity that gives the book an almost surreal calm. The novel has a sense of the inevitability of things, which, even in the midst of uncertainty, acts like a hidden law tying existence together.

JIM MARKS

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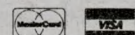
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The Homoerotic Photograph

The concept of *The Homoerotic Photograph* (Columbia University Press; hardback; 230pp; \$44.95), proves remarkably plastic in Allen Ellenzweig's hands. It can refer to photographs of men taken by straight men and women, as well as by men we think, or know, are gay.

Having such a loose definition of homoerotic photography does have its advantages. It allows Ellenzweig to put together a collection of photographs that can claim, with some reason, to be definitive. It also allows Ellenzweig to advance the notion that the homoerotic in photography "is a common heritage. It is integral to the styles and advances of the medium." So says Ellenzweig.

While there are some gaps, the text and the supporting photographs provide a comprehensive overview of the subject not likely to be altered for some time to come. He reaches back almost to the origins of photography with male nudes taken by Eugene Durieu for the painter Delacroix, and concludes with still working photographers such as George Dureau, Jose Villarubia, Herb Ritts, and others.

While there is not a great deal new in Ellenzweig's research, it is wonderful to have in one place works by the German Wilhelm von Gloeden, Thomas Eakin's "The Swimming Hole" studies, and F. Holland Day's dreamy mythological scenes. His chapters on the early days of this photography are studded with insights and interesting asides, as, for instance, the affinities between Eakins and Walt Whitman, and his discussion of Eakins and Day both apparently continuing the classically homoerotic master/apprentice relationship with younger men (in Day's case, the young Kahlil Gibran).

Ellenzweig's treatment of more contemporary photographers on the other hand, might provoke some argument. Take his discussion of Mapplethorpe, which stops well short of the hagiography that has followed the controversy over the cancelled "The Perfect Moment" exhibition at Washington, D.C.'s Corcoran Gallery. When I interviewed Mapplethorpe in 1987 following the publication of "The Black Book," I was struck by



Untitled, by Wilhelm von Gloeden, c. 1900 from "The Homoerotic Photograph"

how little interest he had in the "issues" his pictures raised, and by his singleminded pursuit of art market success. I could, then, only agree when Ellenzweig says that a "Mapplethorpe photograph...does not assume social aims...it is an irony of the present cultural debate that Robert Mapplethorpe, of all people, should come to symbolize 'gay photography,' for he was the least involved in any real politik, gay or otherwise."

But does it then follow that Mapplethorpe's photos (as Ellenzweig concludes) are vacuous: "The Mapplethorpe photograph may not be artless—just heartless"? The judgement goes too far. There are Mapplethorpe portraits of considerable psychological penetration, depth and even whimsy, portraits that spring from the artist's personal intimacy with his subjects and real affection for them.

There are some odd gaps. There are no black photographers from either side of the Atlantic, but I can think of at least one African American photographer—Chris Walker from Atlanta—who has been genuinely innovative in subject matter and technique, a kind of mirror image of Mapplethorpe in his dogged concentration on the issues. Almost inevitably, given the current explosion of gay photography, Ellenzweig's list of contemporary photographers is less than comprehensive.

Indeed, there is very little "erotic" in "The Homoerotic Photograph." Ellenzweig doesn't seem at all comfortable with sex.

"The Homoerotic Photograph" presents a series of wonderful pictures; for now, however, they don't add up.

JIM MARKS

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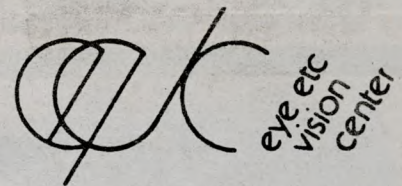
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have just unpacked my bag from a long Thanksgiving weekend in my hometown of Nashville where the observance of that holiday is heavily overshadowed by the advent of Christmas. Not only the department stores and shopping malls, but suburban lawns and houses there are decked out in Yuletide opulence. It seems as if people are looking forward to December 25 with optimism and hope. Could it be a result of our recent election?

Aside from making the rounds to visit family in the city and the country, I visited the opulent **Opryland Hotel** for their annual Country Christmas. The grandeur of the interior spaces of this hotel make it seem totally out of place in such a down home place as Nashville. The almost football-field-sized atrium is filled with a veritable rain forest of tropical plants and trees, which receive more than ample sunshine through the glass roof. Waterfalls of various sizes dot the plantings. At Christmas time, animated carolers in Victorian costumes nod mechanically and open mouthed over song books in stylized winter scenes. Tucked among the green trees and plants are elves busy wrapping brightly colored packages. On a long balcony above Rhett Butler's Cafe was a re-creation of Santa's Workshop complete with toys in progress. The rooms of the hotel surround the atrium, each having its own French Quarter style balcony overlooking the scene.

After traversing the length of this atrium, the visitor passes through a row of gift shops, full of brightly illuminated crystal. Further on, there are stairs which lead up to yet another glass roofed atrium, set perpendicular to the first, filled with tropical foliage, and surrounded by even more balconied guest rooms. This was the scene of the largest crowd of people, all pressing for the best spots from which to view the main attraction of the evening, the dancing waters of the central fountain. This hydra-ballet takes place to the accompaniment of a man playing on a massive golden harp high above the crowd on a brightly lit balcony. He is dressed in sequined splendor, managing to look like both Elvis and Liberace. High above the multicolored spray of the fountains hung a large Christmas dove, fashioned entirely from tiny white lights, its wings spread in flight.

The beauty of the hotel stands in sharp contrast to the often gaudy appearance of many of the other tourist attractions in Music City and is well worth a visit.

AFTER HOURS

D A N N Y R O B L E



Sulli, looking and sounding more like Bonnie Raitt every day, performs Dec. 9 and Dec. 15 in Atlanta

Of course Atlanta has a world of holiday magic to explore, and one I am especially looking forward to is the **Inman Park Candlelight Tour of Homes** on Friday and Saturday evenings, December 11 and 12. This holiday version of the annual spring tour will feature six of the beautifully restored Victorian homes which populate that oldest (and most beautiful) of Atlanta neighborhoods. Tickets are a real bargain at only

\$6.00 in advance and may be purchased at the Little Five Points Pharmacy. This tour should provide inspiration for getting your own home into holiday gear. Call the pharmacy at 524-4466.

If Christmas makes you think of home and family but your family resembles the Simpsons more than the Cleavers, you might enjoy a dose of **Home for Christmas**, Pamela Parker's original play for Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur. The play is set in the home of a mountain family during WWII and involves the return from war of a son who does not come back alone. The play explores traditional family values in a non-traditional way, re-defining what makes a family.

Collaborating with Parker on the musical aspects of the play was local composer and musician Tommy Thompson. Tickets can be obtained through the box office at 373-5311. The play runs December 9th through the 19th, with performances Tuesday through Saturday at 8:00 pm and a Sunday matinee on the 13th at 2:00 pm.

Several months ago, I introduced my readers to **Sulli**, a new voice on Atlanta's every growing music scene. Sulli paid her dues as guitar tech to the very successful Kristen Hall and is now establishing herself as a solo performer. Her style combines elements of rock, country, and blues, and can be heard in two venues in the month of December. On Wednesday, the 9th, Sulli performs at Monterey Jack's (next to Rupert's) across from Tower Place in Buckhead at 8:30 pm. On Tuesday the 15th, she will appear along with Rache Alpert at the Star Community Bar in Little Five Points. Don't miss the opportunity to hear Sulli in these intimate venues.

Peppers Cafe on Piedmont at 10th is adding a night of entertainment along with their wonderful cuisine. Each Friday in December, local nightclub personality Daisy Chain and country music legend Cissy Rimwell will match wits in a live show which will blend comedy dialogue and audience participation into the spiciest dinner show in town. Says Daisy, "This is going to be something totally new in Atlanta where the entertainers rely on their wits and rapport with the audience rather than merely on recorded music." Call Peppers at 872-4000 for show times.

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INTERVIEW

RuPaul

The Towering Inferno himself, RuPaul, flew into Atlanta recently for a whirlwind tour of the city in support of his just released single on Tommy Boy Records, "Supermodel."

The San Diego native, who made Atlanta his home for several years, now calls New York City home. Several years ago, RuPaul began shaping himself into an image entirely of his own creation. In the early eighties, he fronted a band called Wee Wee Pole, and later RuPaul and the U-Hauls. He entertained in many clubs around Atlanta and became a local celebrity before striking out for the Big Apple.

Atlanta friends and fans weren't surprised to see the Wiggled One photographed at all the right clubs and parties in the paparazzi sections of national magazines, or to see him as New York's "Girl of the Second" on Geraldo, where Ru invited the viewing audience to "Reach out and touch your television sets right now! Everybody say love!"

I caught up with the Black and Blonde One at E.D.'s Gourmet Records in Ansley Square. A mixed crowd of black and white, gay and straight, were gathered to greet their goddess who arrived fashionably late. He addressed the crowd with his current phrase, "You better work!" then proceeded to meet and speak to every person there. Atlanta entertainers there to pay homage included Eagle DJ Eric Hayes, Lauren LeMasters, Chynna Fox, and Daisy Chain, who had recently shared the stage with RuPaul in New York at Wigstock.

After signing a hand-numbing amount of photos, records, and posters, it was off to Georgia State where RuPaul was scheduled to do the Georgia Music Show. Driving us was Funtone Records' Dick Richards, and Tommy Boy's Sharla Ashe. On the way, I asked RuPaul, "What was your plan of action when you left Atlanta for New York?"

In a mock dictator's voice, Ru replied, "I have got to gear myself for World Domination!"

"And what is the first step in that? You have to pay the bills first," I asked.



RuPaul and DeAundra Peek (in a quite different type of drag) at Velvet celebrating the release of RuPaul's single, "Supermodel."

"You have to pay the bills, so I started go-go dancing. If you got a look you start go-go dancing in the clubs. I had to start back at the bottom of the totem pole."

"What was the first club?" I asked. And Ru was off and running on his favorite subject—himself.

"The Pyramid. That's our home away from home in New York, that's the host club for queens in New York, especially the grunge queens that we were. Yes, I did use the term 'grunge queen.' It's the new thing. At that point, I knew I was fabulous, and I had to prove to New York I was fabulous, although I had worked there quite a bit. I worked really hard and I got "Queen of Manhattan" because, you know, I was FIERCE. And then everybody knew me—all the club owners—so that upped my price some. And once I got my name established as a club personality, I decided to focus in on my music, and get some product out there.

"I spent about nine months getting together a demo tape with my partner Jimmy Harry, and we presented it to the record companies, every one in existence. And ironically, the day after we did that, Monica at Tommy Boy called me and said, 'I Love It!' They have been with me and behind the project ever since."

"Monica has her finger on the pulse as far as pop culture goes and she and Tommy Silver know that drag is really ready to bust out in a big way so they called me up and I was ready. And been ready ever since."

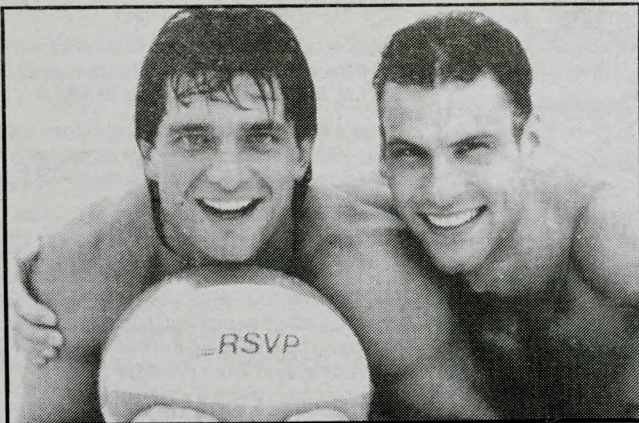
The video of "Supermodel" is a top quality production, with even more costume changes than the usual MTV offering. And yes, MTV is featuring the video on their afternoon dance show, the Grind. The video features the fashions of top designers Anna Sui, Todd Oldman, and Issac Mizrahi. Also featured is the voice of LaWanda Page, who was at the top of RuPaul's wish list for inclusion in the project.

Perfecting the hair and makeup as well as contributing to the stylish look and feel of the video are trendsetting stylists Mathu and Zaldy. The two went with him to Switzerland to visit Suzanne Bartsch's charity gala, the Balade de L'Amour, where he met his idol Elsa Clinch of CNN's "Style." After seeing the French rock band FFF spew Elsa and the entire front row of well heeled guests with beer, RuPaul took to the stage asking, "Elsa, did they get beer on your clothes?" Elsa nodded yes, and Ru continued, "Well, I am going back stage and read them! If someone spewed beer all over my 'couture' I would be one-mean-black-bitch!"

After a reunion with the crew at Album 88, and a radio appearance, RuPaul dashed across town for a photo shoot, then on to V-103 for another radio interview, then finally a 2:00 a.m. performance at Club Velvet, where Ru credited his current success with his recent purchase of a push up bra. "It has really changed my life..." he quipped.

How does he keep up with the hectic pace? Says Ru, "I have like this mission—I've always been driven—I'm doing all the things I've always loved. It's exciting to do things and have people really like it 'cause I knew a lot of people don't have the opportunity to dress up in 6-inch platforms and big blonde hair and stuff. They can do it vicariously through me."

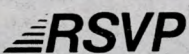
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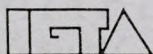
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EATING OUT
Your complete guide to restaurants

EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

When it (re)opened late last summer I rushed to the **African Brown Bag** (699 Ponce de Leon Ave. 642-3434), expectations high and taste buds twitching. And while my tummy and tongue were more than adequately rewarded, I felt put off by the raw state of the physical plant in the still-incomplete eatery. More than anything the odor of fresh concrete (poured floors and block walls) offended my nose and thus my taste buds.

Well more than one friend has recently returned from dinner at the Brown Bag gushing praise, so I hauled my fanny there for a friend's birthday dinner last week. The celebration was a happy one, made even more so by the fact that the floor now sports a coat of shiny green paint and the only odors in evidence are the heady ones wafting from the kitchen.

And the food was even better than my first visit.

Lest you have been in hibernation (or Buffalo) for the past several years, let me explain that the Brown Bag is work of Geneva Francais, one of Atlanta's most interesting and creative chefs. Ms. F was trained in France but likes the spices of Africa and the Caribbean. The result is a highly eclectic menu that changes nightly, frequently (and skillfully) using last night's leftovers.

Take, for instance, a dinner salad comprised of six or so greens (as mundane as romaine and as outre as arugula), topped with red cabbage, onions, glorious tomatoes and an exceptionally well balanced mustard vinaigrette, and then garnished with slices of baked yam. Yam? Yup, and it works beautifully.

Top the salad with a generous portion of last night's skilfully roasted chicken and you've got a light, elegant entree easily the equal of any similar offering in the city.

The knock-out of our birthday dinner was a generous portion of venison hash topped with poached eggs and drizzled with a mild tomato sauce. Crisp on the edges, moist and unctuously rich in the center, this is the work of a chef with a solid grasp on both technique and creativity. Hash is one of those seemingly simple dishes that can confound even the best of cooks and is quite simply the best I've eaten since I was four. I wish Bambi hadn't died to make it so good, but it was so close to perfection that I really don't care.

Almost as good, were several sauteed scallops of pork bathed in a port and mushroom sauce—a much lighter and more delicate take on the more traditional Marsala-based sauce. The portion was more than generous, and a dispirited looking (though equally generous) side of broccoli and carrots was remarkably sweet and fresh-tasting.

It is almost as if anything that passes through Ms. F's talented hands emerges tasting better than you had any right to imagine.

Not everything on the menu is complex. A fat bluefish fillet, broiled, and topped with a simple amalgam of lemon, butter, and white wine serves to remind me that one need not eat \$10 a pound yup-fish in order to enjoy seafood. Here's an almost perfect blend of rich fish (but not fishy) flavor balanced by the acid of the lemon/wine sauce. At \$8 with rice and veggies, it's a first rate meal that's healthy, satisfying and great tasting.

The other fish dish on the menu was a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

slightly kinky sounding baked catfish with spicy marinara. Not exactly a traditional combination, but I'll bet it will leave you licking your lips and lusting for more.

Even the bread bears an amusing and entertaining signature twist. Several months ago it was quarters of pita anointed with oil and fresh dill. Last week, cornbread laced with an eclectic mix of cumin, cardamon, fresh basil and honey sent us all to crooning with pleasure. Try crumbling it into a near perfectly balanced bowl of black bean soup for a light and totally satisfying meal.

My other major gripe last time I ate at the Brown Bag was desserts. That, like the raw concrete, appears to have been fixed by importing excellent homemade goodies from Sweet Splurges at Rio.

Despite all my gushing, this is not a perfect restaurant. Creature comforts remain minimal, and service continues to be the sort of slap-dash, hit and miss style that is no where near as gracious as the food. But unless you demand the sort of bowing and scraping served up by the luxe hotels, the food more than makes up for the service transgressions.

Expect to happily spend about \$15 a head for two courses and a glass of jug wine.

Red, Red Wine

Regular readers know that each fall I go in search of the ideal \$5 bottle of red wine. I thought I'd found it right off when I took a sip of **Rene Barbier Mediterranean Red**, a complex, slightly rough Spanish import. And only \$3.99 a bottle to boot. Problem is that, after a slowly consumed glass and a half with dinner, my head felt like a not so gently expanding ice cube. And I spent the next day nursing a hangover the likes of which I haven't experienced since I would gulp whole bottles of Old Mr. Boston gin in an evening. Rene's red is tasty, but no bargain at any price.

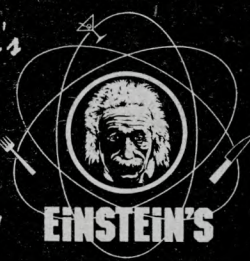
I gave all alcohol a wide berth for several weeks after that experience, so my annual tasting ritual has gotten behind schedule. But I have sampled three reasonably priced bottles that pleased my tongue, went well with a variety of foods, and did not leave me feeling as though I'd been run over by a runaway cement truck.

The grocery store display of **Bandiera Cabernet Sauvignon** (1987) was riddled with those little point of purchase cards claiming that Wine Spectator, or Robert Parker, or some other vaunted expert said this was the best thing since puffed wheat. For less than \$6 a pop, I've got to admit that it had gobs of character and nuance, but it also tasted like it wanted to spend another 10 years or so loosening up. If you try it, open it at least an hour before you plan to drink it.

On the other end of the scale, **Glen Ellen Proprietor's Reserve Merlot** (1991) is smooth and easy to drink right now. It tastes (almost overwhelmingly) of cranberries and has zip tannins but reminds me a little too much of grape juice after the first glass.

Monterey Vineyards Classic Merlot (1991) strikes a nice balance between the two aforementioned choices, it's smooth and drinkable, but has a nice tannic bite on the finish—nowhere near as flabby as the Glen Ellen.

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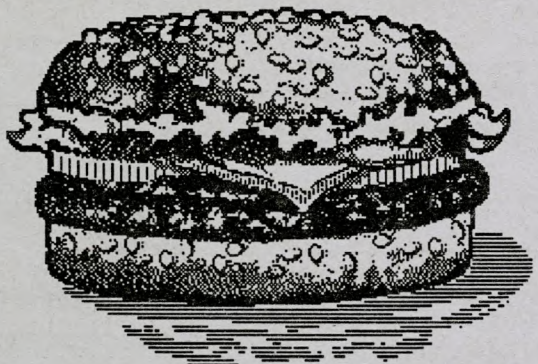
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Required Reading: Both gay and straight media have been swamped with tales of the travails of lesbian and gay soldiers for a couple of years now. But little light has been shed on the abuse heaped on queers who are for some odd reason(s) not discharged when their proclivity to homosexuality is discovered. The December 7 issue of "The New Republic" puts an end to the silence with a couple of articles by Scott Shuger. Most devastating is the story of one Gregg Monsma, a bisexual navy petty officer who has endured all but physical torture at the hands of a military judicial system that seems more bent on revenge than on military preparedness. Also in the same issue, an in depth look at Robert Reich, the man most likely to make Clinton's economic policy work—or not.

It's Not Just Queers: Just in case you thought the folks in Colorado only had it in for homos, check this from "Newsweek." Seems that Popmeister John Paul Number 2 is scheduled to visit Colorado's Cherry Creek State Park for a bit of pontificating come next August. Environmentalists are up in arms over the plan because they say a huge crowd in the park will do irreparable damage to miles of prairie dog tunnels. Event nabobs came back with the idea of using vacuum cleaner-like devices to suck the little creatures from their warrens and then deposit them elsewhere (Honest!). But that plan was cancelled when the park's colony of tiny doggies began to die of a mysterious and untreatable disease. State officials say there is no evidence of foul play. Yeah, sure—and the Pope isn't Catholic.

Marky and Madonna: Issue #3 of "Out" magazine is on the stands and Dish must say that we are pleased with the increasing quality, variety and coherence of each issue. Perhaps most interesting for Georgians is a nine page photo feature called "Kicked Out" chronicling the travails of eight lesbians and gay men who were thrown out of work because of their sexual orientation.

Dish

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



Cheryl Summerville, whose firing from Cracker Barrel launched an ongoing boycott of that roadside restaurant chain, was featured this month in OUT magazine

Skye Mason's portrait of Cheryl Summerville is awesome and Cheryl's words ("...for them to tell me that I don't deserve a job because of it [her relationship with lover Sandy], that's bullshit!") bring hope to our heart. Admirers of Lt. Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer will want to buy the issue for the stunning portrait of her alone. Talk about butch as an archetype! The ads are entertaining, too. Marky Mark in Calvin's, Madonna in almost nothing and Kiri T Kanawa and Michel LeGrand in one of the campiest posed duos we seen yet in this decade.

What Ever Happened To...?: Been wondering what's become of John Schlafly since he was outed a couple of months ago by QW magazine? Has he foresworn the hatefilled agenda of the right and come on over to our side? Here's one tiny episode that suggests the answer to that fantasy is an emphatic "nyet." Mr. S faxed a note to QW that read, "I think your readers would be interested in seeing the recent remarks attributed to Pat Buchanan in the enclosed newspaper. Far from being a hateful gay basher as he is often portrayed, Buchanan knows a kindness and generosity of spirit that you and your staff would do well to emulate." Buchanan's remarks are too long to repeat here, but the gist of his blathering was that gay rights activists have no right to interfere with folks' private lives. Dish wonders if that means Buchanan (and Schlafly) think governments, the church, and private industry also have no right to interfere in the private lives of citizens?

Bent Priorities: Speaking of private industry infringing on the (creative) rights of homos, catch this. The publishers of "Better Homes and Gardens" have brought a trademark infringement suit against one Dan Levy of L.A. who publishes a small photocopied 'zine called (until recently) "Better Homos and Gardens." BH&G (the non homo one) contends that Levy was competing for their market and that BH&G's (the queer one's) gay content would "injure the plaintiff's reputation." Does that mean their reputation as a humorless bunch of priggish old fuddy-duddy's? But Levy has no intention of giving up. He'll change the name of his publication to "Turbo Queer," a new edition is expected on LA newsstands as you read this. Dish thinks Better Homes and Gardens should wake up and smell the coffee. It's real competitors ("Met Home" and "HG") regularly feature "homosexuals" and they're both thriving.

December 10 through 16, 1992

For the next two weeks life may be more intense (is it possible) due to the Lunar Eclipse which was on the 9th and the upcoming Solar Eclipse on the 23rd. This can be a very creative time for in-depth focus on special projects or situations.

ARIES, Mercury and the Sun are now in your 9th house of higher learning, metaphysical studies and long-distance journeys, so at the very least you need to expand your horizons and take advantage of any opportunities to do or learn about something new. **TAURUS,** if you are feeling a little bit disoriented or not quite grounded, you may need to take a break from the city/urban environment and get back in touch (literally) with Mother Nature. You really do need the natural world to stay balanced! Dear **GEMINI,** you can be the very best of friends and sometimes the most frustrating of partners. If you are having difficulty with an intimate relationship, check your level of self-esteem. Do you believe you are worth being loved?

CANCER, hopefully you got together with family and friends to enjoy Thanksgiving. If your social plans haven't worked out, consider volunteering your very special abilities with food or

STARSIGNS

people to help others have a better day. **LEO,** you should be full of life and energy with all the activity in your 5th house of creativity, passion and adventure. If you are hot for an affair, you could have a wonderful time. Just remember the other person may be looking for more than a fling. **VIRGO,** if your life is a little chaotic right now, try to remember that Uranus and Neptune in Capricorn are constantly sending a flow of unusual energy through the earth sign channels. Go with the flow and stay very positive!

LIBRA, now that Venus has just joined Saturn in your 5th house of creative expression, passion and children, you may feel positively energized but maybe a little suppressed or held back at the same time. Be patient if you are feeling frustrated. **SCORPIO,** black majick, white majick, incantations, psychics and whatever else you can think of, it all boils down to one thing—Personal Transformation! You can do it. You can be whatever you want to

be, but it all begins with belief in yourself. Happy Birthday, **SAGITTARIUS!** If you have been putting in too much overtime at work, then you definitely need to find a way to lighten up, have some fun and thoroughly enjoy your birthday month. At least plan to have lunch with a good friend.

CAPRICORN, with Venus moving into your 2nd house of personal finance and material resources, you may find several very nice opportunities for investment. Just be sure you are clear about your personal goals before you sign on the line. **AQUARIUS,** as Venus joins Saturn in your 1st house of personal appearance and self-perception, you may want to pay a little more attention to your physical condition. Eat well, get plenty of exercise and be sure to stretch and relax before going to sleep. **PISCES,** be sure to eat well and get plenty of good rest and exercise during the holidays. Remember, you are always sensitive to the feelings and emotions of other people, so take good care of yourself and hang out with Positive People!

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



Every year around this time, we're subjected to the hawkings and harkenings of Mercantalia, a holiday. This festival was formerly known as the Winter Solstice, before the xians transmogrified it, and subsequently cashed in on it.

Now, I'm not forgetting non-European festivals such as Chanuka or Kwanza, nor am I chiding folk for believing that the dying and reviving god story exists only in their myths. But I'd like to reclaim some of the plant mystery which has survived into this age.

First of all, we must understand that all this revolves around the Wheel, or Yule, of the year. When day is shortest and night is longest, human aspiration naturally turns towards the return of light and warmth, towards rebirth and renewal.

Ancestors believed that humans could assist in this process, and by performing certain rituals, ensure and hasten the Sun's/Son's return. Symbolic reminders and intervention abounded.

Let's consider, for example, this business with the trees. In the midst of spent crops and desolate fields, evergreen trees must have seemed completely miraculous, and deservedly symbolized the renewal of life.

After all, trees exist in three sacred zones: earth, underworld, heaven. Imbued with knowledge and power, due to their symbolic embodiment of the Great Mother, sacred tree worship is celebrated in culture after culture.

Early xians oft continued old pagan ways. Medieval wassailing, for instance, involved "a group of people carrying a bowl of wassail or cider into an orchard. One tree was selected to represent all of the trees. The tips of its branches were dipped in the cider, a bit of cake soaked in cider was placed in its branches, and some of the wassail was sprinkled about its roots." ("Wheel of the Year," Campanelli, p. 10.) Certainly, folks could bless trees with crucifixes; but the worship goes back much further than the symbol implies.

Many Solstice fires have been kindled in sacred groves, so the "yonge sonne" could find strength and encouragement. And since sex is the life force, it is hardly surprising that sexual

THIS OLD HOE
EARTHSHAKIN' OBSERVATIONS

symbols and rites permeate Solstice practices.

Holly, too, remained a ritual plant. Sacred to Holle, or Hel, those red berries = woman's blood-of-life. The berries are only borne on the female plant. Holly was used in wreaths, "the circle of the wreath symbolizes the Wheel of the year, the complete cycle." (Campanelli, p. 4.)

"[Holly's] common use at Christmas is apparently the survival of an ancient Roman custom. While the Romans were holding this feast [Saturnalia], which occurred about the time of the winter Solstice, they decked the outsides of their houses with holly; at the same time, the Christians were quietly celebrating the birth of Christ, and to avoid detection, they outwardly followed the custom of their heathen neighbors." ("An Encyclopedia of Occultism," Spence, p. 211.)

The same goes for Mistletoe, the veritable Golden Bough. His white berries = male symbols, of semen and death. According to Frazer's "Golden Bough," it was "viewed as the genitalia of the oak god, Zeus, or Jupiter, or Dianus of Dodona." Castration of the god was an important ritual sacrifice for life's continuance.

Kissing beneath the now-usually plastic mistletoe is a pale remnant of the sanguinary, ritualistic orgies of bygone eras, I'm afraid. Yes, something has been lost in the transition from the geocentric/matriarchal/Goddess worldview to the heliocentric/patriarchal/God worldview.

The Politics of Xmas Trees

The more I see newly-felled evergreens tied to automobiles, the more they appear to me like just-shot deers trophy-trussed to cars. Trees are sacred. We can't live without them.

Real stewardship to me means that we grow and nurture, not misappropriate, poison, and abuse. Even tree-farmed evergreens can no longer do their vital job of taking in CO₂ and releasing oxygen. Not to mention how the loss of even one more sacred

object diminishes us all.

Does this mean that I oppose trees in the house during Solstice? Absolutely not. Instead, I advocate truly LIVE trees. Ones dug up with balled and burlapped roots, which can be planted outside shortly after the holiday.

In fact, a Canadian Hemlock has lived quite happily in my yard for the past six years. Of course, I treated her correctly to start.

I was very concerned about not breaking her dormancy. So I kept her on an unheated porch, and regularly placed bags of ice on her root ball (which was in a large tub). The melting of the ice provided water—VERY important not to let her dry out. (Also important not to drown her roots...) And, I spritzed her needles and rootball regularly, to cut down on evaporative loss.

Prophylactically, I did not place the large, heat-radiating strings of lights on her, favoring instead the small, twinkling ones instead.

After a week and a half of this, she went into the ground with all the usual careful soil prep (good, wide hole, well rotted compost, mulch, staking, etc.)

We have done this in other years, planting in various locations with various types. But the Hemlock and a Leyland Cyprus have done best, in relatively shaded areas.

You can catalog-order live trees, or you can find them at local retailers such as Hastings' or Pike's. I usually buy well into December, because: 1) the trees are much better off outside in the mulch piles at these establishments, than inside the house, and 2) the prices are better then, too.

Beware though! Cats just LOVE trees in the house. They fundamentally believe that ornaments are made-to-order cat toys and trees, after all, are for cat-climbing.

Dogs can pose their own set of problems here. I recall the time about 20 years ago when my mother and I spent hours making tons of elaborately decorated gingerbread persons. We then spent hours stringing them on the (dead) tree.

The next morning, we awoke to discover that the resident Doberman had eaten every single g.b.p. she could reach. In fact, we had a few heads and/or torsos hanging at a "Line of Death" above which the dog simply could not reach.

Stock up on catnip, chew toys, and spray bottles if you want to promote house animal/tree harmony.

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Buying A Home Despite Credit Hurdles

Have you been getting depressed when you read that the current real estate market is right for buyers but you think you can't buy due to problems with your credit?

Experts suggest that you do something about your bad credit rating or shortage of down payment cash so that you can buy a home. All it takes is thinking creatively and working with a real estate agent who can suggest homes which are suitable for your individual situation.

Here are several typical financial problems which might describe you. Have you filed for bankruptcy last year and thereby ruined your credit? Do you have a good job but hardly any cash for a down payment? Do you have a bad credit report with several payments more than 30 days late?

Writer Robert J. Bruss says that thousands of home buyers with one or more of these financial difficulties purchase a home every day. "If any of these problems belong to you," he advises, "don't let them stop you from buying a home."

There are eight generally-agreed steps to overcoming credit hurdles in buying a home.

1) Prepare a realistic financial statement. Request a blank financial statement form and a loan application from your bank. Pretend that you're applying for a home mortgage and fill out both the financial statement and a loan application. Be honest and include all your assets, liabilities, income and expenses. In many cases, individuals following this exercise are surprised to learn that their net worth is higher than they realized.

2) Get a credit report on yourself. They usually cost about \$10 unless you've been turned down for credit and then they're free. The major nationwide credit reporting companies will be listed in most city telephone directories. If you discover incorrect information on your credit report of any kind, write to the credit reporting service, explain the error and insist that it be promptly corrected or removed. The credit bureau will verify your information with the creditor for their version. After that, make sure to request a corrected credit report be forwarded to you.

3) Buy a home with seller financing. One of the most overlooked ways to buy a home is with seller financing. Home buyers with bad credit reports, or shortages of cash for down payments, can often purchase residential property with seller financing. With a modest down payment, few sellers ever bother to check the buyer's credit standing since they realize that the property is the actual security for their loan.

4) Buy a home with an assumable mortgage. Studies indicate that there are millions of homes across the country that have assumable VA, FHA, and ARM (adjustable rate mortgages) loans. Many of these don't even require the buyer to qualify. Bruss points out that older VA and FHA mortgages, in particular, can be assumed with absolutely no buyer qualifications.

5) Lease a home with an option to buy. A lease-option allows the buyer to try out the home while renting it while building up a rent credit. Many shrewd buyers negotiate rent credits of between 25% to 100% of the rent paid toward the down payment. Experts recommend that after you inspect "houses for rent" advertised in newspaper classified advertisements, that you suggest to the owner to lease the house to you with an option to buy. One way to tempt the owner with this offer is to pay 6 to 12 months rent in advance.

6) Buy the home with a partner. Some buyers can't afford the whole house so why not simply buy half? Let the seller retain the other half in what is known as "equity sharing." Others who can become equity sharers in your home include your parents or a wealthy relative who can make the down payment with you making the monthly mortgage payments. The non-resident co-owner is entitled to income tax deductions for the share of the property which is rented to you, the resident co-owner.

7) Get a mortgage co-signer. Obtain a mortgage co-signer such as your parents. The co-signers are required in most cases to also own part of the property by the majority of lenders. However, the co-signer can later stop claiming their share even though they will remain legally obligated for the loan payments if you default.

8) Borrow the down payment. With good income and good credit, you might be able to actually borrow the down payment from your bank or credit union on an unsecured basis. This method works especially well in seller financing purchases.

With the current slow to soft real estate sales market and low interest rates, you shouldn't ignore any and all opportunities to purchase a home regardless of your previous financial history.

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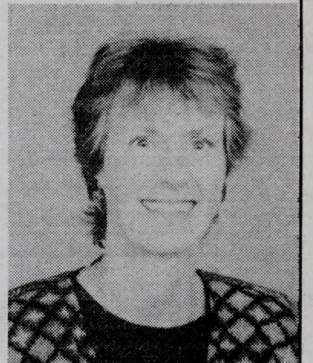
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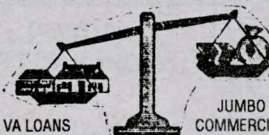
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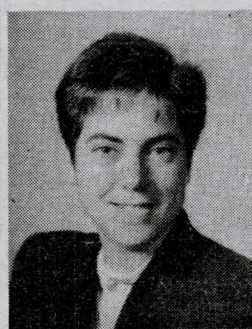
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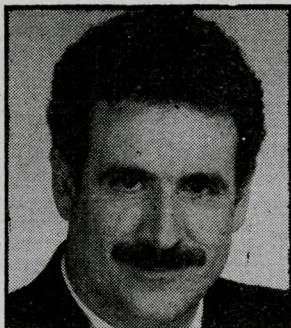
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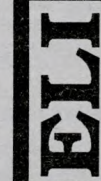
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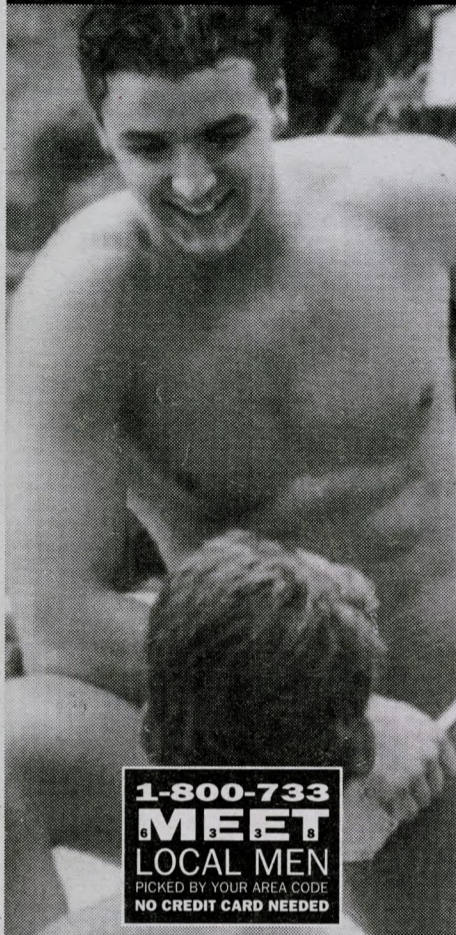
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